

Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr David Templeman; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Stuart Aubrey; Ms Mia Davies; Ms Merome Beard

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**Division 36: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Services 1, 4 and 7 to 17, Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation —**

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Mr D.A. Templeman, Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation.

Ms L. Chopping, Director General.

Ms E. Gauntlett, Deputy Director General.

Ms J. McGrath, Deputy Director General.

Ms N. Miller, Executive Director, Culture and the Arts.

Ms A. Formentin, Executive Director, Infrastructure.

Ms L. Kalasopatan, Executive Director, Finance.

Ms M. Nicolaou, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation.

Mr K. Burton, Director, Programs.

Mr M. Fulton, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Institute of Sport.

Ms T. Widdicombe, Chief of Staff, Minister for Culture and the Arts.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard and the daily proof will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. I 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 those details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall be examined only 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 noon on Friday, 31 May 2024. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

[8.10 pm]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 531, “Item 83 Contribution to Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund”. I note that in the 2024–25 budget year, CSRFF will go up to \$25.6 million, which is obviously very welcome. I notice the Premier’s annual press release of 15 March on this topic. Can the minister explain to me why this figure then halves to \$12 million in the three out years?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes, I can. The community sporting and recreation facilities fund appropriation was increased by \$7.5 million to \$19.5 million for 2023–24. An additional \$6.073 million was approved for projects in the 2024–25 forward planning round, and that is why both are reflected in the 2024–25 amount. I think, from memory, the member for Roe’s electorate was a generous beneficiary of a number of those additional projects that were approved. An additional \$6 million was approved in 2024–25 to fund the additional projects. There is also \$2.5 million a year for the Club Night Lights program. Although the forward estimates currently reflect a drop in funding from 2025–26, the total amount for allocation in future rounds can be considered as part of a future budget process. Effectively, we have increased the CSRFF, but for 2024–25 we funded some additional projects that we thought were very valid and important. A significant amount of funding from the 2023–24 round of approved projects went to a number of regional areas, including the member’s electorate for a number of projects there.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As I pointed out previously, I look forward to seeing the minister do the first lap of the Dumbleyung swimming pool!

Is there any intention to boost the \$12 million in the three out years? I did not quite pick up why we will go from \$25.6 million back to \$12 million in the out years.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Again, the \$12 million to which the member refers is actually an increase. We in government have increased the CSRFF. Consideration of a future boost is subject to budgetary considerations. I was very pleased the Treasurer supported the boost that we gave in 2024–24 with an additional \$6 million for approved projects. As the member is well aware, demand is always there, and high-quality business cases or

cases put for infrastructure will be assessed. Any additional boost like we saw in 2024–25 is a consideration for future budgets.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I note that in 1992, the allocation for the CSRFF was \$15 million. We are 32 years down the road and things are costing X amount more.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I also note funding for the CSRFF went down whilst the Nationals were in government, member. We boosted it. We have increased it. Do not forget, of course, a range of other programs have seen investment in infrastructure, including the legacy money that was applied as a commitment associated with Perth being one of the host cities for the FIFA Women's World Cup. Additional money was put towards National Women's Soccer League clubs to upgrade facilities. I understand that the legacy projects will continue to be rolled out over the coming six to 12 months.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I noticed that under Hon Terry Waldron there was a contribution from royalties for regions that basically doubled the CSRFF. Would there be any thought process in relation to that being applied to double this \$12 million figure? Does the minister think that could be a possibility or is it just a case of if there are good projects there, the minister will fly the flag to the Treasurer?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member needs to understand that although the CSRFF is a primary program for infrastructure provision, it is not the only one. A number of other infrastructure projects for sporting facilities are also funded through election commitments and Lotterywest. Other funding pools attract project support.

I will ask the director general to give a bit more of an explanation of the funding profile.

**Ms L. Chopping:** Although an amount for the CSRFF is announced each year, that amount is not expended in that year. It is profiled out over the stage of the construction of the grant program. The projection for expenditure in 2025–26 is \$18.209 million and then \$19 million in 2026–27 and \$19 million in 2027–28. That is because of the way we profile out grants. We approve the grants but, obviously, it takes time for them to reach the milestones to secure the payments. As we know, some CSRFF grants are delayed because local governments need to secure funds from elsewhere to supplement those grants in many cases. More than \$12 million will be spent each year even if there is not an uplift in further years down the track.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Another important consideration is that during the second half of last year, the profile of the CSRFF grant program was reviewed, specifically for contributions from local government, state government and the sporting club or the sporting entity. We wanted to streamline that, particularly for projects under \$500 000, from memory. There was an expectation on clubs to contribute to those sorts of projects, but many clubs have a limited capacity to contribute to big infrastructure projects. That streamlining has allowed the funding of a number of projects to be shared between the state government and local governments, and the contribution from the sporting clubs was either negligible or nil. Again, that was based upon the feedback we had from a lot of clubs saying that although the infrastructure upgrades are important, they do not have the capacity to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to bear one-third of the cost.

