

Chairman; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Terry Redman; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr
Chris Hatton; Mr Brendon Grylls

Division 69: Sport and Recreation, \$81 303 000 —

Mr I.C. Blayney, Chairman.

Mr D.T. Redman, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mrs A. McAllister, Principal Policy Adviser, Office of the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr G. Brimage, Acting Director General.

Mr R.D. Didcoe, Director, Facilities and Camps.

Mr D. Rosielle, Chief Finance Officer.

Mr R. Hurst, Project Director, Perth Stadium.

The CHAIRMAN: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day.

It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item program or amount in the current division. It will greatly assist Hansard if members can give these details in preface to their question.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 19 June 2015. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk's office.

I now ask the minister to introduce his advisers to the committee.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Albany.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is very rare not having the director general and the minister here, but with this budget I can understand them both not wanting to be here!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Starting on a good note!

Mr P.B. WATSON: The director general and the minister are not here!

The CHAIRMAN: Can we have the question please, member.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes; mind your business, Mr Chairman!

I refer to page 770 of the *Budget Statements* and the line item "Item 108 Contribution to Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund". Why has the recent advertising for the 2016–17 community sporting and recreation facilities fund grants stated that a total of \$7 million is available when the forward estimates for 2016–17 show \$20 million?

Mr G. Brimage: The member is correct. The round has currently been advertised at \$7 million and I will pass to Rob Didcoe, who will give some background about the current amount advertised.

Mr R.D. Didcoe: This is a regular question that comes up pretty much every year as it relates to the issue of cash flow versus what is available for new appropriation in the round. Because CSRFF is allocated over a triennium, it is the general reflection of the estimated cash flow at the time the project is funded.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Everybody in the community has been sent this advertisement saying there is only \$7 million available. Is there only \$7 million available or is it \$20 million as stated in the budget papers?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: For 2016–17?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I think the answer is yes.

Mr R.D. Didcoe: The answer is that there is \$7 million available as a new appropriation for new projects.

Mr P.B. WATSON: So that means there has been a drop in the CSRFF funding?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: Correct.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Just to clarify, that is for new projects for 2016–17, so is the other \$13 million for other projects that have already been announced or are ongoing?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: That is correct.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: What is the amount allocated for new projects in 2016–17 and 2017–18?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: There is \$7 million available in 2016–17 and \$9.151 million available in 2017–18.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the total amount for new projects for 2018–19 the \$9.060 million shown in the budget papers?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: Correct.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I refer to the seventh dot point on page 771, which refers to the KidSport program. First, I just want to say what a wonderful program it is. It has really changed the way parents and kids approach sport, particularly in the Gascoyne. My understanding is that Carnarvon has really taken up the challenge of getting people into sport. Can the minister provide us with an update on this program and how it is progressing through the regions particularly? The effect it has had, particularly in Carnarvon, has been absolutely profound in the way people are taking it up.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I thank the member for North West Central for the question. I think he will recall that Hon Terry Waldron introduced the program as sports minister of the day. It was something he was extremely passionate about. There is not a more passionate person about kids and there is not a more passionate person about sport, put those two together and the KidSport program came into play. I will ask others to expand on this question a bit more, but I remember seeing some tables and graphs of the take-up in different areas of the state, and it was really impressive. It said two things to me. One was that it was great that we were delivering an outcome by which people are able to be members of a club or join a club when they could not before. It was staggering that so many people were not able to join a club for financial reasons and that program made the difference. When people are part of a sporting club, with the camaraderie that comes with that, it means that they are not doing other things. It means they are busy and I am sure there is a substantial social dividend that is a product of the KidSport program. It requires a seemingly insignificant amount of investment against the scheme of things that we do, but the social dividend is substantial. Graham may be able to add some numbers about that possibly or add something a bit more substantial than what I have been able to give.

[8.40 pm]

Mr G. Brimage: We are heading towards 70 000 vouchers throughout the program. Over half the vouchers given out are landing with children who have not been involved in sporting clubs. The program is meeting that target. About 20 per cent of the vouchers are finishing up with Aboriginal children. The objective of the program is to assist low socioeconomic families—those with a Health Care Card and/or some other evidence that indicates that they are a genuine family in need. The program continues to be a great partnership with over 130 local governments. I think the referral personnel, policemen, principals, health workers and child protection workers are the gold that makes this program happen.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I think it is important to highlight how the program has worked. Does the minister have figures for the overall number of participants in the program?

Mr G. Brimage: We have discharged 70 000 vouchers since the program was established. That is about 43 000 or 44 000 individuals. Some children's family circumstances do not improve during the period and they come back for a voucher in the following year. Just under half the children have not been in a club before.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Is it 70 000 vouchers representing 20 000 kids?

Mr G. Brimage: It is about 70 000 vouchers since the program was established, and that is about 43 000 individuals. But, as I said, some children come back for second and third years.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Can the minister give a breakdown of that? I am not seeking supplementary information; if he has the information, he has it and I would be interested to hear it.

Mr G. Brimage: I am able to provide supplementary information. We could break those figures down by local government community.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Yes, I would like year on year participation for vouchers issued by local government.

Mr G. Brimage: The program is a partnership delivery with local governments, which enables us to keep a database tracking the kids involved and whether they come back.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I undertake to provide by way of supplementary information a breakdown by local government area of the number of vouchers issued annually for the KidSport program since its inception.

[*Supplementary Information No B51.*]

Mr G. Brimage: That data is broken down by gender and local government boundary. It is a comprehensive database.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Does the program track the completion rates of children who get vouchers? How long do they stay; is it for a season?

Mr G. Brimage: We have just finished a substantial evaluation of the Sport4All package. There are multiple evaluation components and we have done case studies in specific localities and done tracking in some of the areas where KidSport vouchers are used. The answer to the member's question about whether we track every kid is no. There is an order of magnitude of retention and part of the program design is that if a kid only comes once, the club still gets the \$200. A risk threshold was built into the program design. The proportion of kids who fall out and do not complete a season is modest, but I do not have a specific percentage for that.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Is that tracked?

Mr G. Brimage: We have done more intensive examinations in some localities and we have some insights there, but we have not done that statewide. The cost to do that would start to eat into the vouchers we can actually put into the marketplace.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I put to the minister that, anecdotally, in my electorate of Willagee, which has been a significant user of the vouchers, the completion or incompleteness rate might be fairly high. I am really keen to get any further information on that.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am sure we would be happy to provide a briefing or equivalent to the member for Willagee in respect of his electorate on this matter.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer to Western Australian participation in physical activities on page 772. I notice that in 2014–15 the participation rate for the 2014–15 budget is 28 per cent and the 2014–15 estimate is 26 per cent. Does that mean that two per cent fewer people are participating in physical activities in Western Australia?

Mr G. Brimage: From his previous involvement, Peter would be aware that the data for participation rates, which is for organised sport, is sourced from a survey of all the states and territories, and the Australian Sports Commission undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the past 12 to 18 months, the ABS has had a range of budget cuts. The states and territories went back to the ABS asking for more accurate and consistent data collection, but with a \$500 million budget cut, the ABS was dispatched by the states, territories and the Australian Sports Commission because its data was unreliable.

[8.50 pm]

Mr P.B. WATSON: I can accept that. However, if the department took the data before and it was 28 per cent and now it is 26 per cent, is the government not concerned that we are spending nearly \$2 billion on a footy stadium for people to sit down and watch sport when the percentage of people playing sport has dropped two per cent? I think for the health of our young people and people playing sport we should be encouraging more people to play sport.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The point that was being raised was a data integrity issue with the information here, so making judgements from something that the member thinks has data integrity issues is inappropriate.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Inappropriate!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Perhaps Mr Brimage might like to make a comment to add to that.

Mr P.B. WATSON: What is inappropriate about looking at figures on the budget line? Tell me what is inappropriate about that.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: It is important that we qualify it, and that is the point I am making.

The CHAIRMAN: Member!

Mr G. Brimage: I will leave the minister to respond on the relative values, but in terms of the state's values they have actually gone in a different direction now to buy that data collection, so it will be a new sample. So, there is an integrity issue. We cannot change it on that basis.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Okay, I accept that. Without going to this system, in which other way does the department find that fewer people are playing sport? The rate of obesity is rising in children and in adults and the fact that only 26 per cent or 28 per cent of people in Western Australia are playing sport must be a worry to the minister.

If it drops down two per cent or goes up two per cent, it is still a damning statistic for people in Western Australia playing sport.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am in full agreement with the member and acknowledge his support of the sporting fraternity. I am exactly the same. I have a strong sporting background and want as many kids and youth as possible engaged in sport from a health perspective. We just talked about a program that the government has. KidSport is one program, as small as it is, that is making a significant difference for a group of under-privileged kids and their engagement in the sporting process. Some issues have been talked about in this place about the integrity of data in measuring where Western Australia is at. I might ask Mr Brimage to make some broader comments about where he —

Mr P.B. WATSON: Could I just ask —

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Hang on! To get to the point the member is asking about, there is a concern about where the level of sporting activity in Western Australia is going backwards or going forwards and how that compares with what we might see as the norm. Perhaps Mr Brimage could make some comments.

Mr G. Brimage: I am happy to respond. That percentage is for over 18-year-olds through to mature-age seniors basically. Clearly, in organised sport the percentages at a younger age demographic are higher than 26 per cent or 28 per cent. Particularly when people get to the back end of their twenties the numbers taper markedly. To use the figure, whether it is 26 per cent or 28 per cent, as an average for organised sport for Western Australians is probably somewhat distorting. The participation rates also do not include a range of participants who compete in local government recreation centres and in private commercial providers, so those numbers refer to card-carrying members of a state sporting association. They are therefore conservative figures.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Further to that, where do we rate in the rest of Australia on these dodgy figures?

