

CORONAVIRUS — COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FUND

347. Ms A. SANDERSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the government's decision to bring forward grants from the community sporting and recreation facilities fund in order to support the economy as it recovers from COVID-19. Can the minister outline to the house what this will mean for local not-for-profit sport, recreation and community groups, including those in the electorate of Morley?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

I thank the member for her question and her support for building of community sporting infrastructure projects, such as Des Penman Reserve, which the Deputy Premier and I were lucky enough to visit this morning.

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

The SPEAKER: Keep going, minister.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It was a great gathering at Des Penman Reserve to see the progress of a former grant that had been given to that reserve. In attendance was Des Headland, a former Fremantle Dockers supporter, and women footballers. The women, who were premiers last year, will get some value out of the new building, because there will now be women's facilities, which they did not have before.

It was pleasing to announce that the McGowan state government will be fast-tracking the next round of funding applications to the community sporting and recreational facilities fund. That will enable sporting and recreation infrastructure projects to be applied for and brought forward. People will be able to apply for funding earlier than previously planned. The reason is that we will be able to get jobs on the ground and projects out there that we know we need for our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The state is very aware that we need to rattle the tin, I suppose, to get money and jobs out in the community, because we have a spike in the unemployment rate coming. The Prime Minister has talked many times about the unemployment rate that will come. In bringing forward this funding, local government will contribute one-third to most of these projects, along with the community, so that our \$12 million will end up being a boost to the economy of \$36 million, which will be spread across the state, in country and city areas, when people apply. It is with great pleasure that we are now bringing that forward.

I ask every member in this house to bring this information to the local governments and sporting bodies in their electorates so that a fair sprinkle of people will be aware that this has been brought forward, and there will not be disagreements afterwards because they did not know about it. I implore members in this place today to make sure that their communities know about it. I know that it will be oversubscribed, but we will try to make sure that it is spread across the whole community to give people those jobs on the ground. This morning at Des Penman Reserve, it was great to see the building still going on and to see the tradies there. There were carpenters, electricians and someone with a very loud buzz-saw, which made it difficult to speak at times. It just about blew out my hearing aid!

Following on from the grants for women's facilities that we introduced last year, we are now bringing forward another initiative to allow remote Aboriginal communities to apply for up to 100 per cent of their project costs in certain circumstances. That is to encourage applicants from those communities, who struggle at times to create the proper process in their own minds, to be able to apply for these grants. Looking at grants over the years, it is very evident to me that some communities have not received anything. Halls Creek is an example. Over the last five or six years, it has received only \$35 000 of funding. That is a bit of a disappointment to me. If members ask the reasons why, it is because some people do not have the backup to be able to apply for that funding. I think it is very important to do that and to give those communities a bit of a leg-up so that they are able to apply. For those communities, the turnover of shire CEOs is very high, so the continuity is not there. I look forward to seeing that initiative come forward so we can help out some of those communities. Speeding up the process will also help create jobs on the ground, and many of them will be in country areas. I look forward to seeing that being done. The early opening of this grant program is about getting the ball rolling for the recovery process from the recent COVID-19 problems. Let us work very hard and make sure that shires and others are out there and job ready so we can get jobs on the ground before our unemployment rate gets hit out of the park.