



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Dry land fields are earmarked/categorised for further development.

Hearing: **14 February 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **14/02/2025, pp 81-82.**

Transcript provided: **19 February 2025**

Answer Due: **26 February 2025**

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

MR EMERSON: Okay. And one more follow up on – I do not imagine dry land fields are included in that audit. But is there any consideration – this has been raised with me by a couple of different community organisations who are keen to partner in reactivating some dry land fields and would be happy to basically fund a whole bunch of it – of development to use those fields. So is there any separate work going on? You said you have got a strategy. You already know about where the fields are. But is that a piece of work that is a possibility of pursuing?

Ms Berry: We did do some work in the last couple of years on understanding our dry land ovals. And many of which were switched off during the drought in 2003.

Mr Iglesias: Be in the late 90s.

Ms Berry: The late 90s. Okay, good. So they are – and then looking at them and seeing whether or not they meet the needs of sport and rec as a new sports field and sports pavilion, et cetera. Whether they were connected or owned by education and part of a school. Or whether, as a dry land oval they are more suitable as keeping as a more informal space but could allow itself for opportunities for the community to engage in, you know, upgrading in a different kind of way, that would not lead to formal sport. And we have had that sort of work done at Florey, where the school has got some more outdoor space on part of the dry land oval. And that could be the case for other fields as well.

MR EMERSON: Okay.

Ms Berry: I do not know whether we have that – I will take on advice, because I think it would be useful for the committee to see that information—

MR EMERSON: Yes.

Ms Berry: Which fields are earmarked, I guess—

MR EMERSON: If they have been kind of categorised.

Ms Berry: Sort of like if you have one, a dry land oval that is only very small, it just does not lead to a very good sustainable, viable, outcome to put one little oval on it for formal sport. But it might lend itself to other things. You know, some outdoor rec park thing. But a bigger space that might lend itself in the future, when the need arise, to a double sports field that can hold a pavilion and actually cater to a bigger group of people, that is all identified. So I will get that to the committee as well. I am happy to share that. That will be useful for you, I think.

MR EMERSON: That will be great. Yes, I think some of the community organisations would love to see that to be able to come forward and say, 'Look at his, this is something we want to contribute to?'

Ms Berry: Yes.

MR EMERSON: Yes, okay. Thank you.

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

The Urban Open Space Land Management Plan finalised in 2023 proposes the strategic framework for the management of dryland ovals. There are no current plans for the development of dryland ovals.

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

Signature:

By Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation

Date:

12/03/25