Mr G. Brimage: Our Western Australian participation rates are strong relative to all other states. The two territories have higher participation rates by virtue of their artificial demographics. In the Northern Territory there is clearly a younger demographic, particularly in the Aboriginal population.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Just to make a point of clarification so that the member for Albany is aware, the percentage figures here, albeit there have been some integrity issues with the information, refer to those aged 15 years and over who are engaged in organised sport and physical recreation—organised as distinct from any other form of sport and recreation. Their participation rate is considerably higher than that figure suggests.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Most people play organised sport anyway.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I do not and I would not say I am physically inactive.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No, but the minister is not in the age group that we are talking about.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am over 15 years.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The age group was 15 until —

Mr G. Brimage: It is 15 through to the minister's age.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Gee, that old! Crikey!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Whatever that might be!

Mr P.C. TINLEY: That is a bit ageist everyone!

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, members. The member for Balcatta has a question.

Mr C.D. HATTON: I refer the minister to the first dot point under the heading “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” on page 771. My question is similar to what has just been discussed but goes specifically to a couple of points. It has been identified that a declining amount of time is spent by people not only outdoors but also playing outdoors and in nature. Essentially, I ask the minister: what is the department doing to address this decline not just with the KidSport program, although he may mention that? There has also been mention of department camps and Nature Play WA. What is the range of proactive initiatives that the government is engaging in to address that decline?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I thank the member for the question. Of course, those initiatives come under the principle of trying to encourage as many people to engage in not only sport but also outdoor activity, which we all know is a damned sight better than sitting in front of a computer playing a computer game. KidSport is one of those and I will ask Mr Brimage to expand on Nature Play as one of those initiatives that we have here in Western Australia to encourage people to spend more time outdoors.

Mr G. Brimage: Nature Play in particular has been an advocacy initiative around bringing that focus on what it terms the experiment that we are taking on our children by virtue of the amount of time young people spend indoors and often on sedentary behaviour activities. Nature Play is about provoking our community into the journey that young people take in our community and about getting them outside playing more often. Myriad other activities are run through the department that are about trying to get kids more active in our metropolitan camps and also at Quaranup and down in Albany. There are in the order of 100 000 bed nights, which converts into each participant generally undertaking two to three activities per day outdoors. There is a range of funding initiatives for community participation through some \$400 000 in inclusion grants. There are many participation grants of \$5 000 to clubs, which are about getting community groups to provide sport and recreation activities in the main outdoors but not exclusively. There are also equipment grants now being provided across the state, which is about clubs being able to get equipment to make sure they have the equipment to enable kids to be playing outdoors. There are probably half a dozen initiatives that are all now about trying to bring greater focus and support to families for getting young people outdoors.

Mr C.D. HATTON: I have a quick supplementary question. It is a fairly complex issue, I do understand. I come from a background of three decades of teaching and trying to get kids active. Also there is the cultural side. Some people do not want to be active because they are doing art or music and are not actually active people. Is the department recognising ways in which to engage others to be a bit more healthy, even though they do not naturally engage because they are more culturally engaged?

Mr G. Brimage: There is a fairly generous definition of “sport”, and that is active recreation. Whether that be dance or a range of related forms of physical activity and movement, we give a fair bit of leeway. Getting into stamp collecting and reading is probably on the end of the spectrum of where we do not want to play as a department, but we are interested in partnering up with organisations that are going to get young people into any activity. The range of organisations that we have partnered up with go from Communicare to organisations that would probably give people a bit of a surprise when they read through the back of our annual report; they are not traditional sport and recreation service providers. We go far and wide to get young people active.

[9.00 pm]

Mr D.T. REDMAN: It is a guard we should not drop; we have to keep on pursuing it.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: My questions relate to page 774 of the *Budget Statements*, in relation to the new Perth Stadium. Can I just get some information? Does the Department of Sport and Recreation have a breakdown—an estimation of the full cost—of the new Perth Stadium?

Mr R. Hurst: To put it in context: the net present cost of the Westadium bid was \$1.214 billion; that was the net present cost. That is different from the \$1.277 billion that the state government budgeted. That was the number that was the net present cost, which was over \$300 million cheaper than the actual public sector comparator that we did, so there was a considerable benefit by going by the public–private partnership method—the design, build, finance, maintain method. Within that breakdown, the actual design, build, finance, maintain treatment is \$912.3 million. The breakdown of the \$912.3 million is that 60 per cent will be paid by the state, which is \$489.5 million. That is made up of \$476.1 million from the Department of Sport and Recreation, and there are two transport elements that will feature in the Public Transport Authority budget of \$13.4 million because the DBFM vehicle, Westadium, is also doing bus stands and a pedestrian-holding area. The 60 per cent to get it to construction is \$48.5 million. When construction is complete and the state takes commercial acceptance of the stadium, there is a further 40 per cent payment to Westadium. That is over the 25-year life of the asset. That sum is \$422.8 million, and that covers the construction and various other components of the stadium in itself.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is the clearest I have had these numbers in five years, so I congratulate DSR for actually clarifying this.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Treasury cannot do it!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We could not get it through Treasury!

