

WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL COMMISSION

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

I refer to the minister's claims yesterday that the modelling to fund grassroots football is in the budget papers.

- (1) Why are no figures shown in the budget papers in relation to the subsidy to the West Australian Football Commission?
- (2) How much will be provided each year to Western Australian grassroots football?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. I did spend quite some time yesterday explaining to the house this state government's commitment to football, as I have done previously outside this place. I have continually given assurances that we will ensure that the WA Football Commission will continue to be able to operate and support —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the third time.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** The WA Football Commission will be able to continue to support the development of football going forward. This is all on the premise that this state government is spending a significant amount —

**Mr P.B. Watson:** Minister, there is zero money in the budget.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany, I call you to order for the third time. Now, I have been very lenient with you today.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member for Albany asked two very brief questions: why has the minister not shown the figures in relation to the subsidy to the West Australian Football Commission, and how much money is the government providing each year? We simply want those questions answered.

**The SPEAKER:** A quick answer through the Chair, minister.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I heard the question very well. I am explaining exactly how we intend to support the WA Football Commission going forward.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Sport and Recreation.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** Don't say the word "space".

**The SPEAKER:** Right; carry on, minister.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** That is an enlightening contribution from you, member for Bassendean. Honestly!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** We are just wasting time. There is noise; there are interjections—that is enough. Minister.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** We are building a 60 000-seat stadium for the taxpayer.

*Point of Order*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** There were two specific questions that had nothing to do with the stadium.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down. It is normal to have a little lead-in to the answer. I will give the minister a short lead-in. Just address the two points, thank you.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** There is clearly a complete misunderstanding on the other side of the house about how we intend to look after football going forward. It is intrinsically linked to the new stadium. We are in the process of executing the final agreement with the new stadium operator. We have not completed the negotiations with football and cricket because they need to be done with the new operator, so we are not going to be putting information into the budget until that final contract with the operator is actually executed. We have continually said that the WA Football Commission will be looked after and that it will be able to continue to develop grassroots football and to offer support services going forward.