

Division 34: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Services 19 to 21, Sport and Recreation, \$92 635 000 —

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Mr M.P. Murray, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr D.S. Ord, Director General.

Ms S. Sherdiwala, Chief Finance Officer.

Ms N. Johnson, Director, Strategic Policy and Investment.

Mr S. Humfrey, Director, Sport and Recreation Development.

Mr R. Thomson, Director, Sport and Recreation Infrastructure.

Ms E. Ramage, Chief of Staff, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: The member for South Perth has the first question.

[7.50 pm]

Mr J.E. McGRATH: My first question is a bit of a machinery-of-government question. I refer to services 19 and 20 on page 483 of the *Budget Statements*. Looking at the budget, service 19 lists 41 full-time equivalents for 2017–18 and 41 for 2019–20. Likewise, service 20 lists 66 full-time equivalents for 2017–18 and 66 for 2019–20. Can the minister please advise how many of those full-time equivalents for 2017–18 contained in services 19 and 20 were made redundant in 2017–18?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will defer to the director general. It is an operating issue.

Mr D.S. Ord: The reductions were factored in the budget for 2017–18; however, I can inform the member that there were 10 FTEs processed through the voluntary separation scheme in that financial year.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: How many of the 107 FTEs attributed to services 19 and 20 provide direct services to the sport and recreation sector?

Mr D.S. Ord: They are related to those delivery items, so they do not include our corporate services and other roles. These are direct frontline staff for delivering services such as infrastructure, programs, grant programs, policy development and regional services.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: How many full-time equivalents have been directed to non-sport and recreation activities? How many people out of sport and recreation are being directed to activities not related to sport and recreation?

Mr D.S. Ord: The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is a single department now and I, as director general, am the accountable and employing authority for the agency. As such, I have a broad staff establishment that services the whole agency's needs, and staff move between divisions on an as-needs basis. To give an example, we have a communications team. It is deployed on doing a large amount of work in sport and recreation. It was brought together from communication staff from right across the agency. Because of sport and recreation's public-facing nature, it uses more of those services, for instance, than racing, gaming and liquor might. At times, we might deploy those resources to promote various services we offer as a whole agency across local government. The whole intent of the machinery-of-government changes is to effectively and efficiently use the resources available to me. Specialised staff who were previously within agencies as regulators or, in the case of sport and recreation, as frontline sport and recreation staff, have stayed dedicated to that task, but there are more staff who undertake roles on a general deployment across the agency as required.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Can the minister state to the sporting sector out there that there has been no diminution of effort or people power in the department to sport and recreation because of the machinery-of-government changes, so there are not sport and recreation people who might have been normally just working in that area now doing other work, which might mean that sport and recreation does not get the attention it might have got before?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The changes have happened for the positive in order to be able to have more resources at our call, because staff can move from one section to the other, as the director general has said. It is very important to understand that. No longer are staff standalone as such; they are part of a group that works together. There is absolutely no decrease in the amount of work that is going on. Quite honestly, the work coming out now is of a far higher quality and there is far more work done than previously, when we were probably a bit distanced from the workings of government. Now the sport and recreation area is a part of the workings of government. We are making sure that we use everyone and people are not just doing part-time jobs. We are using every person possible to make sure we get the work out. I believe the department is now running very well and we are very keen to further some of the programs we are putting in place. Having said that, I will now defer to the director general.

Mr D.S. Ord: To try to give confidence to the member, we report through our annual reporting on outcomes of the agency, and the performance indicators in the budget papers are indications of our key performance indicators, which I guess are Parliament's measure of outputs, successes and so on in the agency. Those outcome measures are tracking as they were prior to the machinery-of-government changes. We are distributing a record sum of funding in terms of grant programs at the moment, and we have delivered a significant set of election commitments with less overall use of taxpayers' funds on administrative costs. We have significantly increased the efficiency of the agency. We have found through our survey instruments that the sport and recreation community's response has been overwhelmingly positive. We have been heavily engaged in a lot of policy reform and the sector has been responding very well to that. I am confident that we are deploying our resources in support of the objectives of Parliament in delivering the service.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will just add that something that shows we are working well are some of the results of surveys that have been done. There was a 90 per cent approval rating from people who used the services. Knowing that some of those sporting people are pretty hard to please at times, I think 90 per cent is a very, very good rate.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: It might be like the surveys done before the federal election! The reason for this question is that, as shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, when I look at the significant issues impacting the agency, I see there are 23 issues, and only four refer to sport and recreation. This minister is the current Minister for Sport and Recreation. There seems to be a diverted focus to arts and culture, and we are here now talking about sport and recreation. Is the minister confident that more attention is not being paid to the arts and culture sector than there is to sport and recreation?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I tell the member without any doubt that we are getting our fair share. The member has just heard the director general say we are having record outputs of funding into different areas. Some of it is targeted differently these days. It is not a nod, wink and a handshake anymore. The recipient has to prove they are capable of handling the funding. They have to have something that I am very proud of, which is a sinking fund—so once they have their facility up and running, they are able to put the money into it to make sure they are sustainable into the future. That is something that previously has been missing. The member may have mentioned the federal government, but we will not drop money to some soccer club because a mate leaned on a mate, which we saw. We saw \$3 million being parachuted in by someone virtually unknown in the political world. We are not going to have that. We are now putting in place processes. People will be rewarded for the work that they do to encourage people into the lower down sports—I am not talking about the top end—and making sure that kids have an opportunity to be out there participating. But to say we are running second to arts and culture is certainly not the case.