[8.20 pm]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Certainly, minister. A further comment, really, is that people in regional Western Australia understand the importance of the community sporting and recreation facilities fund grants. I suppose we could say that they provide a lifeline. Does the minister intend to maintain the current 50–50 split of regional and metropolitan projects? I know that it is not necessarily a policy, but it seems to work out that way.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Interestingly, in the 2023–24 period, the number of projects funded in regional areas was over and above the number of projects funded in the metropolitan area. The reality is that throughout the state in both the regional and metropolitan areas there are growth challenges, which has seen an uplift in the use of facilities and sites. Of course, I rely upon the independent assessment of projects. The independent panel makes the recommendations to me for each funding round and recommends those that are appropriate to support and fund.

As the member is well aware, because of the uplift in the number of people participating in junior sport, particularly girls' and women's sport, we have seen some pressure placed on some codes for the maintenance of the fields, for example, and also the need to provide appropriate gender facilities. Many of the facilities in the metropolitan area and regional areas were built for men and boys only, particularly for the Australian Football League. We need a program to ensure that the corresponding uplift of female participation, which is welcomed and tremendous to see, also sees an uplift in the support for the number of programs and projects that enhance facilities for girls and young women.

It is important to note how good the regional network of departmental officers is in our major regional centres. I commend our regional managers and staff in our regional centres throughout the state because they are tremendous

networkers. They are constantly consulting and liaising with all sorts of sporting codes in regional WA. That hard work, advocacy and support helps get more quality programs and projects submitted, be it through the CSRFF or other means. The member is aware that some of the regional programs are a suite of services that are supported by local regional officers. They include the regional athlete support program, the active regional communities grants program and the north west travel subsidy scheme. I do not know how many of those I sign off on. I quite enjoy seeing those come in because it is young people from our regions who are being supported to participate in state and national competitions. To me, that is a very important scheme. The country sport enrichment scheme aims to help emerging athletes in regional areas have access to expert support and coaching. We also have our regional servicing grants and regional strategic initiatives. I am very pleased with the strong network of regional support that we have.

I am also interested in the further development of our academies. I think some of our academies perform very well. They are an important pathway for those talented athletes in regional areas who show promise and need extra support on their trajectory to a more elite level of competition. Ultimately, we want to see those young ones going into Matthew's territory through the Western Australian Institute of Sport.

**Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY:** Also on the CSRFF, I refer specifically to the female change rooms fund on page 551. What projects have been funded using this allocation to increase participation in sport, particularly for girls and women?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will not run through all of them, but it is important to get a flavour for the particular focus on change room facilities. We must never underestimate the importance of lighting and safety in our facilities either. The increased demand because of the participation means that the facilities are being used more at night for training and even games. Therefore, lighting becomes important. That is a safety factor for young people, be they men or young women, to safely get to their cars or to their parents who are picking them up. The member for Roe highlighted the success of the Shire of Dumbleyung, which has a newly reconstructed swimming pool at a cost of \$1.6 million. Bunbury Football Club received over \$200 000 for new women's and unisex change rooms and to upgrade the existing change rooms at the Bunbury footy club. Over half a million dollars was provided to the City of Bunbury for the reconfiguration of 14 netball courts, the removal of lighting towers and for the upgrading of new lighting towers at the Hay Park recreation ground. The City of Canning received a nearly \$2 million commitment for new club rooms in Ferndale Park Reserve, the City of Kalamunda received \$1.3 million for the construction of the Scott Reserve pavilion, the City of Rockingham received over \$1 million for new change rooms at Anniversary Park, and it goes on. This is an important investment.

