

Division 36: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Services 1, 3 and 5 to 15, Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation, \$479 618 000 —

Mrs L.A. Munday, Chair.

Dr A.D. Buti, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation.

Ms L. Chopping, Director General.

Ms K. Ellwood, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation.

Ms S. Magadza, Executive Director, Culture and the Arts.

Ms L. Fanciulli, Executive Director, Infrastructure.

Mr L. Carren, Chief Finance Officer.

Mr M. Cunningham, Director, Investment Research and Policy.

Mr C. Klymovich, Director, Programs, Infrastructure.

Mr C. White, Director, Programs, Infrastructure.

Mr G. Hamley, Chief of Staff, Minister for Culture and the Arts.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: Members, I am just going to read the statement while everyone is moving through.

The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with these details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall only be examined in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 3 June 2022. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 565 and the KidSport program. I remember last year that the former Minister for Sport and Recreation, who happens to be here today, was keen to tell us how there was a significant uptake in the number of vouchers and declared there was no reduction in the KidSport program, but we seem to have had a reduction from the estimated actual to the budget year, which is \$4.6 million. It seems to be on the downhill slide. Can the minister enlighten us about why this has not been improved?

Dr A.D. BUTI: It is a very good program. I will ask Ms Chopping to directly answer the member's question.

Ms L. Chopping: Thank you, minister. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries continues to work with local governments in the community to continue to deliver a streamlined, consistent and accessible KidSport program. Since the program commenced—it celebrated its 10-year anniversary last year—KidSport has provided over \$38 million in funding support and 266 529 vouchers for children to participate in physical activities. A review of the program will be conducted during 2022–23 to determine the future structure of the program, including a review of the voucher value, the possibility of additional vouchers, and the current funding model to ensure that the program continues to provide the best outcomes for the community. I do not know whether the minister wants me to go into further detail.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes.

Ms L. Chopping: Okay. The budget of \$7 824 000 includes unspent funding from 2020–21 due to COVID-19 impacts on junior sport participation. This additional funding provided eligible children with access to up to \$300 KidSport funding in the 2021 calendar year, so 2021–22 has seen a significant increase in families accessing KidSport vouchers to support registration for sport all year round, with over 12 000 children accessing the additional funding that was available in the second half of 2021.

The extra funding also enabled more swim schools to be included in the KidSport program, and these continue to be a positive engagement, with increasing numbers of swim schools registering for the KidSport program. The department has approved a further 18 swim schools in 2021–22, with a total of 70 swim schools now accepting KidSport vouchers across the state. From the 3 700 KidSport swimming lesson vouchers that were funded in 2021–22, we have seen more than \$645 000 help over 3 000 children access swimming lessons. In 2021–22, swimming lessons

became the third most accessed sport in the program, with more than 14 per cent of swimming lesson vouchers going to children identifying with disability.

Over 30 000 KidSport vouchers were funded in 2021–22 for more than 23 000 Western Australian children, and these vouchers equated to over \$4.6 million provided directly to eligible community sporting clubs and swim schools. Specifically, for regional children, over 10 000 vouchers were funded, resulting in \$1.44 million paid into regional community sporting clubs. In 2021–22, the KidSport program reported positive demand from a diverse community, seeing an increase in children with disability accessing the program. This includes over 2 300 vouchers accessed by children with a disability, 4 000 vouchers to applicants self-identifying as Aboriginal and over 1 600 vouchers to children from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thanks very much for that comprehensive response. In fairness, last year the government gave two vouchers per family, which was a good thing. Was there any thought given to increasing the value of those vouchers in the forthcoming budget?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The budget is the budget, and the member has the budget in front of him.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The minister will be well aware that the scouts, girl guides and others were excluded from the KidSport voucher program a year or two back. Given the cost-of-living pressures and given the downstream health benefits and the like of activity for our children, has the government given any thought to re-including scouts and girl guides and so on in the KidSport voucher program?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I do not think the budget process is really to engage in the internal thinking and minds of ministers and governments, but anyway, in regard to the member's question, as has been the case under the current government, for the girl guides or scouts to be able to apply for KidSport grants, they have to be a KidSport-approved club and meet the criteria, which have a requirement to engage in a recognised sport and activity for a minimum of eight weeks.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer again to page 565. The regional athlete support program's funding is ceasing after this financial year. I just quote the Minister for Sport and Recreation of last year, who said —

... it is an incredibly important program ... I would be surprised if the program did not continue in one form or another.

