

Chairman; Mr Roger Cook; Mr Terry Waldron; Mr Peter Watson; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr John McGrath; Mr
Tony O’Gorman; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr David Templeman

Division 45: Sport and Recreation, \$112 039 000 —

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

Mr D.P. Rosielle, Chief Finance Officer.

Mr M. Cutler, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

The CHAIRMAN: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard staff. 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 intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister’s cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the committee clerk by Friday, 10 June 2011, 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, 10 June 2011.

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

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions?

Mr R.H. COOK: My first question relates to planning for the new major stadium. Page 522 of budget paper No 2 shows that \$13 million has been set aside for that planning. Can the minister please provide details of the components of the planning process, the specific issues the department will be looking into, the expected outcomes and also the time lines involved?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The allocation of \$13 million is basically for the initial planning of the stadium once we have a site. The site has not yet been selected. We hope to make an announcement about that in the next couple of months. One of the issues we will be looking at is the geotechnical work on the sites, planning for transport and all the things that go with the stadium. To allow us to make an informed decision, we have already been doing quite a lot of work on the different sites. They all have their positives and negatives. That funding ensures that we can do initial work and then go on with the planning and design the stadium.

Once a decision is made—hopefully in the next couple of months—we are probably looking at around a year of planning and finalising all that work, and then we will go out to a tender process. If the announcement is made in the next couple of months, we hope to complete the stadium by about 2017–18.

Mr R.H. COOK: As the minister said, the planning process will begin once the decision on the siting of the stadium has been made. I think that was the minister’s initial comment. He is saying that the government will make a decision on the siting of the stadium without any sort of geotechnical studies or those sorts of things.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is not right.

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Mr R.H. COOK: The minister said that the planning process will begin after the location has been decided. Surely the minister will be using this \$13 million to look at the asbestos and geotechnical issues associated with the stadium.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are probably already doing that. A lot of work is being done. When the member talks about asbestos, he is probably referring to the Burswood site. We want to ensure that all sites are safe and secure.

Mr R.H. COOK: Is the minister still looking at the other sites?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes. Subiaco and East Perth are still very much in the mix. A lot of work has been done on Burswood over the years. There are different sites around Burswood on which the stadium can be located. I may get Mr Alexander to comment in a moment because the department is looking through a lot of the information that is already available to advise us before we make a decision. If there are some obvious issues, we would not make a decision unless we understood what that decision meant and the cost implications. A lot of comments have been made about what may be underneath the Burswood site et cetera. A lot of that work has been done. We are clarifying the results of that work. It may well be that we have enough information to proceed, but if we need to do further work, we will do that.

Mr R.H. COOK: Obviously, one of those issues is public transport infrastructure. I appreciate what the minister has said about looking at the other sites. The worst-kept secret in Western Australia is that the government wants to locate the stadium at the Burswood site. Has the minister been advised by the Public Transport Authority about some of those infrastructure issues?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes.

Mr R.H. COOK: Has it come up with a figure in relation to Burswood?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No. The Langoulan report looked at transport issues at sites. It did not go into that much relating to Burswood. Since we have been considering Burswood as a location for the stadium, some initial work has been done on looking at possible options. It would depend where the stadium was located on the Burswood site as to how transport infrastructure was constructed. There is no doubt that parking is an issue, as is getting people in and out. The department has already looked at some of the transport opportunities. That will be investigated further. It has done some initial work looking at the different possibilities. I do not want to go into the detail of that because that is still being worked through. We would not just go to the site and say that we will build it there and then see what we can do with transport.

Mr R.H. COOK: What are the cost implications of the transport infrastructure? Has the minister received any costings from the PTA?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not think we have any costings.

Mr R. Alexander: No, we do not have any costings. A lot of work has been done on the sorts of things that could be done to connect different parts of the Burswood peninsula. On the geotechnical side, for example, we have done desktop studies and have spoken to Mirvac, the people who built the casino, and anyone who has had anything to do with the site. We have gone out to get some of the knowledge that they have gained so that we can understand as much as we can without doing any drilling. There is that aspect. We have looked at the transport issues and the potential of what can and cannot be done. That has not been costed out.

[10.10 am]

Mr R.H. COOK: Has no drilling been done yet?

The CHAIRMAN: I remind members that they cannot ask questions directly to advisers. All questions have to go through the minister.

Mr R.H. COOK: Minister, has no drilling been done yet?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We have not done the drilling.

Mr R.H. COOK: Will the government make a decision without having done any drilling?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Just listen to what we said. We are working with Main Roads, the casino and people who have done studies on that land before. I think it would be foolish to race in and do drilling when we might not have to. We are considering all the information we have. Even if we want to go there, it may be that that initial information means we cannot build the stadium on that site. I know that everyone says that the worst kept secret is that the stadium will be built there, but that has not been decided yet; it is one of the options. The Premier has said that he likes having that as one of the options. We are going to check everything we have now. If we find that there is a need to do further geotechnical work, we will do that. The money in the budget is for planning. If we need to do further geotechnical drilling, that will happen, depending on where we decide to locate the

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stadium, if it is going to be built at the Burswood site. I know what the member is saying. He is saying that we will rush in and build it without doing the work. We will not do that. We are doing the work and we will not make a decision if we do not think it is a good decision. There is a lot of history regarding what Burswood has done. The office of strategic projects is also doing work on that site in association with Ron. Obviously there are new building methods these days, and some of the subsurface issues are not as big an issue as they were some years ago.

Mr R.H. COOK: I want to clarify this so that it is quite clear: the minister does not have any costings from the Public Transport Authority, he has not done any drilling or studies into the mitigation of the asbestos in that area and he is about to make a decision on it this month, I believe.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, I did not say that.

Mr R.H. COOK: The Premier said that the minister would make a decision in June.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I said that a decision would be made in the next couple of months. We have not done any drilling and some work is being done now on transport. Obviously that will help inform us of the costs et cetera. We are going through all the geotechnical information that is available to us before we rush off and start drilling when we may not need to drill.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Does the minister make the decision or does the Premier?

The CHAIRMAN: Is that a new question, member for Albany?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am happy to answer that. Obviously, the decision will be made by cabinet. I have worked closely with the Premier on this, as I know previous ministers for sport worked closely with the Premier of the day. Obviously, the Premier is heavily involved in this. This is a big spend for Western Australia. It is a big project, and we would expect the Premier to be heavily involved in it, and he is. We have had various meetings with the Australian Football League at which the Premier was present, as he should be.

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Albany, do you have a further question?

Mr R.H. COOK: If I may, Mr Chairman —

The CHAIRMAN: My understanding is that further questions have to be asked by the member who had asked the previous question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: My question was just an interjection.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay. I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr R.H. COOK: I will come back to that \$13 million, because obviously that is the crux of the matter. I understand that the minister is saying that the \$13 million is for studies into the location of the stadium.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is basically for the overall planning of the stadium. We have already done work on the site. For instance, over the past two years or 18 months, the Director General of the Department of Sport and Recreation has looked at the different sites and updated the Premier and me on the reasons that one site might be considered over another. A member of the department's staff travelled overseas and looked at the latest developments in building a stadium to keep us updated. As time goes on, the stadium design changes and there is new technology. I think we have been quite thorough over that period. We will make sure that whichever site we choose is safe and does not cost so much money that it rules it out. If it was far too expensive to get a site right, that would be one of the reasons to not choose that site. They are the sorts of things we are looking at. The \$13 million is to make sure that we can carry on with that and plan for the stadium over the next 12 months or 18 months.

