



Inquiry into the provision of municipal services in Canberra

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Sport and Recreation facilities and Robotic line markers for sports fields

Hearing: 19 February 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: p 65

Transcript provided: 25 February 2026

Answer Due: 4 March 2026

Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation - took on notice the following question(s):

Ms Berry: We have invested in new technology, robot line marking.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Yes, I have heard of robot line marking.

Ms Berry: Yes, and we named one of the robot line markers after Steve Doszpot recognising his continued advocacy around the removal of diesel line marking. And it was something that he was a very strong advocate around. So those are going really well, I understand. Do we have an update on—I do not know how much they do or anything or how many we have.

Ms Marriage: So robotic line marking is done at a proportion of our sites at the moment, and you are absolutely correct, the manual line marking, it does take a number of people a whole day to be able to mark one field. The robotic gives us that opportunity to be able to do it differently. I have got detail about the robotic line marking. I cannot access it, which is not very helpful at the moment.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: You should have seen me this morning ...(indistinct)...
[3.21.52]

Ms Marriage: Yes, but it is certainly—those are the kind of dynamics that we want to be changing in the efficiency because the number of staff that we have in sportsground management is—you know, you want it to be a more efficient service and being able to do something that is new technology, smart technology, actually makes it a lot easier for us to do it.

MR WERNER-GIBBINGS: Okay, and you can take the detail that you have on notice, I would like to see it.

Ms Marriage: I will take that on notice.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The paint-based robotic line marking system requires the purchase of dedicated water-based line-marking paint and the use of specialised robotic line-marking machines.

- Each box of paint costs \$115.00 and contains six 1-litre containers, regardless of colour (black or white).
- When mixed, each litre produces 10 litres of usable line-marking paint.
- Robotic line markers weigh approximately 50 kg and can be used shortly after rainfall with minimal to no turf damage, vastly increasing access and reliability.

This system delivers significant operational improvements over historical diesel-based marking. A comparative example of the operational efficiencies is below:

Example - Athletics Track (standard 400m athletics track)

With water-based line-marking paint (robotic)

- It requires 30 litres of diluted paint (equivalent to 3 × 1-litre containers) for each marking run.
- completion time is 4 to 4.5 hours and can be used shortly after rainfall.
- Markings last a maximum of 2 weeks after which they are either washed away or cut over by a mower.
- Using black paint lasts approximately 50% longer than white paint as it absorbs heat, slowing the growth of the leaf blade down, further reducing re-marking frequency.

With diesel line marking

- it requires approximately 400 litres of diesel and is about 5 hours of work for each marking run
- Markings last a maximum of eight weeks, then require re-application.
- Its application depends heavily on suitable weather because the diesel equipment is mounted on a 1.5-tonne Ute, which cannot operate on wet turf.

Shifting to paint marking creates several efficiencies:

- reduced labour hours through fewer re-marking cycles.
- dramatically lower volumes of product required, thus also improving storage requirements and managing such risks.
- greater operational flexibility, as small robotic markers can operate on soft or recently wet surfaces.
- Offers environmental benefits by avoiding soil contamination associated with diesel and diesel related products.

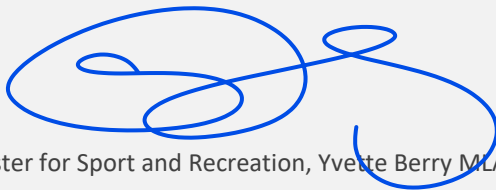
Paint-based marking also improves the ability to reconfigure fields across winter seasons, enabling multi-sport use. For example, athletics ovals can easily be overlaid with two combination sporting fields (soccer, rugby league, rugby union). This is due to the markings washing away easily in a short period. It also allows for better turf quality maintained all year-round.

Grounds where water-based paint line marking is currently in use-

- Ainslie Enclosed
- Amaroo 2
- Amaroo AFL
- Amaroo - Athletics
- Aranda
- Banks – Sprint track (Yes). 400m track still diesel
- Bonython NHO
- Boomanulla
- Calwell 2 - Athletics
- Canberra High
- Charnwood - Athletics
- Chisholm 1 DPF
- Conder NHO
- Cook Athletics - Athletics
- Dickson - Athletics
- Garran 1
- Giralang 1
- Gordon 2
- Greenway Enclosed oval
- Griffith 1 DPF
- Hackett
- Hall
- Harrison 1
- Hawker
- Higgins
- Holt
- Kaleen 2
- Kaleen Enclosed
- Kambah 2
- Kambah 3 - Athletics
- Macquarie Enclosed
- Mawson 1
- Mawson 2
- Narrabundah 1
- Narrabundah 4
- Ngunnawal
- Nicholls Enclosed
- O'Connor
- Phillip 1
- Phillip 3
- Phillip 4
- Reid
- Southwell 204, 205, 206, 207
- Stirling 1 Enclosed Oval
- Stirling 3
- Wanniasa 1
- Wanniasa 2
- Waramanga 1
- Weetangera
- Yarralumla 1 NHO – (two of the three soccer fields)

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

Signature:



By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

11/03/26