Can someone enlighten me as to why this program appears to be ceasing, given the previous minister's responses?
[2.10 pm]

Dr A.D. BUTI: As the member knows, this is a statewide program that recognises talent development networks that support regionally based athletes, coaches and officials. Due to the size of the state, it supports their development and progression along the sporting pathway in their home environment, allowing them to train at home rather than in Perth. There are various elements to the program, such as funding of regional academies and programs, the athlete travel subsidy scheme, and the regional athlete education program. It is a statewide initiative, it has been running since 2013, and it has been a very, very good program. It is funding that comes from royalties for regions, so it will have to be applied and considered in the normal process.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Has the program ceased or is it being funded from a different source?

Dr A.D. BUTI: It was secured through royalties for regions for a three-year period from 2021 to 2022–23, and we will see what happens after that.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Despite the minister's strong support for the program last year, this government does not appear to rate our regional athletes. Are they second-class citizens?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Of course not.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I cannot fathom why this program would not be continuing.

Dr A.D. BUTI: As I said, it is not being discontinued. A business case will have to be prepared and submitted, and that will enable the program to continue beyond 2023–24. That is what a responsible government would do; it would look at the program. We do not just continue funding a program; we look at the benefits of it, a business case is prepared and submitted, and then a consideration is given as to whether that program will continue.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Who prepares the business case? Does that emanate from the department or is there some sort of regional group advocating for this?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries will work with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the preparation of the business case.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I refer to page 564, under "Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies", the line item, "Guide Dogs WA Breeding Program". In 2021–22 there is \$5 million, in 2021–22 another \$5 million, and then there is no further funding for the guide dogs breeding program.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 24 May 2022]

p99b-106a

Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Vincent Catania; Ms Lara Dalton

Dr A.D. BUTI: A 2021 state election commitment of \$5 million was made to Guide Dogs WA to assist in setting up a world-class breeding program in multiple locations across the state and to re-establish cadet training, and this grant has been paid in full. That was the election commitment: \$5 million.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: No further funding for the guide dogs breeding program?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I jumped the gun then. It comes under the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, so the member had better leave that for local government.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to the same page, page 564, and the line item “Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund”, halfway down the page. Minister, we appear to have gone from a 2021–22 budget of 16.4 million and actual of \$14.6 million. This year is budgeted for \$12.7 million, and then \$11.47 million in the out years. Can the minister enlighten me as to why we seem to have had a reduction of about 30 per cent from that point over the forward estimates?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I will ask Ms Chopping to answer this.

Ms L. Chopping: My apologies, I have been handed the wrong note, minister. If I can get the correct note from the executor director. Can the member repeat the question?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The initial 2021–22 budget was \$16.47 million, the 2021–22 actual was \$4.6 million, and then the budget for 2022–23 is dropping to \$12.7 million, and then dropping to \$11.47 million over the out years. Over that period, we have had about a 30 per cent drop in CSRFF funding. What is the explanation for that?

Ms L. Chopping: The community sporting and recreation facilities fund program has operated for over 45 years. During the 2020–21 election, the government committed to increasing CSRFF funding by \$500 000 per annum to \$12.5 million, to develop important infrastructure and facilities for the WA community. This additional \$2 million over four years was an extra \$500 000 per year, which is spent exclusively on new and refurbished gender-neutral changeroom facilities to support women's participation. That amount is in addition to the existing \$500 000 per annum allocated to female facilities. This means that at least \$1 million has now been quarantined within the fund to be spent on projects that support women's participation through the development of new changerooms. The budget papers indicate that \$16.471 million was available in 2021–22, \$12.742 million in 2022–23, and there is \$11.471 million in the forward estimates. However, this is a reflection of re-profiled cashflow money from previous funding rounds. There is a range of examples of projects but, essentially, funding of up to one third of project costs can be provided to a local government or non-profit sporting group, and there are three CSRFF rounds a year, one annual and forward planning round for projects over \$300 000, and two small grant rounds for projects under \$300 000. Annual projects are expected to be completed within one year. Forward planning costs can have up to a three-year delivery time frame. The funding through the CSRFF program is provided on a reimbursement basis and allocated over a three-year triennium and, therefore, cash flows are regularly adjusted to reflect the progress of funded projects. I can elaborate.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thank you very much for that response. I understand how important the CSRFF grant is, not only to regional sporting clubs but to metropolitan clubs as well. I understand the re-profiling and the female changeroom fund et cetera, which is very important. Has the government got in the back of its mind the potential for this to be increased over time, given that at times funding has been up to over \$20 million with the supplementation of royalties for regions funding? Is there an opportunity in future for this really important fund to be increased back to its original levels?

