

SAMANTHA KERR — WEST AUSTRALIAN RAC SPORTS STAR OF THE YEAR

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [12.12 pm]: I rise to congratulate Samantha Kerr on being named the West Australian RAC Sports Star of the Year for the second year in a row, becoming just the thirteenth person to be crowned the award in successive years. The Matildas and Perth Glory striker and 2018 Young Australian of the Year is the best player in Australia, and I would argue the best in the world. Her extraordinary skill was instrumental in sending Perth Glory into the W-League 2019 grand final to be played this Saturday.

Sam Kerr is the embodiment of what it means to be a “true sport”—bringing our best, showing respect, playing fair, having fun, including all, and giving back. She has become a global superstar while continuing to represent her home state of Western Australia. Sporting role models such as Sam Kerr are inspiring the next generation of girls and women to play sport, with women’s participation levels growing with unstoppable momentum. The McGowan government is also doing its bit to ensure that booming participation levels are not held up, with an almost \$4 million commitment this year alone to upgrade facilities to make them more suitable. There can be little doubt that with excellent role models, better and more appropriate facilities, and more women with seats at the decision-making table, a whole new generation of Sam Kerrs will be fuelled.

Congratulations again, Sam Kerr, on being awarded the West Australian RAC Sports Star of the Year, and good luck to the Perth Glory side in the W-League 2019 grand final!