

**AGRICULTURAL REGION — SPORT FINALS AND AGRICULTURAL SHOWS**

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**HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary)** [9.50 pm]: We are moving through the Noongar season of Djilba and approaching the more traditional English season of spring. I think Djilba is a better description of this time of year in the Agricultural Region, where there is a lot of activity. We are waking from the winter cool and so much is going on. I thought I would have a chat to the house to let everybody know that it is winter sport finals season for football, the other football that is very topical at the moment—go the Matildas tomorrow night!—netball, hockey and, of course, golf. A lot of sporting clubs in the wheatbelt in the Agricultural Region are small and rely on a small but enthusiastic band of volunteers to make winter sport possible. As we approach the finals, I take this opportunity to wish all the teams that make the finals all the best. How lucky it is to play in the finals; it takes a sustained effort across the season to do that. I wish them all well, but I give a big shout-out to all the volunteers, officials and sponsors who make football and other winter sports possible, the players and the supporters who come through the gate every week to cheer their team on. It takes a huge community effort to hold winter sports. It is important that we remember from time to time the amount of effort that goes in and encourage people to go have a look.

Agricultural show season is about to begin in the wheatbelt. The Beverley Show is on this weekend; it is a great opportunity for people to venture out of the city to look at a regional show. The Royal Agricultural Society of WA website has a list of when and where the shows are, so there is no reason for people to not come out to have a look at one. Again, thousands of volunteer hours go into putting on agricultural shows, whether they be in York, Koorda, Chapman Valley or Esperance. There are shows right across the state, which culminate in the Perth Royal Show in the city in September, which is supported by the state government with subsidised tickets and a lot of free entries. It is a great opportunity for metropolitan people to have a little taste of the country. With the greatest respect to the Perth Royal Show, our little shows out in the country have cooking competitions, chicken judging and the “best fleece” competition, which are put together by volunteers. They attract enthusiastic entrants who go out of their way and a lot of sponsors, judges and show-goers themselves. Members should take the opportunity to come out and look at what is going on in the Agricultural Region. The canola is out. The season has been a bit patchy, but where the crops are good, they are really good. Canola is chest height in certain areas. Do not walk out in the canola crops; just get a picture of them. It is a great time to come out and see what we have got going on in the agricultural region. Come and support our local businesses and take a bit of time to see us at our best. You will be really glad you did.

Again, I thank all the volunteers who put in so much effort to make all the events in the Agricultural Region so great.

*House adjourned at 9.53 pm*

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