

HOCKEY AUSTRALIA — CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

710. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the state's successful bid for the Hockey Australia centre for excellence in the recent report in *The West Australian* titled "WA government threatens to seize Perth Hockey Stadium land after 'unreasonable demand'".

Why did the government abruptly cease negotiations with Curtin University over the lease terms for the centre at its Bentley campus and request the Minister for Lands consider an excision of the land required when all of the major clauses had been agreed to by the university?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I am very proud of the fact that we won a very important bid for the high-performance hockey centre to continue in Western Australia. It has been the key Olympic high-performance centre operating in Perth for nearly 40 years. It is important for the national sporting landscape that there is a national sporting entity based in Perth. They should not all be based in the eastern states, as most of them currently are. We will fight to make sure it stays here, and we have. Let me just highlight this: the land on which the current centre operates and is located is ultimately owned by the taxpayers of Western Australia; it is owned by the government. When we negotiate the massive upgrade and additions to the hockey centre, we will always make sure that the best interests of the taxpayers of Western Australia are at the forefront of our consideration. That has been part of the good faith bargaining that the government has been engaged in over a number of months with Curtin University. We do not resile from that because we have to get the best outcome for Western Australians.

I have to say that having a high-performance hockey entity at Curtin University is in the best interests of Western Australians—all of us. It is appropriate that it remains in that place and that we get the best deal on behalf of the taxpayers of Western Australia. Our negotiations have been based on good faith, and, quite frankly, we have been in prolonged negotiations with Curtin University, and each time we have written to the university seeking resolution, there have been a number of additional requests, including in the latest letter that was sent. Therefore, it is not correct that the university agreed to the last letter. We will continue to have conversations, but I have written to the Minister for Lands to investigate the proposal to excise the land, because if that is what we ultimately do, it will be in the best interests of the taxpayers of Western Australia for that to happen.

It is important that we get on and build this newly enhanced high-performance centre because it is good for hockey in Western Australia, it is good for hockey nationally and it is good for the narrative that we promote of Western Australia being an important part of the national sporting landscape and for high-performance centres for sports such as hockey to be located on the western seaboard. All of the other major Olympic or high-performance entities are located in other states on the eastern seaboard, and we think we should at least have one or two here in Western Australia.