

**COLLIE EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB**

*Statement by Member for Collie*

**MR MURRAY** (Collie) [12.57 pm]: I congratulate those people who have been involved in the formation of the Collie Eagles Football Club. Since 1961, Collie has had two football teams: the Mines Rovers Eagles and the Collie Football Club. The Mines Rovers Eagles team has been in existence for 98 years and the Collie Football Club was formed in 1961.

Over the years the clubs have been keen rivals, and they have both competed in the Southwest Football League. Mines Rovers won premierships in 1965, 1969, 1979 and 1997. The Collie Football Club won premierships in 1972 and 1987. Although winning the premiership was the ultimate aim, winning the local derby gave the winning team bragging rights for the season regardless of its position on the premiership ladder. In the lead-up to the derby, the town was full of rumours about who was injured and who was playing on whom. For the punters, it was rare to get odds of goals in; even money was the cry. With Davo and Dick as the bagmen for Collie and Stevo and Banger the front men for the Eagles, the odds were set and many dollars changed hands. The games were rugged affairs with no quarter given. Large crowds urged on their teams. The derbies were a spectacle and many instances on the field have become folklore, including the 60-metre kick after the siren that won a game and the right hook that missed but the force of wind knocked out three rovers who were running by. Who can forget the midweek scratch match that had to be called off before the game finished to stop the fighting? They are lasting memories that have now become history, as both clubs have closed their doors forever.

This has led to the formation of a new club called the Collie Eagles. The formation of the club has galvanised the town. Local businesses and the community strongly support the new team. Peter Rowe, who is the president of the new club, has ably led its formation. I congratulate all those people who have worked to achieve in a short time what some said would take years. I congratulate them on a job well done and wish the club the best of luck for the coming season.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*