The fact is that more young people are participating in sport, and more girls and women are participating in active sport. That is tremendous. That brings with it the need for continued investment in the facilities that they need to keep them participating. I will not say anything about the member's magnificent facility at East Fremantle Football Club. That is a tremendous project for the community. It will be exciting to open that in the coming months.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Now that the minister has brought up the East Fremantle Football Club redevelopment, I recall the member for Bicton standing up one day to give a grievance about the need for more money for East Fremantle and, funnily enough, the minister announced another \$5 million a few days later.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** She is very persuasive. Has the member ever been grieved to by the member for Bicton? She is remarkable.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Obviously, the East Fremantle Football Club project is a totally new concept. It will have no fencing and members of the public will be able to wander in during the football matches. Is the minister confident about the continuity for East Fremantle Football Club and that it will be able to extract enough income from the arrangements that will be in place? I do not fully know what they are. The minister might enlighten me on that.

[8.30 pm]

**The CHAIR:** I think that is going a bit beyond the pale, frankly.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will tell members that it is a great opportunity for the club to grow and transform. It is certainly now up to the club to take the opportunity it has been given. There has been significant investment in the local community. There is a huge opportunity here to reinvigorate East Fremantle's football club and, indeed, its connection to community. The fact that the design of the facility has been very much focused on community engagement, participation and activation all goes well. We will watch that model very closely as it unfolds when the facility opens. The reality is that this is an opportunity for the West Australian Football League to look very closely at this. I am very excited about it. The reinvigoration of that club and its facility is very positive, and I look forward to the opening.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I go back to page 531 and the line item "Item 79 Net amount appropriated to deliver Services". The estimated actual for 2023–24 is \$173 million, and then we move up to nearly \$300 million, at \$299.5 million.

Can the minister enlighten me about the massive increase and what it will deliver—and then why it drops away again in the out years?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will. The member is referring to page 531, and the 2023–24 actual versus the budget year shows a \$125 million increase. The increased value is due to the re-profiling of funding relating to projects such as the Canning Vale Regional Sports Complex, the Keenan Park Recreation and Sporting Precinct, the WACA ground redevelopment and the Alkimos aquatic recreation centre to align to revised project milestones. There are milestones to be achieved for a number of the projects I have mentioned, and this aligns those milestones with the funding required for their delivery. The director general will make an additional comment on that.

**Ms L. Chopping:** The projects we are referring to are not delivered by the department; they are projects delivered by other entities under funding agreements, and some of them are quite large financial commitments so that is why they make an impact on the figures going forward. Some of those projects have been delayed whilst the deliverer of the project secures funds from other sources, either other tiers of government or other sources for projects to be delivered. It is not within our power to control the profiling of those projects; they get moved forward in the budget papers.

**Mr S.N. AUBREY:** I refer to the line item “KidSport” on page 552 of budget paper No 2, which outlines sport and recreation funding. As WA communities experience greater cost-of-living pressures, can the minister please explain what actions are being undertaken by the government to minimise the impact of these pressures and support WA families with the cost of sport?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** There is no doubt that the KidSport program is highly successful, and it is very well targeted. However, over the intervening years, certainly while I have been Minister for Sport and Recreation, I have been very interested in the possibilities of the further reach of this program, given it focuses on supporting kids from families that would fit within a profile of having financial constraints. Given the current challenges with the cost of living more broadly, they are further enhanced. I was really proud that we doubled the financial support to eligible children. We also expanded capacity of what the voucher can be spent on. This is based upon good feedback from parents, communities, local governments and sporting clubs. The vouchers can now be used towards the costs of essential uniforms and equipment. We also wanted to look at cohorts that would fit the criteria of support that traditionally have not been targeted for it or had access to it through supporting agencies that might support some of these cohorts. For example, they might be asylum seeker refugee families, humanitarian entrants and, one of the ones I was particularly keen about, children in care. We all know that there are significant numbers of children in care in Western Australia and many of them may not be in the care of the CEO but parented by grandparents. I wanted to make sure that those kids were given every possibility to access this program. We have increased the criteria and doubled the amount. We are monitoring the take-up very closely because we want to see how this has gone. I would love to see a further expansion of the KidSport program, and I think if we target it well, we can get some tremendous outcomes and those who really need it will be able to access it.

A request from one of our local governments was to look at support for access to swimming pools, particularly during summer. We are piloting a program that allows around 300 kids in target regional areas to use KidSport to pay for their season pass or family season pass to get into their local pool. Again, we will monitor that. That program has been a pilot. Obviously, summer is coming to an end, if it ever comes to an end, and we will monitor and assess the effectiveness of that program. I think the number of 300 kids is great. We did not get the program out at the beginning of summer so we want to make sure the timing for the second round of this is in place for a full summer. We will monitor it carefully. I see it as a potential area of expansion. One of the shire presidents contacted me about the program and asked me to think about it. I thought it was a great idea, and I am pleased we delivered it. It might cost \$4 or \$5 for each kid, or whatever it is, for mums and dads who have four kids to get into the local pool, but if they can buy a season pass, they can go to the pool whenever they like during the summer, and I think that is great.