So, the \$422.8 million, is that going to be paid on an annual basis or is that paid up-front?

Mr R. Hurst: That is on an annual basis, so with monthly service payments to Westadium.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So, the \$422.8 million will be monthly service payments to Westadium? Fantastic. I have a further question. So \$912 million of the \$1.21 billion is the DBFM part. The remainder of that is for things like the sports precinct and stadium plaza project that are shown in the DSR budget, and they are outside the DBFM. Is that correct?

Mr R. Hurst: No, that is inside.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is inside the \$1.21 billion?

Mr R. Hurst: Yes.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: But it is outside the \$912 million that we have talked about?

Mr R. Hurst: No.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So, what is the difference between the \$1.21 billion and the \$912 million?

Mr R. Hurst: As to the value of the Westadium contract itself, the \$912 million cannot be deducted from \$1.21 billion to come up with the difference for the 25 years' life, because there is a number of factors involved with that. It is around the DBFM construction costs of debt and equity to Westadium, and there are other fees and big costs involved with the Westadium proposal; it also includes life cycle maintenance and other costs. So it is the net present cost to the state; it is not a straight calculation of taking \$1.2 billion and taking \$912 million from it. That question has been asked before, and we have said that the actual further breakdown that has been requested is currently the subject of a decision from the Office of the Auditor General because the state has deemed that to be commercial-in-confidence.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: But we are making progress. So, \$1.21 billion is the value of the entire contract? Can I then clarify that the sports precinct figure of \$35.5 million on page 774 of the *Budget Statements* and the \$79.5 million is on top of the \$1.21 billion?

Mr R. Hurst: No, that amount is all-inclusive in the Westadium contract. So, Westadium is contracted to provide an area that includes the sports precinct, the stadium, the bus stands and the pedestrian-holding areas, which take people right up to the rail line on the east side, and then from there it is the PTA that is responsible for delivering that.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So it is included in the \$1.21 billion?

Mr R. Hurst: Correct.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Can the difference between the \$912 million and the \$1.21 billion be clarified again, as in can I be told what they both represent?

Mr R. Hurst: The \$1.21 billion is the net present cost that Westadium has provided to the state—that is the contracted value. Within that, the construction cost itself is \$912.3 million. That is then split up between the 60 and the 40 split.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So, \$1.21 billion is the total value of the contract, and the \$912 million represents the cost of construction?

Mr R. Hurst: Construction, yes.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We have made good progress here. The \$359 million transport component is on top of the figures we have just discussed. There might be a little bit of crossover with, as Mr Hurst said, the bus stand, but, primarily, the majority of that \$359 million shown in the PTA budget is on top of the \$1.21 billion we have just discussed?

Mr R. Hurst: Correct.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Mr Hurst talked about this project providing a plaza and up to the PTA line and all those things, but going towards the river is there any additional construction required to accommodate the recently announced design for the footbridge?

Mr R. Hurst: This is a large-scale, complex project. The Westadium responsibility stops at the shoreline, and then there is the bridge consortium. Obviously, there is an interface coming over the river, so the consortium building the bridge is working very closely with Westadium to make sure that we do not have to jump when we get off the bridge at the other end and so that the levels are compliant. We are working actively as a state to make sure both parties are working together so that there is a seamless transition.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Just to clarify it, minister: does the department anticipate any additional costs up to the shoreline for our project to meet the requirement to interface with the bridge?

Mr R. Hurst: There is always an allowance for project contingency, but they are two discrete projects and we are working together to make sure there is no variation to the contracts now.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am going to get only one or two questions, so I will ask those as a whole question in a moment.

The CHAIRMAN: You are actually due for a question of your own, so why not do that now?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Oh, good.

Following on from the previous conversation about the stadium, what amount has the commonwealth government and/or the AFL —

The CHAIRMAN: Just give us a page number and a line.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The fifth dot point on page 771 of the *Budget Statements*.

What amounts have the commonwealth government and/or the AFL been asked to contribute to the construction of the new stadium?

[9.10 pm]

Mr R. Hurst: The commonwealth government was approached, as was the AFL, and there is no commitment as yet from either the federal government or the AFL. The finances are such that it is not required; it would be nice, but we do not actually have a financial commitment from either of them as yet.

Mr P.B. WATSON: None has been sought or none has been offered?

Mr R. Hurst: Yes, we have approached both the federal government and the AFL, and there has been no financial commitment forthcoming as yet.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The owners of the casino got a pretty good deal with the site and now have a very good stadium right next door to their business. Has the casino provided any money towards the new stadium?

