



**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by JAMES MILLIGAN MLA:

[Ref: Sports & Recreation (Elite Sporting performance and venues), Budget Book B, page number 69-70, output class 3.3]

In relation to:

**Home of Football Throsby**

1. This facility was earlier allocated nearly \$20m over a 4-year period. In the space of 1 year an extra \$9m has been added to the cost, ostensibly to remedy anticipated water course issues. That area in Throsby was formerly allocated for a comprehensive set of playing fields which were in the planning stage for many years. As part of an environmental offset large sections of the originally planned suburb of Throsby were added to the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and provision was made for an Environmental Centre. Recently plans to establish a Community Garden plot were reconsidered due to threats from a pre-existing watercourse with potential for flooding.
  - a. Was the government aware there were watercourse problem with the site?
  - b. When did the government become aware of the watercourse problems?
  - c. Were alternative sites considered?
  - d. Will the watercourse problems be fully resolved?
  - e. What community consultation was undertaken prior to choosing this site?
  - f. Does this amended total represent the full cost of the facility and are the ACT Government bearing the full extra amount?
  - g. Will any parts be accessible for club for public use before formal completion of the project?
  - h. have any studies been done on the impact of this facility on the Nature reserve and the residents of Throsby?
  - i. When can the Canberra community expect the constructions to begin?
  - j. When will the project be completed?

YVETTE BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- a. Yes, the ACT Government was aware of the watercourse across the site.
- b. As with all projects of a similar nature, due diligence is required in the early phase of design to ensure the site is fit for purpose. Flood mitigation was a key focus during the development of the Home of Football Estate Development Plan.
- c. The Throsby site was identified as the best location for the Home of Football as the site was large enough and suitably zoned to support the Capital Football vision for the future facility. The provision of district sporting facility in Throsby was identified during the early planning

phase of Gungahlin and detailed in the East Gungahlin Structure Plan and Throsby Concept Plan.

- d. Yes, the watercourse issues will be fully resolved. Flood immunity to 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) will be provided.
- e. The provision of district sporting facility in Throsby was identified during the early planning phase of Gungahlin and is detailed in the East Gungahlin Structure Plan and Throsby Concept Plan.
- f. A staged delivery approach is being undertaken for the project. The amended total represents the funding required to deliver the futsal building, main field, a community synthetic and grass turf fields and enabling infrastructure (i.e. roads, parking, etc). Upfront civil works to prepare the site will be undertaken in advance of the construction of sporting infrastructure. As has always been the case, Capital Football is contributing \$4.5 million to support the delivery of the project. The ACT Government has committed the full extra amount (\$9.0m) through the 2021-22 Budget.
- g. The construction program is yet to be finalised, but consideration will be given to providing access to certain parts of the facility early if this can be achieved.
- h. The Throsby Home of Football site is covered by the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment (GSA), under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and an existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exemption, under the ACT *Planning and Development Act 2007*.
- i. Commencement of construction is currently scheduled to commence in 2022.
- j. The completion of construction is currently scheduled for 2023.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry MLA

09/11/21