

PERTH STADIUM — WEST COAST EAGLES — CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

719. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Mr Speaker —

Mrs G.J. Godfrey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Belmont, I know that you are excited that the member for Albany is asking a question. Relax.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is enough. The member for Albany.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have this effect on women, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

Mr P.B. WATSON: My question without notice, before I was interrupted, is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. I refer to renewed claims by the outgoing chairman of the West Coast Eagles, Alan Cransberg, that under the current deal proposed for moving to the new Perth Stadium —

... we don't think that's the right thing to do by our members and supporters.

- (1) Will the negotiations be concluded within the three to five-month deadline set by the Eagles to play at the stadium in the 2018 season?
- (2) What is the minister's understanding of the increases in membership costs that may be faced by members?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. Before I go any further, both the member and I were at the Sandover Medal ceremony on Monday night, which is the West Australian Football League's night of nights. I congratulate Jye Bolton from Claremont, and Dave Burton, the volunteer of the year.

Mr W.J. Johnston: This has nothing to do with the question. Read your standing orders.

The SPEAKER: Your shouting out is a breach of standing orders, member for Cannington. I call you to order for the first time. The minister has been on her feet for about 10 seconds.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is right.

The SPEAKER: The member for Cannington is not happy, minister; come back to the point, please.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Mr Speaker, with two seconds more of your indulgence, I was just about to mention Dave Burton, who received the volunteer of the year award. Football, and all sport, is reliant on volunteers. It was a fantastic night, and congratulations to everyone involved.

Mr W.J. Johnston: This is a brief ministerial statement.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Get over it!

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I am not interested.

Mr N.W. Morton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, I call you to order for the first time. I call the member for Cannington for the second time, and member for Forrestfield for the second time. Minister, a succinct answer, please.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The member's question was in relation to the time line of the negotiations, and what it will do to the memberships of the respective clubs that are going to the new Perth Stadium. I am not going to comment on the negotiations, because they are confidential. Alan Cransberg, and the Eagles and the Dockers, are welcome to make comments in the media, and they have done so. I have consistently said that I am confident that we will reach an outcome with which football will be very happy. I cannot see a future in which we do not have the Dockers and the Eagles playing at the new stadium that the public of Western Australia and the state government are very supportive of.

The negotiations are robust; I have never said anything different. They would be expected to be robust. It is about the future of the clubs and about the future that we are trying to negotiate on behalf of taxpayers, but I am very confident that we will reach an outcome. Membership is a matter for the clubs, but we have stated consistently that there will be at least 10 000 general admission seats, so that members of the public can walk in and enjoy a football match, the cricket or any other sporting or entertainment activity that will occur at the stadium. There will be many, because it is generating an enormous amount of excitement in Western Australia, elsewhere in Australia and internationally. Everyone who visits the state and has the opportunity who may be future users of that stadium has nothing but praise for what it will potentially offer to them as visitors to the state.

I am very confident that football will reach an agreement. The negotiations are robust; I would expect nothing else. I am not going to talk about the details, because that is a matter for the negotiation teams.