

**LOWER SOUTH WEST FOOTBALL LEAGUE GRAND FINAL**

*Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood*

**MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.53 pm]: On Sunday, 11 September, the Lower South West Football League grand final was played at the Pemberton recreation ground before a crowd of 3 000 people in sunny conditions. It was a magnificent spectacle, with the farmland and forest as a background. The oval was in perfect condition and the new clubrooms are a credit to the local community. It is now history that the local Southerners Football Club was victorious in the league and the seconds and that the Manjimup Tigers won the grand final in the thirds.

There was great speculation about whether the Southerners could withstand the surge of the Bridgetown Bulldogs into the grand final under the stewardship of All-Australian champion, Peter Matera. The result was in doubt until midway through the last quarter when the Southerner's champion little man, Aaron Camozzi, kicked his fifth goal, which was his eighth for the finals. The double premiership to the Southerners now places beyond doubt the status of the club as the most successful in the lower south west. The club's league side won the grand final in 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2000 and 2005, which is an interesting sequence. The club has won 51 grand finals in three grades since the league's inception in 1959. The club has now won 15 grand finals in the league, 21 grand finals in the reserves and 15 grand finals in the colts. The celebrations culminated last Saturday with a presentation night and the awarding of life memberships to club stalwarts Denis Barnsby and Vicki Omodei. Credit is due to the Lower South West Football League for organising yet another exciting grand final played in the true spirit of our great Australian game.