

QToN No 1,



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA



Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

Answer to Question Taken on Notice

The Committee asks ministers to provide Answers to Questions Taken on Notice within 5 working days of receipt of the Uncorrected Proof Transcript, where Day One is the first working day after the hearing.

Question taken on notice by Alistair Coe MLA on 28 February 2020, pp.12-13 of Proof Transcript:

MR COE: Yes. Can you please expand on why the grass will not grow east-west?

Mr Bailey: Yes, I think it is just due to the shading there. I know the sun moves that way, but my understanding is that you need the north-south to get that bridge there.

Mr Barr: It would be in shade a lot of the time, obviously, because, particularly now, for most of our winter, the sun is lower and on an angle from the north.

MR COE: Yes, but if you have got a rectangle and you have got a roof that follows that rectangle, either you are going to have the same shade issues for half the field going lengthwise or half the field going width wise.

Mr Bailey: Yes, you are right, and I think that was what you were mentioning about Docklands as well. It is the corners that can be a bit of a concern. The technical side— I am not a technical person with the grass, so I could get that verified—but I think the bigger issue of east-west is running into it, so you would have to basically just play night games.

MR COE: Yes, I understand that argument, but I just do not understand—

Mr Bailey: No, but I—

MR COE: Because surely if you are going north-south, the shade issue is going to run lengthwise, not width wise.

Mr Bailey: Yes, look—

MR COE: I am just baffled by this argument.

Mr Bailey: Yes, I can get that information for you; I can take that on notice.

THE CHAIR: Take that on notice. Mr Bailey: I will take that question on notice. But I have had it explained to me that—

MR COE: I would be delighted, because I—

Mr Bailey: I am not the best to come in here and technically give it to you.

MR COE: know many people in the sporting community, including the elite sporting community, that are absolutely baffled by this argument.

Mr Bailey: Yes, I know and I will get that information. I have had it explained to me, but I have—

Mr Barr: Why most of them are north-south.

MR COE: I understand that from a sun point of view, but not from growing grass, running to the sun.

The Answer to Question Taken on Notice by Andrew Barr MLA as Treasurer in connection with further work for a new Rectangular Canberra Stadium, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, considered in hearings of 28 February 2020 is as follows:

For turfgrass health and growth, the maximum amount of sunlight on the surface is required for turf photosynthesis. This is particularly important in southern cities during winter months. The north-south orientation also minimises overshadowing of the playing surface by presenting the short side of the pitch to the north, and so maximises sunlight penetration onto the turf surface. Consequently, consideration is also given to the design and height of the northern grandstand to reduce shading of the playing surface.

There are several reasons to orientate rectangular sports stadium primarily north to south. Most winter matches are played in the afternoon with a corresponding low sun angle resulting from the aphelion of the sun. The north-south orientation minimises the amount of direct sunlight in players eyes. For the same reason, this orientation is also beneficial for television cameras and the optimum siting of media centres. Sporting organisations such as FIFA stipulate north-south playing surfaces with maximum orientation deviation limits.

Venues Canberra have relied on information supplied by Cox Architecture when drafting this response.

Signed



Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer

10.3.20