

COCKBURN AQUATIC AND RECREATION FACILITY

660. Mr M.H. TAYLOR to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

During the winter recess work commenced on the Cockburn aquatic and recreation facility, supported by the state government. Can the minister please provide an update on this significant community project?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for his question and for his interest in sport and recreation. The Cockburn aquatic and recreation facility will be a hugely important complex. It is located in a very fast-growing part of the Perth metropolitan area—I think the catchment area is 200 000 people—and the state government has contributed \$12.4 million towards the community parts of the facility, which in total is \$108 million.

All members will understand the incredible importance of facilities such as this in making sure that we have communities that are active and connected, and that is why I was very happy to attend the sod-turning a couple of weeks ago. It is a multipurpose centre, so it will offer a vast range of activities for this very fast growing part of the Perth metropolitan area. There is a sport and recreation precinct and an education precinct for all people, from those going into their first sporting experience, our juniors, right up to the elite level; as members will be aware, it is also to be the new home of the Fremantle Dockers headquarters. It will have a number of different features, including swimming pools, water slides, basketball courts, netball courts and a gymnasium. As I just said, it will also be the home of the Fremantle Dockers, so hopefully there will be some silverware in the cupboard before we open the facility; they might need to pull their socks up a bit more after last weekend's performance! Students from Curtin University will be able to use the facilities for integrated learning, with access to sports science and medicine facilities for training and education.

It is really shaping up to be quite a spectacular facility in Cockburn. It is part of a collection of new facilities and services in that area—Fiona Stanley Hospital is obviously very close by. It is expected to attract around a million visitors per year. It is also part of LandCorp's Cockburn Central West development, which will feature over 1 000 apartments and townhouses for up to 2 000 people, as well as retail and office space. It is going to be a real hub in the southern suburbs and a very important facility for the community going forward.

The state government has an ongoing commitment to sport and recreation infrastructure and to supporting our grassroots clubs and communities. This government has an outstanding record for investing in not only major infrastructure such as the Western Australian Institute of Sport facility, the State Netball Centre, the basketball centre and nib Stadium, but also, very heavily, the grassroots end, and that is what these community facilities are about. It was a great day; the Premier and I and others were out there to do the sod-turning. As members go past, they will see that it is a great hive of activity as the project progresses.