

CORONAVIRUS — STATE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN —
COMMUNITY SPORTING FACILITIES

686. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, you are hiding down there on the floor. I could not see you but I could hear you.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Yes, welcome to my world, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: True.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion COVID-19 recovery plan that includes an unprecedented investment in sport and community infrastructure across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what this \$300 million investment means for those sporting clubs that use and rely on facilities such as the Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex in my electorate?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will support local jobs and local businesses?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

- (1)–(2) It certainly is with great pleasure that I will outline that. But, firstly, I must thank the member for Girrawheen for her tireless and over-the-top efforts to make sure that her community is in front of every minister's eyes when it comes to what she needs for that area. Some would say that she is quite dogged—perhaps that is a bit soft—about her electorate.

The McGowan government's \$300 million investment in community sporting facilities is one of the most significant in Western Australian sporting history. The benefits will be spread right across the state. As we know, sport is a major part of the Western Australian fabric. It gels people together, it allows people to get out and it helps with mental and physical health and every other thing along the way. It helps families to cope with things such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, I visited the Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex with the Premier and the member for Girrawheen to announce funding of over \$2.6 million to assist with the development of its community football facilities. There was a game of soccer on that day and I must say that as we walked around the corner, it was pleasing to see the Premier get a rock star welcome, with people yelling out, "Well done" for the way he is looking after Western Australia not only in the area of sport, but as a whole. The effect that this funding will have on participation in community sport in that area is clear. More kids will be able to get out in the park, stay active and reconnect with their community. I was also very pleased to see that when the kids came off the ground, the first thing they did—a bit different from our day—was run up and wipe their hands with the hand cleaner. I also saw coaches wiping the balls. Those sorts of things are really keeping our communities healthy, and I was pleased to see young people showing an understanding of the current problem.

The funding is not limited to Kingsway's facilities. As part of Western Australia's COVID-19 recovery plan, the government has invested in sport and community infrastructure right across the state, including \$20 million to kick start a proposed 64-hectare recreation precinct at Kiernan Park in Mundijong for future sports. This places that area well in front of the game as subdivisions roll out in that area. I can tell members that this is a much-welcomed development by the shire out there. I had to be very careful out there again due to COVID when the shire president wanted to give me a cuddle! The Baldivis indoor recreational centre has received \$10 million, and the Hands Oval in Bunbury has received \$5 million for a rebuild. That is well overdue because when we were down there, I saw my name was still scratched in the clubrooms from 1964, so that is well and truly deserved! We have provided \$6 million to fund the Donnybrook and districts sporting and recreation precinct and \$14.9 million to revitalise the Ern Halliday Recreation Camp in Hillarys, which is a great place. If anyone has not been there to look at it, go and see the various types of activities that people can do at that facility in a location that is very close to the city. It is used by both adults and juniors.

A fortnight ago, I also had the pleasure of visiting the Kununurra Leisure Centre to announce funding of \$3.2 million for a water playground for the local kids to use. The playground will be free, and I thank the shire for taking that on. There was quite a lot of community concern about where it would be located, but in the end the local member, Josie Farrer, helped out and called a meeting of all the departments up there, as well as the local shire, and they came to a common agreement about where it should be located.

The SPEAKER: Minister, you did hear me say yesterday about cutting the answers short, did you not?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It has been only three minutes! This is about \$3 million in funding, Mr Speaker. It takes a long time to put that on the ground so that people on the other side can understand!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I am listening to this.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Josie Farrer worked very hard for the community in Kununurra. We heard some grizzles about Kununurra a while ago, but the investment of \$3 million into that area for job creation will certainly be welcomed by that area. This will also benefit kids who play in that area by moving them away from the outskirts of town where a lot of the social problems exist. It will be tremendous.

The package of \$3 million also includes big-ticket items such as the \$30 million commitment to the redevelopment of the WACA ground, and \$16.25 million for the state football centre in Queens Park—for all those round-ball footballers. This funding will not only assist sport, but also create jobs on the ground for tradies, electricians and plumbers—the whole lot who will be there. We have not heard any grizzles about that in those areas. We are also fast-tracking community sporting and recreation facilities fund rounds and Lotterywest grants to bring things forward. I know that the member for Vasse has been grizzling down at her end of the world. She wants the roads down there fixed, which she did not do herself when she was a government member during the previous eight years of the Liberal government. She was also at the opening of a facility containing \$400 000 worth of netball courts, and she still whinged! Some people in this place can never be satisfied. Does she want the whole budget? She is not going to get it!