

MATILDAS — OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCHES

499. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I also wish the Matildas the best of luck tomorrow night! I know most members opposite —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I know most members opposite will be listening —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean! Sorry, could you please start again.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I know most members opposite will be in the chamber listening to our private members' motion, but nonetheless all the best to the Matildas!

My question is to the Premier. I refer to the recent article in *The West Australian* about the Matildas Olympic qualifying matches and the recent surge in the popularity of the Matildas following their success in the World Cup. Noting the state government's spokesperson stated that there were no current plans to change the venue to Optus Stadium, why will the Premier not move the three matches to ensure that some 120 000 extra Western Australians can get out there and show their support for the Matildas?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Minister for Health!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am very much grateful to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Minister for Tourism on either side of me who provided me with the briefest of briefings just then. I understand that it comes down to operational issues to do with the pitch work that has been undertaken at Optus Stadium. I commend the Minister for Tourism for securing this event for Western Australia. This is a great opportunity for Western Australians to celebrate the Matildas and to see them in action in person. We hope, and I believe that we should have confidence, that Sam Kerr, the Western Australian captain of the Matildas, will be there on that pitch representing Australia as we seek to qualify for the forthcoming Olympics. This is a great opportunity for Western Australians to celebrate the Matildas. I am sure there will be a lot of off-pitch opportunities for people to celebrate this great team that we are so proud of. All I can say in response to the members opposite is: go the Matildas! Here's to winning on Wednesday night!