

Chairman; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Terry Waldron; Mr John Kobelke; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr John McGrath; Mr Tony Simpson

Division 46: Sport and Recreation, \$64 122 000 —

Ms L.L. Baker, Chairman.

Mr T.K. Waldron, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr R. Alexander, Director General.

Mr A. Watt, Director, Business Management.

Mr R. Didcoe, Director, Facilities and Camps.

Mr D. Rosielle, Chief Finance Officer.

The CHAIRMAN: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be published by 9.00 am tomorrow.

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. This is the prime focus of the committee. Although there is scope for members to examine many matters, questions need to be clearly related to a page number, item, program, or amount within the volumes. For example, members are free to pursue performance indicators that are included in the budget statements while there remains a clear link between the questions and the estimates. It is the intention of the Chairman 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 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. For the purpose of following up the provision of this information, I ask the minister to clearly indicate to the committee which 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 Committee Clerk by Friday, 5 June 2009, so that members may read it before the report and third reading stages. If the supplementary information cannot be provided within that time, written advice is required of the day by which the information will be made available. Details in relation to supplementary information have been provided to both members and advisers and accordingly I ask the minister to cooperate with those requirements.

I caution members that if the minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk's office. Only supplementary information that the minister agrees to provide will be sought by Friday, 5 June 2009. It will also greatly assist Hansard if, when referring to the program statements volumes or the consolidated account estimates, members give the page number, item, program and amount in preface to their question.

I now ask the minister to introduce his advisers to the committee.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: I need to mention that we have three divisions to go through today. At some point the committee might like to make a decision about how we allocate time for those divisions. I will bring up that matter again later. The member for Collie-Preston.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to page 593, the second item under "Election Commitments", community sporting and recreation facilities fund. What criteria have been placed on this fund to meet the election promises that were made by candidates and now members of Parliament, such as the Premier, at the last election; and what encumbrances is the minister placing on those promises now?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I thank the member for the question. As the member would know, the community sporting and recreation facilities fund has stood at \$9 million for some years. We believe—I have talked about this for many years—that there needs to be an increase in that fund to meet the growing need for sporting facilities in Perth and country Western Australia. I say that because over the years, because of the increasing costs of building, we have been getting to the stage at which the fund is inadequate to deliver what it should be delivering. Yes, promises were made during the election campaign. Those promises that were made as part of policy will be met. All those commitments were made under the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. The community sporting and recreation facilities fund provides grants for sporting facilities right across the state, as the member would know. Those commitments were made under that fund. I want to make sure that we maintain the credibility and integrity of this fund. So, where those commitments fit the criteria for the CSRFF, I will make sure they come through the CSRFF. If they do not fit the criteria, we will need to find outside funding from the consolidated fund to support those commitments. There are a number of projects, all of which are being

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attended to now. The member for Albany and I have met with the surf club. Some promises were made, or are purported to have been made —

Mr P.B. WATSON: No—not purported.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: — that are not on the actual policy list, particularly the Liberal Party commitments; however, the ones that are in the Liberal policy document, which we have gone through, we will be meeting. We will not be able to meet all those commitments upfront. Those commitments that we can meet, we will meet as soon as possible; on other commitments, we are dealing with those clubs and sports to work through those issues. Some of the sports and local governments are not in a position to meet their share of the funding.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Can the minister give us a rough time frame on the \$1.6 million of funding for the Collie Motorplex, the \$130 000 of funding for the Balingup Bowling Club and the \$120 000 of funding for the Eaton Bowling Club? All those commitments were made without any reference to the community sporting and recreation facilities fund.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No. Those commitments were all made under the community sporting and recreation facilities fund.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Minister, I will furnish the publicity that was put out by the now Premier to show that there was not one mention of the CSRFF. They were stand-alone election promises. Never once —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Okay. What will happen is that where those commitments can be met under the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, they will be met. Where they cannot be met under that fund, we will need to get funding from the consolidated fund, which we will do. However, in the process, we need to make sure that both the sports and the local governments are in a position to meet their part of the commitment through the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. I have with me a list of where those projects are, and I am happy to run through that for the member.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Will there be any move by the minister to fund some of these projects that do not fit the criteria out of the \$200 million royalties for regions slush fund?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: What was that word—slush?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, exactly—unallocated!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Royalties for regions money, through the local government fund and the regional development fund, will deliver funding to sport and recreation in country Western Australia. There is no doubt about that. There are some projects that that funding will meet. However, I have not allocated any of that money for these projects that are listed here. I will just say too, particularly with the local government fund through the royalties for regions, it is a great boon that will assist the CSRFF, because it will leverage money for other projects. One of the real problems with the CSRFF—I am sure the member is aware of this, because he and I have talked about this, and I will come to this again later when we talk about some of the changes to the CSRFF—has been when local governments and the sports themselves have found it hard to come up with their two-thirds of the funding under the CSRFF. We have encouraged local governments to leverage CSRFF funding, utilising royalties for regions money through the local government fund. That is a local government decision. Some local governments will use it that way, and some will not. However, if that can help leverage funds and deliver good sports infrastructure throughout country Western Australia, it is a good thing.

