

PERTH STADIUM — TENDER CONTRACTS

522. Mr J.E. McGRATH to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I have a supplementary question.

- (1) Further, on the subject of putting WA jobs first, we know that the minister, as a former Collie miner, is all for WA jobs. Why did the minister's government give the \$3 million crockery, cutlery and kitchenware contract to a French-owned company over an established Western Australian company?
- (2) Will he guarantee that no other contracts for the Perth Stadium are sent to the eastern states or overseas?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

- (1)–(2) Many contracts are in process now. There will be millions of dollars' worth of contracts, some of which will go to other companies. I think that the bias that we give to Western Australian companies is very generous. I mean, very generous! I am saying that some of those companies that had previous contracts with stadiums, and other people, must sharpen their pencils. When we start to talk about the difference in contracts—I nearly said, but I will not—the difference in the amount percentagewise is in the range of 20 to 25 per cent between the other tenderers. I will not stand here and support those companies at the expense of the WA taxpayer. There is a balance. We give very generous consideration to Western Australian companies. As I have said, there is more to come. Watch this space.