

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Division 40: Sport and Recreation, \$68 050 000 —

Mr J.M. Francis, Chairman.

Mr T.K. Waldron, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr R. Alexander, Director General.

Mr A. Watt, Director, Business Management.

Mr D. Rosielle, Manager Finance, Business Management.

The CHAIRMAN: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard staff, and the daily proof *Hansard* will be published at 9.00 am tomorrow.

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; this is the prime focus of the committee. Although there is scope for members to examine many matters, questions need to be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount within the volumes. For example, members are free to pursue performance indicators that are included in the *Budget Statements* while there remains a clear link between the questions and the estimates.

It is the chairman's intention 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 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. For the purpose of following up the provision of this information, I ask the minister to clearly indicate to the committee which 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 committee clerk by Friday, 11 June 2010 so that members may read it before the report and third reading stages. If the supplementary information cannot be provided within that time, written advice is required of the day by which the information will be made available. Details in relation to supplementary information have been provided to both members and advisers, and, accordingly, I ask the minister to cooperate with those requirements. 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. Only supplementary information that the minister agrees to provide will be sought by Friday, 11 June 2010.

It will greatly assist Hansard if when referring to the program statement volumes or the consolidated account estimates, members give the page number, items, program and amount in preface to their question.

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

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions? The member for Nollamara.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: I refer to page 509 of the *Budget Statements* and the \$2.3 million and the \$82.5 million allocated to the ME Bank Stadium planning and development. When does the government expect construction to commence and how long will it take?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I thank the member for the question. We expect that construction will start in 2012. Obviously, if we are organised earlier we will start earlier, but the expectation is 2012. Just to let the member know, stage 1 is development of the eastern stand. I cannot give the member a direct answer on the actual timing but I know that we will start in 2012. We have done the base planning and we are doing the final costing and planning now, so I do not want to elaborate on the time for that stand at this stage because I am not quite sure how long it will take. However, it will start in 2012 and if we can start earlier, we certainly will.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Canoeing Western Australia appears to be under the impression that \$5 million is allocated for the development of a whitewater park in the Champion Lakes area. Can the minister show me where in the budget I might find that? My second question is: what is the Logue Brook recreation offset trust being spent on?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We have made a commitment of \$5 million for the whitewater park and of that we have allocated \$150 000 to reaffirm the business case. As the member knows, Canoeing Western Australia has made several attempts over a number of years to try to get that commercial development up without success. We made the commitment of \$5 million; \$150 000 has been allocated —

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Is it in the budget, though? I am just trying to sort that. Is that \$5 million in the budget?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is not shown in the budget.

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Therefore, it is not in the budget.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We had an allocation, which has now gone towards the netball centre. However, the commitment for the \$5 million is there; we have allocated the \$150 000 for the base planning, as I said, to reaffirm the business case. We have to ensure that the project is commercially viable and obviously Canoeing WA has been looking for a commercial provider as well. That is the situation at the moment and we are waiting for it to now come back to us.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Who has the government given the \$150 000 to?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That funding, as I understand it, has gone to Canoeing WA.

Can the member repeat the second part of her question and where it is in the budget?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: It is on page 514. Are there any allocations against the Logue Brook recreation offset trust?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We had allocated \$10 million for Logue Brook and that was repaid to the Water Corporation but we were able to retain the interest earned, which was used to fund a study for the identification and establishment of a strategy for existing and proposed recreation on dams and inland water bodies within the southern Darling region. Therefore, the \$10 million was returned but the interest of \$704 000 was retained to carry out that report.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to the third dot point about significant issues on page 506. Can the minister outline some of the strategies he has supported to address at-risk youth initiatives, such as the Northbridge youth engagement project?

[10.10 am]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I thank the member for South Perth. As members would be aware, there have been a lot of issues in Northbridge. Sometimes I think they are a little overstated, but there is no doubt that we have had problems in Northbridge, and there have been problems particularly with youth. I do not think there is one thing that will fix all that, but the Department of Sport and Recreation has certainly wanted to play its part. We have a diversionary project that is trying to engage young people out of Northbridge to keep them away from Northbridge at night. As the member knows, a number of young kids have been frequenting Northbridge, and they have been picked up at late hours. The City of Armadale and the City of Swan were chosen as two priority areas for this project. We did that on information that was obtained from Mission Australia and the Department for Child Protection. These projects involve providing things for these young people to do in their own areas, in Midland and Armadale. These are activities such as basketball, hip-hop and acrobatics, as well as games et cetera identified by the kids themselves as ones that they would like to participate in. The year-to-date statistics for this from the Department for Child Protection indicate a 45 to 50 per cent reduction, approximately, in the number of young people being detained in the Cities of Swan and Armadale. Although this is not the be-all and end-all, it certainly is providing an opportunity to get those children active in their own areas so that they do not congregate in the city.

I will quickly add one thing. We have also done this in partnership with the Department of Culture and the Arts. For years, the Departments of Sport and Recreation and Culture and the Arts always seemed to be apart and challenged each other for funding et cetera. What I am trying to do and what the Minister for Culture and the Arts is trying to do is bring the departments closer together. When we talk about delivering social benefits and delivering justice outcomes, we have different mechanisms to get there, but we can deliver many of the same things. Those members who go up to Kimberley communities will see that their families are very important to them, but so is their sport and their culture and their art. I believe that the two departments need to work closer together, and this is one of the ways in which we are doing it. I would like to think that we can do this in more places as time goes on, depending on budgetary constraints.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer to the heading "Infrastructure and Organisational Development" on page 507. Prior to the last election, the Liberal sports spokesman said that the then opposition saw merit in a Western Australian Institute of Sport proposal for a \$22 million high-performance centre and that a Liberal government, if elected, would give it the highest priority. Does the government still give the upgrade of WAIS facilities to provide a high-performance centre the highest priority; and, if not, why not?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a good question. Yes, we do. In fact, the Premier and I will be visiting WAIS again shortly to look at that. A business case was completed in late 2009. There is no doubt that there is an urgent need to improve the current WAIS facilities. It was one of the priorities this year, but in the end it did not get up this year. However, I see it as a great priority. I know that through the extra funding that we have given to VenuesWest this year, it also recognises that and will be doing some extra work with WAIS. We need to

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

continue to work with WAIS now to put up a strong proposal for next year. With that in mind, I have asked the Premier to go with me and look over the facility to see exactly what is needed.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Minister, the government has been in power for a few years.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is nearly two.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, it is nearly two years now. It was a priority, and the minister still has not even taken the Premier down there. I just wonder why there has been the delay.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a fair question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The government takes credit for all the sportspersons who come out of WAIS, and they do a tremendous job, but there is no funding going towards it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: There is funding going towards WAIS, but I think we need to upgrade the facility. I am not going to argue with that. I recognise that need. I agree with the member that WAIS kicks way above its weight. We have just seen the recent achievements by some of our athletes. There is no doubt that WAIS kicks way above its weight. The point is that when we come to make budget allocations, we have to weigh up the needs across government. This year, we have worked with VenuesWest on ME Bank Stadium and the netball centre, for which people have also been waiting for many years. It was a priority call. We would like to be able to do them all, and do them all straightaway. However, that was not the case, but it is still definitely a priority for me as minister.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Royalties for regions funding seems to get thrown around for everything. There are a lot of country athletes. Could some royalties for regions money be allocated to this area?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Royalties for regions is about the regions, and, yes, we have athletes coming from the regions. I think the member would probably be the first to admit that royalties for regions is contributing a whole heap extra to sport and recreation across WA. I do not want to waste time on the answer, but the member has asked me the question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The minister's core responsibility, though, is sport and recreation —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, that is right.

