



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by James Milligan MLA:

Ref: TCCS Annual Report, Volume 1

In relation to Boomanulla Oval:

- 1) The Annual report refers to plans for Boomanulla restoration, specifically can you elaborate on plans for:
  - a) The main building,
  - b) The community area,
  - c) Garden of Achievement.
- 2) What will these be used for?
- 3) How much will each cost to restore and maintain?
- 4) Who has been involved in the design of these areas?
- 5) How has the community, local, sporting and indigenous, been engaged and asked to participate?
- 6) How will these facilities be managed once restored under this project?

In relation to sporting ovals:

- 1) You stated that the mowing schedule for ovals aligns to the suburb mowing which is roughly monthly, what is the irrigation schedule like for a standard sporting oval?
- 2) What is the schedule for weed spraying and control works?
- 3) Is there an intent to return any of the 31 decommissioned, neighbourhood ovals to formal sporting use?
- 4) Are there any plans to convert any of the 31 decommissioned, neighbourhood ovals to community recreation parks with irrigated grassed areas?

**Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–**

In relation to Boomanulla Oval:

- 1)
  - a. The main building has been repaired to provide a multi-purpose function room.
  - b. The community areas have been mown, dangerous trees assessed and removed/pruned, repairs to the fences, and a general tidy and removal of rubbish. A children's nature play area has been constructed.

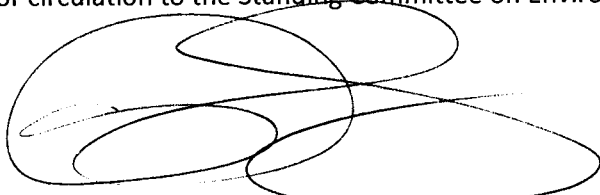
- c. The Garden of Achievement has been restored with a general tidy up ensuring those that have made a significant contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community continue to be honoured for their efforts.
- 2) The Government is undertaking restorative works at Boomanulla Oval to enable the facility to be re-opened for informal recreation and community use.
- 3) The cost to undertake the restorative works was \$950,000 and an annual maintenance budget of \$125,000 has been allocated for the next two years as the facility is integrated into the TCCS maintenance program.
- 4) Members of the Elected Body and a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives have been closely consulted about the extent of works to be undertaken as part of the interim restorative works. The primary focus of the restorative works was to improve site safety and security and to provide a range of functional areas for informal recreation and community use.
- 5) Local residents have been kept informed through regular letter box drops. TCCS also presented to the Old Narrabundah Community Council in July 2018. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and associated sporting groups have been kept informed of the restorative works through the Elected Body.
- 6) The government will continue to work with the Elected Body regarding the short term management including bookings and use of the facility. Decisions about the long term management arrangements are yet to be finalised.

In relation to sporting ovals:

- 1) Mowing of irrigated ovals occurs every week and twice a week during summer, dryland mowing around the surrounds of the ovals occurs monthly in the growing season.  
The irrigation scheduling for ovals is complex, it is programmed through the computerised IQ Rainbird system which takes account of the net evaporation, rainfall and programmed sporting activities to program the best time to irrigate the ovals. The majority of watering occurs at night (except during frosty periods) to reduce wind and evaporation.
- 2) Weed spraying is undertaken on the oval surface as necessary, some grass weeds like winter and summer grass are tolerated but broadleaf weeds are generally managed as they appear, the aim of fit for purpose ovals is to ensure that the density of the desirable grasses out competes the invasive varieties. During late spring Scarab grubs are sprayed with an inert product to protect people, animals and birds. Nematodes are also regularly checked to ensure that they are not doing too much damage to the root zone of the grasses.
- 3) A business decision was made in the late 1990's to turn off low use ovals, given their cost and water requirements. The ACT Government continues to look at consolidating and better utilising the facilities already available and making sure sport and community needs are met in the most efficient way possible.
- 4) No discussions have been entered into with the community on the further development of the open space other than maintaining them for informal recreational activities.

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

Signature:



Date: 03/12/18

By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry