

**SPORT AND RECREATION — SUSTAINABLE FUNDING REVIEW**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [2.05 pm]: I rise to update the house on the McGowan government’s sustainable funding review of sport and recreation in Western Australia. About six months ago, I asked the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to launch a comprehensive review of all funding programs in order to optimise the state’s investment in the sport and recreation sector. This initiative is absolutely necessary for the industry and government to collectively tackle the increasingly challenging financial environment that sport and recreation in Western Australia faces. The department has developed a document to guide this review titled “Common Ground”. It highlights five key areas that will be addressed as part of the process. These include the need to simplify processes such as grant funding applications; examine how we define participation in sport and whether the traditional delivery model is relevant in a rapidly changing world; re-set the “core business” of sport and recreation in line with this changing environment; determine what challenges Western Australia faces relative to other states, and how we can advocate for our needs in an eastern states–dominated environment; and, finally, and perhaps most importantly, that we need to do much better at demonstrating the benefits that sport and recreation provides to Western Australian communities, most of all from a preventive health point of view, in order to better articulate the multiplied value that spending on sport and recreation can generate.

These five key areas stem from a central issue—that government stewardship of sport and recreation in Western Australia has not kept pace with a changing world. Frankly, the industry is in many ways being viewed through the same lens as it was decades ago. Standing still is no longer an option. The sustainable funding review is the vehicle this government will use to drive the necessary changes to secure better value for sports, taxpayers and our communities at large.

Today I was fortunate enough to host a leadership forum at Parliament House for leaders of a number of different small and medium-size state sporting associations to gain valuable insight into how they feel government can best support the sport and recreation sector as part of the consultation process for the review.

I look forward to updating the house in the not-too-distant future on the progress of the sustainable funding review and our work towards making sure that sport and recreation is managed in the best possible way to maximise its full potential in fostering healthy connected communities throughout Western Australia.