[8.40 pm]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The minister spoke about KidSport, which I obviously strongly agree with—another program brought in by “Tuck” Waldron back in the day. I refer to page 552 of budget paper No 2, as per the member for Scarborough’s question. The budgeted figure for 2024–25 is \$9.034 million. Why does it drop back to \$4.624 million in the three out years?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** First of all, in the 2020–21 financial year, a \$5 million injection from Lotterywest was aligned to the COVID response. Even though the KidSport program has been expanded, the uplift has not been fully expended. As the director general highlighted in answer to a previous question, this allows us to effectively spread the carryover into the out years. Ultimately, I want to spend it all. Ideally, I want to spend all the allocation each year. That has not happened in this case. One of the reasons we looked at expanding the criteria was that we wanted to see this money get into the hands of families who need it. Approximately \$3 million will be carried forward from 2023–24, resulting in a budget of just over \$9 million. Again, I have asked the department to explore models

for expanding the KidSport program over the next financial year. We might consider increasing it again or we might look at a further expansion of the criteria or a greater scope. For example, I really feel for grandparents who look after their grandkids. I know that the department is working with agencies like Wanslea, which has a grandcare program. We want to make sure that grandparents who are looking after grandkids are accessing KidSport to support the upbringing of their grandkids.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thanks, minister. I have a new question.

**The CHAIR:** After that new question, we might have a five-minute comfort break. How are you going, minister?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I have filled my bottle. I am just joking; sorry! Maybe I should not have said that. It is getting late.

**The CHAIR:** Okay. Member for Roe.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Sorry; I withdraw that remark. It was outrageous of me.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have lost concentration now.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** The minister is from Northam; he cannot help it!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Sorry!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to the last line item on page 552 on the Western Australian Institute of Sport, for which the 2022–23 actual was \$3.56 million.

**The CHAIR:** Member, I think we might be dealing with that in division 37.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** No, that is a separate division from this.

**The CHAIR:** Yes. That is the Western Australian Institute of Sport, is it not?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** That is correct, but this is about the funding —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy to take the question.

**The CHAIR:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am on page 552 and referring to the Western Australian Institute of Sport, for which the 2022–23 actual amount was \$3.56 million. We then seem to have a flatline of \$2.416 million each year. I also give my congratulations to the new CEO of the WA Institute of Sport—congratulations on your appointment, Matt. Given that we are heading into the Olympics et cetera, would the minister not have thought that an increase might perhaps be required? Of course, the 2032 Olympics will be held in Brisbane. The minister mentioned before the aspiration for our regional kids to go up to the WA Institute of Sport. Is there any explanation for this lack of increase in funding?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The figures show the current allocations or the base funding. There are other sources, such as through the sports lotteries account. This is an important matter so I will frame it first by saying this: obviously, WAIS has been in a process of transition. A new board is in place with a very highly regarded membership. The governance issues have been addressed. Some matters of a residual or historic nature have been addressed. The department has been working closely with WAIS on the gymnast issue, which I am pleased to say is close to finalisation. Then there is the ultimate question: what should WAIS look like going forward as our peak high-performance training entity? What do we need to look at in terms of the ultimate funding profile for the entity going forward so that it is focused on delivering the outcomes that we expect of it, be that maintaining or hopefully growing the number of Western Australian athletes who are selected for the Olympic and/or Commonwealth Games, if we have the Commonwealth Games in the future; focusing on our strengths in terms of high-performance training and delivery; or connectivity to existing entities? For example, I have spoken to Matt a number of times since his appointment about the clearer pathway from the academy activity that takes place in regional Western Australia and what that means and what the interface needs to be with WAIS going forward. Fundamental to that is the funding profile that will achieve this. WAIS and the department are collaborating with Treasury at the moment on what that needs to look like in the out years. Of course, we needed to show the base funding for the agency in the forward estimates, which we have done. I am confident that we are having good conversations with Treasury about what is needed to fund that entity appropriately to deliver the outcomes that we expect, need and want from it.

