

**FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB — AFL GRAND FINAL**

*Statement by Member for Fremantle*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle)** [12.52 pm]: I would like to wish the Fremantle Football Club my heartfelt armchair enthusiasm for tomorrow's AFL grand final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Last week saw some purple creeping into this chamber as it became clear that a preliminary final win was a good bet. The win last Saturday night seemed a formality, but it did not dampen enthusiasm at Subiaco or on South Terrace in Fremantle. At midnight from our house we could still hear the Dockers team song sung through the streets. Now we have the Dockers flag flying outside Parliament and purple everywhere we look. It is a proud time for Fremantle fans.

A convincing win against the reigning premiers will have boosted the Dockers' confidence, but they hardly seem to need it. Not often this season has the team seemed rattled, and their supporters have every reason to believe they will carry their determination to the MCG this weekend. For a long time, the team was treated as the poor cousin to the Eagles, but whatever the outcome this weekend there can be no doubt that it has come into its own. Credit must be given to the current leadership of the club. For too long supporters hardly dared utter the "F word", but now the team is at home in finals territory. I will not inflict on the house my paucity of football expertise, but I have a good sense of the Fremantle community. The federal member for Fremantle, Melissa Parke, wrote in today's *The Age* —

The Dockers have a large and loyal membership because the team has a home and a heart; because the team has always played with honour; and because Fremantle is not a place that lends itself to fair-weather fans.

I finish not with a pithy three-word slogan, as is the fashion, but with four words that will ring through my electorate this weekend—Freo, way to go!