

SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

**49. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to improving community sport and recreation facilities across the state, including in the Geraldton region. Can the minister advise the house how this government is assisting local clubs to upgrade their facilities to provide Western Australians with more opportunities to participate in sport?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I take note of the Speaker's ruling, so I will be brief, but I will be pertinent!

I thank the member for Geraldton, who is a magnificent representative for Geraldton. I want to tell members that last week or so we were up in Geraldton, and what a marvellous community Geraldton is. It is a great regional city. It has a great history and, of course, it has a great future. It is very well led by its local member in the member for Geraldton. The Premier and I, on the Sunday when we were up there before the community cabinet event, very proudly went across to the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association stadium, which, of course, the association built originally itself in terms of raising the money for it. The Premier was very pleased to officially open, effectively, the doubling of that stadium, which included a contribution of over \$3 million from the McGowan government, advocated for by the member for Geraldton. What a tremendous facility. It doubles the capacity for that great sport of basketball, which has a great history in Geraldton with the 70 years that the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association has been in existence. It was tremendous to see so many young people. The Premier of course had a bit of a go at a couple of rebounds and a couple of three-pointers and a few things. Let us just say that that is not necessarily one of his great fortes! He was having a bit of a go. But what he lacked in skill, he did not lack in effort, I might say. Let us congratulate those who are involved in basketball, and all sports, in Geraldton.

I was very pleased to announce this week the recipients of the very important program that we have and have had for some time, which is the program that delivers regional projects. I am very, very proud that over \$12 million was committed.

**Mr R.S. Love:** What program was that?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The community sporting and recreation facilities fund. Over \$12 million was committed to projects. Lots of regional members here and lots of members from the metropolitan area had their community organisations and groups receive project money to complete some very important infrastructure projects. Congratulations to them.

Part of that program includes the Club Night Lights program, which allows lots of organisations, bowling clubs and sporting grounds to have lighting either upgraded or added to those facilities. Again, that makes sure that children, young people and adults alike can enjoy sport both during the day and under lights. All those projects went through, including our important program that is focused on ensuring that women athletes and girls have access to appropriate facilities, which we know had not been provided in many places. Those facilities are part of an ongoing project.

Meekatharra, Halls Creek, Albany, Nullagine, Joondalup, Forrestfield, Esperance, Newman—I could go on, but I am mindful—all have received money through the CSRFF and the Club Night Lights program. I have to say this: I take my hat off and I salute those people in community sport organisations, like the president of the Rover Football Club in Geraldton. That club got a \$2 500 upgrade for its female change rooms. I want to pay particular credit to all those community members, men and women, who support community sport throughout the state. They are absolutely magnificent gems because they ensure that our children and young people have great opportunities to play sport of all codes. They are wonderful, wonderful Western Australians, and many of them reside in Geraldton and are very well led by the member for Geraldton, who bounced a ball as a player at the stadium in Geraldton. Well done, member for Geraldton, and congratulations.

**Mr M. McGowan:** She was a cheerleader.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** She was a cheerleader.

**Ms L. Dalton:** Oh, yes. Don't tell them.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** She was a cheerleader; I forgot to say that! She was part of the Buccaneers cheerleading team, which is apparently very, very well known in the history of basketball.

This is a great announcement, and I want to congratulate all those organisations that were funded through those two important programs.

**Mr M. McGowan:** I'm glad you were so brief!

**The SPEAKER:** That actually was quite a lengthy answer. That concludes question time.