[8.00 pm]

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: Greetings, minister. I refer to page 484, under service 21, "Works in Progress" and "Completed Works". Have any funds been allocated to the upgrade of the training facilities and ablution blocks at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground, the WACA?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The quite simple answer is no.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I thank the minister. Can an explanation please be given, as these facilities are very outdated and antiquated and in need of repair? I had the privilege of touring that facility with the minister and the member for South Perth, and saw that firsthand.

The CHAIR: Member, all they need is a bit of sandpaper, as I understand it!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That should be in "Inside Cover"!

What is down there, in what I would say is a very affluent area, is very disappointing, to say the least. No sinking fund was put aside over all those years that it has been there. They were probably focusing on some of those very good cricketers who come out of that area. I think the furniture could be sold for quite a high price, because it is certainly antique. It was pretty average. The department has now to some degree allocated funding so that it can put a plan forward, come back and go through the normal channels of the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. It has been looked after in the first area. To look at it is one thing, but we are not going to put out funding in that area without a business case or a plan. It is up to the club and the council to work through that. It was great to see the number of councillors who were there for that day. It was the first time I had been to that ground; it is very picturesque. I am sure the member for South Perth would have loved to have hit a six on that ground, but I do not think he hit one on any ground! In saying that, seriously, we are trying to assist the department to get a business case put forward.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Looking at the support that Bill Shorten was forthcoming with for the WACA, is there any intent from the state government to assist with the redevelopment of the WACA?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: At this stage, there will be no funding coming straightaway from the state government. Maybe there will be in the future, if the current federal government wants to put its hand in its pocket and look at what we are doing. It did not do so before the election, so I assume those cricketers who voted for the other side

Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Mr Peter Rundle; Chair; Mr Matthew Hughes

will be kicking themselves saying, “We haven’t got that facility.” In all seriousness, it is a very large project and will need substantial federal funding before the state can even look at it.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: If there is some funding from the federal government, will the state government support the WACA?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: At this stage, funding would still have to go under the federal government for the state to fund it. We would have to have the whole lot—businesses cases, planning and all approvals would have to be done—before we would even look at it. Just remember that we have picked up a very poor set of books and it is my personal view, and I think the view of my colleagues as well, that things such as hospitals and schools will come before the WACA.

The CHAIR: Members, can I just remind you to keep your questions to the budget and not engage in speculation.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 488, and the line item “Regional Athlete Support Program” about two-thirds of the way down the table. It shows that that program is finishing in 2019–20. As a regional member of Parliament, the minister would have enjoyed seeing many talented young regional athletes develop through this program. Has the minister lobbied for this program to remain funded?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The member is absolutely hitting the nail on the head talking about regional athletes. Anyone would know my opinions on allowing every child or young person to compete at the highest level or at least get coaching at the highest level. With that funding, \$3 million over three years, the government remains committed to supporting the regional program and will help people move along. That funding will continue to support statewide regional sporting academies, including an allocation for travel subsidies. This is one of the things that people have forgotten a little: we now have the academies, which has taken out some of the onerous work for parents who had to bring kids to the city. I was one of them at one time—my wife was, I must say—getting up at four o’clock in the morning and taking the kids to training at six o’clock at the hockey or football stadium or wherever, but now they can go to their nearest regional area and have a very high level of training and support. It is great to see in state teams some of those people who have come through the great southern, Geraldton and south west academies. I would say to the member: am I lobbying? No; I am guaranteeing that there will be money.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister is fully supporting the program but not funding it in the forward estimates. Is he talking to the Minister for Regional Development or someone else to help create a pathway for young regional athletes?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We will, with a slight change of direction. The funding will be reviewed and we will be working very hard to continue the relationship with the WA Institute of Sport so that there is a flow-on in that area. That will take some funding and it will be funded.

[8.10 pm]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Will any other form of support be offered to regional athletes looking to represent their region, state or country in their chosen sport?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: There is, but I am concerned about where the member is headed with this question. We will not be coming out and saying that every kid will get X amount. We have to work through an identified talent stream and there is funding in this area already. However, I will hand the question over to the director general to answer from the technical side.

Mr D.S. Ord: Under rules established by the previous government, programs funded by RforR were automatically “sunsetting” with particular periods. They are included in the forward estimates as originally appropriated. Under Treasury rules, we must evaluate that program. The minister has said that the program will be reviewed and we will do that evaluation. Once that evaluation is complete, and when those funds lapse, which will be in the next budget period, we will be able to submit an ongoing period for the program. As the minister indicated, that is the period in which enhancements to the program will change, based on performance. Those programs will be identified, subject to a pretty rigorous assessment of both outcomes and efficiency. We are very confident that this program will come out as a significantly successful and important program, sustaining regional athletes at an elite level. In addition, we give athletic supports for a range of other programs. I am sure that my colleague behind me can provide some further information on that, if the minister would like to direct.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I defer.

Mr S. Humfrey: A regional athlete travel support program is run through two rounds a year. That is open for children generally above 13 years of age, because there are high performance requirements for that. That is partly to recognise travel to compete at what is registered and recognised as a pathway program, generally at a national or international level. In addition, we work within our regional offices to provide local support for funding for clubs and pathway performance through state sporting associations.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I note that page 468 refers to regional programs.

The CHAIR: That sounds like a new question.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: It is about this. Why did sport and rec not get the same equivalent of \$20 million over four years that was given to arts and culture for regional investment? Is the Minister for Sport and Recreation disappointed that he did not get the equivalent for his portfolio?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I would like to go back. The previous government —

Mr J.E. McGRATH: You cannot blame us for everything, Mick!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We can, because it is my recollection that the former government reduced the funding of the department to \$7 million. Our government has increased that to \$12 million. I will request further increases as time goes on. It is very important that we understand—I will not bore the member to death because he has heard this many times—the situation that the budget was in. Our government increased the budget from the \$7 million that the former member brought it down to. I remind the member that back in 2004 when John Kobelke was the sport minister, he put it up to \$20 million. It was the member's government that brought it down to \$7 million.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: “Tuck” Waldron put it up to \$20 million.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: No, he did not.

