

PERTH STADIUM — CONSTRUCTION

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [2.08 pm]: I rise to inform the house that ongoing construction of Perth Stadium has recently resulted in an additional \$76 million of contracts awarded to Western Australian companies. This year will be the busiest year of construction with more than 1 000 workers expected on site. Bibra Lake-based Nilsen was awarded a \$48.8 million contract for the main electrical services package, to supply power and lighting to the stadium. Malaga-based MPM Group and Jandakot-based Axis Plumbing Group were awarded \$15.7 million and \$11.8 million contracts respectively for the supply and installation of the ductwork and water systems for the stadium's air conditioning and ventilation. Balcatta-based Floorwise will supply and install the flooring for the stadium's main technical and operational area. To date, more than \$367 million of Perth Stadium construction contracts have been awarded to Western Australian companies, creating 346 new local jobs. The most recent contracts will create 56 new jobs across the trade areas and sustain 97 jobs. Local companies are also benefiting from construction of the new six-platform Perth Stadium rail station, which I understand is 30 per cent complete, and the Swan River pedestrian bridge. To date, more than 73 per cent of contracts for those projects have been awarded to Western Australian businesses.

Perth Stadium is now more than 40 per cent complete and is on track to open for the 2018 Australian Football League season. It will be the state's premier sporting stadium and forms part of this state government's significant investment in ensuring that Western Australia is home to world-class sporting and entertainment venues. It is starting to take shape. I encourage members to take a walk along the riverside at Burswood as the path and cycleway takes users right through the construction footprint. It is impressive to see the buzz of activity on the ground.

We have recently announced that the spectator seating has been selected after being put through rigorous scrutiny by the sports fans user group, and will be installed over the coming year. Cricket wicket testing has been conducted and is being analysed by some of the best cricket minds in the nation, who will help determine how the drop-in wicket design meets the standard for international cricket. We are on the cusp of finalising the stadium operator agreement, and the Premier announced at the weekend that \$19 million would be made available over the next three years to attract large-scale events to the venue.

Perth Stadium will be a massive drawcard for national and international content that Western Australia has not previously had the stadium infrastructure to attract. I think the vast majority of Western Australians would agree with me when I say we are very much looking forward to the stadium opening for business.