Dr A.D. BUTI: We are dealing with this budget and we are dealing with the line items in this budget. What future governments, or this government, may decide in the future, they will decide it in the future.

[2.20 pm]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Minister, I refer to page 564 and the table headed, “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”. The line item “Baldivis Indoor Recreation Centre” has an actual of \$1 million for 2020–21, and then goes up to \$8.5 million for 2021–22. The 2021–22 estimated actual is \$6.5 million, and then it goes up to \$2.5 million for 2022–23. The way I see it, it is a \$500 000 blowout from the original amount. Going down to the item, “Collie Mineworkers Memorial Pool Enclosure”, the actual was \$1 million. The budget is for \$850 000 in 2021–22, and another \$850 000 for 2022–23. That is \$1.7 million, and \$700 000 over the budget. It was previously put in the budget estimates. The 2020–21 actual for “Ellenbrook Community Hub” is \$1.5 million. It then goes to \$2 million for 2021–22, \$250 000 for 2021–22, and \$1.75 million for 2022–23. That is also \$4 million, or \$2.5 million over the original. Can the minister explain why there has been those blowouts just over those three projects that I have managed to see?

Dr A.D. BUTI: As the member knows, we live in a particularly tight labour situation. There are supply chain issues and there is cost escalation for construction and building.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Did the minister say, in Labor seats?

Dr A.D. BUTI: What is that?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: In Labor seats, did the minister say?

Dr A.D. BUTI: No. Well, it would be hard not to be in a Labor seat, because the opposition has been decimated, but anyway, we will move on. I said shortage of labour. There is no shortage of Labor members, but there is shortage of labour supply! There have been cost escalations, as the member knows, and that is what happens. I must say I am very surprised that the member would ask a question about budget blowouts, because I never thought he worried about that sort of issue.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Back when we were in government and there were cost blowouts during boom times, these are the kinds of questions we got. This is taking away the ability to fund particular projects—for example, lights at my town oval in Carnarvon, because of these cost blowouts impacting on future projects.

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, that is just not true. It is not true at all.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I know the minister is not the relevant minister, but it seems like the minister is just signing off on these projects that are blowing out, and slipping in an amount of money simply because they are Labor-held seats, and probably because the government can avoid a lot of scrutiny. That is just three that I have looked at. I am sure if I were to go further into it, I would find more that have blown out.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am wondering what interpretation the member is making with regard to the budget papers and the information before him. There is not a blowout as such. This is the way the budget is allocated.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Just a little bit.

Dr A.D. BUTI: This is the way the funding is allocated over a period of time, and that is what happens. If there is an increasing cost, as the member knows, there are cost escalations in construction in Western Australian. I mean, would the member prefer that we do not build things?

