

PERTH STADIUM — LOCAL JOBS

935. Mrs G.J. GODFREY to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

On behalf of the member for Dawesville, I welcome to the Speaker's gallery today students from Glencoe Primary School and their teacher.

Can the minister please update the house on the progress of the Perth Stadium and what it means for local jobs?

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Where's your boss today?

The SPEAKER: Thank you!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will tell members where he is; I am glad they asked. For 13 weeks he sat in this house and the opposition did not ask him one question about the thing —

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: He is in Kalgoorlie talking to the people of Kalgoorlie about a policy that opposition members do not have the —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I want to tell you I have been reluctant —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah! I have been reluctant to send anybody out to have an early cup of tea, but the way things are going, there is going to be a few people who will have company. I am going to ask you to let us get on with the business.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: For the kids in the gallery today, we are building the most magnificent stadium, the best in Australia. It is for the future, for those kids to be able to enjoy, with their families. Whether they are on the pitch or there as a spectator, it will be a magnificent piece of infrastructure.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I was out there yesterday. The pitch works are under construction. The facade is going up. Every time I go past, it is looking absolutely fabulous.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you for the first time. Member for North West Central, I call you for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The fit-out is well underway and there will be grass on the pitch.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Grass!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There will be grass on the pitch by the beginning of next year. Then, I think, we will start to see the helicopters going over to have a gander at what is going on inside the stadium, because it will look magnificent. I was out there yesterday, talking to some of the workers who are employed on site, and that is what I want to talk about today. A significant number of people are employed on this project, and well before the doors open to this magnificent piece of infrastructure, we are delivering benefits for Western Australians. We have created 420 new jobs in the construction of the stadium and we have sustained more than 2 300 existing jobs in Western Australia. Eighty per cent of the contracts, something that these members over here —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Eighty per cent of the contracts we have let for the stadium have been let to Western Australian businesses. Seventy-seven businesses have more than \$450 million worth of contracts as a result of this stadium. I can tell members that 20 contracts have gone to Australian businesses, with a value of \$78.9 million, and only two have gone to overseas businesses. We made a commitment to the Western Australian public that we would make sure that taxpayers' dollars would be invested back into the state

to help build this iconic piece of infrastructure. It was not done by mistake; it was part of the tender to make sure that we prioritised businesses here in Western Australia to get the work.

What was really pleasing when I was out there yesterday is that I spoke to a young lady called Jasmine. Jasmine is working for Barclay Engineering. She is an apprentice—one of 100 apprentices on site; that number will increase to 109 this month. Jasmine is a young Aboriginal woman who has started her apprenticeship and who is working with Barclay Engineering.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is enough, member for Bassendean.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: She has done the balustrading around the perimeter of the stadium. She is absolutely delighted to have been given the opportunity to start her apprenticeship on this iconic project. She is also a young female footballer and one day hopes to be able to run out and represent either the Dockers or the Eagles. She was just beside herself with excitement and she was very happy to talk about how she really enjoys coming to work every day. Every time I go out, people are excited about the opportunity that this project has given them not only to work but to work on a really important project for Western Australians.

Before I sit down, can I say that this project was started by the Premier and the previous Minister for Sport and Recreation, “Tuck” Waldron, who delivered his valedictory speech yesterday. A significant number of new pieces of infrastructure and programs have been funded in Western Australia through the sport and recreation portfolio since 2008. Tuck is beloved in that sector, but we do it as a state government because we understand how important sport and recreation is to having healthy and happy communities. I pay my respects to the former minister for his efforts in making sure that cabinet and the Premier were supported in delivering those projects.