

PERTH STADIUM

**647. Mr J.E. McGRATH to the Minister for Small Business:**

Minister, the Perth Stadium project at Burswood is of enormous interest to all Western Australians including my constituents in South Perth due to its proximity to where they live. Can the minister inform the house of any benefits to small business from the new stadium?

Several members interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, you withdraw that statement. You said that I am “pathetic”. Withdraw it, please.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Mr Speaker, I said “that’s pathetic”.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The word “pathetic” has been ruled as parliamentary.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down, please. Sit down!

You are not to have adverse reflections on the Chair, member for Warnbro. Right, now please withdraw it.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I withdraw.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Point of order!

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order if you are going to repeat yourself.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I am not. I am going to ask you, Mr Speaker, how it is a reflection on the Chair to use the term “pathetic” if it is not unparliamentary to say that other members are pathetic. It does not appear to be consistent.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down, please. That is not a point of order.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** To complete the question: a lot of small business owners in Western Australia would like to know whether there will be any benefit to small business from this exciting new project.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I thank the member for South Perth for his question and all the work that he has done as parliamentary secretary to the Premier on the issue of the new Perth Stadium. Everyone on the government side of the house is super excited about this amazing new project for Perth—a new stadium. We are very, very excited about it because not only will it benefit the state and the people of Western Australia, but also the construction and operation phase will provide lots of opportunities to benefit small business in Western Australia. As Minister for Small Business, it is incumbent upon me to ensure that small and medium-sized businesses in Western Australia are given every opportunity to be part of this great, exciting new project—to be part of the construction and the operation of the new stadium. Two weeks ago, I met with the Westadium consortium and reiterated the government’s requirement, which is in the contract, for an industry participation plan to ensure that everyone understands that we expect local content to be front and centre in the construction and operation of the new stadium. We are maximising the opportunities for small business to participate in the construction and operation of this stadium.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Where is the steel coming from?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** That is a very good question, member for Cockburn. I will get to that.

During the construction phase of the project, we expect that over 5 700 new jobs will be created. On Monday, the Minister for Sport and Recreation and I went to the site of the new stadium and launched the new ProjectConnect website. It is a new portal through which businesses interested in being part of this exciting new project can see available tenders, see how they can be involved and register their interest. Member for Cockburn, between now and December, as part of the initial stage of this project, over \$140 million worth of tenders will be given out. That includes tower cranes, prefab concrete, ready-mix concrete and structural steel. Interestingly, almost all the structural steel for Perth Arena was fabricated in Perth. There is no reason small and medium-sized businesses cannot be competitive and part of the stadium project. The tenders include security services for the site and the ongoing operation of the completed stadium. Between now and December, over \$140 million worth of tenders will be open for expressions of interest from small and medium-sized Western Australian businesses. I would encourage anyone interested in being part of this project to visit the website at [projectconnect.com.au](http://projectconnect.com.au) and have a look at the opportunities to be part this wonderful project for Western Australia.