

PERRY LAKES STADIUM

168. Mr M.J. BIRNEY to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the Perry Lakes sports stadium, which is vested in the Town of Cambridge, and the state government's demand that the Town of Cambridge demolish the existing facility and build an athletics facility on adjacent AK Reserve land.

- (1) Did the minister tell former Cambridge councillor, Hilary Pineru, at a cocktail party on 7 April, which was held by the Mindarie Regional Council, that the government would simply resume the land from the Town of Cambridge and undertake the project itself if the Town of Cambridge refused to support the government's demand?
- (2) If so, does the minister agree that this shows an appalling lack of protocol and that that is a highly inappropriate way of communicating the government's intention to the Town of Cambridge?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (1)-(2) I am pleased that the Leader of the Opposition has raised this issue, because for some four years the youth of Western Australia have been denied the opportunity of using a first-class sports arena in this state. The Leader of the Opposition is misleading the house somewhat in saying this was a demand on the part of the government of Western Australia. The proposal to redevelop Perry Lakes stadium was put forward in the first instance by the Town of Cambridge, not the government. If the excellent proposal put up and voted on two years ago had been acted on, we would be two years down the track towards having a world-class facility, the standard of which people such as our ex-Olympian, Peter Watson, would be absolutely proud. Instead, we have the debacle of the current proposal. As to any conversation I may or may not have had at a social function, I do not deal in rumours and innuendos. I do not intend to add any credence to what the Leader of the Opposition said. A good proposal is on the books, and it was voted on by the Town of Cambridge. There is money in the forward projections to make sure that the youth of this state are properly cared and catered for in the area of sport. At the moment, because of the attitude of people within the program, particularly that of the Mayor of the Town of Cambridge, we are precluded from bidding for any major sporting event that involves athletics. Those people are putting our state behind the eight ball on these matters. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I do not believe in dealing in hearsay, rumour and gossip that stems from a social function. Just for once, the Leader of the Opposition should act like a leader and bring proper issues into this house. He should work with me, as did the previous Leader of the Opposition, the member for Cottesloe, on this issue.