The CHAIR: Is there a question, member for South Perth?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will go back through the budget papers with the member and we will have a lotto ticket on that.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: You will lose!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I have looked at that and I have followed that line through. It was reduced to \$7 million. It is now at \$12 million, and, if funding is available, we will work towards increasing that.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The minister talks about what the previous government did and says that there is no funding, and there is \$20 million over four years for arts and culture, but the minister could not get the same for sport and recreation.

The CHAIR: What is the page reference, member?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: It is page 468. Paragraph 12 states —

The new Regional Arts and Culture Investment Program ... will deliver almost \$20 million in funding —

The CHAIR: We were talking about athletic support.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: We are trying to get some athletic support. It is very hard to get.

The CHAIR: That is a further question. We are on a different page.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Does the question stand? I was not sure whether the question stands.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: You are a hero of sporting people.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will refer that to the director general who has the difficult job of making sure that all areas of WA are funded.

Mr D.S. Ord: I think the issue can be clarified because the question relates to my previous answer. Royalties for regions funding is reviewed when the existing program reaches the effluxion of time. As it turns out, the arts program, which was part of the creative regions program, a National Party commitment under the last government, was completed in this budget year. That was then subject to review and the government agreed to re-fund it with a different program and different priorities, but it was essentially in response to that program. The first time the minister will have an opportunity to revisit RforR funding for sporting commitments is in the budget next year. It is simply a different time. At the same time, arts and culture will not be considered for any RforR funding in the next budget period.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am disappointed to report that the minister will probably lose his lotto ticket, because it was taken up to \$20 million under “Tuck” Waldron one year, but that is by the by. Is the minister able to supply, by way of supplementary information, a full list of successful applicants, their sports and the amounts granted over the duration of the regional athlete support program?

The CHAIR: That would go back some time. Do you want to provide it for just the last year?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am happy to seek information for the last two years. Is that acceptable?

The CHAIR: Is that information able to be obtained?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We will provide it as supplementary.

The CHAIR: Can you repeat what it is so that we are clear?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister will supply a full list of successful applicants, their sports and the amounts granted over the last two years of the program.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes.

The CHAIR: For the last two financial years?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes.

[Supplementary Information No B29.]

Mr J.E. McGrath: This question relates to paragraph 10 on page 468, which refers to the introduction of a point-of-consumption tax in Western Australia. It states —

... the Government has assured \$3.7 million per annum indexed over the forward estimates period as a replacement for the revenue formally derived through sports betting with the TAB. This has provided greater certainty of funding available to community sport and recreation through the Sports Wagering Account.

Can the minister assure the sports community that post the sale of the TAB, the sports betting account funding will be legislatively guaranteed with CPI at \$4 million per annum? I think \$4 million is what the government is getting now. The government said \$3.7 million, so that is a bit of a shortfall. Can the minister give a guarantee, because it is important going forward that that sport is not disadvantaged as a result of the TAB?

Mr M.P. Murray: I am pleased to be able to answer that question. For the first time ever we have a figure that is constant over the years. Previously, we worried about the TAB turnover and lotto. Those things went up and down over the years. We are fortunate because this year and last year it was higher than forecast and we thought that the figure would be below that, and had budgeted along that line. It is with great pleasure that I confirm that Treasury will now guarantee the \$3.7 million, indexed over the forward estimates, to provide the certainty that is needed. That gives us a chance to be able to budget to a figure, not to a guesstimate. This is a really reasonable bale of money, but also really important for the whole process of sport and recreation.

[8.20 pm]

Mr J.E. McGrath: Can the minister clarify: will that be in the legislation?

Mr M.P. Murray: Yes.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Will that be part of the legislation that is coming before Parliament?

Mr M.P. Murray: I am being corrected there. It is a guarantee that we have it, but it will not be legislated as such.

Mr K.M. O'Donnell: I refer to page 483 of budget paper No 2 and to service 20, "Building Capacity and Participation". The second item under the heading "Explanation of Significant Movements" states in part —

The Department has undertaken a Strategic Funding Review in 2018–19 to guide the future investment in the sport and recreation industry and, as a result, no new funding programs have been introduced.

Can more of an explanation please be given as to the findings of this review, and what is the reason no new funding programs have been introduced?

Mr M.P. Murray: I am going to defer that one. There is some very important work going on at the moment, and that will be finalised probably towards the end of the year. I think most sporting associations will be very pleased with the work that the department of sport and recreation has done. I gave them a task, and they have been very good at what has been forthcoming. Finally, we will have some rhyme and reason for why people get funding. I will defer to the director general first.

Mr D.S. Ord: Thank you, minister. The minister gave direction for a review of the program based on a range of industry consultation strategies. The biggest concern for the sport and recreation sector was that funding was annualised to organisations. As the minister said, that was partly a result of very volatile funding sources such as lotteries, the sports lottery account and the gaming account. Particularly with the sale of the TAB and the Treasury decision to provide funding directly to the agency through the consolidated account, we have been able to contemplate the concept of multi-year funding, and as a consequence of that we needed to revisit the criteria around which sporting organisations and the like would be supported. While there is not the intent at this point to introduce new programs, we are significantly overhauling the current programs to ensure an equitable distribution of funds, in particular to give greater support to smaller sporting organisations to ensure that they have the funds to continue to grow. That gives them some certainty. The core funding we provide gives them more space to do fundraising of their own and to form long-term strategic partnerships, particularly with the local government sector, but also with corporate Western Australia and the like. That work has been led by my colleague behind me. Given that the member has requested some further detail, I will now, with the minister's permission, ask Mr Humfrey to provide some further detail.

Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Mr Peter Rundle; Chair; Mr Matthew Hughes

Mr S. Humfrey: Thank you. The strategic funding review commenced in March last year. Over the last 12 months, we have been engaging with the industry to look at not only the programs and the methods of funding, but also the methods of our engagement with the industry. A large amount of the feedback that came through that process, both in the metropolitan area and in the regional centres, was looking at ways to simplify the process and reduce the administrative burden. We had a number of programs historically that would require a sport to make multiple applications if they were putting in the same program in multiple regions, as an example. Some of that simplification has reduced the number of grants that were issued, as reflected in the note. We are now working with the sports and seeking their input into findings on how we can better engage with the industry, determine that our funding programs are appropriate, reduce the administrative burden and simplify the process for sporting organisations. We want to come back to recognising how sports can deliver their core business of increasing participation by reducing their administrative time in working with the department so that they can focus on increasing participation and servicing the community. We are at a point now where, after 12 months, the industry has given positive feedback to the findings and recommendations. There have been two substantial reports on that: the “Common Ground” report from October last year, which is available on the department’s website, and the preliminary findings document from January this year, which is also on the department’s website. We are in the process of finalising that within the coming weeks.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Can I just add to that. When I first took over the job, I came in and moneys were being agreed to be handed out. I did not understand and could not get the rationale for why some sporting bodies got more than others. The variation was huge, to say the least. Some professional sports were doing very well, while some lower sports were not doing so well. I struggled with that a bit, and what the money was being used for, under what at the time was called the OSP—the organisational sustainability program. Some of the sporting groups themselves could not understand why they did not get something for the work they were doing, while others did not seem to be doing as much work, yet received more money. We have now put a transparent program in place. If an organisation does the work, it will get its funding accordingly. It is all aimed at getting kids into sport; getting younger people in there and making sure that the participation rate stays—that is, not have them coming in and then going out.

It is with some regret that I say that some of the associations felt that they were becoming grant writers rather than sports administrators. It hit me when I asked these questions about where it went. I was told, “But we have always given them that”. I would ask what they meant and be told, “But that is their funding”. What do we get back from that? That was probably the crux of the matter and why I asked that we have a new process put in place so that if organisations do the work and attract those kids, they will get further funding. That is the whole crux of it. It is about participation rates—about retaining and about volunteers. All that sort of work comes to a point and then we say, “Righto, we will have a look at where your funding level is.” It will be transparent; everyone will know what is going on, and not just some people who were probably better grant writers or better talkers than the others. The changes that are being made will empower all sports to grow, with a real effort on driving their own sport. Instead of just saying, “We know that is coming as part of the budget”, they will have to prove that they are using that money to grow their sport.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I hear what the minister is saying, but how does he explain page 469, item 20, which refers to community sporting and recreation facilities investment in female-friendly change room facilities to support the growth in women’s football and other sports?

The CHAIR: Member, I think that is a different question.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is a different question. Ask the question, but it is not the same as the sustainable sports growth.

The CHAIR: You will get the call in two questions’ time, but the member for Kalgoorlie has a further question on that specific issue. I give the call to the member for Kalgoorlie.

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: I understand where the minister is coming from with what he is doing, and I understand when he says that he walked in and said, “Why are we doing this?” When I was a police constable and asked, “Why do we do this?”, they said, “That’s the way it is, constable. Just accept it and move on.”

Has the minister had any discussion around whether there could be a negative impact on a certain section of sport and recreation because there are no new funding programs?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Are we talking about in the associations themselves?

[8.30 pm]

Mr K.M. O'DONNELL: If no new funding programs are being implemented, something could be impacted. I am just curious.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: There are always impacts. The number of people might go up and down a bit, but the whole idea of this program is to make sure that we get people out there and working very hard for their sport. We see that

some sports are very well managed, and their CEOs are very aggressive about chasing money from the corporate sector and other sectors. In this case, we are saying that we want them all to be on that footing and to be out there and promoting their sport at every opportunity. To say that X got \$10 000 for the year and did not seem to do anything and to wonder what we got for that is just not good enough. We need a program so that we know that we are getting bang for our buck.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: When the minister is talking about grassroots, will any specific programs, such as Every Club and KidSport, be assessed with a view to improving them in the future, considering the government's cutbacks to KidSport when Labor first came in?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Firstly, the rules around KidSport were very lax and probably not enshrined in legislation or proper process. I am not sure whether I have spoken to the member about this example before, but in one KidSport group, more kids got KidSport than the number of kids in the community. Straightaway, the alarm bells were ringing. In another community, the town dog got \$150. These matters have been investigated by the police. That is why we have not spoken about it before. Because some deception was going on, we had to cut back on KidSport and tighten it. We still had to make sure that all kids could get some funding. I hate saying this, but we had to pull back on some of those areas, so now there is the \$150. We dropped down only one peg, so that we could spread it out and get more kids in—kids who were playing sports and getting the value for that along the line, not who might have been getting the value. It has been a bit of a task to bring it back in and to pat it into shape. Again, I thank the department for the work there. Certainly, some councils did not like the changes, but others did. We will work through that. When the opportune time comes, we will try to increase it.

We know that sport is getting too expensive for many kids; it does not matter which sport it is. I hate to think that kids out there cannot play sport because their parents cannot afford for them to play. I take my hat off to Balga Soccer Club, which has fee-free sport, but there is a catch to it. If the kids are going to play, their parents have to do two hours of voluntary work a week. That has changed the community; this is what sport can do. Parents who have never been involved with their children's sport or social groups had to come out and give their kids a hand. That has transformed some of those people's lives. They feel they are worthy. One of the guys was telling me that first he just started banging in the nets and that was his job. He thought that was good. Then he became more involved and became a referee. I had to tell that story; I think it is that good. Here is the icing on the cake; because mum could afford \$5 for Johnny to go to sport on Sundays or Saturdays, the kiosk turnover went up by 30 per cent, so the club gained at the other end. Finding \$300 for fees was not possible in some families. The club also found that going into the finals, the kids were still there; previously, there was a cut-off date and if someone had not paid the fees, they could not play. They would get to the finals, but there were no players because the kids could not afford the fees.

We have seen those changes in sports. Members might think I am going on a bit, but it is very pleasing to see that initiative in Balga. I encourage that in other areas. The council out that way also chipped in, because it saw the advantage of kids playing sport and being in a controlled environment, learning rules and mateship and all those things we talk about. I am quite passionate about that area. I think we can do more of it into the future.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 488 and the line item "Motorplex Complex Albany". It is about halfway down that page, just below "Motoring South West Marketing Campaign". The budget shows a capital allocation of \$5.5 million on top of the \$250 000 allocated last year for the Albany motor sport complex. I am trying to isolate, minister, the \$1.4 million that the minister announced only two days ago with the member for Albany. Where does that tie in to the situation?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That was a great shot of my head down, with the bald bit very bright and red on the telly! It was a pleasure to go to Albany to sign that agreement for the \$1.4 million. The council wishes to purchase some land out there and it asked us to forward some money for it so that it did not lose the option that it had on about 100-something hectares. But in saying that, the total cost of the election promise is \$5.75 million. I think it was brought forward very, very tragically because of what happened in the Racewars incident at the airport. At times, people need a dose of speed—I cannot say that. That is the wrong terminology. They need a dose of racing or something like that. They need a place to have a go, not to be playing up on the streets and doing burnouts and those sorts of things. I think everyone understands that and the Albany council is on side with this.

It is a venture by the Albany council, which, once it gets all the money and starts to get the facilities, will make a plan on how it manages it with local sporting groups. It includes a motorcycle track and an eighth-of-a-mile dragstrip. I am pointing out that that is one part of the process. It is a very big part—\$1.4 million. Studies on the water run-off have to be done, because people down there the other day were telling me that it is in a catchment area. The council needs plans to retain any oil spills on site. The council has to work through all those things and have the money to do them. The Albany council was extremely pleased to receive that funding. It was another step forward. Representatives told me that when it was first brought up at one of the council meetings, over 400 people turned up. That shows the enthusiasm in that region. It also fits in with the motor sports strategy that we are putting out at the moment. We are putting a focus on safety, for a start, and we will have peak bodies managing it. Some insurance companies are offering cheap insurance, but I am not sure how good that is for motor sports and how it

Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Mr Peter Rundle; Chair; Mr Matthew Hughes

has been tested. I was on the committee inquiring into the adventure race in Kununurra that ended in disaster. Unfortunately, the people who were injured in that race had to chase an insurance company worldwide, and only Channel Seven found these people in Canada, of all places, to get the funding for the girls who were burnt very badly. We are mindful of those things. We are mindful of that young fellow who got killed at Albany. We want the peak bodies to be there but, having said that, I think we need a little more technical detail from the person who has been doing all that work. He has come in tonight, and we do not want to waste his talent, so I will defer to Rob Thomson.

[8.40 pm]

The CHAIR: Member, is that answering the question you asked? It was so long ago I cannot remember.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It has, but I have a further question.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think we should have the technical detail, so that the member is on top of it when he goes back down to Albany. I think it would be very important.

Mr R. Thomson: Just to confirm, the \$5.5 million shown in the forward estimates for 2020–21 contains the \$1.4 million that the minister announced earlier this week. That anticipates the cash flow, as we would pay the City of Albany according to the milestones in that funding agreement, which is tied to the city achieving planning approval before the state will release any of those funds, so it estimates when we would make that payment.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Given the WA motor sports strategy was only released on Saturday for public comment, does the minister think that the sizeable allocation to this project is a bit premature?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: No, not at all, because, for one, it was an election promise. Unlike some others, we deliver on our election promises, and to get that done over a period of time, we had to start somewhere. The City of Albany was concerned about the retention of the block that it had identified 20 kilometres out of town—the ideal spot, in its view. The city was very worried that it might lose that block, so we thought we would help out.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Would the minister be able to supply me with the details of whom the land is being purchased from?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will defer to Rob Thomson.

Mr R. Thomson: The City of Albany is doing the land acquisition from a private individual who owns that land. We can seek the city's approval to release those details to the member.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the minister happy to supply that as supplementary information, considering a large amount of money from the forward estimates is being used?

The CHAIR: Member, you can put that question on notice, if you like. It might be more appropriate for that.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Why has the money for south west motoring only just come through, when this was an election commitment of the McGowan government?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is very close to home, and close to my heart, to say the least. For one thing, they had to do the work before they got paid, in that sense, and that is what the grant was for in Collie. Despite a request for early release of the money, it was not forthcoming, because there were some hiccups in some of those terms. I will not go into detail, because I could be here for another week. There were a few hold-ups, and we have now released the money, but not all of it until the job is completely finished. On Saturday I went out to the motor sports complex, because the long track has now opened. I have had texts from people who actually thanked a member of Parliament. That does not happen very often on either side. People are absolutely beside themselves about the quality and variety of the track it has now given Western Australian motor sport, where previously we had Wanneroo, Wanneroo and Wanneroo. That was the problem. Now, with the motor sports strategy, with Wanneroo, Collie and Albany, we will be able to build up the sport, because there is more than one place to go and more people will be participating from the bottom end, to the centre, to the top end and back again. It is very important. About 140 cars were racing on the complex last weekend. This weekend—here is a promo for the motorbikes—there will be 160 motorbikes out there, all very keen to get out and try the new track. As far as the funding was concerned, they were a bit slow on reaching milestones so that money could be released.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Just one final further question on the motor sports strategy. It has taken the minister 18 months to publish the strategy. Does the minister consider that a month is a long enough time for respondents to give feedback; and how is that feedback being promoted?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The member is only picking up the last part of the strategy. There have been meetings around the countryside, and there have been opportunities for people to put their views forward over the past 18 months, not the last couple of months. There have been focus groups, and people have gone out and met with the consultant who was brought in. He has actually travelled to those places to talk to those people who are that way inclined. I think he went to nearly every motor sports location, including some of the speedways around the place. It is not as though there has been only a short time. Because of some of the issues they did not like or thought were unworkable, we have listened and gone back to the people. This is the final draft that is out there now. There have

Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Mr Peter Rundle; Chair; Mr Matthew Hughes

been several drafts. Some people came in a little late and did not realise what it was all about. Then they came on board saying that they did not get a chance to speak, which is just not true. It is about some people not being willing to participate in the first round or just brushing it off. Here we are; we are nearly there. Our motor sports expert is sitting right behind me, and he might like to have a say about that. I see this as important for motor sports into the future. It is only one small plank, but it picks up a lot of the groups.

I can tell members that if they think we have politics in here, they should put their heads in amongst the motor sports groups and see how much politics is in those. Whoever has the bigger and shinier car is the attitude in the motor sports groups. They are very difficult people to round up and talk to, as we have seen at Wanneroo over time between the motorbikes and the cars, and individually. When it looked like there would be a challenge to one of the groups out there, the lawyers were coming in on the issue.

The CHAIR: And the problem is, minister?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am taking some time, but I am very happy that we are finally getting there. Just to finish—the member asked the question—I will get Mr Thomson to add a comment.

The CHAIR: Mr Thomson might not have anything new to say—do you, Mr Thomson?

[8.50 pm]

Mr R. Thomson: I thank the member for the question. I can answer very quickly. I will elaborate on the consultation process. It commenced at the end of 2017. The consultant we appointed met with all the stakeholders late in 2017 and in the early stages of 2018. We convened two workshops with the stakeholder group. One was in about May 2018; the other was in August 2018. We had a seven-week consultation period on the draft consultant report. That came in in late September and October. It took us some time to distil all the information and put it into a succinct and workable document, which is now out for a four-week consultation period. Feedback is available through the department's website. We can also take more substantial written submissions.

The CHAIR: I have the member for South Perth next. I put the government members on notice that there have been 26 questions to the government. To make it even-handed, one of you might like to think of seeking the call after this.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: With all due respect, we think estimates is for the opposition. The former Premier used to make that point.

The CHAIR: Are you begrudging them one question, member?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: We need to get the minister answering some questions. I refer to point 20, which is about the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, on page 469. It states —

The Government has prioritised the development of female-friendly change room facilities to support the growth in women's football, cricket, hockey, netball and many other sports.

We really support this. It continues —

Projects supported include the Wanneroo City Soccer Club, Lilac Hill Pavilion in the City of Swan, Melville Hockey Club and Koorana Reserve in the City of Rockingham.

All of those projects are in Labor electorates. What about females who play sport in Liberal or non-government electorates? Did any of their clubs make applications?

The CHAIR: I think Melville might not be.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: No, Melville is in —

The CHAIR: Bicton, is it?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I will bet on that one too, if you like. I might win another lottery ticket.

What was the selection process; how many clubs applied for these grants; and is there any chance for this funding to be increased on a wider scale?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I thought the member might have been over who applied, seeing as he is concerned about electorates, and that if it had been all Liberal electorates that missed out, he would know about it. I do not look at it from an electoral point of view. I look at what is good for the sports and the women.

The CHAIR: Don't I know it, minister!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is just fairness. I think we might have one here—\$900 000 for Toodyay.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: That is probably royalties for regions. It is a long way from South Perth.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I have just been advised that the full link to that and who got it and who did not get it is on the website. Certainly, there were far more applications for that money than we had expected. We have increased

the funding of the quarantined money we put there to make sure that women got some of those facilities. That was a first. It was great to see the current and former federal government follow our lead and come out with a lot more for women's facilities than we could afford. The election promise was \$150 million. When the sports ministers met in Sydney we pooled what we were doing. There was great interest in what we were doing to quarantine money for women's facilities. The federal Minister for Sport obviously saw that and followed our lead, but with a few more noughts on it than we could afford. There is no process of how to apply for that money, but we will be watching closely because it is something that we need to focus on. We quarantined \$250 000 for the development of female-friendly change rooms, but nine projects valued over \$3 million were approved that involved either upgrades or the construction of brand-new change rooms that will benefit female participants. We started at one end and pushed it out the other.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The government has quarantined \$250 000. That would not go far.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Can I cut the member off there? I will tell the member for South Perth why. We went to Melbourne and had a look at some of the facilities. They were retrofitting the old open shower blocks that most football teams had. They designed something that could fit into the shower blocks that had a door and a place people could put their clothes that fitted into those rows. That was the first time we had seen that. They told us in Melbourne that they were retrofitting those so not only women, but also men, would have the private showers expected in today's world. That is where we first got the idea. For a six-shower bay, they were averaging about \$50 000 or \$60 000, so we knew how many we could do. Since then there have been bigger projects with women's facilities included.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Is the minister confident that all facilities where women play throughout the state will get these special female-friendly change rooms?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We cannot say that it will be every one. It will be a process that takes time. Any new area that is built will have it built in anyway. At the time we were looking at the retrofits. We had a sudden influx of women's football and soccer players. The increase was huge. Every state and every sport, especially football and soccer, were caught short in that area and tried to accommodate those people.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister will be aware that federal Minister Bridget McKenzie has taken a lot of pressure off the community sporting and recreation facilities funding with a lot of federal funding for women's change rooms. While we are talking about the CSRFF, I am concerned that it is decreasing. I notice that the government has budgeted \$18.34 million. The estimated actual for this year is \$14.889 million. In 2022–23 it will drop down to \$11.5 million.