[9.10 am]

The CHAIRMAN: Can I just clarify whether the member for Collie-Preston was seeking supplementary information?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The minister mentioned that he has a list of the projects. Does he want to submit that as supplementary information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am happy to run through it if the member likes, so that I can explain exactly what we are doing.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I have a procedural matter here. The whole area of the community sport and recreation facilities fund is one that we would like to continue pursuing before we move on to another matter, and when I receive the call from the Chair, I will do that. The minister is quite generously willing to go through that list. Can I suggest, through the Chair, that it would be much quicker if he were to hand it over to be quickly photocopied, and then we could look at it as he speaks to it, if he is willing to do so.

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: I would rather talk through it, because the member has asked me about it. I will not take a long time; I will run through them quickly. I am happy to discuss them with the member afterwards and talk through the list, so that the member knows exactly what we are doing.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it okay with the committee if the minister runs through the list, and then we go to further questions?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member for Collie-Preston asked about the Collie motorplex. We are in discussions with that organisation through the Department of Sport and Recreation. We are waiting for some further information that is to be provided. That is being resolved at the moment.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: How much money has been promised to the motorplex?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I understand that the amount is \$1.67 million. The Dalyellup-Eaton sporting fields project is also being resolved. There are some issues there, as I understand it, with Department of Education and Training land that we are trying to work through.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Can the minister provide the amount of the request or the promise for that project?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The amount is \$1 million.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Can the minister provide an amount of money in each case?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The upgrade of Hands Oval in Bunbury has been allocated \$1.34 million. I have met with the chief executive officer and the Mayor of the City of Bunbury about this. They are not yet in a position to pursue this, because they have not formulated the overall plan of what they want at Hands Oval. The athletics track at Hay Park is being resolved. The amount there is \$1.67 million. I understand that that has also received federal funding of \$2 million. I will have to follow up on exactly where that is. The Eaton Bowling Club has received \$150 000; the Pinjarra swimming pool is being funded with \$2 million; the Kingsley Football Club grant of \$200 000 is being resolved; the Wanneroo football clubrooms project has been approved and funded; the lighting at the South Mandurah Football Club has been funded to the tune of \$100 000; the Leeming outdoor gym centre has received \$330 000; the Kalgoorlie drag strip grant of \$1.5 million is being resolved; the Denmark Country Club grant has also been resolved—\$66 000 has been offered in 2009-10, with a total amount of \$580 000—the Balingup Bowling Club grant is being resolved; the Bunbury soccer oval and grandstand upgrade has been recommended for approval; and Centennial Oval in Albany has been allocated \$8 million. I have met with the City of Albany about this last project, and it is not in a position to pursue that project at the moment. It is also considering the area around the main recreation centre. The Arena Community Sport and Recreation Association at Joondalup has been allocated \$200 000; the Innaloo Sportsmen's Club has had funding of \$400 000 confirmed; and the Bunbury hockey stadium is also being funded with \$58 000.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Following up on what the minister was saying, is the minister willing to provide that list as supplementary information, and include in it the cost of each project, and how much is actually coming out of the CSRFF towards the full cost of each project?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I ask the member to put that question on notice, and I will answer.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: So the minister is not willing to provide the list?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I want to check first. I want the member to put the question on notice, and then I will answer.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I was of the impression that to obtain CSRFF funding, the Department of Sport and Recreation in the local area was approached. It keeps a list of projects in conjunction with the local government. The project submission is made to the Department of Sport and Recreation and then goes to an independent committee to make the decision. How come all the projects on this list are bypassing the procedure that has always been used?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: They will not bypass the procedure.

Mr P.B. WATSON: But they have, because the government has made commitments. The City of Albany obviously did not make any submissions, because it does not have any money to follow it up. There is a procedure there, but when an election comes around, that procedure goes out of the window. Can the minister explain why?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I want to get a couple of points straight right from the start, and then I will make sure I answer the member's question. The projects I have just listed would have been impossible to fund in any way under the previous funding. By increasing the funding to \$80 million over four years, we are now in a position to fund more projects in both metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The process has been changed.

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: I said earlier that the one thing I want to maintain is the integrity and credibility of the community sport and recreation facilities fund. It has been a wonderful fund, whoever has been in power over the years. As the member knows, great projects delivered through this fund can be seen all over Western Australia. Anything that does not fit the funding criteria will be funded from other sources.

Mr P.B. WATSON: These are not core promises then, because they must go through the CSRFF process.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: In the eight years I have been in this place, I have seen the same thing happen before. As the Minister for Sport and Recreation, I will make sure that if a project does not fit the CSRFF criteria, it will not be funded from that source. It will have to be funded from elsewhere. Each project will go before the independent committee that makes decisions under the same process. The actual process of selecting the projects that meet the criteria and establishing priorities will still go forward. We must remember that these commitments have not all been made for projects to be done right now.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is the minister saying that if funding for these core election promises is knocked back by the committee, the minister must find other funding?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is right.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Has that been budgeted for?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a fair question. If a project does not meet CSRFF criteria, it must be funded from elsewhere. However, in some of these projects, we are working with the applicants to make sure that they meet the guidelines. We are helping them to structure the way in which they are putting the project forward so that it can meet the guidelines. If it does not, the government has to fund it from outside the community sporting and recreation facilities fund.