Mr R.H. COOK: The minister will probably have to answer my question as supplementary information: can the minister provide the estimates committee with an estimate of the spend to date, perhaps starting with the Langoulant report —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That report was done under the previous government.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right. I am looking for an aggregated assessment of the spend to date of the advice provided to the minister about the stadium. It seems that we are on a never ending fact finding mission. Although the jury deliberated on this matter some time back, we are continuing to draw out the process of expensive study after expensive study. Ultimately, the public is not getting the stadium that it was promised.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will get the department to provide the member with those details since the Langoulant report. I will just correct the member; there have been no other studies. The Langoulant report was a very good report. I have said that from day one. The member must remember what happened —

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Mr R.H. COOK: The Premier has repudiated it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: He has not repudiated that report at all. He has used that report. I can tell the member that because I have been in discussions with the Premier. We met John Langoulant and sought his advice because of his background in this matter. No new extra studies are going on, other than, if we are considering the Burswood site, because the Langoulant report did not go into Burswood deeply—we are looking at some of the geotechnical work there. Members must remember that when we came to government, we put the project on hold for two years. Everyone keeps asking when the stadium will be built and we keep answering that we have put it on hold for two years, and members know the reasons for that. At the start of the year the Premier said that it was back on the books. In the next couple of months—in the midyear—an announcement will be made. In the meantime, through the Department of Sport and Recreation, we have been making sure that we are kept up to date about what is happening with the stadium. I have sought advice from the department about any changes and how one venue compares with another. That process has been ongoing. That is what has happened.

The CHAIRMAN: I need the minister to clarify that he is undertaking to provide supplementary information.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will provide the information that is available.

The CHAIRMAN: I need the minister to spell out exactly what information he will provide.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Can I just clarify what the member is looking for?

Mr R.H. COOK: I am looking for the aggregated cost of the study and advice provided to date in relation to the major stadium.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Remember that no other studies have been either commissioned or done.

Mr R.H. COOK: The minister said that there has been an ongoing study into this, and that he is getting ongoing reports. The minister also mentioned travel, for example. I want to know the cost of that travel and the process that has been undertaken.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Can I get the director general to answer?

The CHAIRMAN: I need to allocate a supplementary information number, but I want to be crystal clear what the question was and what the undertaking is.

Mr R. Alexander: A range of things are being done. The money for the Langoulant report—the major stadia task force report—is easily costed. There has been a desktop study with regard to geotech. That is there. A lot of the departments—for example, transport, the Department of Planning, and strategic projects—have done the work, and have gone and had a look. That is more hours of work done in the government. People in government have a lot of information and they have done that sort of work. We can certainly provide the costings for the work that has been done.

The CHAIRMAN: The minister agrees to provide supplementary information and will state exactly what information will be provided.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will provide whatever we can.

[Supplementary Information No A2.]

[10.20 am]

Mr R.H. COOK: I will not take the committee’s time much longer on this issue. I was wondering whether the minister could make available the geotechnical desktop studies and advice from the Public Transport Authority about the public transport infrastructure issues associated with the different locations.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not think that I can at this stage. That information still has to go to cabinet; therefore, I am not going to release it at this stage.

Mr R.H. COOK: The moment that information gets to cabinet it most certainly will not go any further. We are interested in the issues the minister is tackling in making this decision. I am not asking for the advice on those reports, but simply for those reports on the public transport issues and the geotechnical desktop —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: All this work is being done so that we can prepare a case to take to cabinet to make a decision on the best location for a stadium; therefore, I am not prepared to provide that information at this stage.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: I refer to page 518 of the *Budget Statements* and “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”. The first dot point refers to a “significant proportion of the community” that “is not able to afford registration fees to enable their children to participate” in sport and proposes a new “Sport for All package”. Will the minister outline the Sport for All initiative and its support for involving the community in sport and recreation?

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: I thank the member for his question.

The government recently announced its Sport for All package in the budget and I want to advise members what is behind this initiative. When I came to the position of sports minister, I identified one of my biggest challenges—it has been a challenge for all sports ministers on both sides of politics—as the need to ensure my own government understands, appreciates and supports, the great benefit of sport and recreation to our communities. As polities, we have talked about it throughout the years. We have all made nice speeches about the importance of sport and recreation, but when it comes to the crunch, to provide money and programs that deliver social outcomes, we have all been lacking. I do not blame the previous government. I think governments across Australia have been lacking. I remember saying in a speech that I made early on as sports minister that that was my biggest task. It has taken a while, but we have had to identify and to show the importance of sport and recreation. I congratulate Ron, the director general, and the department for the work done in culturally and linguistically diverse communities and with the people who have recently come to Australia; for their work with the Nyoongah and other Aboriginal communities; and for the development of the Midnight Basketball project, which aims to keep people out of Northbridge et cetera. They have been very successful. I also congratulate the department on its inclusion policies for the less fit and able.

When I visit sporting venues, I hear mums talking. They say, “It is getting so expensive; it is getting so expensive for my child to join a club.” When Ron, the director general, his staff at the department and I talked about this, the gap became clear. A major part of the Sport for All program—that is \$10 million of the allocated \$20 million—is to enable children from low socioeconomic backgrounds or children with special circumstances who cannot afford to be involved in a club to become involved by offering a subsidy to the sporting club. That subsidy of up to \$200 will go directly to the club—it does not go to the person—and the individual can then join the club. Whether that payment will be by voucher—and those sorts of things—is still being worked through.

How we identify those people is a fair question. Obviously, we will work with local governments, community professionals, including teachers and principals, doctors and social workers —

Mr P.B. WATSON: Just read out your press release, Tuck!

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, member for Albany.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think this is really important because the identification of those people is an important part of delivering the service. We will work with those community professionals to identify the appropriate people and then involve them in a sporting club. We talk about leadership. We talk about discipline. We talk about all those types of things and I think sporting clubs deliver them better than anyone in a great, healthy environment—one of healthy physical and mental activity. Simply engaging kids with other kids and getting them to be a part of the system, will teach them skills they will need in everyday life. I am a huge believer in that and I will pump that until the day I die—no matter what job I am doing. That is why I am really thrilled about and support this program. If we are to involve more people in clubs, we have to support our club structure. As part of this funding, \$4 million is for volunteers and \$4 million is for information technology and communication services to support clubs. Firstly, clubs need volunteers to run; therefore, we need to attract and retain those volunteers by offering them skills and better educating them. We need to make sure the clubs are looking after their volunteers. We need to work with club development officers to assist the clubs. Finally, with the upgrading of IT, the clubs will have a better, one-stop form of communication that will allow them to get on and do what they need to do. This budget provides \$4 million for each of those areas. It also includes \$2 million for Nature Play WA, which is something members have heard me talk about quite often in the Parliament. Nature Play is a growing phenomenon in which kids are encouraged to participate in unstructured outdoor play; that is, they are encouraged to get out and go down to the park to play with their mates.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Like we used to do.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is right. It is harder to do that now. However, we are encouraging them and giving them ways to do that. Recently, we took 400-odd kids to Rottneet for a day of Nature Play, which proved really successful. The key to Nature Play WA is the interaction of parents with their kids and I think that the responsibility to do that has been a big wake-up call for all parents. Nature Play gets kids outside and physically active in a natural way. Kids need to have computer skills—if they do not, they will be lost in this world of today—and will spend time in front of a computer screen. However, parents have to make sure their children have the opportunity to go outside and do those things we normally did. It has been shown that kids learn better if they are outdoors interacting with nature and with other kids. Kids also need to explore a little and push boundaries a little—albeit in a responsible way. Therefore, this package is, I think, a huge breakthrough for sport and recreation in Western Australia. However, this is more so about our communities. We have lots of issues in our communities.

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Mr P.B. WATSON: I agree, but we are here to examine the budget and not to hear the minister pat himself on the back.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Okay; that is fine, but \$20 million in the budget over four years is pretty significant.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I agree.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is for something that has not been in the budget for years. I am very proud of it and I think it will prove to be a great thing for children in Western Australia. Obviously, we will monitor the program. It is new, and there may be some parts at the end of the year that are working really well and need to be upgraded and others that will need to be changed. I am not saying the program will roll out perfectly. There may be some areas that we need to revisit. However, I think it is a great breakthrough and I certainly look forward to it rolling out.

