

Division 22: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Services 20, 21 and 22, Sport and Recreation, \$96 988 000 —

Ms L.L. Baker, Chair.

Mr M.P. Murray, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr D. Ord, Director General.

Mr D. Rosielle, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr G. Brimage, Interim Executive Director.

Mr R. Hurst, Project Director, Perth Stadium.

Mr R. Mann, Executive Director, Strategic Projects, Department of Finance.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day.

It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 29 September 2017. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 370 of budget paper No 2 and the heading "Spending Changes". Under "Election Commitments" is a line item "Collie Mineworkers Memorial Pool" with a \$2 million allocation. What exactly will this \$2 million allocation fund?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Thanks for the dorothy dixer! As members know, in every election cycle, every candidate makes promises, as the member for Roe has done in his electorate, on behalf of the community. I consulted with people in my community. As members know, Collie is regarded as one of the coldest towns in Western Australia in winter, getting down to minus four or five in that area. The request from the community was for an indoor heated pool so that people could have a heated swimming, exercise and rehab facility all year round. It is a mining town and many people have back injuries and need water therapy. It certainly was something that I put forward to the community, and then spoke with people from the swimming club, who have inadequate facilities and need a storage area for their gear, such as ropes, and office space. Having recently seen some statistics on drowning in inland areas, the government believed that a pool where kids could be taught to swim in comfort would be most welcome in the community. Many other communities already have those facilities. Along with that, I talked to my government colleagues who agreed that it would be something that would be worthy and well thought of within the community. Many other people around this room have made promises that they have not always fulfilled, as we have certainly heard.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: We do not have a pool in South Perth. None of our kids can swim!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Maybe we need to have a look at that and see why the kids are going down to the river and whether the Swan River is even fresh enough or clean enough to swim in. Maybe we could get some reeds planted along the bank so they cannot get into the river to swim.

Let us be honest about this: other towns have heated swimming pools. There is nothing unique about this pool; it is about having a facility that people have asked the government for. It was my job as the local member, not the minister, at the time to promote what people in the community wanted and that is what I did.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I come from Katanning, which is nearly as cold as Collie, so I know whom to come to when I need a heated pool there. How much is the project expected to cost in total?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is up to the shire itself. I do not see the money that was put in the budget as being anywhere near enough to build a full-blown 25-metre swimming pool, with office space for the swimming club. It is up to the community to make a decision on whether it wants to fundraise or borrow money through the local

government to have that pool built. I am certainly well aware that \$2 million will not build a state-of-the-art swimming pool. Looking at some of the areas, you should be very careful what you wish for. For example, Port Hedland finds it very difficult to fund what it has in its area. Whether it be a swimming pool, a sporting stadium or anything else in this state, we have seen moneys expended through royalties for regions and now people are asking for funding for the ongoing cost of the facilities. That makes it very difficult for any government coming in to say that it will pick up for the community a tab of \$2 million or \$3 million a year to run a facility. I am not talking about any particular area, but just generally. That is something that I will be very aware of when people make a final decision on this pool.

The other thing I want to make sure that people understand is that no longer can they come to government with their hand out for the full amount of anything required in those areas of sport and recreation or any passive areas as well. They just cannot keep coming back.

It is my intention that, through the department, grants be based on a sinking fund. That means that a percentage of turnover through the gate will go into a fund for future renewal. It is okay that those clubs have up-front costs, but when they go through that 10-year cycle and something needs to be renewed, whether it be new turf for a bowling club or a hot-water system for a footy club, money should be put aside for those sorts of things. I come back to my favourite sport, football. Some clubs pay certain footballers \$600 or \$900 to play games on Sundays, yet they cannot find the money to pay for hot-water systems when they break down.