[9.20 am]

Mr P.B. WATSON: The minister referred to \$8 million in respect of the City of Albany. The City of Albany does not have any money. What happens in a situation like that? Would the \$8 million go back into general revenue?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We will work with the City of Albany on that project. If it is too much for the city to do at once, we may do part of it now. We would work in with the City of Albany. It would not be any good for the government to go ahead and do work that is not exactly what the City of Albany requires. The day I went with the member for Albany and we met with the surf club —

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am glad the minister mentioned the surf club. Does it mean there will be some good news?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I gave the member that commitment, even though he bagged me.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is that why I was not invited to the opening of the athletics club—because I bagged him?

The CHAIRMAN: I gather that is not a further question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No, it is a personal one.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Kingsley has a question.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I have not finished answering the previous question. I want to ensure that I give the full answer. I had real concerns about that. I am happy to work with the member on this. It seems to me that the City of Albany had different plans about what it wanted to do from those that had been presented to me. I am happy to take this further with the member. I would like to think that the member and I can work with the city to get the outcome which it wants and which is needed for the community.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I refer to the increase in the community sporting and recreation facilities fund to \$20 million. There is a general unwritten rule that two-thirds would go to regional Western Australia. If royalties for regions money through the local government fund can assist in sport and recreation, can the minister give a commitment that more than half of the \$20 million will go to regional Western Australia through the CSRFF?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Over the years funding through CSRFF to projects has been awarded on the basis of the project. It has not been the intention of either the sport and recreation department or governments of either persuasion over the years that, for example, 60 per cent of the funding will be allocated to the city and 40 per cent to the country or vice versa. The funding has been awarded on the basis of what is required for the communities both in the country and across the metropolitan area. This year approximately 58 per cent of the funding will go to regional Western Australia and the rest to the metropolitan area. That could change next year because of the projects. In addition, with the increase in funding, with the maximum grant increasing from

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\$1.8 million to \$4 million, it could mean that a major project in the city could be met from the CSRFF, which would swing the percentage a different way. I am a country member of Parliament, but I make this point: it is important to me and the government that the integrity of this fund is maintained. If next year there is a need for it to go the other way, that will be the way it is.

I refer now to royalties for regions funding. Yes, if country shires and cities choose to utilise their local government funds through royalties for regions to leverage and to help sport—the City of Bunbury has talked to me about this—it is their decision. I know everybody in this chamber is here to help sport and if that funding helps sport in regional Western Australia, it is a good thing.

It has always worried me, and I have spoken to members opposite about it, that sports and local governments have always had a problem in finding two-thirds of the funding, especially as the economic situation has escalated. Under the more flexible requirements I announced last week, if the local governments can meet certain criteria, they have the ability to get up to 50 per cent from the government for their projects. It is a good thing. It is also important that we have a commitment from sport and local government. When I worked at the footy commission, we were considering the distribution of grants and I recall saying to the chief executive officer that it was a good thing. He taught me a good lesson. He said, “Tuck, we have to be careful because if we keep giving, people lose ownership and their drive.” One good thing about Western Australian sport is that people are driven by it. The volunteers and local government do a great job. I want to ensure that they continue to be involved and they have ownership of it.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Madam Chair, on a point of order, you indicated in your opening statement that ministers’ answers need to be brief so that we can have more questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, member.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will wind up. The member would agree that people must have input into and ownership of their sporting facilities, particularly the ongoing upkeep of those facilities.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I would like advice on two things that are no longer in the budget. The sporting facilities infrastructure fund had an allocation of \$4 million in 2008-09. Prior to 2008-09 there had been an allocation to this fund in the budget. Am I correct in believing that it has been taken out of the budget? It was used to help build major facilities, such as the State Gymnastic Centre.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The fund is still in the budget and it is included in the second line item, “Grants and Subsidies” under “Expenses” on page 600. I advise the member that the \$47.055 million allocation includes \$4 million of new money and a carryover of \$2.4 million for deferred projects, such as shooting, equestrian and softball.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Can the minister provide a full breakdown of that \$47.055 million?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Out of that allocation, \$14.072 million will go to sports financial grants. I can run through those. The breakdown is netball, \$4.5 million, remembering that \$500 000 has already been spent in the process there; state facilities infrastructure fund, \$6.420 million; Western Australian Cricket Association, \$600 000; and Western Australian Institute of Sport, \$1.111 million, remembering that WAIS will receive \$3.875 million from the sports lottery fund as well. There is also an allocation of \$200 000 for the Sports Centre Trust to support the Wildcats; \$160 000 to Healthway; \$300 000 to the youth futures program, a preventive sport and recreation activities that the member would be aware of; \$215 000 to the active outdoor lifestyle program; and there is another figure of \$566 000. I might have more figures here for the member.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Is the minister willing to provide that table by way of supplementary information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will provide by way of supplementary information a grants summary for all funds from 2008-09 to 2012-13.

[Supplementary Information No B24.]

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The minister alluded to the proposed state netball centre. I can bring forward 200 or 300 people who were at the annual presentation at which there was a clear statement made by the Liberal spokesperson that the government would build a new centre in this term of government. Will the government renege on that commitment or does it have plans for money to be included in the budget or is there any money in the budget other than the \$4.5 million to deliver that centre?