The CHAIR: What is your page reference?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: We are on page 488.

The CHAIR: We were on page 469.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: This is about the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, which the member for South Perth was referring to.

The CHAIR: He was referring to page 469, member.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: There have been some carryovers. Some money has been carried forward because jobs have not finished or have not started. To get the final detail on that I will defer to the director general.

Mr D.S. Ord: Thank you, minister. It is essentially a rolling program. As it is used for leverage and a significant amount of other funds, including commonwealth funding and local government funding, are involved, project commitments are made over an extensive period. Treasury allows us to make commitments and roll funds over on a cyclical basis. As the member knows, the base funding for the program is \$12 million a year. Treasury allocates us \$12 million a year, but allows us to roll over unspent funds. We have higher funds at the front end because of programs that are still maturing and we had to pay out those funds. The project might be well advanced, but we do not fund our contribution until a bit later. In the forward estimates, because those projects are yet to be defined, there is just the \$12 million. Effectively, we are spending the \$12 million annualised, but there is a carryover from past years. We have to reflect in the budget papers that we are carrying that cash on the books.

[9.00 pm]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: By how much is the community sporting and recreation facilities fund program oversubscribed?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think it is times three.

Mr R. Thomson: It does vary from year to year but generally we are oversubscribed between two and a half and three times.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I understand the value of this program to regional people, in particular, having been a member of a club that has applied for funding. I am aware of how vital it is to our sporting infrastructure. Given the royalties for regions underspend of \$300 million, is there any opportunity for the minister to lobby the Minister for Regional Development to boost it back up to \$20 million, as Tuck Waldron did at one stage, as the member for South Perth referred to, so he can win that lotto ticket back? Aside from that, this is a real opportunity.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Royalties for regions is certainly not under my brief. Every time the minister sees me coming, she tries to hide behind a car or a tree because I am always asking for money. I am pretty sure I am right about this budgeting. The CSRFF money was dropped because royalties for regions was picking up some of that funding. It balances out both ways. As far as lobbying is concerned, do not worry—if anyone wants to walk past without saying they can have a few more dollars, they get hammered.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a question relating to page 488 of budget paper No 2. I refer to the declining allocation of sports financial grants, which is shown as a line item about three-quarters of the way down the table. It reduces to less than \$9.5 million in 2022–23. Does this money come from the federal government?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is a technical issue, so I will defer to the director general.

Mr D.S. Ord: It is a lotteries appropriation. I will refer to my CFO. I think she will provide a more accurate answer.

Ms S. Sherdiwala: It is a consolidated funding appropriation. It is separate to the lotteries account funding, which is on the next line.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: What is the money used for?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We use that funding in a huge range of areas, such as the state sporting infrastructure fund and Sport 4 All, which comprises KidSport and Nature Play WA. All those programs encourage kids to play sport. It is very important that we keep that funding. Again, I will defer to the director general.

Mr D.S. Ord: It is used in a variety of areas. The member commented that the money is going down in the forward estimates. Essentially, we have our baseline funding and then we have programs that are agreed by government as election commitments and so on. In the front end of the budget, we have been delivering election commitments in this space. The back end is our normal appropriation amount. There is no reduction on the base funding going forward. We expect that further budgets will be put in the out years that would bring that up potentially, but they are program related.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to the income statement on page 487 and the total expenses amounts for 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20. What amounts have been expended for either in-house salaried officers and/or consultants to investigate staff allegations of bullying or like conduct by senior Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries officers?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Again, that is a day-to-day process, so I will hand over to the director general.

Mr D.S. Ord: Obviously, in the budget papers there is a broad allocation for corporate services in the department, which includes HR services. Within HR services, we would budget for matters like grievances that might be brought forward by employees or need investigation. Fortunately, there are very few of these from time to time. But in terms of any expenditures we have had in the last 12 months, I could provide those as supplementary information.

The CHAIR: Member, can you set out what you want and the minister will repeat that?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I would like the value of resources received free of charge from other state government departments for the provision of consultants to investigate staff allegations of bullying by senior staff, and how much has been expended on the above using Public Service Commission staff.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is noted and that information will be provided.

The CHAIR: The member is seeking the amount of resources provided to the minister's agency by another government agency to assist in allegations of bullying in the last financial year.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Yes, and how much has been expended on the above using Public Service Commission staff.

The CHAIR: That is probably a bit general. We are talking about staff. The member needs to link it to the minister's agency.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: That would be up to the director general.

The CHAIR: The minister may not be able to answer it.