In the interim, as the member may be aware, in preparation for the Paris Olympics in July we announced over \$1 million all up to support our Western Australian athletes through a \$5 000 grant per athlete to assist with their personal costs of being an Olympian or Paralympian. This was in addition to the \$333 000 that the state provided to WAIS directly to assist in the qualification support and performance optimisation initiatives leading into Paris—that is, the things WAIS needs to do to support the athletes to get them to both selection and competition level. Then, of course, the state government further committed \$375 000 to the Australian Olympic Committee and the Paralympic

team appeal. That investment, combined, was \$750 000. Those contributions also have been made in preparation. At a federal level, state and territory ministers continue to talk with the federal minister about the green and gold pathway. Of course, that is the aspiration towards 2032 and ultimately beyond and the alignment with a national sporting strategy. We continue to have discussions around the national sport strategy; I think that is the title.

I want to position the Western Australian Institute of Sport. The bones are brilliant in WAIS; there is no doubt about that. WAIS has been very successful. We had a few issues that we have now dealt with, and I am confident that WAIS is on a very firm marking. There are ongoing considerations with Treasury for future budgets and the optimum amount that is needed to ensure that WAIS flourishes and delivers what it needs to deliver for Western Australian athletes, no matter where in WA they are from.

[8.50 pm]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have just one further question before we have a break. The minister mentioned the redress situation. At page 139 of budget paper No 3 we see that the government has approved \$6.1 million over 2023–24 to 2027–28. How is that going? Obviously, it is very traumatic for the gymnasts and everyone involved. In relation to the redress scheme, how is the program going? How is the improvement in governance that the department has foreseen all playing out?

**The CHAIR:** There are about six questions there, member!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That is all right.

**The CHAIR:** Good.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is an important issue, and obviously I have taken a particular interest in ensuring that we resolve the matters and issues that came to light through a formal inquiry and recommendations, as well as ensuring department oversight of that program.

There are a couple of key things. I refer to the oversight. In order to ensure that WAIS complies with the implementation of the Sport Integrity Australia review recommendations, the department continues to meet regularly with WAIS to discuss those recommendations and most recently received a progress report or update in January this year. That is ongoing. We expect that that will be finalised and completed by the third quarter of this year. That is very well on track to be delivered. These are actions on the gymnast program that I asked the agency and WAIS to respond to. Obviously, we made the apology—goodness me, I think it was two years ago, from memory—in the Parliament, which I think was an important acknowledgement. That was in June 2022. Another action was to facilitate the restorative and reconciliation process. Those sessions have commenced. I think it is important to note that the former gymnasts are engaged in this process. I pay tribute to the gymnasts. There is a core of probably four or five gymnasts who are, I suppose, representative of the broader cohort, and they continue to engage with the department and WAIS to facilitate the restorative and reconciliation process. Again, that is expected to be completed by this year.

The third request was to undertake a comprehensive governance and cultural review. KPMG was engaged in the second half of last year to conduct that review, and we expect that that will be concluded and a final report released to me mid this year. That is expected imminently in the next couple of months. The request to establish a specialist child safeguarding unit to investigate other regulatory measures to work towards child safeguarding has been completed. That is very important; I am pleased about that. The finalisation of the redress is imminent.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I have a further question on the institute that follows on from the member for Roe's question on the line item on page 552 of budget paper No 2. As an inaugural member of WAIS, I am very supportive of WAIS, but I am also supportive of regional athletes. There is a line item above WAIS, "Regional Athlete Support Program". Do athletes who are supported by that regional program feed into the WAIS program?

**The CHAIR:** We were actually looking at page 139 of budget paper No 3, so in fact it is a new question. We will have a break until nine o'clock. Thank you.

*Meeting suspended from 8.55 to 9.00 pm*

**The CHAIR:** The member for North West Central has another question on this division. We might then get an indication from the opposition, given we have an hour left and a number of divisions, how you want to allocate your time. Member for North West Central.

**Ms M. BEARD:** My question is on page 537 of budget paper No 3, in relation to museums.

**The CHAIR:** Excellent.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I refer to the line item "Museum Services to the Regions". Can the minister explain what museum services have been delivered to the regions for the \$8.5 million? I note that there is a reduction of \$1 million since the last budget.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member would be aware that the Western Australian Museum is responsible for a number of regional museums in Albany, Geraldton and the goldfields, as well as the Western Australian Maritime Museum. It also has oversight of “Goondawarudu Mia”, which is in Carnarvon.

