

ARMADALE FITNESS AND AQUATIC CENTRE

Statement by Member for Armadale

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [12.54 pm]: Last Monday, I had the privilege of representing the Premier and the Western Australian government at the official opening of the \$26 million upgrade of the Armadale Fitness and Aquatic Centre. As the local member, and as a local resident who has long been advocating for an improved aquatic facility open to the community all year round, it was a very special day. Without doubt this is the most important and largest strategic community project and building in the history of the City of Armadale. The funding for this project was truly a three-levels-of-government exercise, with federal, state and local government funding, with the greatest financial contribution coming from the City of Armadale, therefore the local community—my community.

The Armadale Fitness and Aquatic Centre is truly the best such facility in Western Australia, maybe bar Cockburn, but then again that community has to share their facility with a certain football team in purple. The fitness centre has state-of-the art equipment, including a treadmill that can simulate running the New York marathon and other famous marathons. The local community have voted with their feet. At the end of the first week of the opening of the centre to the public, it had 5 200 members. This is extraordinary, and it pays homage to the saying “build it and they will come.”

There are many people to thank, but I would like to mention the late Don Randall; my predecessor, Hon Alannah MacTiernan; the CEO of the City of Armadale, Ray Tame, who has driven the strategic process and planning for the centre; and Henry Zelones, the Mayor of the City of Armadale, who has advocated for this facility for 30 years. Finally, I thank my local community, which joined with me in signing a petition which gathered 3 000 signatures and which we presented to the mayor just after my election as member for Armadale.