Mr P.B. WATSON: — not royalties for regions.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Since we have come to government, there has been an increase in funding for the community sporting and recreation facilities fund from \$9 million to \$20 million. Sport and Recreation is delivering projects and services through two major grants. Firstly, there are development commission grants. It must be remembered that the development commission grants are financing quite a lot of projects. I will throw in just one. There is an equestrian complex in Cuballing. That is just an example. It is one that I know because it is a local —

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is in a National Party seat.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is in a National Party seat, but I think the member will find that these projects are right across Western Australia. I think the member even criticised us for doing too much up north. That may be the way it has fallen now, but that will —

Mr P.B. WATSON: The minister reads the Albany papers, does he?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, I do. The other thing that is very important to recognise is that local governments also get a royalties for regions local government grant. Many of the local governments have done two things towards sport and recreation with that grant. The first is that they have done projects themselves utilising that money, but probably more important —

Mr P.B. WATSON: In Albany, minister, they built a dunny and change rooms.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Albany has not done too badly with its recreation centre et cetera. We have taken \$3 million across, at the request —

Mr P.B. WATSON: Under a Labor government.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No. We have allocated the money. The member will recall that we made the commitment, and we have taken the \$3 million across.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No, the sports centre was done under a Labor government.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will get back to the member's question. When I was in opposition, one of the problems that I saw with the CSRFF was that in many cases it was becoming very difficult for the local government to

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

access the one-third that it had to find and for the sport to access the one-third that it had to find. I think the member would agree with that. Therefore, the government has done two things. Firstly, we have looked at the government's ability to fund up to 50 per cent, for which some outcomes must be delivered—for example, water saving, power saving, co-location and those types of issues. Local governments have been able to use some of those grants to leverage the CSRFF grant, and that has enabled a lot of local governments —

Mr P.B. WATSON: Not all the councils are doing it that way.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, that is a council's decision. I am not here to tell councils how they should utilise their money. That is their decision, and royalties for regions is about local decision making. Many have, and some of the bigger projects have got up.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have heard enough. I thank the minister.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Further to that question of funding, I am interested in what the minister just said. I was not aware that the government now puts in 50 per cent. Does that mean that the actual sporting body and the council have to put in 25 per cent?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The base figure is still one-third. However, if there is a project that meets certain criteria—those criteria being that there are power-saving and water-saving initiatives in a project, that there is co-location whereby three sports are being moved to the one location and that it can be demonstrated that there is a greater uptake of people playing that sport so that it will increase participation—the government will consider up to 50 per cent. Therefore, it is an incentive, and it is being taken up. I think it was a good incentive.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I refer the minister to page 509 and to the line item “State Netball Centre — Construction”. Obviously, this is taking a long time to occur, and there will be many benefits to netball in Western Australia, which I will get the minister to comment on. However, I notice that the minister often refers to it as the preferred site.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I am just asking why the minister does that. Also, how will the relationship with the Perth Netball Association be established?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a good question. First of all, as the member knows, netball has been waiting for many, many years. An amount of \$5 million was put away by the previous government and by our government, but nothing has ever been actioned. We made a decision this year. With more than 800 netball clubs—probably altogether there are 100 000 participants—I think everyone would agree that netball is a fantastic sport that delivers very much across our community. We did not have a home for netball or a training centre for our elite teams, both at the state level for the West Coast Fever and state competition. For example, this weekend is country week. All the country teams will be coming to Perth and to the Matthews centre. The decision was made to have four indoor courts at the Matthews centre as well as an administrative centre that will be for netball and the Perth Netball Association.

[10.20 am]

I will be open about this: originally I favoured the new netball facility to be located at Challenge Stadium—AK Reserve—along with the other facilities. There has been an argument for some time about where it should be located. The preferred location is at Matthews, but if something comes up that we do not know about now, then we could go back to Challenge. We have left it open just in case something unforeseen occurs. The Town of Cambridge is doing the road planning.

Obviously at AK Reserve there is WAIS and the other sporting facilities. We have a magnificent precinct there and I acknowledge the work done by the previous government on that precinct. It is fantastic and we want to keep it going. We have to weigh that against, firstly, the cost of the actual facility; and, secondly, as this is not a centre at which West Coast Fever will play—it will still play at Challenge and maybe later at the new arena—it was thought we needed to keep this for netball at the community level. There were some benefits in that. We had to weigh up the decision with the cost and the connection with community netball. Given the fact that community netball will be using this facility regularly, in the end it was felt that perhaps the best way to go was at the Matthews site.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The minister is saying that it came down to the cost of the facility. It was cheaper at Matthews —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That was one issue.

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The minister is also saying that West Coast Fever will play at Challenge and Challenge is where elite sports people play. The minister is really saying that netball is a lesser sport and, therefore, it should be centred at Matthews. The other issue I have is that the Perth Netball Association is associated with Matthews. What about the other regional associations and how does that play out in terms of the elite nature of it, the exclusive nature of it and the delivering to one area over others?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am not saying that netball is not an elite sport. I have four daughters and I think I have watched at least 800 netball games. I have a love of netball. More than that, I can see what netball delivers.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: If the minister has a love of netball, why not make it an elite sport and put it at Challenge?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The fact is that the Wildcats will be stationed at the new Western Australian Basketball Centre but they will still play at Challenge Stadium and the arena when it is developed. It was always to be a training facility. One of the issues that West Coast Fever has is that the members of that team are doing most of their training at, I think, Perth College. This will give them a training venue that they will have full access to. Rather than saying that it is not elite, we are doing this because it is elite. It is a very critical time for netball in Western Australia. While we are very strong across the board, at the elite level we have not had the success recently that we would like. I always say that in sport we need the top level and the grassroots level. Youngsters do aspire to the top level and they will get involved if they are exposed to top-level sport. This will give West Coast Fever a home base in which to train. It will have the proper facilities that will help it to achieve at a higher level.

I refer to the member's point about all the other centres. That is true and it is similar with the basketball stadium. Basketball is played at AK Reserve and the club there is the Perry Lakes Hawks. That is an issue, but the main centre cannot be in different locations. Matthews was chosen because of its locality and its long history. We cannot have it everywhere.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Will there be a bus connection between the two?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That will be among the issues that will need to be worked out. Obviously, those things will happen. It will be like what the Wildcats do at the moment. It is better than going to Perth College and other training venues. This will be a great improvement for netball.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: To be clear minister, what will the Fever's relationship be with the Matthews centre on an operational level, and when that conflicts with community netball—that is, the Perth clubs specifically or Perth district—who has priority?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is probably a VenuesWest question. I will hand over to the director general on that. Members should remember that this is aimed basically at a training centre for netball in Western Australia. All clubs will have access to it. I will hand to the director general.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Maybe, minister, you would address the first part of my question first. Minister, in your estimation, what will be the Fever's relationship with Matthews?

Mr R. Alexander: Basically the centre is being built for state netball. It is its state training centre. It will have first call over the use. It will sit down with VenuesWest, which will be the manager, and say how it wants to use the venue. The venue will need to be programmed. It does not want to be doing the programming of the venue. To make the most of the venue to ensure that it gets used, netball will be the anchor tenant and it will determine how it wants to use it and VenuesWest will program it, obviously, preferably for netball. If there are other uses, it will provide for them to ensure the viability of the centre.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: What else can be done on a netball court?

Mr R. Alexander: It can be used for basketball and badminton.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: These are simply —

The CHAIRMAN: Before you continue, member for Nollamara, you are restricted to asking questions to the minister, not the adviser.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Will they be synthetic netball courts?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: They will be wooden courts. It is a bit like the basketball stadium with which there have been issues. When it was developed under the previous government it was to be for multipurpose use. I think that was right. In the case of basketball, it is the major tenant; in this case, netball will be the major tenant. For these facilities in which we invest a lot of money—\$26 million for netball and \$40 million-odd for basketball—we

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

have to make sure that they get optimum use. It involves taxpayers' money and we want the community to benefit. However, we need to look after the major sport.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is like being half pregnant for Netball WA. Obviously there will be four indoor courts. There are four indoor courts in Albany for that area. Surely if it is for teams in the whole of the metropolitan area and country area, when they come for country week, more than four courts should be built.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member must remember that this is a training centre for netball.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Will it be used for games?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Of course they will play games there. The \$5 million that the previous government set aside and this government set aside was for a training centre for netball. It also includes an administration part. Of course, it will be utilised. It will be utilised for state league games. It will have seating in it. It is not like the old Entertainment Centre or Challenge Stadium, which holds about 4 400 spectators. The member for Albany and I attend netball and the facility is full sometimes and sometimes it is not. If it goes well and the crowds get bigger and the arena is finished, we will look to having games played there. At this stage, Challenge Stadium will still be its home. It will be used by netball for various things, such as training and matches. They may wish to play trial games there. It will be for them to decide. Members must remember that this is what netball asked for. It is what it wanted; therefore, we are delivering the need it wanted.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Did it only want four courts?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes.

Several members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: One at a time, members. Before we continue, minister and member for Nollamara, I am being as fair and reasonable as I can, but you are confusing me. The member for Willagee on a further question.

[10.30 am]

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Just going back to a point the minister or his adviser made earlier in relation to the potential multiple use of the facility, it might sound a bit trivial, but does this mean that these courts will be multi-marked and have multiple lines?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, I think they will. If the member has been to the new basketball stadium, he will have seen that the courts there are also multi-marked.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: It is a bit like the old high school gym, is it not? It is meant to be elite.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are spending a lot of taxpayers' money. To confirm the member's earlier question, Netball WA wanted four courts, so we are doing what it wants. The proposal was no different under the previous government. These facilities will cost a lot of taxpayers' money; they also cost a lot to run and for upkeep. We tend to forget; we build a new facility, everyone says that it is great, but the maintenance costs of running sporting facilities are very large and have to be paid for. These centres have to be utilised and the upkeep of those buildings maintained for a reasonable lifetime so that they do not fall down in 15 years. That is really important, and is something that we have perhaps not done very well in the past in this state. To the credit of VenuesWest and the Department of Sport and Recreation, they are now making sure that that occurs, and that is really important. At the moment we have a nice new facility, but in the future we will need to upkeep, maintain and improve that facility.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: We are talking about multiple courts with multipurpose uses. The minister said that the preferred site was originally Challenge Stadium —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The minister wrote a letter to the mayor of the Town of Cambridge to say that he believed that the Challenge Stadium site offered many advantages including, inter alia, being part of the vision of the broader sporting precinct, providing greater scheduling capacity and flexibility to the Western Australian Sports Centre Trust and direct access to Challenge Stadium and its services to the West Coast Fever from its training base. It seems to me that the minister is saying that he wants this multipurpose use and wants the team to be elite, but wants to put it in a cheaper venue. Is that the case? We are basically shifting them to a cheaper venue because it is a girls' sport and it is cheaper to develop it there. We are not putting them in an elite environment with basketball at the Western Australian Institute of Sport, where there is greater flexibility; we are putting girls' sport in a cheaper environment.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think I have already answered that question, but I will answer it again. I made an announcement that I thought Challenge Stadium was probably the best place for it to go. Over time I have

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

changed my opinion, because I have looked at it more closely and realised that there are a lot of advantages in having it there. Netball WA just wanted a new venue; it was desperate because it had been promised for so long under both governments. The final decision was that we felt that benefits would flow to netball generally and there would still be an elite training centre, even though it is not located as close to the Western Australian Institute of Sport. We have to take into account that we are spending taxpayers' money and try to get the best outcome we can. We want to do that and also utilise funding across the board for other things; one always has to do that in government. It will be a fantastic centre; I went out there with the Premier for the announcement. We have had a huge response from the netballing public, and I will be there again on Saturday for the country week launch. This is very important for West Coast Fever, because it is a big step forward, but it will also benefit all of netball. It will probably be more accessible where we are going to put it.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Further to the existing debate, I suppose, more than answers, we have made the decision. Have any consultancies been let; and, if so, to whom, and when will they report back?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Is the member talking about consultancies on netball or on the plan?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The whole box and dice; how are we going to progress it? That is what I want to know.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The netball centre? The base planning has been done and we are now on to the next stage of planning, which is included in the funding. I will throw to the director general in a minute. We are already working with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Netball WA and the Town of Cambridge to progress that. To answer the member's question about consultants, I will throw to Ron; I am not sure whether we are at that stage yet.

Mr R. Alexander: I might have to take some questions on notice on the exact consultants we are using; I think it may be GHD. We have already put together steering committees to make sure we include all the stakeholders, including what the clients, Netball WA, and also the Town of Cambridge and VenuesWest want in a facility. We want to make sure that all parties are there right at the start so we can plan that. Then we will decide what goes into the facility. That is the stage we are at now—right at the very start.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: While we are talking about a date of 2012, we would hope to start by the end of 2011, which is earlier than —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That was the basis of my question.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: In all sincerity, now that we have made the decision, we want to get on with it as soon as we can. The member rightly asked the question, and we want to make sure that we do the base planning properly, and if there are any issues, we want to find out about them early, before we proceed.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Will the government table a copy of the final business case, or a summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the different site locations for the netball centre?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No; base planning is still being undertaken, so I will not be tabling that at the moment.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The minister said earlier that it would be built at Matthews Netball Centre and that if something unforeseen happens, it will go back to the Challenge Stadium site.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, we put "preferred site" there in case something came up either with the council's planning or in the project, so that if that happened, we would obviously have to look elsewhere. I do not foresee anything like that happening. We are pushing ahead now to have it at Matthews Netball Centre.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Why then is there no final business case for the Matthews Netball Centre?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Because that is part of the \$26.1 million. It was up to \$2 million for that final work to be done. The base planning has been done. It is the final planning.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: The minister has publicly announced that Matthews Netball Centre is going to be the site, but now he is saying that he has not performed with full due diligence —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No; we have done the base work to enable us to make a decision in the budget to commit to something that no-one has committed to for the past 15 years. It is actually going to happen. With all such things, we want to make sure before we actually start the project that our planning costings are correct.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: There is the potential, however slight, that the advantages and disadvantages have not been weighed up to the point of making a decision, yet the minister could still potentially change his mind.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, that is not right. The decision has been made that the best way to go is Matthews Netball Centre. That decision has been made. That is the preferred site. However, we are also dealing with the Town of Cambridge. I think the member would have seen recently that the Western Australian Cricket

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Association wanted to look at some land to do something, and suddenly it could not happen. I guess it is a safety net, because I am a realist. Sometimes these things happen, but I honestly think the members are getting hung up on that point. The money is there, the initial planning has been done, and the final planning is now being undertaken for the new netball centre at Matthews Netball Centre. We hope to start by the end of next year.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: When will the business case be presented?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think in October.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Will the minister present the final business case to Parliament in October?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, that will go to the government. There could be confidentiality issues as well, but it will go to the government. Before I proceed with these things, I always want to make sure we have everything right, and that is for the government to decide. I will ask the director general to provide a further answer.

Mr R. Alexander: When there is a business case for something like this, we have to put things out to tender. Some of that has to be confidential, otherwise we will run across issues with the Auditor General. That is just one example.

[10.40 am]

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I refer to page 511, the heading “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidy” and the line item “Sports Lotteries Account”. How is the state government supporting the development of sport in regional Western Australia and what commitment to this end has been made in this budget?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Over the past few years, especially the last couple—I am probably biased—sport in country Western Australia is now getting great support through a number of initiatives. I have already spoken about the increase of the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, which benefits sport in metropolitan Perth, as it should do, as well as across country WA. There is also investment via the royalties for regions program. We also have what is called the sports lotteries account country package. Its funding has increased to \$800 000 in 2010–11. It gives support for our regional sporting organisations to undertake their core business, improve their skills, their capabilities, education and training programs and enables them to deliver sport better across country WA. It also provides assistance in hosting regionally based sporting events in country WA, which is really important. Since I became minister, I have lifted the funding of the country sport enrichment scheme. That scheme was introduced when I managed country football many years ago. It was brought in by Hon Norman Moore. I remember well that we wanted to take elite football games to parts of Western Australia but funding was always a problem. The country sport enrichment scheme, which was carried on by the former government, is a wonderful success. Not everyone in the country can come to Perth to watch the West Coast Fever, the Wildcats, the Perth Glory, the Eagles or the Dockers. We have to try to get some of our elite sports out to country WA. I spoke to the director general about this. We increased the funding to take more of those country sport enrichment scheme games across different sports to country WA. The really important thing about those games is that it is not just the game that takes place. Those teams also take the administrators with them, they run coaching courses and the referees and umpires run courses with local umpires and referees. They try to lift the standard of the local sport while they are there. The other important part of this scheme is that it exposes those country kids to elite players. If they can see one of the star netballers on a court in their town or one of the Wildcats or a gun AFL player from South Fremantle or a gun WAFL player, it is of great benefit to those kids. That is also a very important part of that scheme.

One of the other things that I will mention—I think the member for Albany is very much aware of this—is that our regional sport houses are operational in 11 regional offices. That is about bringing other sports in with Sport and Recreation to work amongst sports and to have access to Sport and Recreation and share ideas. If one goes to Geraldton, where the member comes from, and goes into the office with all the other sports, one would find that it is an absolute hive of activity and that they learn from each other. I think we are doing quite a lot for country sport and we need to continue to do that. At the same time, we need to ensure that our clubs and our sports in the metropolitan area, where the bulk of our population is, are also looked after well. I am very aware of that. I have been going out with local members, including members of the opposition. I went out with the member for Mindarie and the member for Cockburn to look at issues in their areas. I have also been out with government members. I want to ensure as minister that when there are issues in a region, I go out and have a look so that I understand the problem better. When I went out with the member for Mindarie, he made some really good points to me about the needs in his area. That helps me identify those sport and recreation needs.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The minister mentioned the country sport enrichment scheme. Is the champions to the regions scheme still operating? Has its budget also increased? We do not have the games and events because a lot of sports cannot do that but they can take the champion sportspeople out to do other things.

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is still operating, as well as the coach in residence scheme, under the normal budget allocation. I do not have that with me now. They are important schemes. The club development officers link into that as well. The one thing we forget in sport is that we have a sensational network right across our state. I think we need to utilise that network more. At times I do not think we utilise the network. At times our own sports need to recognise what they have with the network. When I managed country football, I remember being told that the football commission never gave football anything. That was because we did not do anything. We were not raising the money ourselves. I recognised that we had this great network within which we were able to attract sponsors who could get their message to that great network. Country football league sponsorship is probably up near \$1 million as a result of utilising that network. I think we need to recognise that in a lot of sports.

I have just been passed some figures. Country package annual grants are worth \$440 000 and the country package category grant is worth \$190 000. The director general may be able to explain those further.

Mr R. Alexander: I can go through them. The country package enables our regional offices to have money that the local community can come straight to rather than having to come to Perth. Each office gets an allocation. We run a sports house system where all the development officers come. They reside in one set of offices so they can bounce off each other. It is also about economies of scale. We have five or six different schemes that ensure country sports get access to not just dollars but also information.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I heard what a great job the minister is doing for people in the regions. What about the staff? I did a report a couple of years ago that showed that staff lacked housing in regional areas and they could not get enough staff to work there. Has any money been put aside in the budget to look after staff better?

The CHAIRMAN: What page are you on?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Page 500, "Employee benefits".

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I have not got page 500.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I will go to "Delivery of Services" on page 505. The department's staff do a tremendous job in regional areas but they are generally understaffed and no housing is provided, especially up north. Has any money been put aside or are there any plans to look after this issue?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The Department of Sport and Recreation does a hell of a lot to try to look after its staff. I will come back to the housing issue in a minute and then I will throw the question to the advisers for the detail. Bringing staff to Perth for different conferences et cetera as part of professional development is a really important part of what they do. They are well serviced in their own offices with information to assist them in carrying out their duties. Club development officers are now in place to help them do those jobs. Clubs Online is another new initiative that provides information that they can refer people to to make their job easier and also to ensure that they can deliver the job better.

Housing is an issue right across government. It has been an issue for quite a long time. I am not the Minister for Housing or the Minister for Regional Development but I know that another 75 houses were mentioned. This is not my specific area.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Will the minister be looking after his staff by following this up?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are delivering houses in country WA through royalties for regions. Some of them have been completed. Through the specific allocation under royalties for regions, the local government fund is being utilised to build housing to attract people to their towns. That is something that has never been done before. If there is any further detail on what we spend, I will throw to either the director general or Mr Watt.

[10.50 am]

Mr A. Watt: We have budgeted to spend \$155 000 as our contribution to rent for regional housing. As an example, in the Goldfields we are about to change our housing stocks. We have three houses in the Goldfields. We have one house in the Wheatbelt, one in the Gascoyne, one in the Kimberley and one in the Pilbara. The Pilbara cost of housing is budgeted at \$68 000 this year.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Does the package to attract people into isolated areas provide subsidies?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It does, but I will pass that question to the gentlemen here, because I do not know the detail of that and I would rather give the member the right information.

Mr A. Watt: In the benefits to attract managers to the regions, for example, the director general has approved access to the government vehicle scheme for level 6 officers, so they have the benefit of the private use of a vehicle after hours. In addition, we offer flexibility for starting and finishing times. The managers in the regions and the regional staff more or less self-direct their hours according to the work that is required. As I said, we

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

have regional housing. We also offer salary packaging around the rental for that housing as well, which benefits an employee.

Mr R. Alexander: Depending where in the state, there are ranges of flights to Perth as well, so there is a range of benefits. At the same time, we also invest heavily in the professional development of our people.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I just want to add one thing because I think it is a good question. I as minister need to ensure that we continue to do that. We want good people working in sport and recreation because it is such an important area. As I often say, I think sport and recreation has been underrated and undervalued. I make a point when I am in regional areas to visit the local Sport and Recreation office. I like to go and have a chat with people on the ground so that I keep myself informed of issues. I sit down and have a cup of coffee and ask them if there is anything they want to tell me as minister. I have not had the issue raised that they want more, but they would probably raise that more within their own framework.

Mr P.B. WATSON: They would raise it with their local member.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The local member, if he is a good one. The member is very good.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I refer to the reference to the ME Bank Stadium on page 509 of the *Budget Statements*. The estimated total cost, with planning works, is \$82.5 million. Can the minister provide a breakdown of that \$82.5 million into direct building costs, provision for cost escalation and any consultancies?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, I cannot. I can tell the member that \$2.5 million is for the final planning, which includes stage 1, which is the eastern stand. The \$80 million is just for the new eastern stand to replace the temporary stand that is there at the moment. We have seen as a priority the building of that stand first to provide better facilities for the public to go to watch rectangular pitch sports, and better facilities for the players as well, because it will include making sure that the pitch is upgraded. I think what has happened is that people sat back and we have not been able to get these much-needed projects. The Emirates Western Force successfully moved back to ME Bank Stadium from Subiaco Oval, although its season was unfortunate because the team had a lot of injuries and it has not been a season it would have liked. I think if the team had been more successful, there would have been bigger crowds, but the crowds were really good. I think everyone here would agree that watching rectangular pitch sports in a rectangular stadium is best. That is why we have made the commitment to make it a 25 000-seat rectangular stadium that will cater for the Western Force, Perth Glory and maybe a rugby league team. At some stage we may end up with our own rugby league team, so we are trying to look to the future to cater for that. As for the breakdown of the \$80 million, I will hand over to the director general.

