



Inquiry into DPA-07 - Former Braddon Bowls Club

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: Territory Plan Amendment

Hearing: 18 June 2026

In relation to: Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment

Question received: 26 June 2026

Answer Due: 3 July 2026

Directorate officials referred to an ACT wide community, recreation and sports facilities needs assessment and social infrastructure audit.

(1) Is that the report titled 'ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit: Final Report' prepared by SGS Economics and Planning (December 2025)?

(2) If so, can you provide the Committee a copy of the report complete with Appendix A, B and C?

(3) Was a list provided to the consultant of all of the community, recreation and sports facilities and social infrastructure in Canberra?

(4) Did the consultant visit any of the community, recreation and sports facilities and social infrastructure and if so which ones did they visit?

(5) Was usage data of the community, recreation and sports facilities and social infrastructure provided to the consultant?

(6) Did the consultant consult with any of the people or groups that use the community, recreation and sports facilities and social infrastructure?

(7) Is the Government proposing to consult the community about the outcomes of the SGS report and if so when will this consultation commence?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows –

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised by the City and Environment Directorate (CED) that the report is published on the ACT Government's Planning website and is publicly available at the following link, under the title "ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit Final Report" -
<https://www.planning.act.gov.au/professionals/resources/publications>.

Appendix A (Ground Truthing of Audit) and Appendix B (Demographic Analysis) are also published on this page.

I am advised that Appendix C, the Engagement Report, was prepared as an internal consultation record and was not intended for publication. The document records discussions and views provided by ACT Government directorates and agencies during stakeholder engagement undertaken to inform the needs assessment. It does not represent ACT Government policy or agreed positions and contains preliminary observations, issues and potential opportunities raised by participants during consultation. The outcomes of that engagement were incorporated into the final published report. Accordingly, Appendix C has not been published.

- (3) I am advised by CED that ACT Government directorates and agencies provided facility and asset information to support the infrastructure audit. This information was used alongside data from the ACT Government geospatial data catalogue, desktop research, site visits and a review of strategic planning and infrastructure documents to compile and validate the audit of facilities across the ACT. The audit methodology also recognised that some facilities, including certain school-based and privately operated facilities, may not have been fully captured in the available datasets.
- (4) I am advised by the CED that, yes, as part of the methodology for the ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit, the consultant undertook site visits to selected facilities to supplement the desktop audit and understand how existing infrastructure operates in practice. The report states that these site visits were undertaken to a mix of older and newer community facilities and were used to provide additional context and inform the recommendations of the needs assessment.

The facilities visited were:

- Griffith Neighbourhood Centre, Griffith
- Time Out Learning Centre, Griffith
- Weston Community Hub, Weston
- Holder Child Development Service, Holder
- Coombs Community Centre, Coombs
- Denman Village Community Centre, Denman Prospect

- Belconnen Community Centre, Belconnen
- Humpy Hall, Scullin
- Holt Neighbourhood Hall, Holt
- Salthouse Community Centre, Braddon
- Canberra Seniors Centre, Turner.

- (5) I am advised by the City and Environment Directorate (CED): yes, where available. Information provided to the consultant included asset information and available utilisation data to support the infrastructure audit and needs assessment. The report notes that the availability and completeness of data varied across facility types and recommends continuing to improve community infrastructure data, including asset and utilisation data, to support future planning.
- (6) I am advised by the City and Environment Directorate (CED) that the consultant undertook stakeholder engagement with relevant ACT Government directorates and agencies as part of the needs assessment. The purpose of this engagement was to understand current issues and challenges facing ACT Government agencies and known plans for future facilities, and supplement the quantitative analysis with qualitative insights. The report states that ACT Government stakeholders were consulted throughout the project and that the findings from this engagement informed the assessment and recommendations. Consultation was limited to ACT Government directorates and agencies only.
- (7) I am advised by the City and Environment Directorate (CED) that the report is intended to inform the ACT Government's strategic planning for community infrastructure and implementation of the District Strategies. The Government will continue to engage with the community on social and community infrastructure needs and priorities through relevant planning, place-based planning and infrastructure planning processes, as appropriate.

Consultation on community facilities may be undertaken as part of future planning projects in particular districts or precincts. For example, community engagement associated with the Southern Gateway Framework will seek community views on a range of matters, including community facilities and infrastructure needs within the corridor. The community can make comment on the ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit Final Report as part of the consultation.

At this time, no standalone ACT-wide community consultation on the outcomes of the SGS report has been announced. The findings of the report will instead help inform future planning work, including processes that involve community engagement where appropriate.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature: 

Date: 3/7/26

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel MLA