[11.10 am]

Mr J.E. McGRATH: They want to win games.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Those days have well and truly gone. Clubs must now make sure that—most of them do, whether they are bowling or footy clubs—a small percentage of their turnover goes into a sinking fund for the next round of renewals needed in the future. Clubs—I will use bowling clubs as an example—will no longer be able to come to government every 10 years and ask for a handout to help pay for the renewal of their turf when it has worn out. Do most clubs put away any money for those sorts of things? Most of them do not. I think that is an attitude. Could they put up the price of beer by 5c a glass and put that money into a sinking fund? They certainly could. I want that type of thinking ingrained in clubs—that compulsion to make sure that after 10 years they can contribute.

I visited a hockey club in, I think, Warwick—somewhere in the northern suburbs—the other day. That club contributed \$600 000 towards its facility. What a remarkable effort. There was some avocado joke going around; they must have sold a million avocados to fundraise because everyone was saying how they just hated avocados. Members should think about that. That club put \$600 000 into their facilities; other clubs have put in nothing. I think that is totally wrong, and it is not our way. Everyone must pull their weight, and we will be looking at that very carefully.

I cannot let the member off too easily so I will come back to the Collie pool. Yes, it is something that the community wants. Yes, it is in the estimates. Will it be \$2 million? If the community wants to spend \$10 million, that is their business, not mine.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: On page 370, under the heading “Spending Changes”, I note a considerable increase in the line item “Local Projects Local Jobs”, from \$3.5 million to \$8.7 million. Could the minister detail what that estimated \$8.7 million for Local Projects, Local Jobs will be spent on? Where will this money be spent? What is the process of allocating the funding, and how are those decisions made?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: If the member for South Perth wants me to go through every grant under Local Projects, Local Jobs, I could be here for a week.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: If we can get that on notice, that would be fine. Could the minister itemise what those local projects will be and where the money will be spent?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will take that question on notice. I must say that only 62 per cent of those grants have been processed at this stage, because, again, we are making sure that when the grants go out, there are some criteria and we are not just throwing money into the air. We want to see bang for our buck, to say the least. We want jobs to be created in those areas. We want money to be spent locally in those areas. It is not about just saying, “I want”; it is about making sure that the facilities being funded are appropriate and are also connected to the community.

The CHAIR: I think the minister has agreed to provide a complete breakdown of the projects and activities funded under Local Projects, Local Jobs in his portfolio.

[*Supplementary Information No A2.*]

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The minister said that not all projects have been finalised. To come up with a figure of \$8.741 million, there must be a list of projects that will make up that amount. The minister must know where the money will be spent, but the paperwork has not been finalised.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is right. As I have been reminded, they are election commitments that have not been finalised. But, certainly, when we did our budget before the election, they were put into funding areas to make sure that we could afford them. They were put in right at the start and they were costed. I am a bit shy about using that old saying “fully funded, fully costed” that I have heard somewhere before!

Mr J.E. McGRATH: We will be checking on that, minister; we will be making a few inquiries.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We made sure that each one was itemised, and that is where the money will be going.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: This is a very important issue, minister. The government has talked about delivering local jobs. At page 80 of “WA Labor’s Plan for Jobs” it defines “local suppliers” as those located in Western Australia, Australia and New Zealand. Does that mean that the Labor Party’s local jobs election commitment is really just about Western Australian jobs, or not?

The CHAIR: Member, you have to ask questions within this minister’s purview. If the member for South Perth is asking a question in general terms about WA Labor’s election commitments under the Local Projects, Local Jobs program, this is not the place to ask it. It would be better asked of the Premier.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I have a point of order, not to be disrespectful. The minister talked about local jobs as part of this line item.

The CHAIR: Yes, it is within his line items.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Basically, I am asking the minister to define what “local jobs” means under all these projects, because we all would like all these jobs to be done by a local workforce. Can the minister guarantee that that will happen?

The CHAIR: I still maintain, member, that it is not in this minister’s remit to answer a broad question about the entire Local Projects, Local Jobs program.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I have rescinded that question and have asked another.

The CHAIR: Please ask it again so that I understand it.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The minister said that this is about creating jobs, which is what the government wants to do, and that is great. Can the minister guarantee that all these jobs will be sourced locally?