Mr R. Hurst: I think that might be a question for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. My responsibility is to deliver the stadium as the client agency, and I am not party to those discussions.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is the minister concerned that the AFL chairman has a financial interest in one of the four companies on the final shortlist for the tender for the new stadium?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member will have to direct that question to the minister when the minister returns; I am not in a position to make a response to that, other than to say that I have every confidence in the government delivering this project with the appropriate probity.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Seeing as the minister is not here, could we take that as supplementary —

Mr D.T. REDMAN: That is an opinion. That is not the sort of question that goes on notice and it is not additional information.

Mr P.B. WATSON: There is an AFL chairman who is going to make a —

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The question is whether I am concerned. That is not a question; that is an opinion.

Mr P.B. WATSON: So it does not worry the minister that the chairman of the AFL has a financial interest?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I will pass to Ronnie Hurst to make a comment.

Mr R. Hurst: There are four operator companies shortlisted to go forward into the request for proposal process. The stadium management business is a very small industry; it is not a question of whether or not someone has a conflict of interest, it is how that conflict of interest will be managed through the RFP process. I would also point out that there are other conflicts of interest that will be managed by the state, particularly at a local level.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Premier yesterday confirmed that there will be stadium memberships as part of the contract deal. Can the minister confirm that there will be stadium memberships and give a figure for how many there will be?

Mr R. Hurst: As the Premier mentioned yesterday and as the former minister said publicly as part of the record, stadium memberships are all part of the mix in terms of looking at the financial model for the stadium itself. The state team is looking at and having ongoing negotiations with the users of the stadium around stadium memberships; there has been nothing decided and it is all part of the confidential discussions with those sports.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I think the Premier went further than saying that it was in the mix, but I will not ask the minister to comment on that. Obviously the two key users, the only real tenants the stadium has, have not yet committed to playing at the new Perth Stadium.

Mr R. Hurst: Let me answer that by saying that we have been in the design and development stage for three years. The user groups that the member is referring to specifically—cricket and football—have sat beside us to ensure that the stadium fully meets their needs, and I think it would be fair to say that they have been delighted. Since then, football particularly has advertised and promoted it—“Come to our new home; look at the facilities

we will have at Burswood". Have they committed to play the stadium? That is part of the commercial negotiations, but no, they have not definitely committed.

Mr P.B. WATSON: There are probably 53 000 Eagles members as of last week. With the so-called medallion club, or whatever it is called, there will be another 5 000 to 10 000 seats. Where is everyone else going to fit?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Does the member support having a new stadium in Western Australia or not?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, but I want to make sure that the punter in the street —

Mr D.T. REDMAN: So he does support the new stadium? It is a 60 000-seat stadium; it is considerably bigger than the current one.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I support the new stadium, but I want to make sure that it is not just for the rich, like it is in America. I want all supporters to be able to go along to support their team. There are also supporters coming from over east and people coming from country areas who probably will not be able to get to watch a game because there will not be any seats available.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: Does the member want a bigger one?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am just saying that if we are going to have this medallion club, only rich people like the member for Pilbara will be able to afford it. The real supporters, who we should be supporting, will not be able to get in. That is my concern.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Mr Hurst may wish to comment, but the stadium that the state government is committing to building is bigger than the current Domain Stadium —

Mr P.B. WATSON: I do not have a problem with that.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: We have gone up considerably in scale in terms of seating capacity, and we would like to think that, as a product, it is going to be available to a bigger segment of the marketplace that might want to attend. I might ask Mr Hurst to make a comment, although a lot of these deliberations are still in play. They are happening as we speak, but we probably do not have solutions yet.

Mr R. Hurst: Yes, we have a stadium with capacity for 60 000 people. The Premier mentioned that we are looking at general admission for up to 10 000. Just so that we are all talking on the same terms, this is a taxpayer-funded stadium, so people who are not members of clubs can rock up on a game day and buy one of those 10 000 tickets to actually enter the stadium. That is the intent of the general admission. That is the context. The clubs are very comfortable with the 60 000 capacity in terms of size. The current level capacity at Domain Stadium is 43 500, of which about 3 500 are general admission seats. Even then, it is very difficult to actually get a general admission seat. Members have a resale program, so members of Fremantle or West Coast can put their tickets back into the lottery to be re-sold. Anecdotally, it is quite difficult for people to get those tickets; it is a case of phoning first thing on a Monday morning, and it is probably not as streamlined as it potentially could be. The clubs are doing their best to make it work because every ticket sold generates additional revenue for both the stadium and the clubs, so it is in everybody's interest to maximise attendance at the stadium, whether for general admission or not. Remember also that if general admission tickets are not sold, they go back in and will be sold again.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: The PTA in previous hearings has said that its modelling for the public transport interface with the stadium, bus and train, allows for only two Friday evening games. Is that consistent with the project modelling?