Ms L. DALTON: I refer to the “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”, and the line item on page 565. “Lotterywest Back to Sport COVID-19 Relief Program”. Can the minister please provide an update on this program?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I thank the member. The Lotterywest Back to Sport COVID-19 relief program is an important \$5 million program. It is a two-year commitment that includes support for additional KidSport vouchers and a direct funding subsidy for grassroots sport and recreation clubs. The Back to Sport subsidy clubs align with the KidSport program, whereby they are eligible to apply for a \$500 subsidy to assist with managing COVID-19 safety protocols and processes, and encourage volunteers back to the club environment. An amount of \$540 000 in subsidies were provided to 1 080 clubs in 2020–21. In addition, KidSport vouchers to the tune of \$543 992 provided 3 627 vouchers to eligible children in 2021, and the remaining funding for the 2021–22 financial year will support approximately 20 000 KidSport vouchers to eligible children. A COVID-19 cleaning subsidy to the tune of \$1.65 million will be provided directly to sport and active recreational clubs to support their COVID-19 safety practices.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 564 and the line item, “East Fremantle Oval Precinct”, about three quarters of the way down the page. My understanding is that this was a \$20 million project, of which we saw \$2 million for 2021–22 and \$18 million for 2022–23. Then there was a grievance from the member for Bicton one Thursday morning and now, funnily enough, there is an extra \$5 million in the budget for the East Fremantle Oval precinct. Can the minister explain to me what that extra \$5 million is required for?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The member mentioned the member for Bicton, an outstanding local member, and this is an important project. Yes, the member is correct: it was \$20 million initially, but an additional \$5 million has been provided to take the state government’s contribution to \$25 million, and this for the much-needed redevelopment of the East Fremantle Oval sporting precinct. The redevelopment was expected to cost \$26.5 million when the election commitment was made, but it has since increased to \$32.5 million due to the current market conditions and rising construction costs. What would the member want us to do? Not fund the extra so it could not take place?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am just asking what the extra \$5 million is for.

Dr A.D. BUTI: It reflects an increase in the market conditions and the rising construction costs.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Minister, I cannot find the South Fremantle Oval redevelopment plan here.

Dr A.D. BUTI: As the member and I are both diehard South Fremantle supporters, we would love that to happen in due course. The South Fremantle footy club has got to get its act together, too.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I refer to page 568 and the table headed “Details of Administered Transactions”. Under “Other”, the line item “Rugby WA Loan” shows a loan of two lots. I assume that is two lots of \$1.015 million. Can the minister explain what that is about?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I will be corrected if I need to by Ms Chopping, but that was due to a debt that was owed by Rugby WA. We believe that rather than WA Rugby repaying that debt, it could utilise the money for the development of rugby to the benefit of Western Australians and young Western Australians. We have provided, by way of

a Treasurer bank loan from the state government, the amount of \$2 million, and we think it was a wise decision. Rugby WA has endured a lot of pain over the last few years, and we believe it is a very well-run organisation.

It is more beneficial to the community that it can use that money to advance various rugby programs.

[2.30 pm]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: At what interest rate has the loan been made, and has Rugby WA made any repayments so far on a loan amount?

Dr A.D. BUTI: We just wiped it.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Sorry? The government has wiped it?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes. Okay.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 565 and the line item, “Stephen Michael Foundation”.

Dr A.D. BUTI: A great foundation, as the member well knows.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I read with disappointment that there is no further budget in the out years for the Stephen Michael Foundation.

Dr A.D. BUTI: There was a commitment made at the time for funding for it for a period of time. As in due course with a lot of government funding, we provide funding for a certain period of time and then we reassess and consider whether funding should continue. As the member knows, the Stephen Michael Foundation was established in 2017. It was a commitment by this government, when we were in opposition, to fund this foundation, and when we got into government, we duly honoured our commitment. The foundation has done some great work and we have continued to support it up to the end of 2022–23 financial year. A review of the program will be undertaken in due course.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Both the minister and I know how valuable the Stephen Michael Foundation is to places like Narrogin, Carnarvon, and many others. Outside of the \$5.7 billion surplus, was there a representation from the Stephen Michael Foundation for funding for ongoing support?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I do not know whether I can provide further information on that, but I will ask. I am sure that in due course the Stephen Michael Foundation will come to the government and make its case, its pitch. We were in opposition in 2017, and it came about through the commitments of members such as the member for Fremantle and also the member for Armadale and others to this foundation, if we were to get into government, and then we extended the funding. In due course there will be a review and we will see what happens.

The CHAIR: Can I just bring it to the member’s attention that we still have six divisions to go in an hour and a half. That is all.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Sorry?

The CHAIR: Six divisions to go in an hour and a half.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have just got a couple of others, if I can.

The CHAIR: Yes, sure.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am sure the member would like to go on.