Mr R.H. COOK: I refer to page 517 and the development of a rectangular stadium. The estimated cost of the stadium redevelopment has now blown out by about 12.5 per cent; that is, going from \$80 million to \$90 million.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No; that is not right, but carry on.

Mr R.H. COOK: Will the minister provide the reasons for the blow-out? I am interested to understand where the negotiation process is up to with the Town of Vincent and the current lessee. Does the government require that to be a clean stadium or clean venue? Where are the negotiations up to?

Mr T. WALDRON: Firstly, the budget for the stadium has always been \$88 million—not \$80 million, which is, I think, the figure proposed by the Town of Vincent when it had a design of its own. The budget for our design has always been \$88 million plus \$2.5 million for the planning process that we have been going through and that is just about finished; in fact, it is pretty much done. That \$88 million is to deliver a new stand on the eastern side of what is now called nib Stadium. We have looked at the possibility of incorporating some corporate areas into that stand and those details are now being finalised. Again, that is something I will need to take to cabinet. We have agreed a lease with the Town of Vincent that is due to be signed. The Town of Vincent still has to go through its statutory council process, but we have agreed on the lease arrangements. The intention is for Allia Venue Management Pty Ltd to continue to operate the venue.

[10.30 am]

Mr R.H. COOK: Why has the minister changed his mind about the position of Allia Venue Management? Is it correct that it will remain as the manager of the stadium?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Our intention is for it to remain as manager. We have not changed our minds; we had not made any decision on that. Recently, we made the decision that we think that Allia is the best body to continue operating that stadium.

Mr R.H. COOK: A number of organisations have raised concerns with me about the price structure at nib Stadium; it is simply too expensive to stage events at that venue. Has the government taken a view on the price structure; and, is it in any position to influence that price structure given that it has now decided to leave Allia as the manager of that space?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a fair question. There is no doubt that there are costs to sports bodies operating at any stadium. At the ground there will be a new stand, the ability to provide some extra corporate facilities, newly installed video screens, an upgraded pitch and better lines of sight for spectators. There will be financial benefits to the sports bodies, particularly through their ability to earn extra money. Also, they currently pay costs to hire video screens for each game, so a lot of costs will be taken away. I do not know whether there is any further detail about the costs that will be removed. We are finalising the project definition plan, which is just about complete. All those details are in that plan. The sports bodies have been involved in this planning and therefore understand what is taking place and how they will benefit. I also make clear that members of the general public who go to that stadium and use the eastern stand, many of whom are Western Force members, get a really bad deal. It is a temporary stand with no protection from the elements.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is a shocker; it is hot and cold.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is shocking. We will have to do something about it because that temporary stand will get to the stage at which it becomes unsafe. We have made a conscious decision to make sure that we look after the “punters”, if we like, so that they have a good stand with food, decent toilets and some decent comfort through cover. The roof will cover about 80 per cent of the new stand.

Mr R.H. COOK: Is the minister talking about seats or corporate facilities?

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are also looking at what possible corporate facilities can be included in the stand to help boost it. Those details are currently being refined.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is widely understood that the government, and indeed the minister’s department, wanted this venue to come under the control of VenuesWest. Significant amounts of money are being invested in the stadium upgrade, yet today the minister informed the committee that he has relinquished that ambition, and the stadium will remain in Allia’s hands. What is the return to the WA public on the \$90 million that the government is investing in this project, beyond the fact that the sports codes themselves will get extra resources? Why is Allia allowed to get off scot-free in the redevelopment process? Has the government essentially been pantsed in the negotiations?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, we made a decision and some negotiations about the final agreement are continuing with Allia. The venue is overseen by VenuesWest in a governance role; it has the overall governance, but it is the intention for Allia to remain as manager.

Mr R.H. COOK: But that was not the minister’s initial intention, was it? The minister wanted a clean venue.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Not necessarily; we always said that we would talk with Allia and we would make a decision, and that is what we have done.

Mr R.H. COOK: Was a payout offered?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member asked about the benefits to Western Australia. He must remember that rugby went to Subiaco Oval in its initial years and had great early success. Western Force sold a lot of corporate seats et cetera. But, it wanted to go back to Members Equity Stadium, as it was then, now nib Stadium, because it felt that Subiaco Oval was too big, it was not good for rugby supporters and the views were not good. We helped facilitate that process; we supported it financially to do that, and we have worked with it and the other sports bodies at nib Stadium to ensure that we have a decent venue. The Langoulant report, the “Perth Stadium Feasibility Report”, recommended two venues: a major multipurpose stadium and also a small rectangular facility. The new stand at nib Stadium is stage 1 of a master plan to do more later on. We must do this in a controlled way; we can spend only so much money at a certain time. We also need to ensure, as the member has rightly raised, that we are not putting sports bodies under too much pressure to play there. Quite often we build wonderful new facilities, sports use, but the costs to them go up because they have been used to old facilities. That can be hard and we have to manage that. We will work with the sports bodies to ensure that we do that.

Mr R.H. COOK: Will Allia be required to make any contribution towards the redevelopment process, given that it has another 13 years or so to run on its contracts?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That matter is all part of the negotiations to finalise details, so I will not comment on that.

Mr R.H. COOK: When does the minister expect those negotiations to conclude?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, Allia is a business and, yes, it wants to make money. Let us be open about that. The Premier and I have spoken directly with Allia. Allia understands our position; it is a great supporter of sport and I am confident we will have a very good relationship. Once negotiations are finalised, it is open for us to go back to sit down and talk with Allia if we think that the situation is changing.

Mr R.H. COOK: Could the minister provide details of current costs to users of nib Stadium? I am particularly interested to understand the cost implications for the bodies representing the major sporting codes as opposed to concert organisers; I do not care about concerts. I am happy to take this on notice.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member must realise that that it is not currently our venue, but I will provide what I can.

Mr R.H. COOK: I do not think that the venue will become the government’s venue post the negotiations. Surely the minister has an idea about general costs.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will be leasing it. We will shortly finalise a lease arrangement with the Town of Vincent. I will defer to you, because we are dealing with a lease and Allia et cetera; therefore, I have to be careful.

Mr R.H. COOK: His title is “director general”, not “you”!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member can see that I work pretty closely with the director general; I work with him even though he played for East Perth!

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The CHAIRMAN: The minister agrees to provide supplementary information; I ask him to state what he will provide exactly.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will have to look at that, because I do not know about confidentiality. I was about to defer to the director general on whether I can provide that information. If I can provide some information, I will, but I have to be careful what I provide.

Mr R. Alexander: That information is currently commercial-in-confidence because the bodies involved are prepared to disclose all information they use for us to work through, but they do not want any competitors to see that information. Therefore, at this stage, under their direction, the information is commercial-in-confidence.

Mr R.H. COOK: I just say on that point that the state is about to invest \$90 million in this venue, which is essentially a public asset. Now the director general is telling me that the costs associated with that asset and the related benefits to the public are now commercial-in-confidence, because Allia is involved, sitting front and centre, in a lease deal. Why, given that some sports codes in this state are struggling, can we not have information about the costs to those codes?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are still in final negotiations; they have not been signed off. Once final negotiations are finished, I will ask the director general whether any information can be released that is not commercial-in-confidence. I am happy to look at that. Is that a fair statement? We are in the final stages of negotiation; the member would understand that.

The CHAIRMAN: That being the case, I will not allocate a supplementary information number. There are time constraints.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Once negotiations are finished, if there is information I can provide or help the member with, I am happy to sit down with him to do that.