[9.30 am]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: There is only \$4.5 million in the budget for it at this stage. There is nothing in the budget to do that this year. The state netball centre is a priority of the government and it is one of my priorities too. I

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know the great value of netball. I have four daughters and I have been to a lot of netball games. It will be about my nine-hundredth netball game this weekend. The so-called promise made by the Liberal Party member, Hon Barry House, has been conveyed to me and what was said was debatable. He told me that he did not give a commitment. It was not a commitment in the Liberal Party's policy document. I was concerned about it though and I take the member's point.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I was present and was sitting at the table with him.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: People who were present have told me that a commitment was made and others have said that it was not a full commitment. The point is that it is not listed on the Liberal Party's policy document as a commitment. I was concerned about it because a lot of people felt that was a commitment was made, including people from netball. I have met with people from Netball WA about this and went to its conference and talked to them about this issue up-front. It is not in the budget and it is not part of the government's official commitments. However, putting that aside, I recognise the need for a netball training facility. I have been pursuing the matter closely with Mick Pember, the president of Netball WA, in particular. There was also a proposal to consider Mathews Netball Centre in the Town of Cambridge. I made the decision that the facility should be at Challenge Stadium because it has other facilities and we are trying to develop a hub of sport there, which the former minister was involved in developing. It is an excellent facility and it is a nice fit. That is where I would like to see it. No commitment has been given at this stage.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: In those figures, the minister mentioned the provision of money to enable the Perth Wildcats to use Challenge Stadium, which is great. Will the minister make the same offer to the West Coast Fever netball team, which must pay for hiring the facility?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will cover this matter for a minute because I am concerned about our sports competing in national competitions. I have been in this role for eight months. The member would recognise this situation. It appears that a lot of our teams are competing in national competitions, which is fantastic for sport and is great at the elite level, but it also provides a focus for sportspeople to try to reach the pinnacle. National competitions provide a pathway. Representatives from basketball saw me about the new competition, which has had a lot of problems. Basketball was struggling financially to meet its needs and what was required to go into the competition. As the minister and as a government, we had to weigh up the value of the Perth Wildcats for not only the Perth Wildcats, but also for sport in Western Australia generally because of the new basketball stadium coming on board. We decided that if the competition goes ahead, in two years, we will award them \$2 000 —

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Does the minister mean \$200 000?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Did I say \$2 000? I have just cut back their funding! They will not be happy with that. The government will provide \$200 000 to ensure that the Perth Wildcats will be part of the competition if it goes ahead. I believed it was important to do that for the sport.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I support the minister. My question was simple and the minister is taking too long to answer it. Is the minister willing to make a similar offer to West Coast Fever?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I was getting to that. I asked the Department of Sport and Recreation to make a report, and I have the first draft. I am concerned—this is where the member's question leads to—that we get teams at national competitions and everything goes along nicely until the teams get under a bit of financial pressure and they run to the government. I foresaw this issue and asked the department to review all our teams that are playing in national competitions and to come up with a plan to credibly fund and assist our sports at the national level in a way that does not pick one over another, like we perhaps did with basketball. I take that point. I have the first draft of the report and will go through that. In the next year, I hope to come up with something that addresses that issue. It is a good question.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to page 596 of the *Budget Statements*. I also urge the minister to do whatever he can for the state netball centre; some of my constituents are very deeply involved in netball and want a new facility. Speaking of new facilities, I notice in the budget papers a reference to the AK Reserve under "Explanation of Significant Movements". My question does not relate specifically to funding. I drove past the stadium a couple of weeks ago when I saw West Coast Fever play. The minister and the member for Albany were at that game too.

Mr P.B. WATSON: We got them over the line.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I noticed the placement of the Shirley Strickland grandstand at AK Reserve. The Minister for Sport and Recreation was not responsible for the planning of the stadium, but I would like the minister to explain, so that it is recorded in *Hansard*, exactly why someone put the grandstand on that side of the track when, during the afternoon, people will be looking directly into the sunlight. Will the stadium managers provide

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the fans with blackout and sunglasses when they sit in the stand in the afternoon to watch the track and field events?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will answer that and get Rob to go into further detail. The decision about where to place the grandstand was made before I came along but it was made for a reason. When I first saw it, I wondered why it was on that side too. The member for Albany, who used to run competitively, would have liked it to have been there when he was running the last lap as he was coming down the straight. The grandstand was put on that side for the benefit of the athletes. The athletes had a lot of input into putting the grandstand on that side to assist them in their times and general running conditions. The angle of the stand—Rob will go into this in more detail, because it is important—means that the problem with the sun is reasonably limited, although it will be a problem, as I understand, in the mid to late afternoon. The grandstand is a fantastic facility. The member for Balcatta was at the opening of it recently. I thought that it was great of the Premier to ask the member for Balcatta, as the former Minister for Sport and Recreation, to be part of the opening. One of the things I tried to get across the other day is that the stadium is for not only our elite athletes, but also everyone else. A lot of school athletics competitions will be held in the morning when the sun will not be an issue. One of the reasons for the shading on the other side of the stadium is to provide people with more protection from the sun. It is a wonderful facility. At the end of the day, it is about the athletes, in particular. The design of the stadium was met at their request.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Before the minister asks the agency representative to explain why it was done, I point out that the people who sit on the Roberts Road side of Subiaco Oval when the sun is going down can hardly see the players on the field. That was my concern with the placement of the grandstand. I understand what the minister has said about children using the stadium for school sports, but if we are to attract big events—I am told we are trying to get national championships—we want to make it user-friendly for spectators. We do not want people to leave the stadium and say that they could not see the finish of a race.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a fair point, and we want to attract big events. The great thing about having the facility is that we have been able to attract the 2010 Australian Athletics Championships, which is the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games and is the final selection for athletes to be eligible to compete in New Delhi. It is fantastic that Perth is getting that event. I congratulate the role of the previous government because it did a good job and it is good to see the stadium project come to fruition. I have seen the shading and believe that the maximum exposure where it will be a problem will be fairly limited. I will ask Rob to comment because he was involved in the technical side of it.

