

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT — GOVERNANCE

704. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the wholesale changes to the board of the Western Australian Institute of Sport and the Premier's comments that a new broom needs to go through WAIS, and other references to more government control of WAIS.

- (1) What does the minister intend to do to ensure better governance than he has overseen in recent years, given the Sport Integrity Australia report that came out about 18 months ago?
- (2) What is the minister doing to reassure those from the former gymnastics program that some action will occur in the near future?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1)–(2) As the member very well knows, the Western Australian Institute of Sport is now back on track. We have a new board headed by Dr Neale Fong. Already, he and his board have focused on the key elements of change that need to occur. The Premier is absolutely right that that is required. I am very confident that with Dr Fong as the chair and with the new board that is in place we will get a strongly focused WAIS that will deliver the restorative issues with regard to the gymnasts. I met with a gymnast representative only a week and a half ago and reassured the representative that that will be a key focus of the board. The board has moved very swiftly to focus on improved governance, and the experience of two additional board members, announced only earlier this week or late last week, will ensure that the governance structure of the board will be very strong. I committed to ensure that Dr Fong and the board will have all the support of government to put in place the structural changes that are required so that when we come out of this process, WAIS will be the strong, high-performance entity that we want it to be and that athletes in the high-performance programs delivered through WAIS will be well supported and well resourced. As we know, the Paris Olympic Games is coming upon us next year, followed by the Commonwealth Games and, of course, the 2032 Olympic Games to be held in Brisbane, Australia. We have acted very, very quickly. I am very confident about where WAIS is now. I know that those newly appointed board members and the chair are working very, very hard to make sure that WAIS is even stronger and will deliver the outcomes that we expect of it.