[10.40 am]

Mr J.E. McGRATH: My question relates to page 517 of the *Budget Statements*. It is about Barbagallo Raceway and the upgrades. The minister has allocated \$5.5 million for those upgrades in 2011–12. We all know the problems that have been experienced at Barbagallo. Drivers had to operate under substandard conditions. I remember going out there when in opposition. The cars actually had to go past members of the public to get onto the track, which was totally unsafe. The question I ask is: how successful was the return of the supercars this year, and what sort of improvements does the minister see in this redevelopment that he has allocated the \$5.5 million to?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Well read, member for South Perth.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think everyone was happy that the V8 Supercars were back in Perth. We had some issues with the track. I met with representatives from V8 Supercars on several occasions. We did not have the event the year before, and we made a concerted effort as a government in that regard because motor racing is a huge sport in Western Australia. I think there was great public demand, and we met that public demand. We are investing over \$15 million in Barbagallo Raceway. The main issue there was the pitting and the garaging for the cars. There will be a new area on the inside of the track, and there will also be garaging. There will be back-of-house work. There is going to be new medical rooms. Safety issues will be addressed.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Is this all on the inside of the track?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No. The pits will be on the inside of the track. There will be a new pit lane, which will make it a lot safer. The cars will no longer come down through the public, which has been an issue. There are new medical facilities. There is an overall plan to extend Barbagallo Raceway to have another track at the north. Part of this funding is to take that proposal further; that is, to look at the land acquisition and to look at planning for that as well, because that would give great versatility to that venue. We have to remember two things. Firstly, we will concentrate on the V8s. I went out there this year, and it was a fantastic event. I think the crowds were good. We have secured the event through Eventscorp—that is not my area obviously—for the next five years.

Mr R.H. COOK: It should be, minister; you would be very good.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Well, there you go. We have secured that for the next five years. The fans know it will be there. The drivers are really happy with the track. Sometimes people get the impression that the drivers do not like Barbagallo, but the drivers actually love Barbagallo track. However, the facilities were not up to standard. The work on that aspect will be starting shortly. I think we are just awaiting approval from Wanneroo, but it is aimed to be finished by next year’s event, which will be May or June next year.

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In relation to the upgrades, I acknowledge the work that the WA Sporting Car Club has done. It virtually built that venue for years and years. It put a lot of money into it. We have been quite strong in ensuring that its interests are served as well. Although the V8s are here for one big weekend a year, which is great for motor racing, it is important that the WA Sporting Car Club does well out of that as well. We want to ensure that the motor racing that takes place there during the week and the other 51 weekends of the year also gets some benefits. Motorcycling is part of that.

The member asked about the success of the V8s. One of the great things this year was the range of events. It was not just the V8s; there were about five other disciplines, including superbike racing, other classes of V8s and other classes of cars racing. It was non-stop action, and it was brilliant. The WA Sporting Car Club should also be congratulated on its role on the day. It does that very well, and the V8s continue to have the club involved.

The next stage is really important. This is a little down the track; I will not go into that too much. I would like to see that further development happen one day, because that would give great versatility to the track. Different events at two different tracks will be able to be run at the one time, which would give flexibility to the course. I think that has been money extremely well spent.

Mr A.P. O’GORMAN: What about the traffic flow issues into the event?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a fair point. Traffic flow has been a real issue. It worked pretty well this year with the shuttle bus from the trains and the new management that was in place. An event was held up there this year—was it earlier this year or late last year?

Mr M. Cutler: It was the Festival of Speed.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It got a lot of criticism. It must be remembered that that was run by private operators who came in and ran it. Quite honestly, they did not utilise the full force of the WA Sporting Car Club and people who know about those issues, and they grossly underestimated the crowd that they attracted. All sorts of problems arose. It is an issue. As part of the next stage of redevelopment, the focus is very much on how traffic be managed in and around that area. The traffic worked a lot better this year. Unless the member had any other complaints, I think generally it worked a lot better because the organisers got better at it and instigated the use of the train and shuttle bus. I know Hon Max Trenorden, member for Agricultural Region, was saying that he took the train and bus and found it very good; he could have a glass of red wine and did not drive. It is a good way to go.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The last paragraph of page 518 of the *Budget Statements* reads —

Physical activity participation rates of a significant proportion of the community remain unacceptably low.

I was a member of the Education and Health Standing Committee that looked into drugs and alcohol in the Kimberley, and one of the committee’s findings was that there should be more sport and recreation activity in places such as Fitzroy Crossing. Has any funding been put aside in his budget to increase the output of sport and recreation in communities such as Fitzroy Crossing?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: There is not a specific allocation, as I understand it, to the Kimberley region, but obviously the Sport for All program includes the Kimberley area. The member makes a good point. I will just let the member know what I have been doing as minister. There is a chap up there named Dean Holder. I think the member might know Dean.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I know Dean.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: He is operating in Broome. As part of the work with communities with some of the alcohol, we have worked closely with the Garnduwa Festival. Garnduwa is the sports development body up there that operate in a lot of those communities. I have had a bit of a concern that in some cases we are not following up as well as we could. The Kimberley is always a challenging area in getting resources and people there all the time. We have Indigenous officers not just in the Kimberley but in the Western Desert. We have two officers operating in that area to try to address some of the sport and recreation issues in those isolated communities. These officers are also being supported by one of the mining companies.

Mr R. Alexander: Newcrest.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We have a partnership with Newcrest Mining Limited to do that. I will defer to Ron in a minute; he might give a little more detail. What I will start to do is take our officer, Dean Holder, with me as part of these trips to ensure Dean actually talks to the local communities to identify their needs. I am a supporter of Garnduwa, which has done a hell of a lot of good work up there. I talk with Alan Bishop quite regularly on what they are doing.

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Garnduwa is a far-reaching body that goes to all these communities and works with sport and recreation. Sometimes a thing goes well for a while, and then when I visit the community and ask about what has happened to that program, I am told it has not been followed up or the person who was doing it has gone and no-one has picked it up. We have a fair bit to do in that area. That is why I am taking Dean Holder with me—to try to identify where we are not doing as well as we should be doing. We need to keep challenging ourselves. I have a lot of time for Dean Holder; I think he is doing a fantastic job up there. We will continue to try to do more in those areas. We will continue to work with Garnduwa as well, because we do not want to double-dip. If Garnduwa cannot do something somewhere that we can, that is how we need to work it. I just ask the director general whether he wants to make further comment

Mr R. Alexander: I certainly support the funding to Garnduwa. That is provided to help service that program; it is also to assist Dean Holder, who, as was mentioned, is our regional manager working out of Broome. He has some more administrative support in Broome, as well as the officer in Kununurra. It was an administration position there. We have now put a project officer in there to assist him to work in that area. He now has some more support.

[10.50 am]

Mr P.B. WATSON: During hearings before the Education and Health Standing Committee we were told Garnduwa is more focused on football and not on all sports. That was a concern. I know Dean Holder, and I know he does a tremendous job up there, but it is a fact there is no overnight accommodation in Fitzroy Crossing. When they come out, it is out and back in one day. Will the minister approach the Minister for Housing to try to get accommodation? That is a big problem in all those communities. There are probably the people to get out there but there is nowhere for them to stay. It is a very short program —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Is the member talking about permanent people?

Mr P.B. WATSON: No. We need accommodation that different agencies and different sports can use. When people go out, they can only stay out a small amount of time before heading back. They lose continuity.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Housing is always an issue, and has been a big issue up there. At one stage I worked with Garnduwa on housing with the Shire of Halls Creek. Quite a lot of new houses are being built there. I will defer to the director general in a moment, but I do not think we would provide a house just for people to stay overnight. If we had a —

Mr P.B. WATSON: If we could have one in the community, even better.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If there was one available. We could not justify having an overnight house there when there are other people in great need of permanent housing.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The education and health committee's report went into some areas where young Indigenous people were being trained as role models in the community in a sport and recreation role. Is that program still going, or is anything like that still happening?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will defer that one to the director general. I am not sure of that particular program.