The CHAIR: In the minister’s portfolio, specifically.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: In the minister’s portfolio, which has an allocation for “Local Projects Local Jobs” of \$8.741 million.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I do not know how far the member wants me to go back when I discuss this issue, because when I talk about local jobs, do we look at the light switch that may have been produced in Taiwan and whether that should have been made locally? It is very difficult to determine that. I will hand over to the director general to explain the terminology.

Mr D. Ord: “Local Jobs Local Projects” will be disseminated through a range of contract arrangements, including partnerships with local government; most of those are with local government. Local government and state government are required to work under procurement guidelines, the State Supply Commission et cetera. That, of course, picks up competition policy and other regulations. We will, obviously, be delivering the projects, consistent with the requirements under a range of legislation, with local governments and the state government. Of course, there is a high priority on local employment. These will be mostly small contract works that are likely to go to small or medium-sized businesses in local areas, and they are being targeted accordingly. We have to be consistent; hence the references to the coverage that the member has referred to are due to the fact that we have to comply with our broader obligations under policies. Otherwise, we will contract those either directly or indirectly through local government.

[11.20 am]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Further to that, who chose what projects should be funded?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: If the member wants to go right back, it comes back to the communities themselves, really. People in each community were asked what they would like.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: When was that—what year?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It was when we were in opposition and working very hard while the Liberal Party was spending the money. We worked very hard in our communities to find out what people wanted and put a list together. Hundreds of projects were knocked off that list because we did not think they were appropriate. Many people were disappointed about that. We did not just blast around the place with a broad base and say, “Here, you can have this.” It was a structured approach, which we worked very hard on in opposition to make sure that we were connected with our communities so that the money expended would create jobs in those communities. I do

not see that there should be any criticism whatsoever along these lines. It is about the process that happens every four years. The other side made many promises. In my area, \$3.5 million was promised for a motor sports complex. I knew that the state could not afford that so we brought that back in. Were they cranky with me? Yes, they were. We worked with communities to make sure the appropriate guidelines were followed and the appropriate costings were made, and then we put them into the budget.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Further to that, are there guidelines that demonstrate that an evidence-based approach was taken by the agency in funding these projects?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Because we are talking about guidelines, I will hand over to the director general. I am sure that he will satisfy the member with the guidelines.

Mr D. Ord: Each of the projects identified as an election commitment has been subject to a due diligence process through the department working with the relevant local government authority. Much of this is around upgrades to current infrastructure or the like. We are not just distributing the funds. We are doing it on a business case by business case approach, particularly because there are often allied investments from local government. On top of that, the projects will go through competitive tendering if they are above the tender limits. If a particular project does not meet the threshold criteria or, as the minister said, there are good question marks around recurrent funding, we will bring those back to the local government and ask it to evaluate the project on its merits again. The commitments are running well to schedule and those planned for this year are well advanced in their planning.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Is the minister aware of any projects that have been funded that are inconsistent with the guidelines that have been set down by his agency?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Is the member asking whether there were any that did not fit the guidelines?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Are there any projects that have been funded in this budget that are inconsistent with the guidelines just outlined by the director general?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am certainly not aware of any. If any criticism has come back to me, it is that the guidelines are too strict. I have had some requests whereby people have changed their minds in six months and have said, “No, I do not want that anymore; I want something else.” We have been quite tough on that. They have to go back and put a new business case to us. That has been the department’s stance all the way through, and I think it should be. They thought it was the number one priority when they first asked for that project. Did they do their homework? Obviously not, if six months later they have changed their minds. Sometimes that may have been due to gear failure or those sorts of things. We would then adjust accordingly to help out that club or group. We need to have a rigorous approach, even for the smaller ones—even Girl Guides has been asked to make sure that all the paperwork is done properly—to make sure that it is accountable to that group and the money is not just frittered away. There have been requests for variations. It would be a very big surprise to me if projects have gone through that did not fit those guidelines.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Is the minister willing to table the guidelines?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I do not see any problem with that.

The CHAIR: Minister, would you repeat what you are going to table, for the benefit of Hansard.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will table the guidelines for “Local Projects Local Jobs”.

[Supplementary Information No A3.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I draw the minister’s attention to the heading “Income Statement” on page 392. One of the line items under “Income from State Government” is an appropriation from the royalties for regions fund. Can the minister give a breakdown of the programs funded through royalties for regions in the sport and recreation portfolio?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is on the borderline whether it fits or does not fit, but I have some information that has been handed to me. It is a grant summary of the royalties for regions fund. Can we table this?

The CHAIR: Minister, you cannot table papers during estimates.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will take the pleasure of reading out all the grants. Members should sit back and enjoy the ride.

The CHAIR: Member, it is totally okay to give a copy to members, but you cannot table it.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think the member deserves to listen to it.

The CHAIR: Certainly. Go ahead, minister.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The allocations in 2017–18 under royalties for regions were regional athlete support program, \$1 million; community pool revitalisation, \$500 000; wheelchair access for Bunbury Bowling Club, \$200 000; completion of sporting event precinct at Centennial Park, Albany, \$3 million; and water playground in Kununurra, \$590 000. Planning towards a motorplex in Albany was allocated \$250 000. I must put a rider on that,

which is that we have an overall strategy for motorsports in Western Australia. Albany comes under that plan. Many towns want a motorplex, but it is not feasible for every town to have one. It is about being strategic. People in Kalgoorlie, Albany and down through Collie—even Busselton—have asked for one. We have an overall plan for the state for motorsports issues.

To move to the forward estimates, the regional athletes program will continue. There will be \$4 million of upgrades to Hay Park in Bunbury. Dalyellup Beach Surf Life Saving Club, which has been on the agenda for 20 years that I know of, has been allocated \$300 000. Eaton Bowling and Social Club has been allocated \$2 million. It had the great idea of incorporating the community by bringing in not only the bowling club but also other clubs, including child care and those sorts of things. I encourage any club to think about cross-sharing and putting groups together. I think that is great. The Centennial Park completion—the great expansion down there in Albany—has been allocated \$3.922 million. There are a few other smaller allocations, which I am sure will be well received, including looking at building an artificial surfing reef around the coast. Further out, there will be some money for Broome. There will also be an enclosure for the Collie Mineworkers Memorial Pool! I just thought I would remind everyone about that one.

[11.30 am]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Lo and behold!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: There are quite a few projects on that list from royalties for regions.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the regional talent development network in that mix as well, minister?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes. It certainly is there and it is something I am well aware of. Why should young people with ability be denied a chance? I met a parent whose daughter plays hockey and is trying out for the state team. I understand the cost to communities. I was sad to hear that the two daughters of a lady in Esperance, in the member's area, had to drop out of the program because the cost of bringing up the kids from Esperance was prohibitive. That is why \$1 million of funding is allocated to that into the future.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Madam Chair, the opposition has quite a few questions we would like to ask about the new Perth Stadium. Would it be okay for us to concentrate on the stadium now?

The CHAIR: It is up to you entirely. If the government agrees with that, go ahead.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have other questions.

The CHAIR: I think you should discuss that amongst the two of you.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: We will leave time for others but this is important to us and the state.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I might ask some questions in tandem that relate to the precinct.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Okay.

The CHAIR: I make it clear to members that it is entirely over to you and the government to decide on the range of questions.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I do not want to run out of time for the stadium; that is all.

The CHAIR: That is up to you to negotiate. It is not the Chair's role to negotiate it.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Okay; thank you.

The CHAIR: You guys take it away and just tell me when you want to change divisions or topics.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: All right. I refer to page 389, the heading "Works in Progress" and the subheading "New Perth Stadium". The estimated spend under "Strategic Projects" has increased to \$1.81 million from the previous year's \$1.45 million. What brought about this increase, and what will that funding be spent on?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will ask Mr Hurst to answer that question for the member for South Perth.

Mr R. Hurst: Minister, I might defer to Mr Mann in strategic projects on this question.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is fine by me, yes.

Mr R. Mann: They are our costs. They reflect the project management costs for managing the capital works side of the project. The fluctuation in costs reflects the additional resources, which reflects the natural variation in the resource requirements over the course of the project. There is no overall change to the expected project management budget, however; it just represents a re-cashflowing of funding to reflect the actual resource requirements.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Can the minister update the committee on progress with the stadium naming deal? Who will handle those negotiations? Will they be done by the minister's department, the stadium project team or VenuesWest? Can the minister let us know how that is progressing; and, if and when that happens, where will the revenue from the sale of the naming rights go?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I understand that, but VenuesWest is under another division. I do not think we are in that area at this stage. If the member wants to move on to the division for VenuesWest —

Mr J.E. McGRATH: No; we will wait for VenuesWest for that question.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is no problem at all.

The CHAIR: I assume that is part of the WA Sports Centre Trust—is that correct? It is a later division, member.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Thank you.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: While we are on the stadium precinct, I refer to page 370 and the State Tennis Centre court replacement. Can the minister detail how many courts will be replaced, and will they be fit for purpose, not like for like?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: This is certainly an ongoing issue with the two lots. We recently picked up the issue of this court and its replacement. Six tennis courts were removed as part of the land acquisition process for the Perth Stadium project. The initial agreement was based on flexible pavement construction-type courts, which were like for like, if that is the way the member wants to put it. What was taken out is what was to be put back. However, there have been some changes in views about that, including concerns about whether the area will sink. We talked recently with Tennis West, and although I will not go into the details, because it is up to its members to disclose what was talked about to their membership and base, we are certainly working through this. It is a work in progress. Some of the issues that will come back from Tennis West include what it will do on that precinct in the future. It is not up to us to tell Tennis West what it wants, but it is quite clear in the contract that it was a like-for-like agreement. That is where we are. The amount of \$2.5 million was set aside. We have asked Tennis West to go away and reassess its opinion of what it needs in that area. There may be, again, some ask, but I am not pre-empting what that is. It will have to look, and, if it comes back with a different position, we will talk it out. At this stage, the door is open for Tennis West. We have had people in from Tennis West on several occasions and there were no problems whatsoever. We want to get this project finished and move on so that both parties are comfortable.

[11.40 am]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I will say, firstly, that I am glad the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has picked up the baton on this, because I believe that, in the past, Tennis West has been let down by the Public Transport Authority on these negotiations. I would like to say that I believe the fit-for-purpose scenario is definitely the way to go having served uphill two or three feet over the years at the State Tennis Centre. To me, the Tennis Centre—the stadium—is a fantastic precinct and I think Tennis West would certainly appreciate the minister's ongoing support in that manner.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think most of us here have pushed a lot of stuff uphill over the years, but in saying that, we are waiting for Tennis West to come back to advise us of its official position. It might want to add moneys to the \$ 2.5 million and do something entirely different. I am not sure of that and I am not pre-empting; I am just saying that we are waiting for Tennis West to come back.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to page 372 of budget paper No 2 where reference is made to the Perth Stadium and its final year of the project delivery phase and the focus for it. What is the annual estimated operations and maintenance cost for the Perth Stadium and what is the anticipated escalation of these costs in the next 10 years?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Thank you, member for South Perth. I thought that if anyone built a project as large as the Perth Stadium, due diligence would be done by the proponents.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Precisely; that is why I am asking the question.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The proponent was the previous state government. I would have thought that was factored in and certainly a major part of the previous government's budgetary requirement. I now understand some of the problems we are having with our budget statewide because, in this case, as the former Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, the member for South Perth should have been well and truly across this, but in the member having his hand slapped, I now defer to Mr Hurst.

Mr R. Hurst: I think this is a question for VenuesWest, which is responsible for the dual operational overhead as the government agency managing the project from 2018.

The CHAIR: I think we need to clarify so that you do not keep asking questions about a VenuesWest division. Would you like to double-check that you are in this division, not the next one?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I will have to wait for VenuesWest to come in.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 389 of volume 2 of budget paper No 2 and the line items under the asset investment plan for the department under the heading "Works in Progress". The stadium and plaza line item has

jumped dramatically to \$42 786 000 in 2017–18 from the estimate last year of \$8 471 000. Can the minister explain this increase?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will again refer that to Mr Mann.

Mr R. Mann: That predominantly reflects the re-cashflowing of funds to represent actual progress. We have seen a significant increase in the amount of work done effectively at the tail end of the project to hit the completion date. As a result, there has been more movement of funds towards the back end of the project.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Similarly, the sports precinct line has jumped from \$2.069 million to more than \$16.5 million. Why is there such a jump in that expenditure?

Mr R. Mann: It is exactly the same issue.

The CHAIR: Members, we need to have all questions directed to the minister and he then will refer.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to Mr Mann.

Mr R. Mann: Thank you, Chair. It is exactly the same issue—a re-cashflowing of funds to reflect actual progress.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Can the same be said for the overall increase in funding to the new Perth Stadium account on page 390?

Mr R. Mann: In this case, it reflects a combination of re-cashflowing of funding to reflect actual progress, plus an additional appropriation of \$31 million to the capital budget as a result of finalising some commercial issues to take us to completion.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Hopefully, I will be on the target this time, minister! I refer to page 372 of budget paper No 2. The budget states that the focus in 2017–18 will be on finalising construction of the stadium and ensuring that the venue is operationally ready in early 2018. The commitment by the previous government was for the first round of the Australian Football League. Can the minister advise the committee of the date the stadium will open and the sporting event that will first occur at Perth Stadium?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will defer to Mr Hurst on that one.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: We need to know the date the stadium will open and the first sporting event to be held at the stadium.

Mr R. Hurst: As announced recently by the current government, 21 January 2018 is the community open date, which will be a ticketed event over five or six hours on that date. The first sporting event, as it currently stands, was announced this morning, which is an Australian Football League women's game on 10 February 2018 against an unnamed opposition as yet because the draw has not been finalised.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: What is the date for the opening of the footbridge?

Mr R. Mann: I think that question needs to be directed to the transport portfolio, which is responsible for delivery of that project.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Under “Promoting Sport and Active Recreation” on page 372 under significant issues impacting the agency, the fifth and sixth dot points refer respectively to volunteers and the KidSport program. Can the minister explain how much funding has been set aside for KidSport, because I cannot find it anywhere in the budget papers?

Mr G. Brimage: The KidSport budget was previously a term-of-government commitment, which has now been rolled into the general agency budget. There is \$ 4.5 million for distribution through KidSport and similarly \$0.5 million for Nature Play WA, which was a continuance by degree from the previous term.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: How much is through Nature Play?

Mr G. Brimage: There is \$0.5 million—the same as previous years.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Can the minister point me to where in the budget I can find these funding provisions?

[11.50 am]

Mr G. Brimage: It comes under “Sports Financial Grants” on page 393.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Can the minister confirm that there is a \$500 000 reduction in the KidSport allocation?

Mr G. Brimage: The commitment is the same as that in the previous financial year. There was \$5 million, of which \$4.5 million was used for KidSport vouchers and \$500 000 was applied to the Nature Play WA initiative.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will just add to the comment about KidSport. It is a very popular program but we must ensure that it is targeted. I will not say that the program has been abused, but in some cases it has been stretched