Mr R. Alexander: The \$2.5 million is basically to start the project definition plan, and that includes the scope, the capacity and also the staging, because games will be continually played there so we have to stage that. We then finalise the business plan and that becomes the operation and the maintenance, and we resolve the management structure and those sorts of issues then. That is what the \$2.5 million will basically be for.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: If I am hearing the minister correctly, and sometimes I am not, leaving out the \$2.5 million, the \$80 million in stage 1 is for the eastern stand?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: That is \$80 million just for the eastern stand.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, we are just doing the eastern stand, which is stage 1. That is all we have committed to at this stage. We are committed to the overall project, but stage 1 is the eastern stand, and that is what the \$80 million is for. The \$2.5 million is for planning for that and also for the western side and the north and south ends.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: For the eastern stand, has there been some form of heads of definition to describe how many open boxes, how much corporate hospitality, how many seats and so on will be involved?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We have done two things. We funded the Town of Vincent, which did a report and plan for a facility that came to about \$70 million. We have also done our own report. In the future plan, the main stand would be on the western side where the majority of corporate facilities et cetera would be. However, we are looking at exactly what we will have in that eastern stand in the way of seating, corporate facilities, change rooms and those types of things.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: So what will go into that eastern stand is undefined?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am not going to commit to exactly what is going in there, because we are doing that planning now in association with the sports et cetera as well.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Will that stand provide cover for the patrons to protect them from rain and sun?

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, it will. I am not sure how far the roof will extend. It is a real issue. It is a good question. At the moment at the ME Bank Stadium there is very little coverage. Remembering that it is the eastern stand, it depends where the weather comes from. One of the things that have been taken into account is the fact that people are out in the weather. It is a real problem. We will address that. I do not think that we would be able to cover everybody. However, it will certainly be much better than what is there at the moment.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: So it is pretty ill-defined at the moment, apart from the fact that there will be a stand and it will cost \$80 million.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not think that it is ill-defined, because a lot of work has been done. Once again, it is like netball: we want to make sure that once we commit and proceed, we do it best for the taxpayers' dollar. The director general might have some more detail.

Mr R. Alexander: It is actually quite reasonably defined. We have looked at a range of models around Australia and also in other countries. The one that seemed to appeal to certainly the government as well as rugby and soccer was Skilled Park on the Gold Coast. That was done a number of years ago. When we look at that, it seems to really be what Western Australia needs and can manage. It will be built to contemporary standards. If we are building a quality stand and we are spending \$80 million, we are not going to expect people to get wet. There will be some limited corporate boxes and change room facilities there, but the intention is that the major stand will be on the western side, because of weather and sun, when it is finally completed.

[11.00 am]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think Skilled Park is a good example, because at the end that is the aim.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: My preference is that the minister looks at Suncorp Stadium, but that is a different issue. Given the information provided by the minister's adviser—I thank him for it, and maybe the minister might have to go back to his adviser—how many Department of Sport and Recreation staff are working on this project and how many full-time equivalents will be allocated to it over the life of the project?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: With all new developments and facilities, we need to have staff to handle the planning, construction and all of that. I will hand over to the director general on the number of staff and how he is managing that.

Mr R. Alexander: Probably, the answer is too many! We have a director in our facilities area who, basically, will be responsible for that. He will have a project manager, who will have at least one assistant, and he will also work with Building Management and Works and an officer from the Department of Treasury and Finance will assist as well. We have already set up a steering committee and we have people liaising with BMW as well as our own people there. When this project has peak times, we might draw other people from our organisation, depending on the workload. That will be the basic group.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I thank the minister and his adviser for that input. The sum of \$80 million was allocated to build one stand, and I am sure there are projects associated with that; it is not just a straight concrete structure. What commitments are there for the western stand and the remainder of the facility to bring it up to the benchmark of a Skilled Park?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am trying to remember when it was, but I think it was late last year that the government committed to a staged upgrade to ME Bank Stadium. We did not commit to the amount et cetera then, but I said that by July this year we would make a commitment on stage 1. That is what we have done. We have said that is what we would do and that is what we have done. We have the funding in the budget for that, and as part of that \$2.5 million we will look at those other stands. I am not going to forecast what they may or may not cost.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: At what point will the minister be in a position to make statements about the remainder of the facility?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not think it will be for while yet, and not until the plan that is being done now has been completed. I would not do anything until I receive that.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: When does the minister expect to receive that?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That should be finalised by the end of this year—by October–November, or some time around then.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: We will get the plan this year.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It will be up to government then to decide.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Of course.

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The one thing I want the member to remember is that we have to be very careful. We are talking about taxpayers' money. Western Force and Perth Glory are playing there. It is fantastic the Glory have now signed Robbie Fowler, because that will help with the crowds. We have an issue with crowds and with our sports' ability to attract crowds. Once we get on and get this first stage, which will take us to around 21 000 to 22 000 capacity that will give us a good idea of how the sports are developing and whether or not we are getting the Rugby League there on a more regular basis and the success that they have. The one thing I know from my sporting career, and we see it with the Eagles, the Dockers and any sporting team is that if a team is winning and is successful people will come to their matches. We like to back winners. The day a team drops down the list, the crowds drop off. We have to be aware of that as we proceed.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: The Dockers found that out too!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a fact. I remember way back in my Claremont days, it was the same thing.

MR J.E. McGRATH: You did not have a lot of support.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Do we have any further questions? I worry about other members having the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: They are all right; they are really interested in this. The point I am making is that the minister is going to spit out \$2.5 million this year to come up with plan for expending \$20 million in 2011–12. Have I got that right? This is in the forward estimates.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes. That could depend on how quickly we do it et cetera.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: That is the nub of my question. When is this thing going to be done?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We start in 2012.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: When is it going to finish?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am not sure of the completion time. I am not going to guess that because the final planning will give us that. We want to start this and the netball facility as soon as possible. The government has made a commitment and the money is in the budget. We have never had this before. It is going to happen. We have talked about these things for years, and people get accused of making promises et cetera—whether that is right or not—but the facts are that the netball facility is underway and so is ME Bank Stadium for our rectangular sports. I come from a football background and those sports have missed out over the years. There is no doubt about it.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Are your forward estimates the same as the Premier's? They might be or could be true!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If we can do it sooner, we will.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I refer to dot point 2 on page 506 of budget paper No 2 concerning the large body of evidence that suggests physical activity levels in children are declining in the general population. What is occurring to address this issue?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a good question, member for Kingsley. I think everyone knows that issues of obesity and children not getting enough physical activity et cetera are big issues that we have to address. In my mind I think that we are starting to turn the corner on that and we are seeing some results. There is still a lot of evidence that says we have big problems and we have to stay vigilant. I came into the Parliament in 2001 and to the credit of the then Premier, Geoff Gallop, he instigated the Premier's Physical Activity Taskforce. I supported that at the time, and still do. It was a great initiative. I raised questions about the Physical Activity Taskforce in the last few years in opposition, because I felt that while it had been really good and had delivered some good stuff and I fully supported it, it was losing a bit of its oomph and I queried whether it was delivering physical activity benefits, particularly to young people, but not just young people as it is just as important to give older people a good lifestyle in their later years. When we came to government I looked at this again. While the people there were working really hard and had great intentions and were doing some really good stuff, the whole idea of the Physical Activity Taskforce was to deliver physical activity across government. What had happened was the task force had got into doing everything itself and not delivering the outcomes across government. We have refocused the task force. One of the things that we did was to take it back under the wing of the Department of Sport and Recreation. The task force was in Dumas House and there was a huge amount of money going into these offices, which I thought would be better used to deliver services on the ground. There has been a whole refocus. The member for Kingsley would know Joe Davies, who is now in charge of it, and I am the chairman of the Physical Activity Taskforce. One of the things I have tried to do is re-engage the agencies in this. If this is going to deliver, it is really important that the agencies are involved in it. I have encouraged this, and what we see happening now at our meetings is that the directors general and ministers from other departments come along

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

and we show them what this is all about and how they can get on board. I am pleased to say that the base funding has increased to \$560 000 and we have funding from planning, health and education of \$60 000 a year. This will enable us to deliver physical outcomes for people in Western Australia. When we are doing this, we need to have evidence-based outcomes. In most areas, we would probably like to do more and more research. The Physical Activity Taskforce is doing research, particularly on obesity issues in youngsters and kids going through school. We announced the initial Children and Adolescent Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey, CAPANS, and I will be announcing the final report in the not too distant future—in about July I think. I have a whole heap of strategies listed here. I will not go through them all but they include the public open space strategy, community service leadership, sport and recreation—the political side of that; act smart, to motivate people into physical activity; the community approach to inclusive community participation; youth engagement; the Northbridge project and all of these type of projects.