Mr D.S. Ord: As part of the annual reporting process, we report around services provided at no cost, but not in this period. We would not receive that information until after the financial year, and it would be in the annual report process for the Parliament. If the question was on the annual report, I could report on that. I could provide

the member with any costs that we have incurred in employing consultants. We employ consultants at times to do independent investigations of those matters. They are recurrent costs that I bear now. I would be happy to provide the member with that information. I could not provide the member with the services provided by others until after the reporting period in the annual reporting process.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: That is fine. If the minister could provide that information, that would be good, and it will be covered in the annual report?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes.

The CHAIR: The member is seeking the cost of the employment of consultants to address human resources issues, in particular, bullying, for the last year.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, I understand that was the question.

[Supplementary Information No B30.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 488 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, and the last line item in the table, which relates to the relocation of the WA Football Commission, and the figure of \$5.6 million. I assume this relates to the relocation to Tuart College. Can the minister enlighten me on what those costs are and for how many years he is anticipating the WA Football Commission to be at Tuart College?

[9.10 pm]

Mr M.P. MURRAY: As we know, work was done with the West Australian Football Commission about the move from Subiaco, with the new stadium, and many other issues. Some of these figures should come from the department, but in saying that, the football commission gets \$10.297 million per annum for 10 years and it will use some of that funding for the relocation. Overall, we will look at an amount of around \$2.2 million to undertake works at Tuart College to facilitate the interim relocation there. The commission is very happy with that area. There has had to be some tidying up and work done before the commission could go there, but last time I spoke to the commission, it was extremely happy to be going there. I will hand over to the director general for some more detail and explanation.

Mr D.S. Ord: Tuart College is an asset held by the Department of Education and it has made the college available for lease and usage by the WA Football Commission. The commission is secure there for as long as required, and, along with the Minister for Planning, it is considering options for its future location, be it at Subiaco following redevelopment of that precinct or elsewhere. We are delighted that the facility at Tuart College, including sportsgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools and so on, is superior to what the commission had at Subiaco, so it is a very good outcome as an interim solution, and, as the minister said, it is very welcome by the commission. We are working cooperatively with the commission to have it relocated as soon as practicable. We are obviously committed to assisting it to be successful in its new location. There is no time pressure envisaged around the immediate location post that move to Tuart College.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Has the minister given any thought to the suggestion I saw on ABC news last night that the commission could move to the WACA ground? That would potentially save the government.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That is not an issue that has to be dealt with by government. It is between the football commission and the Western Australian Cricket Association. If they could sort that out, we would have a look and see what is happening.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister mentioned \$2.2 million. Is the balance in relation to potentially moving back to the Subiaco Oval precinct at a later date? I ask because there is a figure of \$5.6 million in the budget.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will pass that over to the director general.

Mr D.S. Ord: The football commission had entered into certain debts related to assets at Subiaco, and as part of the overall settlement around football and the stadium, it was agreed to extinguish that debt, so the \$5.6 million is the debt extinguishment.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: How long is it anticipated that the football commission will reside at Tuart College? Is there a certain time frame laid out?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I think that might be a bit like asking how long is a piece of string. There is construction work to be done. There could be a rainy winter or anything like that that might upset any particular date. I am sure everyone will be working very hard towards a finalisation date, especially the school, which has to be ready next year. After that, I am sure it will not be long until the grounds are tidied up as well. As with any major building project, I would not be surprised if there was some drift. The Perth Children's Hospital comes to mind very quickly when we talk about how long it takes to get things fixed. It went a couple of years over deadline. I hope that is not the case, but, again, we cannot do construction work if it is raining heavily or there are any other issues that cause a delay.

Mr M. HUGHES: I refer to note 21 on page 469 of the *Budget Statements*, which refers to a targeted policy by the government to increase the number of women on boards in Western Australian sport and active recreation governing bodies. Can the minister tell me what is intended and how the policy will be implemented?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is something that I have great pride in being able to influence. At a meeting of state and federal sports ministers we discussed increasing the gender balance on boards in sport. Previously, the proportion of women was 40 per cent, and in the meeting before last, we put the issue on the table. I am talking about Western Australia. My staff and staff from sport and recreation were there. We worked around the table. Some states were not very happy about it, to say the least, but the final result is that we had a consensus. It did not go to a vote, but there was certainly a consensus. There are still some sporting codes that consider having a woman on the board a dress-up approach. They have a woman on the board, but do not consider their input and help. It is great to see that boards from other areas such as big business, not only sport, are also starting to understand that 50 per cent of people in the world—I think it is 50-point-something per cent—are women, so why should boards not be equalised? In the future we will probably look at the quality of women's wages, and we could go on for a couple of weeks about that. In this case, some people in sport have been reluctant to accept the fact that there should be equal membership on a board, including some that are quite close to government. But they are getting the message and it is now a requirement that 50 per cent of members of boards of government entities across the state be women.

I am going to pass over to the director general, because he can bring forward some statistics that I think the member will be very interested in. It is information that was requested to see where things sit.

[9.20 pm]

Mr D.S. Ord: We have just updated our survey results. I am pleased to say that since the minister released the policy, 40 per cent of state sporting associations have achieved the target of 50 per cent women on boards. Fifty per cent do not meet the target but have a director serving a term of three years or less, meaning they can move to that target in a relatively short time; five per cent are not required to meet the target under the proposed categorisation; and five per cent do not meet the target and have a director serving a term of five years or more. Basically, the whole sporting community is moving very quickly to adopt the minister's request and are well positioned based on turnover of directors to achieve that within the next three years.

Mr M. HUGHES: I thank the minister for his initiative.

The CHAIR: Before we wind up this division, there have been 40 questions of which one has been by the government.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: As it should be. Outstanding performance, Chair.

The appropriation was recommended.