for the wrong reasons. It is great to see increases. I think in some areas increases have been as high as 63 per cent. That is the figure that comes to mind. The funds were being paid in for kids who had not previously played sport. As we know, children whose parents are under financial stress tend to drop out of sport a lot earlier. It is part of the department's due diligence to ensure that the money goes to the right people. There have been a few hiccups in some areas. We have worked through that to make sure the funding goes to those areas. The cost of sport is escalating, even with great help from our volunteers. It is a bit of an annoyance when people sit back and do not run raffles or do not do work because money will come in from a different area. It has to be complementary to the existing sport, not just, "We'll do it the easy way." The department is right onto that. It is making sure people understand that. If we do not, it could be a program that will disappear because there is a tendency for people to sit back, especially in some of the remote communities. We need people engaged in sport. A high percentage of young people who get into trouble have never played organised sport. Organised sport puts boundaries in place. It teaches respect for umpires and how to respect peers. Peers also keep the pressure on when out in the general community about different antisocial behaviour that they may commit, such as when teammates, whether basketballers or whatever, say, "I don't do that." I believe there is a very big return in financing those people who are at the bottom end of the scale financially to be able to commit to sport. It enables them to play within the boundaries and to play within the rules, and understand that there are rules in society. It is something that we are looking very closely at.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to the Western Australian Sports Centre Trust on page 491. Can the minister explain —

The CHAIR: Member, I am sorry; we are not yet on the sports centre trust.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Okay. Maybe it is time to move on to the next division.

The CHAIR: Are there any other questions from government, or the member for Roe?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. On the note of increasing participation rates, still under the subheading "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency", the sixth dot point refers to the department looking to enable the delivery of services and programs that respond to the changing —

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Sorry; what page is that on?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It is page 370. The subheading is "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency". The sixth dot point is on page 371. Sorry; it is not the sixth dot point. It is under the subheading "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency". Has the department made ongoing funding available for the successful SilverSport program piloted in seven local government areas?

The CHAIR: Can we firm up which dot point you are referring to? Pause for a minute until we find the right dot point.

I think it is the sixth dot point under "Developing the Arts and Cultural Industries". Would you like to check the sixth dot point, member for Roe? Is it SLWA?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, that is correct. Sorry about that.

The CHAIR: We are on the sixth dot point under "Developing the Arts and Cultural Industries".

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Some trial projects were put out there in relation to the SilverSport program. Some of those were successful; others were not as successful. It certainly encouraged some people. I think it was for a 12-month period. The funding has now run out.

Before we go off that one, I will defer to Mr Brimage to expand on that.

Mr G. Brimage: The ActiveSmart project, which was in Avon Valley in the wheatbelt, is basically just about coming to a conclusion. We expect evaluation results on that in the next couple of weeks.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: How else is the department promoting grassroots participation when there is little funding for programs such as those mentioned in the budget?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think that is an unfair question. One thing I have learned since becoming a minister is that the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is held in the highest regard in all communities across the state for its work with children—not only the state, but Australia-wide. Previous people—directors general et cetera—have worked very hard, including the current one. I think that is probably pushing the boundaries a little too far. There are 43 club development officers statewide who are in communities to help people participate in sport, whether junior or senior. On top of that, our sport and rec department is out in the communities. That is not true of the department itself. I will defend the department to the last inch. I do not think any other people around the place would agree with the member. As we know, sport plays a major part in our culture and society. I am pleased to say that even in the city, some of the programs that are coming out in sport and rec encourage integration between migrant groups so that we do not have pockets of people not assimilating into the

community. Sport and rec has helped some of the newer people to our country play sport. We have that cross-fertilisation between all parties. Nothing was more pleasing to me than when I recently went down Fremantle way and watched women play AFL. Most of the women who were playing were of Somali background. They were integrating and playing our wonderful game. To say that we are not doing enough to keep kids in sport is not true. That is only one example of that. We are breaking down barriers so that other people can move in. Other examples are changing the rules in netball so that women can play wearing long pants or long-sleeved shirts as a uniform. We are working through with sport or the department itself on the many programs. Yes, programs will come and go, but we are keeping our ear to the ground to make sure that we are relevant in our society of today.

[12 noon]

The appropriation was recommended.