[11.10 am]

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Can the minister table that document?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I can table that document. I think it is a very good document because it outlines what the Department of Sport and Recreation is delivering across so many areas. I take the opportunity to say that I think for years governments of all persuasions—federal, state, local—have underestimated the value of what sport and recreation can deliver to our community, not just in the games of football, cricket, netball or whatever it may be, but also, particularly, socially. Sport is not the be-all and end-all, it cannot solve all problems, but it plays a very important part. We are moving much more into the justice area to try to help people who are at risk of perhaps going off the rails and, in particular, we have inclusivity programs. I will not go into all the detail because of time —

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: We have Midland beat ball; we do not have Mirrabooka beat ball.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The important thing is that, although I talk about the social and health deliveries of sport, I am also very conscious of the fact that we have to be careful; we still need to maintain our sports. People play sport to enjoy the sport and a lot of those other things come with it. At times we do not recognise that. For instance, when I was in Perth managing country football, I did some coaching at the Willetton cricket club. There were a couple of boys from a nearby suburb who had really rough lives and the club wanted to get rid of them. I was the coach and stuck to my digs and said no because I thought they were good kids. I did not know it at the time, but one boy in particular came from a really unfortunate background. It taught me a lesson because I stood up for those kids and copped a bit of criticism, but that boy ended up being a leader at that club, is now married and leading a good life. I know that that cricket club probably saved that kid. Those are all the types of things that the member is talking about. I did go off track there so I will not go on, but I think it is important that we understand what sport and recreation does deliver because I do not think enough people understand it.

The CHAIRMAN: Minister, you were asked for a document to be tabled. It is not normal to table documents at estimates but that information can be given as supplementary information. Minister, do you agree to provide that information as supplementary information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I certainly agree to provide that.

The CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us exactly what that is?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is headed “Physical Activity Taskforce Meeting 25 May 2010: Sport and Recreation Overview of Current Policy, Priorities and Initiatives”.

[*Supplementary Information No A3.*]

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to “Infrastructure and Organisational Development” on page 506 of the *Budget Statements*. What, if any, money has been allocated to the upgrade of Barbagallo Raceway? If money has been allocated, how much? While we are on the topic of wheels, let us talk about two wheels and four wheels. Has the government allocated any money in this budget for the implementation of “Back on Track: WA State Trail Bike Strategy”? I think there are about 50 000 trail bikes now riding willy-nilly. We often see problems in woodland communities, as well as accidents, and I wondered whether any money has been allocated to that.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will deal with the V8 Supercars first. As the member knows, V8 Supercars Australia withdrew from the 2010 race round in Western Australia. That was due to issues with the contract fee between V8 Supercars and the WA Sporting Car Club; it was a cost-basis issue. I have met with V8 Supercars on several occasions and we have another meeting this week. The government has allocated \$3.2 million and the WA Sporting Car Club \$1.5 million to do initial upgrades to the track—safety upgrades et cetera. Also, we have a plan for future development for another track out there.

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

The main issues for V8 Supercars were not only its contract with the WA Sporting Car Club, but also the pits. The pits are at the back and the drivers have to come down through the crowd; it is not ideal. I must say though, member, V8 Supercars changed what it wanted. When V8 Supercars first came to us and we were looking at what it wanted to do, it wanted to upgrade the track and all those types of things. However, when it came back just before the race and pulled out, its focus had completely changed, but that is all in the past now. I went to the V8s last year with members of V8 Supercars and I actually did a lap with Mark Skaife, whom it employs. The drivers love the track at Wanneroo. It is one of their favourite tracks, so they are happy with the track. We have to ensure, of course, that safety standards are maintained at the track, but at the moment they are happy with that. The issue is the pits.

V8 Supercars put forward a proposal to have the pits on the inside of the track and we looked at the possibility of that. It has since come back and said no, it does not want that. There are issues about viewing at the track because one of the great things about Barbagallo is that people actually see the cars take off and go round and over the hill. If structures were put in there, it would eliminate some of that viewing. We are looking at another proposal at the moment on where those pits can go. I want to ensure that if we make a further investment at Barbagallo with V8 Supercars, it fits in with our long-term planning because we must remember that, although the V8s are very important and we want them back —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I believe it asked for \$12 million.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We have \$5 million there —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Is that \$5 million in this year's budget?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The \$5 million is there, yes. I do not know whether it is actually shown in the budget but it is there. There is \$3.2 million of our money and \$1.5 million from the WA Sporting Car Club, and there is other money for planning for the other section. We are currently in negotiations and I am being open and honest with the member; in fact, we have a further meeting this week. I will not disclose anything from the negotiations, and the member will understand that.

I am quietly confident that we will see V8 cars racing in Western Australia again. Yes, the government is meeting with V8 Supercars and we do need to support that pit restructure. I personally think that the situation with the pits at the moment is dangerous, so something needs to be done. However, I do not want to invest taxpayers' money and in a few years do further development and waste that money. That is what we are working on at the moment. The Department of Sport and Recreation, I have to say, has done a hell of a lot of work on this. At the last meeting one of the department's officers was there and what has been put forward is really excellent. I hope that we can come to an arrangement. There is also the issue of the WA Sporting Car Club and the actual fee for racing, which is all part of these negotiations. I am quietly confident that we will have a good outcome.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: And the trail bikes?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is good to see the member for Maylands sitting at the back. I congratulate the member for Maylands because she continually talks to me about this issue. She has a very keen interest in this area and so do I because this issue was raised with me when I was in opposition. I have issues in the forest around Wandering et cetera, and something needs to be done about this at some stage. I think in the past both sides of politics have realised that this needs to be done across government. It involves lots of agencies such as transport, planning, sport and recreation, regional development—the whole gamut. Basically, we have a problem. What worries me are the trail bike deaths and serious injuries, so sport and recreation has taken on the trail bike strategy. The member for Darling Range via the joint implementation agency committee have made some recommendations to me. There is no actual lead agency. I guess the Department of Sport and Recreation is taking it on to get something happening. I called a meeting of all the ministers recently and, as I advised the member for Maylands, there is a real will to do something about this issue. I asked the member for Darling Range to re-form that joint implementation agency committee to provide a discussion paper and to work up a cabinet submission to take this to government. One issue is that it is a big cost; we are probably looking at costs of \$20 million or so over time, maybe 10 years. One idea that has been put forward is licensing. Obviously, licensing is a very important mechanism but there are costs et cetera in that. Through the member for Darling Range, the committee will come back to me very soon with a discussion paper, so the minister can take a submission to cabinet on the best way we can go forward. There are other issues such as who is going to administer it, who is going to take control, and how we do this across government, because there are planning issues and all sorts of other issues with it. Many members of the public are upset by trail bikes whizzing past them when they are walking—there is dual use and all those types of things to consider. It is a sport that is growing, and the use of trail bikes is growing, so I think we need to give people designated areas.