The CHAIRMAN: Just before Mr Didcoe commences, I reiterate the need for the questions and answers to be brief.

[9.40 am]

Mr R. Didcoe: The minister has already done an excellent job of answering that question for me. Significant work was done at the beginning of the project. The consultancy team undertook a sunshading study, which I am sure the member for Balcatta would be familiar with. Athletics WA has had significant input into the design of the stadium. All venues generally have some compromise. Obviously, lighting at the new stadium is a very important addition. Athletics WA is very keen to have a lot of its meets at night-time. The minister touched on a variety of the design issues. The roof was extended to maximise that sunshading. I am not sure whether I can add much more than what the minister has already provided.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will make one final point. There is also lighting for night-time events, which is something that I forgot to mention.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: For those people who have not been athletes, such as the minister, the member for Albany and I, can the minister explain why the stadium needs to be on the other side of the grounds because of headwinds and tailwinds?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am no sports scientist so I may ask Ron to answer that question. One of the issues at Perry Lakes was that when the Fremantle doctor came in, athletes were always running into strong winds. I will ask Ron to provide a bit more detail.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not sure which line item this subject specifically refers to, but I again remind members to be brief.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The question relates to page 556 of the *Budget Statements*.

Mr R. Alexander: There was great controversy about putting the grandstand on that side. The sport wanted it there to run with prevailing winds. We went to Athletics WA and Athletics Australia. As Mr Didcoe mentioned, lots of studies were done. For all the sports that they wanted to hold, they wanted to run and finish their events

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on that side. To mitigate that, there is a small grandstand on the other side of the centre and a range of shade cloth for members of Little Athletics and others who wish to sit there. There is a 12-lane track on the eastern side and a 12-lane track on the western side, so both sides of the ground can be used. Steve Hooker was present at the opening. He is completely rapt with it because he can pole vault from three different directions as provision has been made for that. The track has been made to the requirements of Athletics WA and Athletics Australia.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I wish to follow up on the same item that the member for South Perth raised on page 596, the AK Reserve. Can the minister indicate how the three components are going in terms of cost? We talked about athletics and whether it was on budget, how the basketball stadium is going according to budget and, finally, how things are going with rugby in terms of budget and completion times.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: I have a further question relating to that. Could the minister provide us with information on the integrated management practices at the stadium?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That falls under the Sports Centre Trust but I can touch on it. The State Athletics Stadium was delivered on time and on budget. Including all the fees and planning et cetera, the total came to \$32 million. The actual stadium cost \$28 million to build but with the other costs, the total came to \$32 million. The first event at that stadium will be held today. The basketball stadium, which comprises eight courts and 2 000 seats, is budgeted at \$40 million. It is on target and due to be opened around October or November this year. The budget for the rugby facility is \$20 million. The plans are being finalised and it is due to commence in 2010.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Because of difficulties deciding where it would be built, it was doubted whether the rugby facility could be built for \$20 million. Is the minister confident that something will be built that will be adequate for rugby and that it can be built for \$20 million? Which land will it be built on?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The original site was on the southern side of the main centre but due to problems underneath the soil—it used to be a rubbish tip or something like that—it would be a huge cost to build there. The decision was made to utilise the land west of the new basketball stadium. There are some confines with the land. There are also issues with bushland that cannot be touched et cetera. With the facility being put forward and rugby heavily involved in this, we are confident that the building will meet the needs. I looked at the designs the other day. It will be a fantastic centre for rugby. There will be space for teams to do some of their training, but not their whole training because the space is limited. Negotiations are occurring with the University of Western Australia for teams to utilise UWA fields for full training. A lot of the exercises can be done opposite the actual centre.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The original designs were for the rugby training centre and administration space but also facilities that would go with the playing fields. If there is no longer a playing field, what are the new guidelines or criteria for the design?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I may ask Rob to comment on this further. I understand that the rugby building will fit in well with where the training area will be. I am not sure of the size of it but teams will be able to practice line-outs and that type of thing.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The point I am getting at is that the previous design allowed for facilities for seating to watch games and bar facilities. Clearly, if there is no playing field, those aspects are not needed.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will throw to Rob to provide the detail of the latest scoping.