Mr R. Hurst: I think it is currently acknowledged that Friday night games in Perth present challenges; it would be no different at the new Perth Stadium. In fact, in some ways the transport solution will be superior to what it currently is in Subiaco once it is completed, so that has been acknowledged. The fixturing is subject to the AFL, and the AFL has told us that it is the most complex fixture in the world because of the demands of different stadia, but the intention is that Friday night games are the blockbuster games; those are the games we want to get.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Specifically, are we working on only two Friday night games in an AFL season?

Mr R. Hurst: I have not personally heard that.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I will make it a more straightforward question: how many Friday night games are being allowed for in the project modelling?

Mr R. Hurst: I think that is a question for the PTA, to be honest. It is so subject to AFL requirements. As the clubs do every year, they will put in their requests, the AFL will consider them, and either accede, ignore, approve or adapt them, and I think the state would be in a similar position. I am not aware of that number.

[9.20 pm]

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Based on what Mr Hurst said, does that mean that the exigencies of AFL scheduling will be the dominant determinant of what games are played on Friday night?

Mr R. Hurst: That will include not only the AFL, but any sporting code.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Does that mean we will get what we are given?

Mr R. Hurst: We would hope not, given that it is a \$1.2 billion build. We will do our best to put our best foot forward, to get the best teams playing in Western Australia to maximise attendance. But ultimately —

Mr P.C. TINLEY: If they say —

The CHAIRMAN: Order; advisers should speak through the minister, please.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I have asked Mr Hurst to respond.

The CHAIRMAN: I know, but the adviser and the member are going backwards and forwards so I am not quite sure what is happening.

Mr R. Hurst: Ultimately, it is the sporting code, and in this instance the AFL will make the decision.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: We could end up with four night games on a Friday, with a bounce down at 5.30.

Mr R. Hurst: Potentially.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer to page 776, note (b), full-time equivalents. Why was the regional manager's position removed from the Peel office of the Department of Sport and Recreation?

Mr G. Brimage: We made a decision at the departmental level to put an alternative service model in the Peel region. The Peel regional office will continue to operate. It will continue to provide the full spectrum of services. We have a range of decisions to make around how to get optimum service provision across the state. We have made a decision to have an alternative model that will deliver equal if not better service to the Peel region.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Peel is one of the fastest growing areas of the state. It is a huge sporting area. Why would the department cut a service, or take out a service, that has been working well?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Mr Brimage will add to my comments. There is still an office and staff are still in that office, so it is not all going. Mr Brimage might want to add comments to my answer.

Mr G. Brimage: There are challenges across the board for the public sector. There are resourcing pressures on salary levels and on a range of costs across the system. We have to use our resources optimally. I reinforce that we believe that we can get equal if not better services into the Peel region, as we do in Joondalup and in Rockingham, whether it is through community sporting and recreation facilities funding or the KidSport program. We have talented staff in that office and they will continue to provide a good service. We also made some modifications to our service model in the Gascoyne six or 12 months ago, so not one universal model will work in every regional office. We will apply our resources to get the best services we can.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: There is significant pressure on resourcing across all government agencies. As in the broader state budget, we have tried to deliver a budget that is as soft as it can be on households and businesses.

Mr P.B. WATSON: So sport is being charged!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: We predict a deficit this year, next year and even in the third year. The member would understand the government's broader challenge. As a member of the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee, we are working across all agencies to try to deliver not only a service outcome that meets the needs of the Western Australian community, but also as good an outcome as we can from the state budget perspective going forward. Given the scenarios we have been presented with, with iron ore prices and the GST equivalent, which I know the member is sympathetic to —

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am also not sympathetic to making big monuments to the Premier.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Some of these decisions are a consequence of that, and, yes, it is unfortunate.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have heard the minister's sob story, but can he provide as supplementary information a detailed list of all full-time equivalent allocations to all of the department's regional offices in the state, please?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Can I ask the member to put that question on notice, because that is a typical question that would go on notice.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Why should it be put on notice? It is a supplementary question. If the minister cannot answer it today, it should be a supplementary question. The minister does not make the rules; the Chairman does.

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Albany, the minister will decide whether or not he provides supplementary information.

Mr P.B. WATSON: He is not even the minister.

The CHAIRMAN: The minister is the responsible person here tonight, and it is up to the minister to decide how he responds. Are there further questions?

Mr P.B. WATSON: National Party!

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Albany, you will withdraw that.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No. I just said, “National Party”.

The CHAIRMAN: That is irrelevant.

Mr P.B. WATSON: What did you infer from that?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: And you are the shining light of the Labor Party!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Was that appropriate?

The CHAIRMAN: No, and I think we need to return to the budget papers and ask questions without irrelevant asides.

Mr P.B. WATSON: How many staff will be left in this office and what will their named positions be?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member wants names? I think we can probably come up with a number. It might be difficult to provide the names and positions.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am asking for the named positions; not the names of people.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The positions that they hold?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes.