The CHAIR: Member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 564 and the line “Good Faith Television Series”. There is an amount of \$4 million in last year’s figures and nothing in the forward estimates. Can the minister enlighten me as to how that series went and what the KPIs are? Obviously there is no funding going forward; I assume it was a one-off project.

Dr A.D. BUTI: For the *Good Faith* TV series, the state government consolidated screen production attractions and commitments to help secure screen production in Western Australia. The budget was originally allocated to the production title *Good Faith*. That was unable to proceed as planned and this money has been consolidated back into the screen production incentive fund to secure other productions for the state.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, culture and arts. I thank the minister. I have a new question on page 564 in relation to ongoing initiatives and the WA museum, the new Boola Bardip Museum. Regarding the increase in operational funding, there is a sharp increase in 2024–25. Normal operating expenditure is around that \$600 000 to \$800 000, but it goes up to \$5.4 million in 2024–25.

Dr A.D. BUTI: There was an increase in funding over the forward estimates to meet increased operational costs for the new museum, including a significant refresh of audiovisual displays, content and artwork.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 24 May 2022]

p99b-106a

Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Vincent Catania; Ms Lara Dalton

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I have got a question about ongoing initiatives. The Art Gallery of Western Australia has operational funding in 2021–22 of 142 000 and in 2022–23 of 217 000, but there is no further funding in the forward estimates. Can the minister explain why there is no further funding for the Art Gallery of Western Australia?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Is the member talking about the operational funding?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The additional funding across 2021–22 and 2022–23 will meet the additional operational costs for the new rooftop gallery spaces created as part of the elevated rooftop development. This is in respect of the gallery component of the rooftop facility, not the revenue generating part.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 560 and subparagraph 2.9 —

\$500,000 for the planning development for the State Hockey Centre;

I understand that there have been competing attempts from other states in relation to the state hockey centre. Does this mean that WA has now been secured as the future place for Australian hockey?

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, not yet, but hopefully it will be. That is why the state government has committed to doing its utmost to ensure that we do retain the national elite program. The state government is very committed to this and we hope that Western Australia will secure the future of the national program.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is it planned to be around the current Curtin University site or elsewhere?

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, at Curtin University.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The minister will know about this next question as we worked on the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into the West Australian Football Commission. I refer to page 546, under "New Initiatives," and the "AFL Kimberley Partnership". Over five years, \$5 million will go towards the Kimberley partnership. I presume that will be done with the AFL as well. Firstly, how much is the AFL putting in?

Dr A.D. BUTI: It will put in \$500 million.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Is that \$5 million each?

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, sorry. It is \$500 000 per year over five years.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Is that what the AFL is putting in?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes, and the state government is putting \$500 000. It is \$1 million per year between the two for five years.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: What is the reason for the funding or what is the funding hoping to achieve?

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is a good point. I will give the member a bit of history. When Western Australia—Optus Stadium—secured the AFL grand final last year, the AFL was very appreciative that we were able to hold it in Western Australia due to the state government's great management of the COVID pandemic. We also wanted to ensure that that was not the only benefit to Western Australia, so together there was an agreement that we should provide further funding towards football in the Kimberley region. This was seen as an appropriate area because football can be used for many things in the Kimberley, including to improve other aspects of people's lives. Some of the areas that the funding will be used for will include engagement through community, high quality football facilities, pathways and sustainable travel. It will focus on localised engagement and delivery opportunities, which will benefit participants through sport. The WAFC, the AFL and the WA government, through the department, are looking at the best way to utilise the money.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: What is the criteria or measurement that is being used to ensure that the \$1.5 million is actually —

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, it is \$1 million per year for five years.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Is that \$1 million from the state?

Dr A.D. BUTI: No. It is \$500 000 from the state and \$500 000 from the AFL. It is \$1 million per year, together, for five years.

[2.40 pm]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is not clear in the budget that it is \$500 000 from the state and \$500 000 from the AFL.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I will ask Ms Chopping to answer that.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: No, that is fine. If that is the case —

Dr A.D. BUTI: Just wait, member.

Ms L. Chopping: The intention initially was that the AFL money would come to the state and there would be a single funding agreement with the West Australian Football Commission to deliver the partnership. Since the budget

papers were printed, there has been a late change to that agreement because the agreement is in the final stages. The AFL is now making its \$500 000 contribution directly, so it will not flow through the department. The budget will be corrected at the midyear review.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: In terms of the objectives and outcomes, who will oversee the results and will they be reviewed after a period of time such as the first or the second year? Who does that review? Is it the AFL or is it the department?

Dr A.D. BUTI: It is the department.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Is there a checklist or criteria that it needs to meet to continue the funding?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The department and the AFL will decide on the criteria or the funding. We know how the funding will be utilised and the department will be responsible for monitoring whether the intended results are achieved over that period of time.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: What are the intended results to be achieved? It just seems like a program. I am not saying that the Kimberley do not deserve it because, as I said, we have had an inquiry into the difficulties with regional sport. It is sometimes easier for the Kimberley league than, for example, the Gascoyne league that has to travel larger distances. It also has a high Indigenous population and a high Indigenous crime rate, much like the Kimberley. I am struggling to understand why the Kimberley was singled out when the Gascoyne has the same issues. That is why I want to know what the funding criteria is and if it has or has not been developed because it seems that this money is being pushed in a political sense rather than working out the best way to get that engagement in AFL that will hopefully lead to better outcomes, because sport plays a critical role in being able to move forward as a community.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes, the member is 100 per cent right; the Gascoyne area is very important as are the goldfields the southwest. All the regional areas are very important, but the AFL had a particular interest in the Kimberley region and there were existing programs there. I think the AFL thought that it would be easier to leverage off those programs. Hopefully, we get another grand final in the next few years and we can —

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: In 2059.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is right, under the MCG agreement. I do not deny that the Gascoyne region needs it. The point is that the AFL was very keen on the Kimberley region and this was an opportunity that was too good not to take up, and that is why we have the Kimberley program.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: This is my last question. I am concerned that there is no criteria around that funding —

Dr A.D. BUTI: There will be.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: — and there is no vision on what the outcomes will be. I hope that this money is not going to be wasted in fuel rather than actually getting the outcomes that everyone wants to work towards. If those outcomes can be provided, that would be great, so that we have visibility over the taxpayers' money and the deal that has been done with the AFL.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I understand what the member has said. When I was the Minister for Sport and Recreation, I was also very keen to ensure that we set up a program that would have criteria that could be measured. A government steering committee has been established with representatives from the commission, the AFL, the department, Garnduwa and West Australian Country Football League to provide strategic oversight of the program.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have just two quick questions and then we will move on to division 37, if we can.

The CHAIR: Yes, member for Roe, go ahead.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 561 and the screen production facility, which is about four or five line items down from the top. In 2021–22, \$5.7 million was spent. Can the minister tell me what that expenditure was for?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I will ask Ms Chopping to correct me or to elaborate, but part of that money was spent on the market-let proposal process that was required for that project.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: What is the current progress of this project?

Dr A.D. BUTI: It is in progress.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Can the minister underline for me what kind of surveys and studies were undertaken in selecting the Victoria Quay site?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The surveys undertaken in selecting the Victoria Quay site were a part of the market-let proposal, which is still in progress.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the Victoria Quay site going to happen or has the government moved on to another site?

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 24 May 2022]

p99b-106a

Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Dr Tony Buti; Mr Vincent Catania; Ms Lara Dalton

Dr A.D. BUTI: As the member would know, in market-led proposals there are areas of confidentiality. All I would say is that we will let the process continue and the market-led proposal will continue. When a decision can be made, it will be made public.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Who is the proponent and what has happened with the business case, or have we actually moved on to another site?

Dr A.D. BUTI: This is a market-led proposal and at this stage that information is confidential.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Is the government still persevering with the Victoria Quay site?

Dr A.D. BUTI: We are in the market-led proposal and that remains confidential.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a final new question. I refer to page 546, “Perth Cultural Centre Precinct—Increased Security”. It is about a third of the way down the page. That figure has basically doubled in this year’s budget. Can the minister enlighten us as to why that is and what does that provide?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The expenditure of \$3.6 million for increased security was approved to provide a 24-hour security presence over that precinct when before we did not have that.

The appropriation was recommended.

[2.50 pm]