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

[11.20 am]

Mr M.P. MURRAY: So the real issue is that at this stage there is no money in the budget to further this project.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, not at the moment. However, it is my intention to take this project forward to my government, and that is what the cabinet submission will be about.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: But there is no identified money at this moment.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, it is not in the budget. I will say one thing: I am not going to rush this. I will tell the member why I am not going to rush it. It is a huge decision that people have shied away from for ages because it has been too hard. I do not think it is too hard, but there are a lot of issues with it. We are having a real crack at it, but I want to make sure that we do it right. When we come up with something, we have to try to make sure that people can still engage in what is obviously a very good sport—a good activity. We talk about getting people outdoors and out into nature. This is part of that, but we must make sure that we, firstly, protect those people and, secondly, protect the public. There is going to be a cost involved. Then we look at licensing fees, and there are obviously issues around licensing fees that I want to work right through. However, I think we need to bite the bullet and do something. There is a real will to do so. When we had the meeting with the ministers, there was a real will to do something.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to “Asset Investment Program” on page 509, and I congratulate the minister and the government on what has been done with the state netball centre and ME Bank Stadium. However, I want to ask one question about something that will be the biggest project ever undertaken by a state government, and that is the major sports stadium. I read the minister’s commentary the other day that a statement will be made early in the new year.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: In February next year.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I am very supportive, as the minister knows, of a new stadium. I think the state needs it and the people of Western Australia need it. The two Australian Football League clubs now have memberships that basically fill the stadium, so members of the public cannot get to the games. However, the point I want to raise is that it has been suggested that portions of royalties for regions money be used to help construct the new major sports stadium when it comes about. That suggestion has been made, I believe, mainly because country people—the minister is a country person—have historically supported our national game. Historically, country people have come to the city to attend football games. From memory, the West Australian Football League grand finals used to be on a weekend when a lot of country people came to Perth, and a lot of our best footballers came from the country.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you get to your question, member.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The question I am asking is: can the minister make a comment on the suggestion that has been made that a portion of royalties for regions money be used to help fund the construction of a stadium that would be used by all Western Australians, country people included? Is it something that we can look at? It may be a project that the government might look at to give country people some say in, or some ownership of, the new stadium, which is going to cost a lot of money. Who knows where the stadium will go?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I thank the member for the question. I am happy to answer that question as best I can. Royalties for regions is under the control of the Minister for Regional Development. I would not see royalties for regions funding a stadium in Perth. I heard the member for Collie–Preston talking about Merredin. I have always said that it should be at Jingalup! Then royalties for regions might look at it. I guess that is something that we could always look at, but I do not see that. However, I will comment on the stadium itself and some of the points that the member made. When we came to government—I think people like to know and I have to keep reinforcing this—and there was an economic downturn, the government decided to delay any decision on the stadium until February next year. Nothing has changed in that area. However, the Premier and I have said on many occasions that we need a new stadium in Perth; there is no doubt about that. Subiaco Oval has served us really well. Football can still be played there, and we still get reasonable crowds there, although it is very rarely filled at the moment. However, it is a good surface, and footy can still be played there. But there are lots of things wrong with it. The ladies have to queue for the toilets, and there are problems with the exits et cetera. We need a new stadium. I want to congratulate the task force that did the report. It did so much really good work that we are still utilising it today. That decision has been put off, but we acknowledge that there is a need for a new stadium.

We have committed to a new 60 000-seat stadium at Subiaco for the Australian FIFA World Cup finals bid for 2018 and 2022. We will know the result of that bid on 2 December; so we will know whether we are going to get it. In those negotiations, we have been able to get a guarantee from the federal government of \$250 million towards a stadium, which will make a huge difference if we are successful in the FIFA World Cup bid. The bid

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

is in. I think we have a good bid. There is a lot of different comment about it. However, that is out of our control now; the bid is in. If that bid is successful, we are committed to delivering a stadium, and we will have that \$250 million. However, no announcements will be made until February. If we do not win the FIFA World Cup finals bid, we still want to build a new stadium, because the state needs it. We will then need to renegotiate with the federal government on that. I have met with the federal minister on a number of occasions, and also with Andrew Demetriou from the AFL, on this issue. I think Western Australia has really dipped out on support for a stadium in Western Australia from federal governments of both persuasions. I did an interview the other day on 6PR in which Karl Langdon was reeling off all the stadiums over east and asking why we had not done it. Most of those stadiums have had federal government input; we have not had any of that.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Is any of the money in this budget going towards the development of a stadium for Subiaco Oval for the FIFA World Cup?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: So there is no money in this budget for the FIFA World Cup.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, not that I am aware of, unless there is some —

Mr J.E. McGRATH: No, not until 2018.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, there is not. I will just finish answering the question. I have a really good relationship with the federal minister. A federal election is coming up, and who knows what will happen then? Obviously, if we were not successful, we would continue to talk with the federal government. The Premier and I will not be making any announcements until next February. I have to say that I think it was a very responsible decision to delay the stadium because of the state's financial position. I believe that if Labor had got back in, it would have been faced with a similar situation. However, we can all say that; it did not happen.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Further to that question, is the minister aware of some commentary in the eastern states media at the moment that Australia's bid to get the FIFA World Cup might have been jeopardised by the AFL's reluctance to hand over a significant number of major stadiums for the soccer? Has the minister read that?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I have read some press talk. I think the AFL has been heavily involved with FIFA and Football Federation Australia in the bid. I am not privy to the actual final bid and what will happen, so I cannot really comment on that. Obviously, the AFL has been very compliant in making grounds available generally. There was also what is called the Confederations Cup the year before. There was a request to do the same thing that year. I think it was a bit over the top to ask the major sport to put off all those games for eight weeks in the previous year.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Speaking from a football perspective.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, speaking from a general point of view. The FIFA World Cup is a huge event, and I think the AFL has a responsibility to try to do everything it possibly can to get the World Cup here.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: And the government should do everything it can to get it here.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I believe we have. In the period since we have been in government, we have been 100 per cent behind this bid. We have supported the federal minister and the federal government in this bid 100 per cent.

[11.30 am]

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I have one further question. Can the minister clarify that even if Australia is unsuccessful in getting the hosting the FIFA World Cup finals, the stadium will go ahead?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will not make any announcements until February. That is what we said. We made that call to delay any decision for two years, and that is what we will stick with. As the Premier and I have said, Western Australia needs a new stadium and we will deliver a new stadium. We are not saying yet exactly when. It obviously depends on the FIFA World Cup finals bid. It will have an influence. It has actually worked in our favour, because we have been able to secure that funding.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: I come back to pages 506 and 509 of the *Budget Statements* that refer to the state netball centre. Can the minister advise how the estimation of \$26.1 million was determined? Can the minister provide a breakdown of the \$26.1 million by activity? What are the broad arrangements of any agreement with the Town of Cambridge to locate the state netball centre at the Matthews Netball Centre?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Basically, to start with, we undertook a project scale base study that gave us the information to scale the facility at \$26.1 million. I might get the director general to reply, but we have already been through this. The Town of Cambridge is happy about the centre being located there. It has some issues with

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

it. We have committed to the state netball centre, but there is a lot of stuff around it that is the responsibility of the local authority, and I understand that that is part of the discussions that are already taking place. I do not know whether the director general would like to give any more detail on that. I do not think there is any more detail that I can give.

Mr R. Alexander: No; there is not, other than after discussions with the client, Netball WA, a project scale was done to give the base parameters of what needs to get built to work out approximately what is needed. We have had discussions with the Town of Cambridge about the site. It currently controls that site. The idea is that that site will be excised for the state netball centre.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I refer to the full-time equivalent for the department on page 507 of the *Budget Statements* at which 90 FTEs are shown, and in the current budget that figure is estimated to be 93. Is the current structure of regional offices to continue in its present form?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: As I understand it, it is. That is the first time I have heard a question about any changes there. Yes, it will continue. These offices around Western Australia are really important. It is very important that they continue.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am happy with that answer. Specifically, will the Peel regional office continue in its current form?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: As far as I understand, it will. There is no other plan from me.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Is there for the Peel regional office any intention to increase staffing?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Not that I am aware of.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am referring to this financial year.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: My final question relates to page 514, “Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Special Purpose Account”, for which the appropriation shown for the 2010–11 budget is \$25 million. I understand that is correct. My question relates to the Peel regional sporting complex planning. I am interested in the progress of that, given that the Peel region currently does not have a major regional sporting complex. What is the progress of that complex?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am not being silly here, but this is a special-purpose account; is the member talking generally about the centre as it applies to the community sport and recreation facilities fund?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am interested to know whether there is within that \$25 million an allocation to the Peel regional sporting complex?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I stand corrected if I am wrong, but my understanding is that under the community sports and recreation facilities fund, sporting groups and local governments apply for funding. I am not aware whether they applied last year or will apply this year. Can the member tell me whether it has applied?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I would be interested if the minister could table the list of projects that will be funded under that \$25 million. Rather than the minister reading them out—I do not want to waste the committee’s time—I would like the minister to table the list.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not have the list here. I will provide it as additional information.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The minister will provide that as additional information. Perhaps the director general, through you, minister, could answer my question about the progress of the Peel regional sporting complex. An area of land has been identified adjacent to the Forrest Highway extension of the Kwinana Freeway, near the Fiegert Road area. I am interested to know whether the land acquisition has been completed by the department or government, and when it is proposed that that complex will be committed to?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will throw that to the director general, because he will have the detail. I do not know the detail.