**Ms M. BEARD:** It is Gwoonwardu Mia.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I need to learn how to say that. We are pleased to see an increase in visitation at that centre from 2021–22. I will find out whether we have the funding allocation or the appropriation to support the delivery of services at that heritage and cultural centre. I note some ongoing programming collaboration with local and visiting Aboriginal artists and musicians. For example, a 12-day celebration was held around the time of the solar eclipse. A new touchscreen has been installed in the permanent exhibition; the yarning circle received some funding support from Tourism Western Australia to connect with local Aboriginal people to become guest speakers; and in partnership with Real Futures, the training cafe at this facility launched in October 2023. My understanding is that the funding for that centre is ongoing. The agreement has just been finalised for another two years and that allocation, from memory, is from royalties for regions. The key thing for the member is that the funding agreement has been finalised for the next two years. To be totally honest with the member, a lot of opportunity can be delivered through that cultural centre. It is still a work in progress. More consultation and discussion is needed around what can be delivered through that centre. It should be a place that is very active and engaging and able to entice more visitation than it currently does. I know that the director of the WA Museum is closely monitoring the operation of that centre now that there is certainty for another two years of funding. I would expect that closer consideration of that program will be really important. It should be the number one place to go to for any visitor to Carnarvon, apart from the magnificent Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum where the satellite dishes are.

**Ms M. BEARD:** Are there other museums throughout the regions that offer a similar experience to Gwoonwardu Mia?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It operates under a longstanding arrangement. The WA Museum is the entity that oversees a number of museums in the state, including the flagship museum Boola Bardip, and the WA Maritime and WA Shipwrecks Museums in Fremantle. Then we have regional museums that are operated by the Western Australian Museum and include the Museum of the Great Southern in Albany, the Museum of Geraldton on the Batavia Coast and the Museum of the Goldfields. A number of other museums located in rural and regional centres are basically operated by a mix of local government support and/or volunteers or both. They are not funded by the WA Museum because to fund all of them, both small and large, would be quite a significant commitment.

In the first term of the McGowan government, the WA Museum supported a program that assisted collecting entities like local, regional or town museums to commit to a digital record of their artefacts and collection. Not last year, but I think the year before, we also launched WAnderland, which is a portal that assists in cataloguing and ensures that people have access to points of interest. People might know that a family member, for example, may have had a connection to Menzies. They can then use the WAnderland portal to access any information that relates to Menzies, including the digitalised collections of collecting entities. As we move towards acknowledgement of the 200-year colonial presence in Albany in 2026 and acknowledgement of the 200-year colonial presence of the Swan River settlement in Perth in 2029, it will be important to have ongoing protection and a growing record of what is out there in a lot of our museums. The member would know. I have been to the Norseman Historic Museum; it has collected some remarkable stuff. Wagin Historical Village has a magnificent museum precinct and a great collection. We rely very much on volunteers, as all members would be aware, to maintain, curate and share the stories that are attached to those magnificent places.

[9.10 pm]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to the second last line on page 552. The Western Australian Football Commission seems to have received a general increase of between \$300 000 and \$400 000 a year. Can the minister outline how that figure is calculated each year and why there has been an increase?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will get more detail to that but, broadly, the funding arrangements for the Western Australian Football Commission include the commitments made prior to the commencement of the construction and operation of Perth Stadium, or Optus Stadium as it is currently called. I understand that it will be a number of years before those arrangements will be fulfilled. From memory, I think it is a 10-year commitment. The football funding agreement, which was signed by the previous Barnett government, provides payments over 10 years from 2018 to 2028. The next Minister for Sport and Recreation—it might be me, you never know—in the next government will have to consider this item after 2025. The annual payment is based on the value of revenues generated at Subiaco Oval. The initial base value of \$10.297 million was based on calculations relating to Subiaco Oval revenues. The agreement requires the payment to be escalated annually based on CPI growth. I understand that the figures reflected in the forward estimates relate to indexation.

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 21 May 2024]

p155b-161a

Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr David Templeman; Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Stuart Aubrey; Ms Mia Davies; Ms Merome Beard

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**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to the ongoing initiatives on page 532, and the club night-lights program, which has obviously been well received. The amount of \$659 000 appears in the 2024–25 budget year but it then seems to disappear. Can the minister explain the logic or thinking behind that?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** We provide \$2.5 million per annum through the club night-lights program. It runs in conjunction with the funding rounds for the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. From memory, the club night-lights program was established by Minister Murray; I must arrange for a bust of Minister Murray! The amount of \$11.6 million has been allocated to 103 projects. Recently, an additional \$659 000, which is shown in this budget, was approved for projects in the 2024–25 forward planning round, but that does not mean that the night-lights program disappears, because it is part of the CSRFF total allocation.

**The appropriation was recommended.**