

**WEST PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB, PREMIERSHIP**

*Statement by Member for Joondalup*

**MR A.P. O'GORMAN** (Joondalup) [12.53 pm]: Today I would like to pay tribute to my local West Australian Football League team, the West Perth Falcons, which won its eighteenth premiership on Sunday, 21 September 2003. West Perth led at every change to run out 87-64 point winners. The Falcons relocated to Joondalup in 1993. Since then they have been involved in no fewer than five premierships, and have won three.

I will use the words of the West Perth manager, Rob Malone - from the web site of the West Perth Football Club - to describe the performance of the West Perth team -

The performance of LeCras and Koops was nothing short of inspirational. Subi threw the kitchen sink and the plug at WP in the third quarter, but found these two harder to get past than a World Bank safe. Koop's tackle on Vines when the game was at "pressure cooker" stage, bought the house down with acclaim, and a standing ovation with his second effort.

Troy Longmuir, although some lightweight lined up on him, still had to do a job and five goals on a rainy day was quality.

Murray, Seaby and Logan made solid contributions at vital times. Like the midnight train, there were no passengers on Sunday.

West Perth is the only club to have taken on the task of moving from its traditional home to promote and advance the game in the suburbs. Its performance on Sunday, 21 September is proof positive that the club made the correct decision and the game has moulded its place in the northern suburbs. Recent collaboration between the City of Joondalup, the Sports Centre Trust and West Perth Football Club has seen the club cement its place at Arena Joondalup. This all augurs well for many more premierships into the future. The youth development that West Perth undertakes throughout the northern suburbs and in regional areas ensures that a ready supply of new and talented players are brought into the ranks of the colts and reserves, and finally into the league teams. Finally, I congratulate Darren Harris and the 22 players for an excellent game under very difficult conditions.