

COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND

759. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I was pleased to note that a number of worthy projects were recipients of the most recent community sporting and recreation facilities fund small grants round that the minister announced earlier today. Could the minister please update the house on the continued success of the small grants component of the CSRFF?

A member interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

This is very important out there, member; I heard that comment.

I thank the member for Central Wheatbelt, who I know works very closely with her sporting clubs out there, and that is important because sport is certainly a big priority for community life in the central wheatbelt areas.

This is the second of two small grants rounds for 2013–14 that will see around \$835 000 being provided for 41 projects, which, combined with an allocation of \$705 000 earlier in the year in the February small grants round, makes just over \$1.54 million for the two small grants rounds. These small grants have been a real success. It was an initiative by this government to try to address some of the smaller projects that make a real difference to communities, be they in the metropolitan area or the country. It brings with it a list of requirements on the applicants; previously, we had a situation in which the same requirements applied for grants of \$3 000 as for grants of \$2 million.

It has been really successful; it is for projects of up to \$150 000, and applicants can apply for up to \$75 000 with development bonuses. We have also trialled up-front payments in the small grants rounds, which enable smaller communities to get projects underway immediately as opposed to being reimbursed, and it seems to be working very well; we will continue to monitor that. That has been well received also.

There were some 59 applications in this round, seeking \$1 248 586, so there was a big demand. Of the 41 successful applications, 25 were recommended to regional Western Australia and 16 to the metropolitan area; there was a far higher number of applications from the country. To give a couple of examples of the types of programs and projects that were successful, there was \$75 000 to the Shire of Exmouth for upgrades to the Exmouth swimming pool; \$67 000 to the City of Wanneroo for the installation of floodlighting at Oldham Park; and \$40 334 to the City of Gosnells for the resurfacing of greens at the bowling club. There was a small but important grant of \$3 516 to the Shire of Collie for power upgrades to the Collie BMX track. There was a grant of \$35 361 to the City of South Perth for greens resurfacing at South Perth Bowling Club. Unfortunately, we were oversubscribed—although that is a good thing because that means there is still demand out there and we still have a lot of work to do—and there were unsuccessful applicants. The Department of Sport and Recreation will continue to work with the unsuccessful applicants to try to improve their chances for the next lot of rounds.

I appreciate members' support in advocating for their projects. Members see me quite regularly about projects, and I thank them for their support. The next small grants round opens on 3 February 2014, and if anyone needs any information, please let me know.