

OLYMPIC KINGSWAY SOCCER CLUB

Statement by Member for Landsdale

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [12.54 pm]: We are basking in the afterglow of the wonderful FIFA Women's World Cup. I acknowledge many within my electorate who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The contribution of volunteers across Australia has largely been ignored. Team Denmark used Olympic Kingsway Soccer Club as its base in July and August. This permitted it to have exclusive use of the premises and grounds. Scheduled matches and other events held regularly at Kingsway were relocated. The popular Kingsway markets temporarily moved, and Olympic Kingsway club dinners were instead held at Wanneroo City Soccer Club and Hepburn Centre in Marangaroo. Those worthy of special mention, the board and cheerful vollies, included Mandy Gordon, James Damianopoulos, John Colli, Harry Trandos, Kim Michailides, Venessa Stickells, Uli Purwien, Jason Stern, Bev Errington, Jim Gordon, Scott Stickells, Vasko Spiroski, Stephanie Brown and President Steve Nelkovski.

Despite grassroots and community enthusiasm, team contact with local players and fans was limited to an invitation-only training session with restricted numbers. Players are highly paid professionals, but we hoped there would be school visits or more opportunity for close contact with world-class players. Ground staff at the City of Wanneroo did a wonderful job. The garden surrounds were first class. Garden beds were even planted with red and white flowers in the colours of Denmark, which was a lovely welcome. Olympic Kingsway finished third in the 2023 national premier league home and away season. It is the club's best finish since 1981, a strong achievement in its first season in the top league.