

**PERTH THUNDER ICE HOCKEY TEAM**

*Statement by Member for Jandakot*

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot)** [12.55 pm]: On Saturday 5 May, Perth Thunder will make its debut in the nine-team Australian Ice Hockey League when it plays the Canberra Knights at Perth Ice Arena. Although the AIHL was established way back in 2000, it is only this year that Thunder will compete as a full member. Its inclusion in the national competition brings with it much anticipation and promise. Perth Thunder boasts a number of international players who have made our state their home, including Aaron Wilson, Ken Rolph, Phil Ginand, Gabe Andre, Sean Hamilton and goalie Kiefer Smiley. These imports will complement local talent Ric Del Basso, Greg Hyde, Jordy Kyros and Andy Cox. Adam Briggs, Kyle Green, Ayden Millward, Sam Wilson, Sam Bavin, Dave Ruck, David and Simon Kudla, Richard Lamb, Johan Melander, Cameron Walsh, Jonathan Bremner, Liam Jeffries and Paul Graham have all contributed to the team. Stan Scott, the coach of Perth Thunder, along with his team, have done a superhuman job in getting our city's team into the national league.

Along with the population of our state, ice hockey is a rapidly growing sport. It is brilliant that Western Australia will now have the opportunity to thrash the rest of the country in yet another field, and we are all very proud of the team's efforts. I am sure that every member of Parliament wishes Perth Thunder all the best. We look forward to seeing the team in action during the season, and bringing the Goodall Cup to Perth for the first time.