



# Inquiry into the provision of municipal services in Canberra

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Sport and Recreation facilities and Female friendly upgrades at sporting facilities

Hearing: 19 February 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: pg 62

Transcript provided: 25 February 2026

Answer Due: 4 March 2026

### **Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation - took on notice the following question(s):**

I do not have many questions on sport and rec, but I was wondering about upgrades to ovals, like the actual physical ground. Do upgrades on those and the facilities around happen on a usage basis on a group advocacy basis? Like how does the government manage fixing football ovals?

**Ms Berry:** Well, it depends what kind of upgrades because maintenance and upgrade work happens across the year and in particular during the shutdown periods where there is, you know, all the fertilisation that goes on and the sprinkler systems are checked and poring of the grass while they are not being played on gives them a moment to recover from sport. So, all that happens is a matter of course, every field. For more significant upgrades like a pavilion, for example, that might be through checking on the asset and then prioritised based on the state of the asset and whether it can be renewed or not.

Some of them are short-term, some of them are much longer term. Some people have very gold-plated aspirations that need a little bit of time to get to. Others are a much shorter term like the female-friendly upgrades, for example, at all the pavilions, ACT government-owned pavilions. The ACT government is working through going through all of those upgrades. I cannot remember how many we have got left of the female-friendly, but I might ask Ms Marriage to talk to those and if you have got specific questions we can—

**THE CHAIR:** Yes, the female-friendly changerooms would be great. How many we have done and how many we have got to go. And I have one specific question about Hall. I feel I have probably asked this earlier in my time here, but just how different ovals are getting different attention?

**Ms Marriage:** Sue Marriage. I am the acting EBM of City Presentation and I have read the privilege statement and accept it. Talking about the female-friendly upgrades, there is a detailed list of them and what the commitment is for us to be able to deliver them in this term of government and I think I would say that it is probably about 65 per cent delivered at the moment and that is not including the ones that are in this future commitment as well. So I have not got my list right here, but I can

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certainly take that on notice and provide that information to you. And also where we are talking about other types of upgrades as well, you have got lighting upgrades which are really relevant to us because we are trying to look at optimising the facilities that you have currently got so that they can be extended for the amount of time that is available to sporting groups.

You have got drainage and irrigation upgrades and while they are not the sexy piece that sporting groups need to look at, a lot of our irrigation systems and our subsoil activity is there. It is 30 or 40 years of age. And so then when you want to be able to maintain your turf when we are getting into drought periods like we currently are, the challenge is that it does not matter how much water you are putting onto it, if you have not got that soil that is of a suitable nature and you have not been able to look at the irrigation system being able to put the volume on there, then that is the challenges that you have. Then of course we have got all the other general facility upgrades that occur.

The main way that we look at that is where the usage patterns are across Canberra and particularly, we do keep all of that usage data for each of the grounds so that, through our booking system, to be able to look at that. It is also a relationship that you have then with the stakeholder groups because they obviously have their priorities that they want to do and where they want to develop their sport, where they have more junior development and where they want to be able to grow their membership base. We have got to work with them as well to try and do that. So it is a bit of a complicated thing; you have got to look at the venues that you have got, whether you can optimise those further or whether you have then got to look at what are some of those upgrades that need to be done, and some of those are below the ground, some of those are above.

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

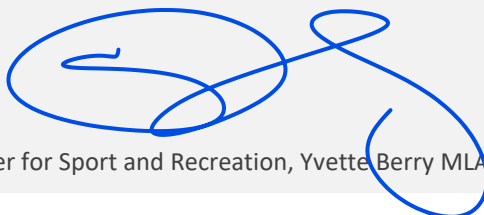
The ACT Government manages 55 sportsground pavilions with changeroom facilities. As of 1 January 2026, 40 of the 55 sportsground pavilions have been upgraded to meet female-friendly standards, representing 73% of the portfolio.

The remaining 15 pavilions are scheduled for upgrade over the next two financial years (2026–27 and 2027–28), subject to capital funding and delivery sequencing.

Hall does not currently have a sportsground pavilion at the ground and is currently serviced by a temporary portable changeroom asset.

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

Signature:



By the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

11/03/26