Mr G. Brimage: Basically there is no change other than the abolition of the manager position, which will be triggered on 30 June. There will be no other change to existing positions in the Peel regional office.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is it the department’s intention to simply allow the lease for the existing office to expire and for the department to close the Peel office in the future?

Mr G. Brimage: There is no intention for any further change in the Peel regional office. We have in fact invested some money in setting up the Peel regional office, so when I say that there is no intention, we have invested there in the last 12 months to make that office become a good functional office.

Mr P.B. WATSON: But the manager has been taken away.

Mr G. Brimage: I am confident that we will continue to deliver an equal if not better service in the Peel region.

Mr C.D. HATTON: I refer to the sixth dot point on page 771 under the heading “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”. Reference is made to the declining rate of physical activity among seniors, which I guess is a natural progression in life, but that promotion of activity among seniors definitely promotes good health. I understand that the state government is putting a fair amount of resources and money into initiatives for the Seniors Recreation Council and sporting associations and also into some innovative activities. I ask the minister: what are some of those staying-active initiatives? I mention in particular exergaming and ask the minister whether he has done any exergaming.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am not someone who is in the age range that would be entitled to receive any benefit from seniors’ initiatives. However, can I say that with the ageing population, it is significant and important to ensure that we have seniors that are active. I remember going to a forum down in Donnybrook and I was surprised at the level of participation in programs down there. I cannot remember the names of the programs down there, but there was a guest speaker there who would have been well into his 80s, and he was there to impart his knowledge about what he does in his daily routines to try to remain active. He was a fit gentleman and was there to drive the locals to step up to the plate to try to engage in physical activities to ensure that they do not have little simple things like falling over and hurting themselves and having accidents and the like. I am sure that the Department of Sport and Recreation has a number of initiatives to support seniors and exercise in seniors and there is a broader health benefit that comes from that. I pass on to Mr Brimage to comment further on that.

Mr G. Brimage: The specific activity the member mentioned was exergaming. The department provides support to the Seniors Recreation Council, which oversees myriad activity clubs, from cycling to walking and a whole range of activities. The department makes multiple other investments into pools, recreation centres and inclusion partnerships with local governments. We have made some investments into a number of sports to target markets, which includes seniors, to increase participation. We made a commitment of some \$50 000 to Bowls Western Australia to get more Aboriginal people into bowling clubs because the cohort proportion in bowling clubs is relatively small. That is a really targeted initiative and we can get more people into bowls because it invariably involves a mature demographic. Those sorts of initiatives are geared towards activities suitable for folks at that stage of life.

[9.30 pm]

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I refer to “Completed Works” in the table on page 774. The line item on the Perth rectangular stadium development has an estimated expenditure for 2014–15 of \$3.3 million. Can the minister explain what that is for?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: That is the completion of the capital projects and the final amount that had to be paid as part of the construction works.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: That stadium was finished a year or more ago.

Mr R.D. Didcoe: The pitch was completed in October. Obviously, money is held as retention and sometimes there are lags in invoices that we get from other agencies that project manage the work and pay the contractor and then still need to bill us.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Are they the final invoices?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: It is just used for closing out the project.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member is looking at the estimated expenditure for 2014–15, so it is in the current financial year—I just wanted to make that clear to the member.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Yes. Are any of those withheld payments a result of disputes in relation to contracted services? For example, did they not deliver in the eyes of the Department of Sport and Recreation?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: No.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: The line item below it refers to \$321 000 for the Perth rectangular stadium enhancement. What is that money for?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: At the end of the project we had not extended or reached the full budget, in fact funds were left over. Approval was given to do a couple of other bits of work with turf storage equipment that was not part of the original project and on some areas that needed some compliance—the Department of Health asked us to look at it. That money was taken out of those savings and the balance was returned.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer to second table on page 776 and the last line item on the sports lotteries account. Can the minister tell us the current balance of the sports lotteries account?

Mr G. Brimage: I cannot give the member a current balance just at this minute. Working on the basis that about \$16 million is incoming, I cannot tell the member exactly what the carryover figure is off the top of my head.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Would the member like to get that answer as supplementary information?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Only if the minister allows it.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I will.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Thank you, I accept.

The CHAIRMAN: Can the minister define what information will be provided?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: For the member for Albany we undertake to provide the current balance of the sports lotteries account as at 10 June.

Mr G. Brimage: If the member is happy to take a round figure, it is around \$2.4 million.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I would like the actual, thanks, because I am very pedantic. Can I also have the estimated revenue for the financial years from 2015–16 to 2018–19 within that supplementary information?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Yes.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Could I also have a little bit—see, I am on the minister’s good side.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member is making it up as we go along.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I wrote it all down as I came up on the plane.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the member want to go right through to the end of his questions and we will see whether that is —

Mr P.B. WATSON: I would also like the estimated expenditure for those same financial years to marry up to the estimated revenue figures.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: By way of clarification, we undertake to provide the current balance of the sports lotteries account, and also the estimated revenue and estimated expenditure for the financial years from 2015–16 to 2018–19. If there are any qualifying remarks we will add those to the supplementary information.