Mr R. Alexander: Yes, we have a range of those, from training people in umpiring right through to coaching. One focus has been on first-aid training, not just on the sport side. That gives them confidence when they have something like that. A range of those things are happening. We can always do more of those. A range of those things have been reasonably successful. We have to keep working on all of those.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is it lack of funding that is stopping the department getting people in these communities?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We would like to have a person in every community, but we cannot provide funding to have people in every small community. We fund Garnduwa. That is an agreement between the Department of Sport and Recreation and Garnduwa. I know they cover football and basketball; I thought they also did athletics and other sports. I might check whether that is part of the contract; I do not know that. We would like to fund more and more. Local areas rely a heck of a lot on volunteers. We need to look after volunteers to run things locally.

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is a big problem everywhere, minister.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I see a great opportunity coming up in volunteerism. I am a baby boomer, like the member for Albany. A lot of baby boomers are approaching semi-retirement or retirement. They have a great community conscience. It is something I probably have not spoken at length about yet with the director general, but with this new program involving \$4 million for volunteers, we have a real opportunity over the next few

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years to tap into that market. Some people get involved anyway, but we need to make it more attractive. Perhaps we have to run campaigns aimed at getting retiring baby boomers involved. There will be huge numbers of them over the next 10 years. There is a real opportunity for our community. Remember that the Clubs for All program, which also extends across the Kimberley, is about utilising sport to make better, safer communities; to give our kids a better chance at life. If we are doing that through sport, that is the great thing about sport.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: My question refers to the bottom line on page 517 of the *Budget Statements* headed “Surf Life Saving Western Australia” under “Major Spending Changes”, and also the fifth dot point on page 519. I have two surf clubs in my electorate. Surf clubs are bursting at the seams with volunteers and the expansion of programs. Could the minister elaborate on what the \$1 million will go towards?

Mr R.H. COOK: A good question!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a good question. It is a pity the member for Albany just left because a couple of years ago we funded surf-lifesaving in Albany. There were some issues with that, but we worked through them. They now have a fantastic new set-up. Surf-lifesaving is really important. It is not only a great sport but also over the past summer, lives were saved and serious injuries were prevented. Surf-lifesavers provide confidence. It is a great organisation that we are happy to support. A building in Delawney Road, Balcatta, has been purchased as a new administration and training facility. It will be used for meetings and all sorts of things. Surf Life Saving WA has contributed \$3 million. The state government saw fit to support it not only as a sporting organisation but also as a group that does so much in our community. We have supported it with \$1 million to provide the volunteer base with that facility so that the volunteers can, firstly, continue the sport and deliver their sport well; and secondly, continue their training. A lot of people may be involved in surf-lifesaving for a period of time and move on to other things, but the first-aid training received saves lives elsewhere. On any given occasion, things can happen. This building will ensure they have the capacity to keep servicing the community. Like anything else that grows, this gives them greater capacity to service the public of Western Australia and provide sporting opportunities. It is an example of the government partnering with community groups to make things happen for the betterment of sport and for our community. There is also a lot of storage space out there. Storage has always been a bit of an issue for surf-lifesaving.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: They are in a very dodgy building at the moment.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: This will be really good for them. It gives them the confidence to go forward. We are happy to support them.

Mr A.P. O’GORMAN: I refer to the line item “Western Australian Institute of Sport — High Performance Service Centre — Planning” on page 522 of the *Budget Statements*. Can the minister tell us the implications of the Crawford report into elite sport?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will defer to Ron, but I will make a couple of comments about the Crawford report. The Crawford report was an excellent report on sport. It was taken up by different groups that operate at the high-performance level. The group is called NESC—National Elite Sports Council. The other group, which is at the director general’s level, has also taken that up with the federal government through the Australian Sports Commission. There has recently been a change to the commission. One focus was to look at both ends of sport—the higher end, the WAIS end, which I will talk about, but also the lower end of sport, to make sure there is participation. There is an emphasis on participation. As it has gone along, the federal government has worked with the Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian Sports Commission to allocate extra funding to the Olympic cause. Although we want to support high-end Olympic sports, I want to ensure the balance is kept right so we have the funding to support base-level sports. Did the member also want to know about the \$2 million for WAIS?

Mr A.P. O’GORMAN: Yes.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Obviously there has been a need to upgrade the WAIS facility. The member for Albany has been quite vocal about that, and rightly so. It was a priority of mine to get this funding a year ago. I was not successful, but I kept on. I got the federal minister, Hon Kate Ellis, out there at one stage. I then took the Premier out there. We now have a commitment to go ahead and build. The initial part is this year. The intention is that next year the full budget will be there for the facility. We think it will cost around \$25 million for the facility. The aim of the facility is to support our WA Institute of Sport, which I think has done a fantastic job and kicked way above its weight. The facility is no longer up to the standard it should be. There is no doubt about that. That is why we are doing something about it. The new facility is planned to include expanded strength and conditioning areas, an indoor runway area with a force plate, multipurpose training facilities, water-based recovery areas and a high-performance research centre. A lot of great research work is done at WAIS. I do not know whether the member has been to WAIS, but research is done in a little room, which is not that great. Steve

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Hooker, our world champion, has to stand in a rubbish bin for an ice bath. Those types of things will be put right. We will now go on with the planning, and next year we will follow it up with a full budget and complete the building.

[11.00 am]

That building is also really important to the whole AK Reserve area. I congratulate the previous government for the work it did in that area. I think that former Ministers for Sport and Recreation, Hon Alan Carpenter and Hon John Kobelke, did some very good work, which we followed up on. The building of a new WAIS facility right in the middle of all those other great facilities will greatly enhance those other sports.

Mr A.P. O’GORMAN: The government has \$2 million in the budget for planning, but it has nothing in the forward estimates for the capital that is expected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: In the same way that we would not be investing \$13 million in the stadium if we were not going to go ahead with it, we would not be investing \$2 million here if we were not going to go ahead with the facility. It will be in the budget next year.

The member just talked about the Crawford report and what has gone on there. Steve Lawrence, our CEO of WAIS, is the chair of the National Elite Sports Council. The director general is also a board member. Therefore, both the director general and our CEO of WAIS, Steve Lawrence, have been heavily involved in the Independent Sport Panel report with the Australian Sports Commission—at that level. I will get the director general to comment on the member’s question.

Mr A.P. O’GORMAN: Are you expecting some federal money to also come into this?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, we have not approached the federal government regarding the WAIS facility. I have spoken to the federal government regarding the stadium, and we will have further talks with it. If the member wants me to answer that question, I can do so now. Hon Mark Arbib was over here a couple of weeks ago. So far I am quite impressed with the federal minister. I think he has some really good ideas and I am really keen to work with him. We will be pushing the federal government to assist us, particularly with the major stadium. We have not spoken to the federal government about the WAIS facility.

Mr R. Alexander: In reference to the framework, Steve Lawrence has done a great job chairing the National Elite Sports Council. One of the things that the council has done, which I think is a good step forward, is facilitate better cooperation between the states; the states now have agreed programs rather than running similar programs. That has worked particularly well.

The minister made it very clear that his priority was to get a new facility for WAIS, because work has not been done there since 1996 and there is a dire need for work to be done. A new facility for WAIS was also a priority for Steve Lawrence, for David Etherton from VenuesWest, for me and for others involved. Therefore, it is pleasing to see that money in the budget. There is not necessarily a framework influencing that, other than that it is important to have a good facility.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I understand that Steve Lawrence, the head of WAIS, has spoken to the federal government regarding some possible funding support for the research centre part of the building. I was not aware that that had happened. I just wanted to make sure I gave the right information.

Mr R.H. COOK: I am fairly new to the sport and recreation portfolio, so please forgive me if I am exposing my ignorance here. Certainly in the health portfolio, when the Minister for Health is dinkum about a hospital, he sticks the capital component of that, even if it is only estimates at that point, in the forward estimates to demonstrate that he is dinkum about it. The member for Albany will attest that the government stuck \$120 million into the forward estimates for the Albany hospital. Even though the government knew that the hospital would cost more than that, it stuck it in the forward estimates to demonstrate that it was dinkum about it. The Minister for Sports and Recreation has stuck \$2 million in the budget. This government is a serial offender in this particular area. The government has thrown in a bit of money to demonstrate its commitment to the WAIS project, but there is nothing about capital expenditure on this item in the forward estimates before the next election. Why should we believe the minister when he says that he is dinkum about this project when nothing is in the forward estimates, particularly between now and the next election?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Trust me; I am a politician!

Mr R.H. COOK: I do not trust the minister; he said he would build the major stadium and look where we are two and a half years later.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Did we not just talk about that? We said that we would put the major stadium on hold for two years. I think we were quite up-front. Anyway, we do not want to go into that. The fact is that \$2 million is there for the project definition planning so that we know exactly what is required in the budget next year.

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Mr R.H. COOK: About five iterations of the business case have been done. The minister knows how much the project will cost and when the government must build it, so he should simply stick that information in the forward estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will get all the further questions he likes.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The project will cost in the vicinity of \$25 million, but the project definition plan will finalise that. It is certainly our intention to have this item in the budget next year to build that facility. We would not be investing the \$2 million if we were not going to go on and build the facility. That need has been recognised. The Premier spoke at the WAIS dinner, stating his intention to build the facility.

Mr R.H. COOK: But no time line.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We want to have the project definition plan done and get on with it as soon as we possibly can.

Mr R.H. COOK: There is no time line.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will talk to the member next year and see how we are going.

Mr R.H. COOK: On the issue of time lines, I have been told to “watch this space” before. On behalf of the member for Darling Range, because he is unable to ask this question today, and on behalf of the member for Maylands, I am curious about where the trail bike strategy has gone. I would like to point to a budget line item, but the one issue that is missing from the budget is any funding to implement the trail bike strategy. The member for Darling Range has provided the government with a very comprehensive report and a very clear consensus across the industry on how we should proceed in this area. Why is there nothing in the budget for the implementation of the trail bike strategy?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a fair question. There is nothing in this budget for the trail bike strategy. It is not in there. There was a very good debate in this chamber some six weeks ago during which I outlined our position. I congratulate the member for Darling Range for the work he has done; he has certainly pushed hard for this. There is no doubt that we would have liked to be in a position to have something in the budget this year. Cabinet has noted the trail bike strategy and what it is required to do. I have gone back and, with the department, worked out what we can possibly do and what is the priority. The priority is to have some new and upgraded riding areas. I have prepared some work for government to consider, and I am hopeful that that will be considered fairly shortly. In the long term, the licensing side of it is set out and it is good to go. The government wants a bit more time to make sure it gets that right. A couple of issues have been raised. I have spoken to the Premier, and initially we will look at the areas, because I recognise the need. There is a real danger out there and I will not argue with that. There is no doubt that I would have liked to have had this going earlier. However, I did not want to rush in. I must ensure that our government is completely across the needs and how it works. We now have the commitment that we want to do something, particularly with two or possibly three designated areas. That work has been completed and now it will be considered. I will be quite open. I thank members on both sides of the Parliament for pressing me on this issue. It is not only my issue, however; it is an across-government issue, which is one of the problems. The issue involves six agencies. It is not as easy as going bang, bang, bang. Hopefully, soon we will go bang, if you like, with the first part of it. I take the member’s point on board. There is nothing in the budget, but I hope that very shortly we will see some advancement on that with direct benefits. I have been speaking to the people concerned in the industry.

[Mr A.P. O’Gorman took the chair.]

[11.10 am]

Mr R.H. COOK: I thank the minister for that response. There is a certain amount of déjà vu here. The minister gave us a sense of comfort in this place not long ago, in the lead-up to the budget, that the government supported this, and it would be forthcoming. The minister is now painting a picture about how the government does not want to rush. With respect, I think our side had a chew on this when we were in government. This government has also had a very good opportunity to look at this issue; and, indeed, I acknowledge the work that has been done by the member for Darling Range on this matter. But in my electorate in particular—I am not sure about other members—after the cost-of-living increases, this is the number one issue. People are anxious about the impact on bushland from rogue trail bike riders. They are intimidated and fearful about the impact of trail bikes in their streets, because people are hooning up and down the streets on very unroadworthy and very loud bikes. This seems to me to be the one area on which we have unanimity across the chamber and across the Parliament. I appreciate that there are not many trail bikes in Cottesloe. But if, as the minister has said, this is a priority for government, why are the minister’s cabinet colleagues so resistant to the implementation of this strategy?

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think I have answered the question, but I will add a couple of points. They are not resistant. But in the original proposal, there were a couple of matters regarding licensing that they had some concerns about. There is a strong will in government to set up two or three designated areas as soon as we possibly can, and we are progressing that right now. I actually have issues in my own electorate with this, so I am well aware of it. I agree with the member. But it is not an easy issue in which we can just go bang. There are six agencies that we need to work across, and we need to get agreement. What we are trying to do now is the first part, and we will then take the rest of it further.

Mr R.H. COOK: So what is the first part?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The priority from the industry seems to be to have some designated areas. That is what we are working up right now, and that is being considered by government right now.

Mr R.H. COOK: What are the cost implications for those first couple of areas, and when will those areas be implemented?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I cannot give the exact cost, but it is in the millions of dollars. It has to go to government for a decision on how many areas we will have and how far we will go. But it is in the millions. It is quite a large cost.

Mr R.H. COOK: So it will not be in the course of this particular financial year—it is not in this budget?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It will be up to government to decide that. It is not in this budget.

Mr R.H. COOK: So the government could not fund it at this stage?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It would require supplementary funding. But there is a will, and I think there is an urgency there. I congratulate members on both sides of the house for making that well known. That is good. That is how the system should work. I have actually known that myself for a time.

Mr R.H. COOK: I think it will work when the government gives the minister the money to implement the policy. The minister and the member for Darling Range have been letting us know that it is under active consideration and we should expect it in the very short term—that is, in this budget—but it is clearly not there.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The sport and recreation budget hardly moved for the eight years that the Labor Party was in government. We have really moved it. We cannot do everything at once. But we have done some major things. We have more than doubled the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, and we have made it more flexible. We have announced an extra \$20 million in this budget for that fund. For years I argued about that when I was on that side, and all we got was the incrementals. We cannot do everything at once. But there is a will to do this, and the government is considering that at this stage. That is what is happening.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer to page 519, the fifth dot point, and to page 521, the fourth paragraph under the heading “Asset Investment Program”, both of which make reference to a new facility for the Western Australian Institute of Sport. I am interested to know what that \$2 million of funding will go towards as part of that project.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Member, that question has already been asked, and I have gone through that, but I will briefly go through it again.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Sorry, minister; I was out of the room. I can go back and review *Hansard*. I will not waste the committee’s time. But I do not want to waste my opportunity. I refer to page 517 and the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. There has been a boost in funding for the CSRFF. Will that boost be continuing?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes. When we came to government, we committed to raise the community sporting and recreation facilities funding from the \$9 million that it had been for many years to \$20 million. That money is in the budget for four years, and we have given a commitment that we will maintain that funding at \$20 million. We always continue to review policies so that we can do them better. I have asked the Department of Sport and Recreation to keep looking at this funding, not with a view to cutting it back, but with a view to how we can further extend it and make sure that we are doing it right. There is no doubt that delivering the extra funding for the CSRFF has enabled us to deliver not only more projects, but also better quality projects. The fact that the government can now provide up to 50 per cent of the funding for projects under different criteria has certainly helped our local governments and local sporting clubs, because in a lot of cases local governments and local sporting clubs are not in a position to provide two-thirds of the funding. If they can show increased participation, co-location, and savings in electricity and water costs et cetera, we grant them up to 50 per cent, and that has been a great help. That has enabled us to deliver some bigger projects that have quite an impact on communities. I will mention one of the most important things we have done is. The CSRFF used to be just one round. That meant that local governments and local sports had to go through the same process for a \$2 million project as they did for a \$10 000 project. We now have two small grant rounds, which are less onerous on local governments and less onerous on the clubs, and they are for projects up to \$150 000. I think that is a commonsense move, and

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everyone supports it. As I go around my region and other regions, that has certainly been a great boost when people just want to put up a couple of cricket nets, put in a tennis court, put a shade shelter at the end of their clubhouse, and those types of things. The community sporting and recreation facilities fund is one of the best things we have in this state. Other states do not have it. When I go to meetings and talk about what we are doing with this fund, other states are very envious, and some other states are trying to follow it.

Royalties for regions is also putting funding into sporting facilities. One question that was asked of me recently was whether that means we are providing less funding for the CSRFF. No, we are not. It just provides a further boost, in that it enables us to do more. A lot of the local governments, through the local government fund under royalties for regions, utilise part, and sometimes all, of that fund to partner with the CSRFF to fund their projects, and that has given them more leverage and more flexibility to get more projects done. I think that fund is working well. We are certainly fully committed to it. But I will continue to look at it, because I want to make sure that we do not just let it sit there. Things change, and we might be able to do better things with it in the future.

The CHAIRMAN: Just to inform members, there is a time management issue. We have three divisions to get through. It is entirely up to members when they stop on sport and recreation and when they move to VenuesWest and Racing, Gaming and Liquor. But I ask members to be beware that if they want to ask questions of the other organisations, they need to indicate that they have finished with this division. Does the member for Kwinana have a further question on the CSRFF?

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, Mr Chairman. Thank you for that advice. This will probably need to be by way of supplementary information, but I refer to the projects identified by the Liberal Party and nominated in its financial statements for the 2008 election. Can the minister provide us with a list of which of those projects have been funded under the CSRFF?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I can provide that information.

The CHAIRMAN: Can the minister clarify exactly what information he will be providing?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The information I will provide is the Liberal Party commitments that have been met out of the CSRFF; some were met out of the consolidated fund as well. I will provide the member with that list as supplementary information.

[Supplementary Information No A3.]

[11.20 am]

Mr R.H. COOK: The minister just provided some commentary on the funding framework for the CSRFF, saying that it is now paying up to 50 per cent on some projects. It has traditionally paid one-third.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, it was traditionally one-third. As a local member, I found—I think other members found the same thing—that in a lot of cases it was really hard for the sport and local government to come up with the two-thirds. That meant that some projects were not getting done. Sometimes they still cannot come up with matching funding.

Mr R.H. COOK: I have seen the list.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am a great supporter of matching funding because if the local government and the sport have a stake in the facility, they do it well, they take ownership of it and they look after it. If we were just handing out money to build facilities, I do not think we would get the same local pride in the facility. The member would know that when we open these facilities, the locals are very proud and they make a big issue of the fact that they put in something. That is a good thing.

It was hard in some cases. I talked with my department about that and we came up with a scheme to give incentives to attract as much as 50 per cent funding to help locals in those situations. Those incentives demonstrate that participation will be increased as a result of the project that is being funded. These facilities might have solar panels or rainwater tanks, so money is being saved on power and water, et cetera. Different facilities are often built in the one area that could have been better co-located, with better management and services et cetera. They are the main things that have been taken into account. Quite a lot of groups now get funding for up to 50 per cent of the project, which enables them to do that project.

Mr R.H. COOK: Who decides when groups get funding of up to 50 per cent?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The CSRFF has an independent panel. Decisions are not made by the minister. Local governments prioritise applications for facilities as to where they think they fit in their local region. If it is a bowling green located in Nedlands or Wyalkatchem, bowls will look at it and prioritise where it comes. Then it goes to Sport and Recreation to prioritise. An independent group meets and, as has happened on both sides of

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government, it makes the final recommendations on what should be included. I understand that it also decides whether it qualifies for funding of 50 per cent. When that decision is made, a recommendation is made and I as the minister tick it off. The minister could overrule the recommendation but I have never done it. It has hardly ever been done. I think Alan Carpenter overruled one project when he was minister, but it is very rarely done.

One of the great things about CSRFF is the integrity of the scheme and of that independent body. It does not interfere and make decisions for political reasons. When the Labor Party was in government, the previous minister was very strong on that, and likewise I am very strong on that. It is not just about us today; I hope in 20 years when I am not in this place that this scheme will be operating and will still be independent so we get the best result on the information supplied.

Mr R.H. COOK: I have only two points that I wish to follow up on this subject so I will not take up the committee's time. For instance, the minister promised prior to the last election that Bunbury soccer oval would get a new grandstand, and that has not happened. I assume that is because the other side has been unable to come up with the corresponding funds. Is that the sort of thing that would satisfy the 50 per cent funding? Hon Norman Moore in the other place criticised the previous government very strongly for making a promise at the election that it would fund a particular project, and that is true so long as the local community can fund that project. However, the park just sits there.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is a bit like Albany.

Mr R.H. COOK: I understand that Bunbury will fall out of the state league simply because it does not have the facilities.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not think that will happen. Half a million dollars was allocated for the oval and the grandstand. The oval has been done. The locals then changed the scope of what they wanted to do with the grandstand. It became a lot more expensive. Agreement had been reached and it had been funded to the tune of \$335 000. That money is still there for the original design but the locals changed the scope of what they wanted to do. They sought federal funding to help them do that. They have not been successful. They came back to Sport and Recreation this year and applied for extra funding. That was not granted. The funding for what they planned to do with that stadium was there. They changed the scope and now do not have the money to meet the matching funding.

The member for Albany chipped in with a comment. Would the member for Kwinana like me to answer his question as well?

Mr R.H. COOK: He is pretty scurrilous! I am not sure.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am very generous with my answers. A total of \$8 million was set aside for the Centennial Park project. The City of Albany has had some issues, which I have heard the member for Albany talk about at various times. It came to us, wanting to utilise some of that funding for the new netball/basketball facility. We agreed, at its request, to use \$3.2 million of that allocated funding to do what it wanted to do locally. I opened it with the member a year ago. I was down there again a couple of weeks ago. It is a fantastic facility. We met that request. The City of Albany does not have the matching funding to proceed further with Centennial Park but I understand that it may apply again next year.

Mr P.B. WATSON: They will whack our rates up again to pay for it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That commitment to Albany was made and that would have been delivered but the City of Albany changed what it wanted to do. That was a local decision, but that money is still there. If it can get further matching funding or if it can come up with a case next year, we will certainly look at it.

Mr R.H. COOK: I notice in the forward estimates that the initial increase in funding for the CSRFF has discontinued. Does the minister want to comment on that? Perhaps by way of supplementary information, could the minister provide a reconciliation of the CSRFF from 2008–09 through to the current budget, which demonstrates that moneys coming in and going out equal the \$80 million promise that he made at the last election?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The \$20 million per year is there. The last of that is for 2012–13, which we needed to have in place because the applications go out in July this year. This used to confuse me, as the director general and my staff will tell the member. Because the CSRFF funding operates on a reimbursement system, we always get an overflow of money not yet spent. The figures that appear in the budget can sometimes be misleading. We ensure that the \$20 million, as promised, goes out each year. That continues to happen. I might get Ron to comment on how that overflow works. Projects are allocated money but the money is not spent; it is still sitting there. I remember asking a similar question.

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[11.30 am]

Mr R.H. COOK: If I may offer an example, in 2008–09, \$17.2 million was allocated for the CSRFF. I want to establish whether the \$80 million has been spent over the four years, essentially.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Because some of it has not been allocated we have not spent it all yet, but we will.

Mr R.H. COOK: Beginning with the \$17.2 million, I am interested in seeing a reconciliation between what goes into the CSRFF and what goes out of it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I might defer to the director general because that is the operational part of the flow of the funds.

Mr R.H. COOK: I am not looking for an explanation now. I assume that it can be provided as supplementary information.

The CHAIRMAN: It is up to the minister to agree whether he wants to provide it as supplementary information.

Mr R. Alexander: Through the minister, the difference is that cash is moved across the years, which the member recognises. We can certainly provide supplementary information to show where the money has been spent over those particular years.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think it is all set out in the Department of Sport and Recreation's annual report. If it is not set out in the annual report, we can provide some more detail.

The CHAIRMAN: I need the minister to say that he is definitely providing X, Y or Z information.

Mr R.H. COOK: If it is in the annual report, it should be quite easy to find. If I can have that as supplementary information, that will be great.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will provide a copy of the annual report.

Mr R.H. COOK: No; I want the information that I asked the minister for.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will provide the member with a copy of the annual report. If it is not clear, I will provide information to make it clear to the member. There is nothing to hide here.

Mr R.H. COOK: I appreciate that, minister.

The CHAIRMAN: For the purposes of *Hansard*, I need the minister to say the exact information that he is providing. I cannot have an "if"; that is not good enough.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will provide a copy of the annual report that has the information in it. If for some reason that information is not there, I will provide a note to clarify the information the member is seeking. Is that okay? I think it is in the annual report.

Mr R.H. COOK: I think the minister has to convince the Chair, not me.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will provide a copy of the annual report and, if needed, I will provide supplementary information to the annual report.

[*Supplementary Information No A4.*]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am happy for the answer to my first question to be provided as supplementary information. Can the minister provide me with the current staffing level and positions of the officers of each regional office of the Department of Sport and Recreation?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I might be able to provide that information now.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I do not want to waste the time of the house, because the minister will go through all the regions. If the minister could just provide that as supplementary information, that would be much quicker.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Does the member want the staffing levels of all the regional offices?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I want the staffing levels of all the officers of the Department of Sport and Recreation in the regions, and their positions. I know that some positions are allocated to a specific sport or in support of a specific sport, or they have joint funding arrangements.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will agree to provide the staffing levels at our regional offices.

The CHAIRMAN: And their positions.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Can I just make a comment? Members must remember that other sports operate in the sports houses. We will send the member the details of the staff from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

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Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is what I would like. Perhaps the director general might be able to answer my next question very briefly —

The CHAIRMAN: Before the member asks another question, I must allocate a supplementary information number for the first question. The minister has agreed to provide the staffing allocation of the Department of Sport and Recreation staff for each of the regional offices.

[Supplementary Information No A5.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: My next question relates to the Peel region and is a question that I ask every year. What is the status of the Peel region sport and recreation facility, which has been a long, laborious planning process? If some information can be provided as supplementary information, I would be happy to accept that, unless the director general has a comment to make. My last question is: when will the minister announce the details of the eligibility criteria for the Sport for All program? I am aware of the minister's press release a week or so ago, but I am interested to know exactly what the eligibility criteria will be and whether that will be handled centrally or via each regional office.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Now that this is in the budget, the Department of Sport and Recreation has gone through the implementation phase of the Sport for All program and how it will be managed. The department is working with local government, because there will be local government involvement. I am happy to table a document that I have. It is only small, but it gives a brief outline of what it is about.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Does it include the criteria? There are a lot of families whose children are involved in sport. I am concerned that the eligibility criteria may exclude some people who are genuinely suffering hardship. If the criteria include families whose members are unemployed or whose income is under a certain threshold, I would be concerned, because a lot of families are on the brink —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I understand that the criteria have been developed and will come before me to be signed off on.

The CHAIRMAN: The minister cannot table papers during estimates but he can pass it to members so they can see it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am happy to do that. Obviously, the criteria are like anything: where do we start and stop? I will give the member some examples, although I will not go into great detail. We will use existing mechanisms such as a health care card. I have spoken about the subsidy system before. The department will seek input from people such as school psychologists, principals, representatives from the juvenile justice system, mental health professionals, child health nurses, paediatricians and social workers. I will wait until I get the final criteria. When I tick off on it, I will be happy to advise the member.

The member asked about the development on Fiebert Road. I might get the director general to comment on that. It seems that the local government has chosen to look at the local facilities at this stage. I will defer to Rob Didcoe to talk about where that is at.

Mr R.D. Didcoe: The member asked if we could provide any information and updates by way of supplementary information. I am happy to do that. The latest information I have is that the WA Planning Commission is in the process of acquiring the land. The Shire of Murray has built a swimming pool, so it is unlikely that a swimming pool will be built on the land acquired by the WAPC. I think we will have to provide an update on that by way of supplementary information.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Can I ask a further question?

The CHAIRMAN: Can we clarify the supplementary information that will be provided?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I would like the minister to provide me with a status update of the Peel region sport and recreational facility.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I can provide what I can provide. The member must remember that this is driven very much by local government. As Mr Didcoe just said, we have seen the Shire of Murray go ahead and open a new facility. I have seen that facility, which is excellent. I recognise that there is a need for improvements to be made to the aquatic centre in Mandurah, which I inspected this year.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The reality is that in the original plan there was not a major aquatic component to the regional facility. Clearly, neither local government is supportive of the aquatic section. What I am interested in, given the population growth of Peel over the next decade and beyond, is when we will have a firm commitment to build a major regional recreational facility that will—not now, it seems—include aquatic facilities.

[11.40 am]

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: From my point of view, when the local governments commit to it.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That could be decades, quite frankly, because the two shires will —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The local members will have to get them together and drive us —

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have been trying.

Mr R.H. COOK: There has been a decline in the quality of deputy —

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I apologise to the committee for taking up time.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the minister supply any supplementary information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will supply what we can supply as the state government; that is, we will supply the status update, from the state government perspective, on the Peel region recreation centre.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is fine.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: However, I encourage the member to talk to the local governments.

[Supplementary Information No A6.]

Mr P.B. WATSON: The minister has said that local government will be involved in the Sport for All program. In what capacity will it be involved?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I defer the question to the director general.

Mr R. Alexander: The City of Cockburn, for example, already has a limited program. Part of the process will be to talk to Cockburn about what has and has not worked. The program will be delivered in local government areas and therefore local governments will help in the identification process as well. The intent is to pay the money to the sporting club and to give the family, or the single parent, a voucher to spend at the club. However, some identification will be necessary; therefore, we want to work hand-in-glove with local government and the other agencies that deal with the people who are likely to take advantage of this program.

Mr P.B. WATSON: How will local government know of the people in need? In what capacity will local government know that? It seems to me that it is not part of the local government role to know that, but rather the role of the NGOs and other agencies. I cannot see how local government will have input into what is happening in those sorts of areas in the community.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: At the end of the day, the department has to make a decision, but will seek advice to make sure it identifies the right people. Local government will be involved in that either by way of providing advice or by identifying the people who can give the department advice on a particular person or situation; for example, a single mum who —

Mr P.B. WATSON: But a single mum will not go to local government; she will go to the relevant support agency.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If a club or someone applies, the department will seek advice from the school principal, or perhaps a social worker or maybe from someone in local government. I do not know where else. That is fairly broad because we want to make sure that we get it right when we identify people. It is a fair question. However, there will be some who will receive assistance and some who will not and at the end we will need to review how the program is operating.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I understand that. I just feel that local government is —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I know the member’s concerns. He is concerned that it will become too bureaucratic and too —

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I understand that.

Mr P.B. WATSON: And that some of the money will be wasted for local government.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: On the question of wasting money, I will get the director general to comment.

Mr R. Alexander: I visited the Auditor General, Colin Murphy, the week before last, to discuss how we might allocate the money. One of our concerns is that we get as much money as possible through to deliver the service. We discussed that and, hence, the decision to give the money to the sporting body. If somehow in all of this—we will do everything that we can to ensure the money is spent in the right spot—the individual application for

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money goes astray, that money will be spent at the sporting club. We have worked through the issues to try to ensure that most of the dollars will, where possible, be spent on the purpose for which the money is intended.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Further to that, member, local government will not tick off yes or no; it is simply that the department may seek advice from local government.

The CHAIRMAN: I have an indication that members want to move on, but I still have a question from the member for South Perth. Is the member happy to continue?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I am happy to move on.

The appropriation was recommended.