



Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

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

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 20 November 2023: Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard Proof Transcript, 20 November 2023, Page 48

In relation to:

MS LEE: Minister, with the elite teams, many of them have publicly lobbied for exploring a city stadium. What have been the main reasons they have told you about, and what is your response?

Mr Barr: I think they are mostly focused on a new venue. With its location, some are agnostic; others have a preference. But when the relative factors of cost, size of venue, fan experience, revenue-generating potential for hirers and cost of hiring a venue are all factored in, I think there is an understanding that the Civic pool site will not work, for a variety of reasons. It has been thoroughly explored but it is not viable, so we are looking at alternative options. That process is very clear and links back to the previous discussion in relation to the Australian Institute of Sport.

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 Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: **27. 11. 23**

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA