



BASEBALL



**Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons poses with Australian Baseball League operations and facility development manager Dan Amodio and Federal Member for Hasluck Ken Wyatt.** d421248

## \$20m baseball stadium plan

A PLANNED \$20 million redevelopment would convert Thornlie's Barbagallo Ballpark into an international standard baseball stadium, according to Swan MHR Steve Irons.

Mr Irons spoke of the Australian Baseball League (ABL) plan to turn the Perth Heat's home into Australia's best baseball venue, with increased capacity and better lighting.

Contributions from the Federal and State Governments would be needed, and in his capacity as Parliamentary Friends of Sport chairman, Mr

Irons will hold a Parliament House event in November to build the required support.

He and MHR of the neighbouring Hasluck electorate, Ken Wyatt, met recently with ABL operations and facility development manager Dan Amodio regarding the event, at which the ABL will present its plans.

Mr Irons said there was a strong supporter base for the sport in the southern suburbs, especially at Langford Sporting Complex.

"We have seen Perth Heat attendances up significantly since

the launch of the Australian Baseball League in 2010 and we are now seeing crowds upwards of 6000 fans per weekend," he said.

"This is a higher attendance than some A-League games at NIB Stadium in recent years.

"There is also increasing grassroots participation, with a 22 per cent increase in registered players since 2010."

Mr Irons said baseball was an international sport and there would be opportunities for Perth if it had an international stadium.