

OPTUS STADIUM — EVENTS

762. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the One-Day International cricket match between Australia and England that this government has secured as the first event for Optus Stadium, and which I understand has already sold out. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the stadium, and can the minister also outline this government's track record so far in securing events for the stadium?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

I thank the member for Belmont for the question, and certainly with the stadium being in her electorate she has a great interest in that. Can I say, firstly, what an economic driver the stadium has been. Recently, 2 000 people have been employed to run the stadium into the future. For a start, many of those people have come from areas close to the city, and from the member's electorate. I think that is a very, very important issue.

Also, a number of the larger supply contracts have gone to people such as Gage Roads Brewing Co. A \$40 million contract has gone out there. Jobs for Western Australians! That is what it is about.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Then shall we move over to Mrs Mac's pies—ten million pies a year produced in Western Australia at Mrs Mac's, 300 jobs, underpinned by the stadium. What a great effort that was as well.

Several members interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Hang onto your hats, people! There is more to come!

The SPEAKER: In a minute. Members, it is a dull roar. Can we just hear what the minister is very excitedly telling us.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I certainly am, and thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. More contracts will come out of this. My understanding, although it is not out there yet, is that some people from the WA Football Commission are going to be very, very happy about that. But let us remember another issue—another thing that could not be done by that former government. That was the contract with the AFL. Who signed that contract? Labor did! You could not do it. You started in 2014. Who had to pick up the mess when you finished? We did!

Dr M.D. Nahan: Who built it?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I do not care who built it. I want to hear what is happening.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Mr Speaker, do you want me to have another half an hour?

The SPEAKER: No.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: If they keep that up, I will.

The technical completion was done just recently. That was a grand effort—on time and on budget. I will not take all the credit for that—I will take most of it! In saying that, we have moved on, all because we have a very, very good team. But let us remember, the siting of the stadium was a contentious issue. We do not move away from that. But now that it is there, we have to promote and look after that stadium, which will create jobs in Western Australia. That is what we have to do.

I want to quickly acknowledge some people, because we will not get another chance before the stadium is opened. I acknowledge the members of the Stadium Steering Committee and State Negotiating Team—co-chairs Richard Mann and Ron Alexander; David Etherton, Nick Egan and Malcolm Bradshaw; and, previously, Richard May. The State Project Team was led by Ronnie Hurst—the great Ronnie Hurst, if anyone has been out there. He has been excellent in his job. The other members are David Harris and John Tondout, supported by Steve Humfrey, Shay Whitney and Bruce Cunningham. I acknowledge from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Duncan Ord, Graham Brimage, Nick Sloan, Nicola Johnston, Rob Didcoe and Steve Humfrey. I also acknowledge in the media team—a very important part of this stadium—Gemma Smith, Damian Carbon and Erin Gallagher.

Following on from that, I can say that into the future, the stadium will be one of the greatest things for our state. I was out there again this morning, and it is getting so close to completion. It is just sensational. It was great that the former Premier went out and had a look the other day at some of the work that he had commissioned on that

site. Well done to the former Premier. But let us remember one thing—it was done on time and on budget by a Labor government.