Mr R. Alexander: That is still being considered. The Fiegert Road complex has not progressed to any great degree.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Has the land been acquired?

Mr R. Alexander: Not that I am aware of. I am not 100 per cent sure, but I do not think it has.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: This area of land has a long history. It was identified some years ago as part of the Peel region scheme in the late 1990s. The member for Murray–Wellington would be supportive of this. It is absolutely critical that there is a commitment to the sporting complex at some stage. A number of planning

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

documents have been developed by the department over the past couple of years and they have been reviewed by the department; however, we are yet to see a genuine commitment by the government to that project.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: From memory, I understand there are legal issues concerned with this land. Is that correct?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There are some.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will not comment on those legal issues, because I am not across them. I remember that there are some legal issues with it. I am happy to find out whether the legal issues are precluding any advancement of that. That is the only detail I can give the member at the moment. I am happy to find out further information on that. I will not make anything up. I am not sure of the exact position of that land. It has not come before me.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Therefore I would request, if the minister is able to, that as supplementary information he provide an update on the status of the land acquisition for the Peel regional sporting site in the Shire of Murray.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am happy to do that. I would like to get that information for my own benefit. It might be a good idea if, when I get that detail, the director general, myself, the member for Mandurah and the member for Murray–Wellington meet and discuss this. I need to have a good understanding of where it is at. There are issues there, and we need to do what we can to help out. I offer an opportunity to meet with members, the director general and probably an officer from my office.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the minister agreeing to provide some information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the minister outline what information he will provide?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will supply the updated information that is available for me to supply. I cannot designate what it is at this stage, because I do not know.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am very happy to take up the minister's offer of a meeting with the minister along with my colleague the member for Murray–Wellington.

[Supplementary Information No 44.]

The CHAIRMAN: I draw members' attention to the time. I understand that there was some sort of agreement that we go to 11.20 am on this division; to 12 o'clock on the next division; and to one o'clock on the following division. It is entirely up to members. I am just reminding members. The member for Willagee.

[11.40 am]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: At some stage can I request a very quick toilet break? I drink too much of this water! I would be happy to have a quick five-minute break, if members would like to do that. It is up to members how long we go on this division.

The CHAIRMAN: I have three questions: the member for Willagee, the member for Collie–Preston and the member for Kingsley.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Noting the minister's constitution, I will be as brief as I can.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is okay; it is not that bad. I am under control!

Mr P.C. TINLEY: That is good!

I go back to "Asset Investment Program" on page 509 of the *Budget Statements* and the line item for ME Bank Stadium. The government has allocated \$82.5 million on the stadium. The minister mentioned in an earlier answer that the stand would include some limited corporate boxes and change rooms. Can the minister tell me what he means by that? What is the detail around that?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: As I said before, I will not give the detail. If we had money to completely build a new stadium and we could do the whole lot, the focus would be on the western stand. However, we are doing the eastern stand first and there will still be corporate facilities and the change rooms will still be there, as they are now, in the western stand. As to what else we require, we will talk to representatives from the various sports as part of the planning stage. It may be that we incorporate some change rooms and corporate areas in the eastern stand as well. The extent to which we do that has not been finalised.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Further, who are the stakeholders the minister is engaging with, both potential users and other affected stakeholders in this arrangement?

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Under the \$2.5 million allocated, detailed planning will take place. I have met and spoken with representatives from the various sports, including rugby league, rugby union and soccer; sorry if I still call it “soccer”! We have talked about these issues, but there is a formal planning process through which we will finalise those issues. I am not going to make a prediction. I omitted the Town of Vincent, and obviously the process includes the Town of Vincent also.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: So the minister has engaged them all; will he engage them all right through the process?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will ask the director general exactly how the process will run, because that is being facilitated.

Mr R. Alexander: It is very much a critical part of the process to make sure that the clients are involved. If they are going to use the facility and play there, it has to be what they want. The people who might manage it have to be involved, along with the government and the Town of Vincent because they will be looking after the surrounds et cetera. The steering committee has met with netball representatives to determine that, and I also mentioned the other stakeholders earlier. We need all the stakeholders involved early and constantly.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Are the three users of the ground engaged?

Mr R. Alexander: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Willagee, you need to come through the Chair and direct your questions to the minister rather than the director general.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: My apologies.

Minister, we have \$80 million and we are not quite sure what we are building with it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, we are; we are building the eastern grandstand to replace the temporary stand that is there now.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Okay; I will give the minister that much, but where did the \$80 million figure come from? There must have been a draft feasibility study or pre-feasibility study undertaken.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: If so, why will the minister not provide it as supplementary information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will throw that question to the director general, but we have done pre-scoping of the project, and, as I said before, the Town of Vincent also carried out a process. As to the document, I will ask the director general to answer.

Mr R. Alexander: I would like to have the opportunity to go back and consider what there is of a confidential nature that might affect any tenders. I would like to have a look at that, and if there is nothing that might affect that process, I would certainly discuss with the minister the possibility of doing that. First of all, we have to be very careful about the probity of it, because there will be tenders and I would like to examine whether, with the probity order, it is appropriate or not.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Will those parts that might have some commercial-in-confidence characteristics be excised so that the minister can provide what he can?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: As the director general said, he will go back and have a look at it, advise me, and then I will speak to the member. I will not make any guarantees, however, because as the director general said, there may be issues that will make it inappropriate to do that. I do not want to jeopardise the project. As I said before, this project is going to happen and we are going to have a stand and a decent rectangular stadium in Western Australia.

The CHAIRMAN: Minister, just to clarify: are you providing supplementary information on that?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to “People Development in Sport and Recreation” on page 507 of the *Budget Statements*. Is the minister aware that the South West Academy of Sport, which was launched 18 months or two years ago with much fanfare, has had a major sponsor withdraw? Will the minister help the academy with funding while it finds another sponsor? Is there another academy of this type being planned for Albany?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I thank the member for the question. I am aware of issues around the Griffin Group having been placed under administration. As I understand it, it is honouring its sponsorship agreement for this year, but has requested a release from the sponsorship agreement for the third and final year. The South West Academy of Sport is working to identify corporate opportunities in the local region. The Department of Sport

Chairman; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Terry Waldron; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr John McGrath; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Mick Murray; Mr David Templeman

and Recreation provided seed funding to the South West Academy of Sport, and I was with the member for Albany on the day we opened the office and released the Watson report, which was an excellent report. The Department of Sport and Recreation has set up what we think is a well-governed and well-managed model, but we do not have the funds to provide ongoing support to the academy.

In respect of the other situation, I know that Geraldton and the Mid West are looking at possibilities up there. I thoroughly support these groups; I went to a dinner last year in Bunbury, and I think they are doing a wonderful job. It is something that we would look at if it was going really well and there was a real issue, but we are very limited with what we can do. I would like to see more academies, but I do not want them popping up just so that regions can say that they have one. Geraldton and the Mid West are identifying their need and ability to support such an academy. I support them 100 per cent, but we have to ensure we do not set them up just so that regions can say that they have a sports academy, if there is not adequate throughput et cetera.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: If the South West Academy of Sport is unable to find a major sponsor, is the minister willing to see it fold?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, I did not say that. I will always look at things on a case-by-case basis, but there is no funding in this budget for that at this stage. We have been in contact with the academy, and it is at this stage looking for another supporter. We are obviously giving them every assistance with that.

The appropriation was recommended.

[11.55 am]