

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

518. Ms C.M. COLLINS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's successful delivery of five FIFA Women's World Cup matches in Perth.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government will support major sporting events, such as the FIFA Women's World Cup, by strengthening its investment in sporting infrastructure and community sports?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how Western Australians can support the Matildas in tonight's semifinal?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1)–(2) Yes, I can. If my maths from Northam Senior High School is right, I reckon it is about three hours and 45 minutes before the big kick-off takes place and we will see the magnificent Matildas take on England. We are all behind them and hope they will be successful tonight and go on to the final against Spain later this week. As the Deputy Premier said, all of Australia is behind them. It is a tremendous achievement for all the host cities, including those in the eastern states and Auckland in New Zealand, that hosted the preliminaries, the elimination series and, now, the finals. We have done very, very well in Perth. There were great numbers at what was called, during FIFA, the round stadium—sorry, not round; the rectangular stadium! It is not round; it is rectangular. I am an expert in sport; ask me anything! We had nearly sell-out crowds, with more than 85 000 people going to those five games. We had tremendous attendances, so we played our part.

To answer the last part of the question, if people want to come out tonight, we really encourage them to do so. People can go to the rectangular stadium, or HBF Stadium as we can now call it again. Gates 1 and 4 will open at five o'clock. People can bring their picnic rugs. They can bring whatever they like, except chairs.

Ms R. Saffioti: And no footballs.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They cannot bring footballs either. That is about all. Food and beverages will be available. It is going to be great if people want to go there. We expect a few thousand people to turn up. The Fan Festival experience, which has been operating out of Forrest Place for the last couple of weeks during the preliminary games, has been hugely successful. The Deputy Premier has been down there nearly every night! The piazza in Northbridge will also show the game on the big screen. Get down and support them. I am very appreciative of my very good friend the manager of opposition business; we contrived last night that the house will adjourn at six tonight, because we knew that the member for Cottesloe, who is handling private members' business, was probably not going to have much of an audience if it went past six. We will also be glued to our screens.

What has this done for football in Western Australia? Of course, there has been a huge investment in HBF Stadium to upgrade it to FIFA standard. That will be a great legacy for future matches of all codes that might be played at the rectangular stadium. As the member would be well aware, we built and opened the Football Centre in the Cannington electorate. That was a \$46 million investment in football. It means that, after all these years, football finally has a home. That is a tremendous achievement that was committed to by this government. That will be a great legacy for the future. We also upgraded a whole range of facilities across the metropolitan area, including Dorrien Gardens, Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex and Percy Doyle Reserve. I know the facility in the member for Landsdale's electorate received \$2.7 million for upgrades. Of course, Denmark was quartered there during the preliminaries. As the member would also know, we have increased the community sporting and recreation facilities fund—a \$7.5 million increase in the last budget to make it \$20 million a year.

Ms L. Mettam: Like it was before!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is wrong with you? Have you been sucking on those lemons again? You have, haven't you! You got up this morning, went to the fruit bowl and got one out! Why don't you join in the exaltation of this experience? Why do you criticise great things like \$20 million each year for the CSRFF? Why are you complaining about that? You really do need to get into the spirit of being a Western Australian and supporting Western Australia rather than being so negative. All you do is come in here with a glum look on your face. It is sad.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: This unbridled attack on the member for Vasse is irrelevant to the question and I ask that the minister be brought back to answering the question at hand.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you for the point of order, which, members, I will rule on. The issue here is that the opposition member interjected a number of times and the minister has responded, albeit robustly. Minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I do not know why the member for Vasse is so anti the investment in female sport. That is what we have done: we have invested hugely in female sport so that more girls and young women can play the codes they want to play and get out there and be active. That is what we have done, and we will keep doing it. Even if you keep criticising, we will keep doing it—keep criticising, we will keep doing it; keep criticising, we will keep doing it! All I can say is that we are very proud of the legacy that we will leave as part of being a host city for the FIFA Women's World Cup. Girls and young women will now have access to far more great facilities than they have ever had because of the investment by this government and because we believe that sport is for all and sport should be made available to everybody. We will keep investing money, as we have with legacy items, and as we have with the additional money to the community sporting and recreation facilities fund.

Go the Matildas! We want to see them win. We want to see them win tonight and we want to see them go on to win the world cup!