

COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND

188. Mr H.T. JONES to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's support for community sport and recreation organisations across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's record investment in sporting infrastructure is transforming community facilities across the state?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what these important projects mean for Western Australians?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. I begin by wishing our Sheffield Shield team the very best as it commences defending its title, for the second year running, against Tasmania tomorrow. I wish the team the very best for that.

- (1)–(2) There has been a record amount of investment by this government in sport and recreation. The hugely enhanced community sporting and recreation facilities fund scheme has seen tremendous interest in continuing the Cook government's legacy of ensuring that we address the growing demand for sporting facilities by uplifting existing facilities and providing new change rooms and new lighting to cater for the continued increase in participation, including by lots and lots more girls and young women in sport. The member's question is very timely. I am very proud that only recently we delivered \$24.2 million to facilities infrastructure and lighting through the Club Night Lights program. What does this mean for communities? As members of this place know, when we invest in infrastructure—it can be a small amount or a large amount—we continue to validate the tremendous work of volunteers across the sporting sector and the tremendous effort they go to, week in and week out, to ensure that children and young people are able to take to the court and the field and be engaged in physical activity through sport.

The recent CSRFF outcomes have been great for all areas of Western Australia. Half of the 24 funded projects in the round that I just announced are in the regions. Regional Western Australia continues to be a great beneficiary of the CSRFF. I am proud of that. I am very proud of our members of Parliament, who continue to advocate strongly for their communities, community sporting organisations and community associations to make sure that those projects are funded. I want to highlight a couple of them because I think it is important that we understand what this money will do, and that was the aspect of the member's question. When we invest in club nightlights, for example, it means that they have greater capacity for training and greater capacity for games to be played under lights. It means that we can cater for increases, like the one we have seen of a 20 to 30 per cent increase in girls' and young women's participation, for example. We invest in change rooms so we can make sure there is absolute equity for girls and young women when they are playing AFL, soccer, hockey or whatever the code might be; that is, they have equal access to the provision of the facilities they need in order to participate.

I will very quickly run through them so members are aware of the scope of projects that have been funded. In the Shire of Murray, member for Murray–Wellington, there was over \$400 000 for the construction of a bowling green canopy at one of its bowling clubs. In the Shire of Chapman Valley, there is the Nebawa Recreation Centre redevelopment at nearly \$1 million. In the Shire of Denmark—I know that the member for Warren–Blackwood is a very strong advocate, one of the strongest advocates in this place—there is nearly \$700 000 for stage 1 of the skate park and multipurpose court. I know that will make a difference because the member for Warren–Blackwood has been telling me how important it will be for the children and young people of her region. Well done, member for Warren–Blackwood, you have done a brilliant job in advocating for that. I turn to the Shire of Dumbleyung. We have this rubbish from the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party about nothing going to the regions. What a crock of rubbish, I might tell members. We recognise that all regions of Western Australia—all of them—deserve attention, and we have got them. An amount of \$1.6 million will go to the Shire of Dumbleyung for the reconstruction of its swimming pool. An amount of \$384 000 will go to the Shire of Kondinin for its sports pavilion. There will be \$1.2 million for the Shire of Katanning.

I tell you what, member for Roe, when you come out here next time, next time we have one of these debates, and you start saying nothing goes to the regions, mate, I am going to fling that back in your face, because you keep up the hollow words! But wait, there is more, and I will tell you about it, because I tell you what, these things are making and will make a huge difference.

There is \$1.3 million going to the City of Kalamunda for the Scott Pavilion Reserve. The City of Melville will get \$300 000 for the Southside BMX Club. An amount of \$1.2 million will go to the City of Melville for the Len Shearer Reserve. There will be over \$1 million for the City of Rockingham for new change rooms at Anniversary Park. At the City of Swan, the Baskerville Pavilion will get \$600 000. The City of

Vincent will get \$861 000. The Shire of Beverley is another regional area; it is a great place and I know it well. It will get \$667 000 for the upgrade of its pool. The Shire of Bridgetown–Greenbushes will get \$700 000 for its golf clubhouse, which will be a community-purpose facility. Again, that dynamo, the member for Warren–Blackwood, from down there in the shire, is remarkable. But there is more! I know I am running out of time. I have mentioned that the Shire of Chapman Valley will get nearly \$1 million. The Town of Cambridge will get \$655 000. The Town of Victoria Park will get nearly \$1 million for the skate park and pump track at McCallum Park. Last night, we had the Parliamentary Friends of the AFL here, and I highlight that \$1 million will go to the West Australian Football Commission to partner in 52 change room projects across the Perth metropolitan area for AFL. We are doing this because we believe in sport and recreation, we believe in supporting children and young people, and we believe in supporting those many community organisations, those sporting organisations, both small and larger, because we know it makes a difference to the children and young people in the communities in which those projects are delivered. We will keep doing it. We have made record investments in the community sport and recreation facilities fund and we will keep doing it. We will keep making sure that those facilities are needed. I encourage members to celebrate what they have already achieved in their own communities and to keep the projects coming, because we know how important they are to their communities.

The SPEAKER: I believe we have had some very brief answers today, but no-one looks happier than the Minister for Education. Yesterday, he told me that he had the record for the longest answer this year. One day—that is how long his record lasted! The member for North West Central with the last question.