



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 11

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
13 November 2019

Asked by Miss Candice Burch:

In relation to: Heritage Emergency fund

MISS C BURCH: Thank you. I would like to go to the Heritage Emergency Fund. What—

Mr Gentleman: So does the rest of Canberra sometimes.

MISS C BURCH: I understand that 10,000 was required to be spent from the fund on an event to celebrate the moon landing anniversary. Why was that provided as emergency funding? Surely the anniversary was something that we could have had the foresight to plan for or—

Mr Gentleman: We did plan quite a bit for the Heritage Festival dealing with the anniversary of the moon landing; as you would remember, the ACT played a significant role in the transmission of the first signals from Armstrong stepping on the moon, but there were some other opportunities that came forward during the rollout of the festival that we sought funding for and I will ask Ms Moore to give you the details.

Ms Moore: I might take that on notice to get the exact—what criteria it met, but ultimately in this instance it would have been about—the urgency would have been on timing to meet that date.

MISS C BURCH: Okay, yes. If you could take that on notice—

Ms Moore: And that—yes, I can take that—

MISS C BURCH: —that would be appreciated. Because similarly, there was 13,000 spent on an event to celebrate the work of Enrico Taglietti and similarly, why was that also classified as emergency funding?

Ms Moore: I can answer that. That is due to Mr Taglietti's age. And he has since passed since that grant has been awarded, so it—

MISS C BURCH: But there presumably would have been time taken to plan the events. As you say perhaps it is a timing issue, but if we could understand the criteria that it is assessed on. Thank you.

And the Better Infrastructure Fund, how much of the fund—there was 83,000 for heritage projects allocated to the Canberra track projects.

Ms Moore: Canberra Tracks received 47,000.



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MISS C BURCH: 47,000? Okay. And how much of that was spent on the development of the app and website?

Mr Walker: One second.

Ms Moore: Can I please take that one notice?

MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In 2018-19, \$3382 was spent on the Canberra Tracks Augmented Reality app.

The criteria for the Emergency Fund are as follows:

1. protect and conserve heritage places and objects under threat of imminent destruction;
2. respond to unforeseen events such as urgent repairs and/or conservation works;
3. focus on age and infirmity such as oral histories that capture important aspects of Canberra's heritage;
4. meet the funding priorities of the ACT Heritage Grants Program and have a demonstrated urgency that precludes it from the annual ACT Heritage Grants Program; and
5. Projects applying to the Emergency Fund are also considered at the discretion of the Minister.

In 2018-19, \$13,090 was released for the DESIGN Canberra Festival Taglietti symposium under funding Criterion 3, because:

- The symposium was a signature keystone event that provided a rare opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of such a significant figure during their lifetime. A key focus of the symposium was to engage with people who had been touched by Taglietti's architecture.
- At the time, the late Dr. Taglietti was aged in his 90s and participated in the program. The DESIGN Canberra Festival is very popular and in previous years has engaged 94, 000 people with its curated program, and is seen as a platform to educate the community about the value of our built heritage and to celebrate its significance.

In 2018-19, \$10,000 was released for a 'space' themed geocaching event under Criteria 4 and 5, because:

- In accordance with Criterion 4 the event met the funding priorities of the ACT Heritage Grants Program however it was scheduled to occur before the next annual program would commence.
- this sport offers a new way to engage with the public to showcase local heritage and historic sites. Nearly all of the 180 Canberra Tracks interpretive signs have a hidden cache.
- it was a national event coinciding with the 2019 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival that attracted close to 1,000 interstate and international attendees. Outcomes from the national geocaching event saw:
 - new caches placed at locations connected to the space theme
 - an opportunity for the Festival Co-ordinator to speak to the group about Canberra's history



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- to have the Canberra Tracks brochure in the welcome packs.
- There are strong synergies between geocaching and heritage tourism. The week-long stay of interstate and international visitors of all ages benefitted the region economically.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 22/11/19

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman

