

PERTH STADIUM — FOOTBALL

576. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the agreement that this government was able to reach with the AFL and the WA Football Commission regarding the use of the new stadium, which is something that the previous Liberal–National government failed to do. Can the minister advise the house what this means for football in this state, for the West Coast Eagles and the Fremantle Dockers, and for taxpayers?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

I thank the member for the question. After extraordinarily long negotiations, which started in 2014—we have now been in the job for about eight months—we concluded the deal that the opposition could not. It was great to be out at the stadium the other day with the Premier and Mr Goyder from the AFL and to see them sign off and move on to enhance football in Western Australia. It was great that we were finally able to come together. That is something that, in my belief, should have been done at the heads of agreement—before the stadium was built and not after.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I want to hear this.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is a stadium that, I will admit, is in sensational condition and is about 97 per cent complete. We had to have a user agreement; we have done that.

We will see the Eagles play the first game at the stadium. After a lot of backroom talk and a lot of arm wrestling about which team would get the first game, I think that the AFL have now come up with a reasonable situation in which the Dockers will get an extra game as well. Also, there will be 50 000 seats available for the Dockers' and Eagles' memberships. I remind the house that the state government has nothing to do with the pricing of those seats. That is entirely up to the Eagles or the Dockers themselves. Above that, 1 000 tickets have been put aside for special packages for people who will be able to come from the east coast or from anywhere, in fact—not only the east coast. We expect most of them would come under these package agreements for tourism. I would like to thank the Minister for Tourism for his help in that area. He has worked very closely to make sure that that happened. The tourism dollars into WA will certainly be welcome. We have heard about empty hotels and hope to be able to get those people across here.

As a point of interest, talking about tourism dollars for sport, I was on a plane going to the east coast and on that plane were 50 people going to Moonee Valley just to watch Winx race. I was surprised that the member for South Perth was not there! In saying that, it shows the tourism dollars that are in sport.

There will also be 6 000 seats available for non-AFL members so that the people who might only want to go once a year will have a chance to buy a seat. I think it is quite reasonable for them to be able to do that. Additional seats will be available for the multi-seat scenario, which is like a stadium membership but not exactly. People will be able to pay extra and be able to have multi-seats in their agreement with the stadium. Again, that is another fundraiser.

The second deal that we have done, other than the ticketing, was working with the WA Football Commission. The stadium will provide an income of \$10.3 million per annum to the WA Football Commission to ensure that grassroots users get their share out of that stadium. Something that I am passionate about is making sure that in WA, AFL football at the grassroots, not always at the top, gets its share of the pie. That will be part of a 10-year deal with four further extension options, which will prevent the government from having to top it up in the future. Those options will start to be discussed at the seven-year mark—I am sure that we will still be in government after 20 years with that mob over there—so that we can have it running smoothly right throughout the whole time of the stadium's life. After months of negotiations, we have found that football is funding football. That is something that is tremendous. I see it as a fair deal for all Western Australians. That is despite the former government —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will wait for "Tow Ball" to finish.

The SPEAKER: I am sure that the minister is getting to the end of his answer. Members, I want to hear the end.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is despite the former government not asking for one cent from the AFL or for one cent from the federal government. It duded sport in WA!

Mr C.J. Barnett: You tried to get money out of the casino, which would've been corrupt.

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, will you withdraw that remark about being corrupt, please?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, I said that to have sought money for the casino, in my view, would have been corrupt. I withdraw, but that is what I said. I did not accuse any member.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, you have been here long enough to know that it is not a debate. You just withdraw what you said.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I have done that. I withdraw it.