Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 13 September 2023] p4542b-4542b Mr Peter Rundle; Mr David Templeman

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT — GOVERNANCE

617. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

I have a supplementary question. Noting recent history and the millions in funding handed to WAIS, what key performance indicators have been put in place to ensure that the minister's new board does not similarly combust?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

Just hold on, member. The member has some sort of premise. Let us remember that WAIS has produced some outstanding Australian and Western Australian athletes. That has not changed. If the member's criticism of WAIS is that it has failed to do that, I think he is absolutely wrong. In fact, in the Tokyo Olympics, I think that we had three gold medallists from Western Australia, and, of course, we have a recent champion who reached great heights in pole vaulting in the World Athletics Championships. This is not a criticism of staff. This is not a criticism of the psychologists, the trainers, the coaches and all those people. The operations of WAIS in delivering high-quality athletes has been tremendous. However, there are some governance issues that need to be addressed, including a consideration about the current arrangements and whether that entity should be a statutory body—whether it should come within the department or stay the same as an incorporated entity. It is timely for those considerations to be addressed, and I am very confident that the board that I have appointed will be focused on that, as well as ensuring that the restorative justice issues that impact the gymnasts are a priority.