

PERTH STADIUM — NAMING RIGHTS

281. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. Has the minister conducted financial analysis to support his decision; and, if not, why not? If he has conducted such analysis, will he immediately table it?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

As the member would be aware, it has been reported in the media that an analysis was done under the previous government, when, it must be acknowledged, there was apparently plenty of money to throw around on all manner of wasteful things, like paying \$1.5 million a year to not sell the naming rights of Perth Arena. In those days, an analysis was done at the behest of the government, funded by the government, with the intention of finding that it was a valuable thing to not sell the naming rights. I can understand how that might have occurred. I can understand how a consultant who has been paid by the minister who did not want to sell the naming rights would have made the finding, through an interesting modelling technique, that determined that an interesting television audience that cannot actually be determined somehow resulted in an interesting, extremely high return to the taxpayer, which is not real money. However, if we sell the naming rights, that is real money; that is actual dollars that go to help address the debt that the previous government laboured us with, and goes to help by not having to borrow more money. It goes to assist with not having to borrow \$1.5 million a year to not sell the naming rights to Perth Arena.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, I call you to order for the first time.