Mr R. Didcoe: After undertaking the value management exercise when the problems with the tip site were paramount, the priority for rugby is its administration space. The facility is primarily an administration building with a large indoor area where Western Force will be able to undertake indoor training. As the minister said, the team will still be able to use the grassed area alongside that facility for some of its training activities. I am sure that discussions will also be held with VenuesWest about using the infield of the athletics stadium when it needs to.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer to the line item “People Development in Sport and Recreation” on page 595 of the *Budget Statements*. The minister has probably looked at this great report entitled “Review of Sport and Recreation in Regional Western Australia” by Peter Watson, MLA. One of the main issues in that report related to staff in regional areas not being fully supported. For instance, housing is not being provided to keep staff in regional areas. A lot of the staff have to pay for accommodation as no houses are provided. One of the outcomes was that staff will be provided with housing, more support staff will be appointed in regional areas and more autonomy will be given to make decisions instead of decisions being made in Perth. The people in the regions wanted staff to make decisions on funding and things like that. Has any money been put aside for the Department of Sport and Recreation to carry out these criteria?

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: There is \$4.9 million in the budget for regional administration.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Has that increased?

[9.50 am]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think that is similar to what was there the year before. I will confirm that. Housing is a huge issue, not just for the Department of Sport and Recreation but also for police, nurses, teachers et cetera. We are trying to address that problem across government. I am not aware of any allocation in the budget for housing. One of the things we are trying to do—the member made a very good point—through our regional officers, who do a fantastic job, is encourage and employ more local people. We want to employ more local people because they understand the issues in the area, what is required or not, and they know the people.

The other issue the member raised relates to housing, particularly up north. It is difficult, firstly, to attract people and, secondly, to provide housing to keep them there. If we can recruit more local people into our local sport offices, that will help the situation. I am encouraging that. I take the member's point about housing. The member mentioned the royalties for regions scheme. One of the things that scheme is doing—outside of Sport and Recreation—is investing money in housing in regional Western Australia. One of the things that the government is trying to do is not to overcapitalise its housing stock by having big houses with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. The government wants quality, affordable housing. This is so the government can afford the cost of building, but also it can be built in a reasonable amount of time so we can help alleviate the very problem that the member for Albany has raised.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The royalties for regions scheme is a tremendous concept, and I applaud the minister. I also applaud the tremendous work that is done by Sport and Recreation officers in the regions; however, they are terribly understaffed and underfunded. I am a great believer in sport and rec. There should be more money in Sport and Recreation than in Health—not really!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It would be good, though.

Mr P.B. WATSON: We have to look at prevention, and sport and recreation is part of that. If sport and rec officers, who are working their arses off in country areas, do not get this support and some autonomy, they are wasting their time. Everything is going through Big Brother in Perth. We have tremendous people working in the regions, but they are not getting support from the government. That is not through the Department of Sport and Recreation; it is the government not funding sport and recreation.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member for Albany makes a fair point. If the member has been listening to what I have been saying over the past eight months, one of the things I say to sport and recreation groups is that governments of all persuasions over the years have underestimated the value of sport and recreation.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I agree.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We all like to talk about sport and recreation and say how great it is, but when it comes to the crunch, it is always hard to get extra money. I am sure that was a challenge for the previous minister, and it is a challenge for me, within government, to get all of government to understand the great importance of sport and recreation. The member for Albany referred to the health budget. One of the great things is that we can utilise sport and recreation as a preventive measure. The member for Albany and I have talked about the social aspects of sport and recreation. We often talk about the health benefits from sport and recreation, but less emphasis is placed on the social and leadership opportunities that sport and recreation create in our communities. Since 2004-05, across government, sport and recreation funding has increased by about 11 per cent, when the CPI increase over that time has been 16 per cent. I am not arguing with the member; I agree with him. The department has still been able to deliver very well. I agree that we need to give local officers as much support as we can. However, there is a limit in any budget. The Department of Sport and Recreation, as the former minister would know, has to utilise its funding as best it can. I agree with the member for Albany that country officers are doing a fantastic job, and they are placed under stress and pressure at times; I understand that. That is one of the reasons I want to encourage them.

We have a lot of good people in the community, and I want to encourage them to get involved in sport and recreation so we can employ them locally. That will make it easier for us. The member for Albany also referred to local decision making. I agree with that 100 per cent. The royalties for regions scheme is based on local decision making. We are getting decisions made locally. In my eight years in Parliament I have seen, not only in sport and recreation, but across government, decisions made with the best intentions; however, if they had consulted locally and had someone local, such as a local member who was more involved in the area, they could have better utilised that money. That would have been better value for the taxpayer with a better outcome for the community.

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The CHAIRMAN: I remind members that this is not a royalties for regions discussion; this is about the sport and recreation budget.

Mr P.B. WATSON: If the minister thinks that people up north are going to work for sport and rec and live in the town, he is joking! They are going to be working in the mines or anything else up there. Is the minister telling me that there is no extra money in the budget to improve the working conditions of Sport and Recreation officers?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are doing a couple of things.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Can the minister confirm that there is no extra money in the budget? It appears to be similar to last year's allocation.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is similar to last year.

