



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr James Milligan MLA on 16 November 2023: Mr Iglesias took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 16 November, Pages 9 – 10

In relation to: Cricket club facility access

MR MILLIGAN: Yes, thank you, Chair. I have been contacted by a number of local cricket clubs, and they were getting ready for the start of their summer season and they went along to an ACT government asset where they store their facilities within an ACT government asset, but to their surprise the locks are changed, there was a combination lock applied to it and apparently there was a new policy that the government had—or did not even announce, sorry, and no-one had contacted those cricket clubs to say now there is a new policy, you need to come here and get your equipment out. Can you explain what happened here?

Mr Iglesias: Okay, so, not knowing the particulars of the situation, where there are pavilions that are available at sports grounds, those pavilions are bookable. They have always been bookable.

MR MILLIGAN: They have had it for ten years. They have had that facility for ten years.

Mr Iglesias: So there is not—so all the pavilions are available to all the clubs on a booked basis. For example, cricket club at Kippax wants to use the ovals, they book the oval, they book the pavilion. What we were finding was that in some instances, and this may be due to a historical arrangement, it may not, but some clubs were using the facilities that were not being booked, that were just being used, because they had keys to access facilities. So our approach was in the interests of ensuring that clubs have an equal call on any given facility, that we invite bookings, we invite bookings to the pavilions, we invite bookings to the sports grounds on a first come, first served—

MR MILLIGAN: These are storage facilities.

Mr Iglesias: —and—yes, but it is all part of the booking arrangement, and once that is done, we work cooperatively with each of the clubs. I would be happy to take the details of the particular case and see exactly what the situation was.

MR MILLIGAN: The Redbacks Cricket Club in Nicholls, they had that facility for ten years, but the day they went there for training there was a new lock, they could not access it, no-one had any

communication with them and apparently, according to them, a number of other clubs had the same issue, and it was just purely a storage facility. So, you know, just wondering—if you need to take it on notice.

Mr Iglesias: Yes. No, no, I will definitely have a look to get the detail of exactly what the story is there, but it is—we are happy to work with any club based on—and it is not a new policy, it is a longstanding policy, of booking in the facilities that are needed.

MR MILLIGAN: No, well the policy according to the ranger that turned up on the day said that, you know, there was a new government policy and we were instructed to change all the locks on all facilities to combination locks and you have to get your equipment out now. But no-one communicated with the club, so I am just wondering if you can provide the reason why.

Ms Berry: Yes, no, that—well that sounds like something we will have to take away and investigate. Although, it is not a new policy. It might have been the case that this particular sports group had been using those facilities on their own, but if it is booked out to somebody else, somebody else needs to be able to access and use those facilities.

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

In early October the ACT Sports and Recreation Facilities team needed to access the water tanks at the Nicholls oval. At the time there was some cricket equipment stored in front of the access gate preventing access to the water tanks. ACT Sport and Recreation Facilities do not move equipment that belongs to clubs.

The ACT Sports and Recreation Facilities team asked several cricket clubs whether the equipment was theirs. All clubs that they approached, which didn't include the Redbacks, confirmed it wasn't their equipment.

On 6 October 2023, ACT Sport and Recreation Facilities wrote to Redbacks Cricket club to ascertain if the equipment belonged to them, to which the Redbacks Cricket club confirmed it did and the equipment had been removed the previous evening.

Unfortunately there was no direct communication with the Redbacks Cricket club until the day after they had voluntarily removed the equipment. ACT Sport and Recreation at the time didn't know who owned the equipment and had only approached Cricket ACT affiliated clubs.

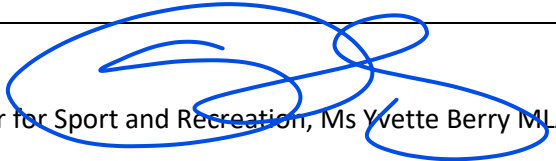
I'd like to thank the Redbacks for their patience through the process and for moving the equipment to provide access for maintenance.

An improved process has now been established to ensure agreements made between ACT Sports and Recreation Facilities and sporting clubs are properly documented to avoid a repeat of this situation.

The Canberra Redbacks Cricket Club have been offered two storage solutions: (1) move their equipment back into the storage shed where they have been for the previous 10 years, with space left for access to infrastructure, or (2) to use a shipping container. The club has advised it will consult with their committee members and respond. ACT Sports and Recreation Facilities.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned over the signature line.

Date:

23/11/23

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Ms Yvette Berry MLA