

COLLIE SPEEDWAY

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [12.57 pm]: I rise today to congratulate the SmokeFree Collie Speedway on celebrating its fortieth anniversary. This celebration marks the prestigious record it holds of being the longest continuous night-time running speedway in Western Australia. It is the only speedway in the state to hold continuous night meets for 40 years. I was at the Collie track on Saturday night for the Final Countdown event, which celebrated the track's fortieth anniversary. It was a great evening of exciting and spectacular racing, and it was also great to catch up with a heap of old revhead mates out at the track.

To run a club that can achieve that sort of record acknowledges and highlights the dedication of the committee and the members. It goes without saying that the committee members and volunteers are a major force in making these events happen, and my thanks go to these hardworking and dedicated people who give their time to bring these special events to Collie. Just to show the dedication these people have to their club, I would like to mention three members who have served periodically on the committee since the club's inception and are still there 40 years later. They are Tony Briggs, Graham Crowe and Graeme Genev. I congratulate them on their dedication to this great sporting club. Tony Briggs, the president, has been there for the full 40 years, with 20 years as president. Over the years, many state and Australian championships have been contested on this track—a true indication of the quality of the track, its officials and management. These events have contributed many tourist dollars to local businesses.

The committee and members have done a fantastic job during the years and have built a new clubroom, upgraded the front spectator area and upgraded the canteen facilities to meet new health requirements. They are now building a machinery shed and upgrading track lighting.

I again congratulate Collie Speedway on its fortieth anniversary and achieving such a magnificent nonstop record of speedway racing over the past 40 years. I look forward to it hosting many more successful events in Collie.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm