

PERTH STADIUM — WESTADIUM CONTRACT — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

708. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the minister's answer in this place yesterday about disclosure of information about Perth Stadium to the Auditor General, when the minister said that the Auditor General had said that "we had made a reasonable decision". I also refer to comments on radio in which the minister said that, overall, the Auditor General has found that we have made reasonable decisions in relation to the release of information.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the Auditor General's report stated, and I quote, "I am unable to form an opinion whether those decisions were reasonable and appropriate"?
- (2) Why did the minister mislead the house yesterday on this very important issue?
- (3) Will the minister now apologise to the public and this house for misleading on the Auditor General's view on this matter?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

- (1)–(3) The member opposite should apologise to the house for misleading the house on the information that I provided yesterday, which was entirely accurate. I said that there were four occasions when I and the previous Minister for Sport and Recreation made the decision to not release information on the grounds of commercial-in-confidence. The Auditor General measured those four occasions against four criteria. On three of those occasions we were found to have made reasonable decisions in the eyes of the Auditor General. On the fourth, bearing in mind that there are four criteria that we need to meet, we met three of the four. On the final criterion he said that he could not form an opinion, which is what I said yesterday—could not form an opinion.

Mr W.J. Johnston: That is not what you said.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is exactly what I said consistently, outside this house and on this floor; that he could not form an opinion because he could not access legal information that had been provided to us. So, overall, that report did find that we had been making reasonable decisions to withhold commercial-in-confidence information.

Mr W.J. Johnston: It did not.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Read the report, member!

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time.