

BARBAGALLO WANNEROO RACEWAY — MOTORCYCLE RACING

**150. Ms S.E. WINTON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

Can the minister update the house on the return of motorcycle —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I will hear the question in silence. Start again, member.

**Ms S.E. WINTON:** Thank you. I will start again.

Can the minister update the house on the return of motorcycle racing to Barbagallo Wanneroo Raceway and the benefits it will provide to both the racing community and small businesses?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:**

It is with great pleasure that I stand up here to update the house on motorcycle racing at Wanneroo raceway. I thank the member for Wanneroo for her advocacy over quite some time while we have been waiting for the bikes to return to Wanneroo. Last weekend, I was able to go out there and wave the flag as the bikes came back on the track. That work did not come easily. That work was very difficult over quite a period. Bikes were not allowed on the track for nearly two and a half years. That was because of safety problems that were identified in 2016. It took some time for the parties to get together and rectify those problems. I am very pleased that the motorcycle groups and the WA Sporting Car Club now have a memorandum of understanding between each other to work out how to address safety issues into the future, and how they have gone about and upgraded the track. They have put in what is called a bus stop so that the turn goes away from the steel fence that was there, where several people had been injured. But I do have some personal satisfaction there. In my younger days, around my twenties, two of my mates were killed out at Wanneroo. It takes a long time to get things done, if we want to put it that way. It is with great pleasure that we have the bikes back out there. If we did not have the working groups, such as sport and recreation, the WA Sporting Car Club, and Motorcycling Australia, which also came over several times to give advice about the safety issues, about how to get an air fence in the right way, and the bus stop, as they call it, to turn the bikes away from there, we would be still waiting. That is something really special.

But also something special was that I was looking around, and I certainly knew a few of the older people around there, and there was a guy called Mick Robbins, who is 74 years of age and still racing a sidecar out there, and competitively. There was also a new person coming through, a superstar in the making, Dillon McDermott from Collie. He was out there. He is from the famous McDermott family, which has won many state and Australian championships. Great to see those guys out there.

What I must impress is that when the groups got together and got a common goal to go forward, it was done. Previous to that, there was a lot of argy-bargy and not a lot of work was done. I thank all those groups that got together. We now have the bikes out there racing as safely as possible.