Mr G. Brimage: Those figures will factor in the best projections we can get from Lotterywest.

[*Supplementary Information No B52.*]

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I refer to page 771 of volume 2 of the *Budget Statements*. The third dot point under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” refers to public open space. As the previous Minister for Lands, I know that this is a big challenge. There was talk in the Serpentine area about kids getting half-hour timeslots to do training on the ovals and the like. I would like to hear what the government is doing to address that issue and some of that pressure on the outer metropolitan regions for fly in, fly out workers working in the Pilbara and living in those regions. Perhaps we could spend a greater amount of time extolling to them the virtues of some of the infrastructure that exists where they actually work.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: In Karratha in particular! On Karratha, I think it has one of the best facilities in the state and probably nationally, which certainly makes it very attractive for people who want to live in those regions. The Minister for Planning recently announced a plan for some 600 hectares of public open space, and the Department of Sport and Recreation is also working with the Department of Planning on a range of initiatives as it applies to public open space. The more space we can supply, the more we can keep kids and others active.

Mr G. Brimage: I will make a couple of comments and then ask Rob Didcoe to make additional ones. The issue of adequacy of provision of public open space was identified by the department probably three or four years ago. At that stage we really needed some verified data, so we partnered up with Curtin University to get that data and took it back into the Department of Planning and the Western Australian Planning Commission. We found we had pressures in not only the metropolitan area but also some regional locations. Part of that journey has involved dealing with the issue of adequacy of water and getting more optimal outcomes from the available water. In essence, the department’s role has been to bring some of those players together, particularly the Department of Water and the Department of Planning, which has mostly entailed getting the data on that shortfall. That outer, inner and middle metropolitan data has emerged as three different issues and it clearly has a different context in each donut. Our role then has been to produce some publications, such as the “Public Parkland Planning and Design Guide (WA)” in particular, and to influence a range of policy reviews the Department of Planning has currently undertaken—the Liveable Neighbourhoods review is about to land in the next week or two. We are confident that a range of the refined planning and aspirations inside those policy documents will start to shift planning provision of local government, where often it has been the flotsam left over of developments—the drainage swale and a bit of public open space next to it—which has not delivered the functionality required. Yes, there remains a challenge particularly for some larger chunks of regional public open space in the outer metropolitan areas, and invariably the provision lag is behind the population arriving in some instances.

The document I talked about, the “Public Parkland Planning and Design Guide (WA)”, won a Planning Institute of Australia award recently, so that gave us some encouragement that we are moving in the right direction. As I said, we work with the Department of Planning and the Department of Water and we need to work collaboratively. They have both responded particularly well in terms of both planning and policy. The one other aspect I will talk about is that part of this solution will also be shared provision, particularly as it relates to schools and tertiary institutions, in partnership with local governments. With both public schools and private schools we are seeing fundamental shifts. and in the outer metro particularly there is no alternative to shared use provision and there are some good examples in the marketplace now.

[9.40 pm]

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I refer to page 774 of the *Budget Statements* and the works in progress under the asset investment program. My question relates to the Lathlain facility for the West Coast Eagles. What is the status of the negotiations in relation to funding for that request?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: The business case was evaluated by the department and advice has been provided that funding is a matter currently for consideration by government.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Wednesday, 10 June 2015]

p405b-416a

Chairman; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Terry Redman; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Chris Hatton; Mr Brendon Grylls

Mr P.B. WATSON: I suppose I could put this question under the line item “Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund”.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member is not supposed to put the question under anything. He is supposed to find what is in the budget and ask a question about it.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I had the question, but I did not write down the line item. I am sure the very good people over there would be out tell me how much money —

Mr D.T. REDMAN: What is the page number, member?

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is page 776, somewhere down there.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Which dot point?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer to the second dot point from the bottom that refers to sports financial grants. Could the minister advise how much the TAB gives to the Department of Sport and Recreation each year in funding?

Mr G. Brimage: The funding available to sport is around \$5 million, but reference to the TAB is in the budget for the racing portfolio.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I know, but they would not tell me! When we were discussing the TAB, we had a grumpy minister!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I refer to page 770 and the line item “Ellenbrook Recreation Centre”. Is the government guaranteeing the delivery of a 50-metre swimming pool in the Ellenbrook centre as part of the project?

Mr R.D. Didcoe: Ultimately, the decision for the aquatic facilities built at Ellenbrook will be made by the council. The council is currently nearing the completion of an aquatic facility strategy looking at the entire council area and that will inform its decision-making, and we will continue to have discussions with it.

The appropriation was recommended.