Mr P.B. WATSON: There is no extra money to look after the staff of the Department of Sport and Recreation in regional offices.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If the member gives me a minute, I will tell him a couple of the things that the government is doing. Videoconferencing facilities are being set up for all regional offices.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Most have that now!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a great method. We will see more of this, particularly with the high cost of fuel and travel. This is a more efficient utilisation of people's time. There is a limit to the number of people the department can employ, and this will ensure more efficient utilisation of their time and will take some of the stress off them. One of the ways to do this is in the use of videoconferencing. We also have incentives for training, as well as the club development officers through local government.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is a great scheme.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That scheme has been increased this year. The program currently has 17 officers, and it is being extended because of its success. Things are being done to assist our regional officers.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer the minister to page 600 of the *Budget Statements* and the subheading "Income", and a recent statement in the press about sports betting at the Totalisator Agency Board. What is sport and rec's percentage of the profits out of that new sports betting system?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Sport and rec gets funding from sports wagering, but that does not appear in our budget.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Where does it appear?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Sports wagering stays with the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, which awards money to sport and rec.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Where is it shown in the budget?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It does not appear in our budget.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It must be somewhere.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is under the Gaming and Wagering commission—the figure is just over \$2 million.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It must go somewhere. It is not like royalties for regions, is it, which has \$250 million, and no-one knows where it is going?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am still not clear. The minister said that \$2 million has been allocated and that would possibly come out of sports betting. Where does it go?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: As I understand it—I do not have the figure right here—just over \$2 million available to the Department of Sport and Recreation. That funds programs such as the club development program. It comes in and runs those programs. I do not know where it is shown, or whether it is under something else.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Can the minister detail all of the money for 2008-09 that came from the sports betting fund, and how much is anticipated for 2009-10?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If the member for Balcatta puts that on notice, I will answer that.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Why not provide the information by way of supplementary information?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If the member puts it on notice, I will probably get it to him sooner.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The 2008-09 budget allocated almost \$77 million for the major stadium and Subiaco.

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Mr T.K. WALDRON: What page, member for Balcatta?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It was in last year's budget; it is not in this year's budget. How much of that \$77 million was spent or will be spent in 2008-09? Has any land been purchased as part of that program?

[10.00 am]

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I could run through this, but I will make a general comment, and then get Ron or Alex to give the accurate figures for the years. As the member will know, we have deferred the new stadium for two years. I have asked for a structural assessment of Subiaco Oval, because I want to ensure that whatever happens in the future, whether there is a new stadium or not, we make sure of the soundness and safety of Subiaco Oval. There are two stages: the first has been completed and we are still undertaking the second. I have not got the final report, but initial information indicates that the structure of Subiaco Oval is safe. Some small parts of it may need attention, which we, together with the West Australian Football Commission, want to make sure happens.

Mr R. Alexander: At the deferral date, we employed seven staff members, three of whom were able to be absorbed and four of whom were required for ongoing work, particularly with stadiums work, such as Members Equity Stadium and such projects. In 2007-08, we spent \$291 000 on staffing, \$21 000 on accommodation, \$536 000 on planning, consultants and contracts, and \$150 000 on overheads, making a total of \$998 000. In 2008-09, we spent \$616 000 on staffing, \$243 000 on accommodation, \$527 000 on planning contracts and consultants, and \$237 000 on overheads, making a total of \$1 616 000. In 2010, in the forward estimates, there is \$500 000 mainly for the remaining four staff members. They are currently working on areas such as what to do with rectangular stadiums.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The second part of the question was: was any land actually purchased?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, not that I am aware of.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Given that the minister has deferred the decision for four years —

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The deferred decision is for two years.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I thank the minister. That means that current landowners are in limbo and do not know whether they will have their properties acquired by government. How will the minister handle that issue?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We have been in touch with the landowners and they have been written to on this matter. I acknowledge the fact that the situation places them in limbo. However, when we came to government and faced the change in financial circumstances, I think most people would have liked to see the stadium go ahead, although some may not have. It would have been great to have a brand-new stadium—and a rectangular stadium. I heard the opposition spokesman saying on radio that had the Labor Party been in power, it would have built the new stadium, and it would have been a rectangular stadium. Had he thought again, he probably would not have said that, because I am sure he would have been a bit more responsible than that. We face changing economic times. I do not want to use that as an excuse, but it is the reality. As the Minister for Sport and Recreation in this government, I want to make sure that what we deliver, we do in a financially responsible and practical way. I wanted to make that point.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I accept that, but does the minister know by how much the government has increased recurrent expenditure across the whole of government since it came to government?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am sure the member can tell me.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: It is over 20 per cent, so the government is not short of money.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think time will tell on that one.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: I refer to page 597 of the *Budget Statements*. As I am the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering, could the minister tell me how the government is supporting the huge number of volunteers who are underpinning the delivery of sport and recreation in the state?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: That is a good question. I think that everyone would acknowledge the great role that volunteers play in Western Australia, not only in sport and recreation, but also across a number of fields. To give the parliamentary secretary some pointers, we are investing over \$10 million and 25 full-time equivalents in initiatives to support volunteers, which is extremely important. It is one thing to gain volunteers. Probably the mistake that some of us have made in the past is that we think that Bluey Smith will be there forever. We must make sure that we look after Bluey Smith and all those people who help. There are initiatives, and Ron might like to enlarge on that. As I have mentioned, we have extended investment over the next three years in the club development scheme, which partners 33 local governments. There are 17 FTEs in that at the moment, and we are looking to increase that number. They are to help volunteers working with sporting clubs. One of the issues that I

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found when I was managing country football for many years was the turnover of people in administration in clubs. We need to keep assisting clubs to help them with finance and management; for example, where to go to get grants, the best system to run the club, their constitution and a whole range of things. That is why I think the club development scheme is a fantastic initiative and why I want to keep pursuing it as much as I possibly can.

We also invest in the development of volunteer coaches and officials because coaching and officialdom is important in sport. In the late 1990s when Hon Norman Moore was minister, Grant Dorrington of the West Australian Football Commission and I were involved in the initial set up of the country sport enrichment scheme. The country sport enrichment scheme is about taking high-level sport to country WA, such as the Wildcats, WAFL teams and so on. However, it is not just for the game of football. Many other things go with it. One is to assist in the local league or local association making money on the event, so that it will assist with volunteers and the running of the club. It also provides development work for players, coaching courses from high-level players and meetings between local referees. That high level of sport goes out and lifts the whole level of sport in that area. It goes right across from administrators to trainers and so on. I will not go on about volunteers; however, they are the backbone of sport and recreation. We need to make sure we keep investing in them. I think we are doing it well, but we need to keep challenging ourselves. If there is an area in which we are not doing well, I am happy for members to highlight that to me so that we can try to do it better.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Page 603 of the *Budget Statements* makes reference to the Logue Brook recreation offset account. There have been some changes in policy and the \$10 million has been withdrawn. Will there be any compensation for shires in that region that spent a lot of money putting together projects with the view that the \$10 million would be available, because now those shires are out of pocket?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think my short answer to that is no. I will talk about Logue Brook. I am not aware of any compensation being considered at all. I think that government makes decisions in the best interests of people. People are always open to try to pursue compensation, but it has not been mentioned to me before and I have not considered it. The decision on Logue Brook was made and the \$10 million that was allocated was returned. However, we retained the interest on that money to do the southern Darling Range study, which will look at water use for sport and recreation right across that south west and Darling Range region. Water sports and recreation are huge and important. I was recently in Singapore where people recreate all the time on water that is utilised and recycled. I think we have a fair way to go on that. That is why I am glad the government allowed us to keep the interest so that we could do that southern Darling Range study.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I can see no item referring to the Premier's Physical Activity Taskforce, but can the minister tell us how much will be allocated or spent by the task force in 2008-09, and what is the allocation for 2009-10?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think the total amount allocated this year is \$740 000. I am not quite sure where that appears in the budget, but I will get advice on that. In the financial year 2008-09, it was \$910 000 and in 2009-10 it is \$740 000.

[10.10 am]

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: How much is being spent in 2008-09?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is \$910 000. That is including the rent at Dumas House. We have made some changes to the Physical Activity Taskforce. Would the member like me to go through those?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: That would be good, minister, particularly relating to how much input is coming from the government and, therefore, what the output is likely to be.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: When the Physical Activity Taskforce was established by the Gallop Labor government, I applauded it. I thought it was a good move. It did some really good things to start with. However, I have to say that it seemed to fall away a bit in the support that it got from the previous government, and its direction seemed to get away from what it should be doing.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: We did increase the budget.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is one thing to increase the budget; it is another thing to deliver what we want the Physical Activity Taskforce to do. I support it. I am not knocking it. It is a good initiative. What I found was that the Physical Activity Taskforce was perhaps pursuing projects itself rather than focusing on a coordination role between departments, particularly health, education and police. Those departments actually contribute money toward the program. When we looked at the outcomes and the costs et cetera, we made the decision to locate the Physical Activity Taskforce back into the Department of Sport and Recreation. That will result in a saving on the rental that is being paid at Dumas House, and that will take pressure off the budget and allow that money to be

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used for what I believe it should be used for. I have also taken over the chairmanship of the Physical Activity Taskforce, so in that way also we are aligning it more closely with the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is the minister the “before” or “after” in the physical activity advertisement?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I think I am in a holding pattern, but I am trying hard, member!

I have always thought that sport and recreation and health go hand in hand. We have appointed Mr Tarun Weeramanthri, who is one of the senior people in health, to be my deputy on the Physical Activity Taskforce. We have done that because we see some opportunities for the Physical Activity Taskforce going forward to align more closely with health and drive what the Physical Activity Taskforce is meant to be doing; that is, delivering across government and across agencies better physical outcomes for people, and to get those departments and agencies to actually deliver that message and the outcomes themselves. I think we were trying to do too much ourselves, without using that network in the way in which, as I understand it, it was originally set up to be used. I am very confident about that new focus. The Physical Activity Taskforce also has a new manager, Jo Davies. Jo has been involved in sport and recreation for many years. She is a very credible lady, and I have had a lot to do with her over the years. She will give it a new focus and a whole new drive. I am very excited about that.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: She is very good. She is an East Perth supporter!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: She used to be on the junior council there, I think. So that is why the member and Ron Alexander get on so well!

The appropriation was recommended.