



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript 25 July 2024 Page 116

In relation to: Reasons Civic was ruled out as site for a new stadium

Hearing Date: 25 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 26 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 31 July 2024

MS LEE: So just in terms of the stadium aspect, you have obviously announced I think it was this year that you are now going to Bruce and that is something that you have determined. Previously I think you have explored Civic in terms of the Civic pool site, obviously. So can you please just explain for the committee for the record the reasons why that was ruled out?

Mr Barr: Yes, so it is not feasible for a number of reasons. I will refer you to the previous time this question was asked in Estimates. We will provide a further written answer just to confirm what was previously said.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

On 20 November 2023, in the Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023, in Question Taken on Notice No. 13, the following response was provided:

MS LEE: Just for completeness of these hearings, when you say that the Civic site is not viable, what are the reasons?

Mr Barr: We have already outlined them. I will provide them in writing again.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Three sites were originally considered as possible locations for the Stadium - on the existing site owned by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), with other exhibition and community facilities at EPIC, or redevelop the existing Civic Pool site on Constitution Avenue. Since 2019, several studies have been undertaken on the option for a city stadium on the current Civic Pool site. Unfortunately,

while some early studies were promising, subsequent analysis found that it was not feasible to locate a stadium on that site.

Stadiums require a north-south orientation, meaning significant compromises would need to be made to the stadium's design, functionality and patron experience to make it fit on the site.

The location and the surrounding road network would also pose significant challenges for moving crowds in and out of the stadium. Nearby roads would need to be closed to accommodate pedestrians, which would have flow on effects for traffic management. Friday night games would be particularly challenging in terms of managing the inflow of patrons to the stadium at the same time as normal peak hour around the city.

The surrounding residential buildings would be severely impacted by noise and have access restricted around events. There are also a number of technical constraints, including the need to relocate significant in-ground infrastructure. A structure of this size, height and mass would have a sizeable environment impact, including to wind flow through the city and the shadow cast over public and private space.

Collectively, these factors would contribute to a poor game day experience and atmosphere for patrons, teams, and poor outcomes for nearby residents and the broader ACT community.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: **31.7.24**

By the Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA