

SELECT COMMITTEES ON ESTIMATES 2008-2009

Question on Notice

Minister for Tourism Sport and Recreation

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Canberra festival of running

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Canberra Festival of Running (p89, BP3)

1. Was the decision to provide this funding in part a response to federal government cuts to the National Capital Authority budget or a response to other federal spending cuts to programs, government agencies, or non-government organisations?
2. How was events organisation for the Canberra Festival of Running supported and funded prior to the provision of this funding?
3. What other forms of funding and support are provided by the ACT Government for this event, separate to the new funding in this budget measure?
4. How will the new external position assist with the development of the Cross-Country Event into a Festival of Running?
5. For how many weeks, or for what portion of the year will the external organiser be engaged?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. No and no.
2. The Government made provision for an annual allocation of \$20,000 in the 2007-08 budget for the Robert de Castella Invitational event, which was run for the first time on 18 November 2007.

This event was run directly by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services who manage Stromlo Forest Park. They were strongly supported by the ACT Cross-Country and ACT Athletics Clubs.

3. None.
4. The increased funding will now make it possible to secure an external event organiser who can grow the event over the next five years into an annual week-long festival of running. The increased funding will allow for improved promotion of the event and for the organisers to attract some international running identities.
5. The intention is to appoint an external event organiser for a period of five years this way providing stability and longevity for the event to move forward.

Australian Science festival accommodation

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Australian Science Festival Accommodation (p89, BP3)

6. Was the decision to provide this funding in part a response to federal government cuts to the National Capital Authority budget or a response to other federal spending cuts to programs, government agencies, or non-government organisations?
7. What agreements has the ACT entered into regarding assistance with organisation of the Australian Science Festival, and under that agreement what are the responsibilities of the ACT Government as broken down by exclusive responsibilities, shared responsibilities and areas where assistance may be provided?
8. How were accommodation expenses for the Australian Science Festival supported and funded prior to the provision of funding under this budget measure?
9. How did the need for additional assistance with accommodation arise?
10. When did the Festival enter into an obligation to incur an increased liability for accommodation costs?
11. When will the first payment by the ACT Government for increased accommodation assistance be provided?

Andrew Barr MLA: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No.
2. The Australian Capital Territory, through Australian Capital Tourism, has a funding agreement with the Australian Science Festival (ASF) of \$246,000 per annum for three years (2008, 2009 and 2010). The funding is being provided to the ASF to assist in the staging of the event.
In addition to the yearly subsidy of \$246,000, the ACT Government will provide \$50,000 for rent assistance.
3. Until the ASF moved to its current location in the Blaxland Centre in Griffith, it was a tenant in government offices and was provided accommodation, telephone services and outgoings such as electricity and water free of charge by the hosting agencies.
4. ACT Property Group in Territory and Municipal Services moved ASF to the Blaxland Centre from 220 Northbourne Avenue to make room for the Department of Education and Training. This occurred during the 2007/08 financial year and ACT Property Group met the accommodation, telephone and outgoings costs for the financial year as the move occurred after the 2007/08 Budget had been announced.
5. The ASF has not entered into an obligation to incur an increased liability for accommodation costs. The Budget allocates the money to the Enterprise Services Network in Territory and Municipal Services so that the Network can pay the rent, telephone and outgoings invoices to be issued by ACT Property Group.
6. The first invoice will be issued to the Network on 1 July 2008.

Events assistance program

Zed Seselja MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Events Assistance Program (p89, BP3)

1. Was the decision to provide this funding in part a response to federal government cuts to the National Capital Authority budget or a response to other federal spending cuts to programs, government agencies, or non-government organisations?
2. What is the breakdown of new funding among the three categories of promotional expenditure, research expenditure and business development activities, in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?
3. How many additional staff in full-time-equivalent terms at what levels will be employed under this measure and what is the timeframe for recruitment?
4. What is the focus and extent of the additional promotional activities?
5. What is the focus and extent of the additional research activities?
6. What is the focus and extent of the additional business development activities?
7. What were the changes to funding of balloon events previously provided from the Events Assistance Program and what impact have these changes had on the future resourcing available under the Events Assistance Program?

Andrew Barr MLA: I am advised that the answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

7. No.
8. There is no pre-determined breakdown between these three categories. The nature of support provided under the Events Assistance Program (EAP) is dependent on the funding requests received from applicants each year.
9. Nil.
10. All support provided under the EAP is focused on creating additional visitation impacts for the ACT, including:
 - a. increasing the number of visitors travelling to the ACT
 - b. increasing visitor length of stay in the ACT
 - c. enhancing the overall tourism experience of visitors
 - d. engaging and benefiting other sectors of the Canberra region tourism industry.
11. As per response to Question 4.
12. As per response to Question 4.
13. Under the 2007/08 EAP, funding of \$50,000 per annum for 3 years was offered to the organisers of the Canberra Balloon Fiesta Inc (CBF) - an offer that was not accepted by CBF.

To ensure that a balloon event was held in Canberra in 2008, the ACT Government funding (including \$50,000 from 2007/08 EAP funds) was re-allocated to the National Autumn Balloon Spectacular. Funding previously allocated to the CBF for 2008/09 and 2009/10 under the multi-year offer returns to the EAP funding pool.

Intl mountain bike event support

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : International Mountain Bike Event Support (p88, BP3)

1. What is the source of revenue for the International Mountain Bike Event, how many parties are expected to contribute and what are the fee structures or different contribution amounts for different categories of contributors?
2. Who will administer collection of revenue, what is the expected cost of revenue collection and how will the cost of collection be borne?
3. What components of the expenses are offset by the revenue?
4. What components of the expenses are not offset by the revenue?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The revenue reflected for the International Mountain Bike Events are in effect a repayment to the Government. Canberra Off-Road Cyclists (CORC), the event promoter and organiser, is responsible for making the repayment. They will generate their revenues from a variety of sources that include ticket sales, sponsorship, merchandise sales, trader site rentals, TV rights royalties, licensing royalties, etc.
2. The ACT Government and CORC support for the two international mountain bike events will be administered by the Department of Territory and Municipal Services' agency Territory Venues and Events who manage Stromlo Forest Park. The ACT Government and Canberra Off-Road Cyclists will be entering into a Grant Agreement to cover this arrangement and the repayment will be one of the Grant conditions. There will be no direct "cost of collection" associated with this issue.
3. Not relevant based on the answers to the Questions 1 and 2.
4. Not relevant based on the answers to the Questions 1 and 2.

Community development and policy

Vicki Dunne MLA : To ask the Minister Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Community Development and Policy – Community affairs (women)

1. How will the Physical Activity Targeted Population Program be run, what is the strategy behind it?
2. When will the programs start and how many people from the community will be able to participate in the first sessions?
3. Who will run the programs, will this see community groups carrying out the physical activity programs or will there be people employed to run the programs by the government department in charge?
4. Where will the physical activity programs take place, will they be in nursing homes, community centres or gyms?
5. How will these programs be promoted to the community and how much is it expected to cost to promote it to the community?
6. Will this just be an awareness program or will there be people/co-ordinators out in the community running actual programs?
7. Will these programs run on a regular schedule and will they have a minimum amount of participants required for each session for them to be able to run?
8. How will the success of this program be assessed and who will it be reported to?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The targeted population program comprises of two program streams – disability sport and actively ageing. Sport and Recreation Services (SRS) holds an annual service agreement with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) guiding the delivery of these targeted population programs in the ACT.

Actively ageing programs are developed and implemented in line with the key outcomes of the ACT Actively Ageing Framework (2004). SRS will soon commence the development of a long-term ACT Disability Sport and Physical Activity strategy to guide the future development and delivery of programs for people with a disability

2. The recruitment process for a Disability Sport Officer is underway and it is anticipated this Officer will commence in the role in July 2008. Actively Ageing programs will continue to be delivered under the existing program management arrangements.
3. SRS will recruit a Disability Sport Officer to coordinate and deliver the Disability Sport Program in the ACT. The management of the ACT Actively Ageing Framework will continue within the current staffing arrangements of the SRS Sport and Recreation Programs Unit with the support of the ACT Actively Ageing Steering Committee.

Through both the disability and actively ageing programs, funding may be made available to established and recognised community and sporting providers for the provision of programs and services.

4. Programs will be delivered in a range of community settings as required, including but not limited to, sport and recreation venues, schools, community centres.
5. Programs will be promoted through established community and government networks as part of the delivery arrangements and program partnerships.
6. While both program streams will heighten community and industry awareness, both will also involve the direct delivery of sport and physical activity programs and services for people with a disability and older adults in the community.
7. The delivery model for individual programs will vary to meet the specific needs of the target group and desired program outcomes of the ACT Actively Ageing Framework and ACT Disability Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
8. Key performance measures for this initiative:
 - development of a coordinated Disability Sport Strategy for the ACT;
 - achievement of disability outcomes under the Commonwealth funding agreement between SRS and the ASC;
 - the increase in participation levels of people with a disability in regular sporting activity as measured by the Australian Sports Commission;
 - the number of existing, modified and new physical activity/sport programs available for older adults in the ACT.

Lyneham sports precinct development

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Lyneham Sports Precinct Development (p69, BP5)

1. What activities and services are delivered through the \$3 million expense amount for 2008-09, as distinct from the works delivered under capital component of \$3.5 million for that year?
2. Why is there no depreciation provision for this capital works project? How is future depreciation on these facilities to be funded, including for capital investment that represent enhancements and extensions to existing facilities?
3. What is the depreciation method and rate of depreciation?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The \$3m referred to in 2008-09 is that component of the initiative provided as a direct grant to the ACT Netball Association for redevelopment of their facility at Lyneham. The \$3.5m for new capital works in 2008-09 (BP 4, pg 301) refers to this grant to ACT Netball and an additional \$500,000 made available for the supporting precinct infrastructure. Initially it is expected that this will be used for the finalisation of planning and design.
2. No consideration has been provided to the costs of depreciation on the ACT Netball Association asset. Like any ACT sport and recreation organisation there will continue to be channels by which funding for future facility maintenance and improvements may be supported through the Sport and Recreation Grants program.
3. See Question 2

Investment fund for accommodation, chairlift at Stromlo forest park

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Investment Fund for accommodation, Chairlift and related development at Stromlo Forest park (p71, BP5)

1. What is the extent of demand for the chairlift?
2. What would be the estimated construction cost and operating costs for a chairlift?
3. What would be the estimated length of the chairlift?
4. What component of the \$200,000 study relates to feasibility study of a chairlift?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. User and market demand will be tested through the economic analysis component of the feasibility study.
2. Estimated construction costs will be identified through the feasibility study.
3. Route alignment options would be identified through the feasibility study.
4. It is expected that the cost of the chairlift feasibility study will be approximately \$75,000.

Outdoor sports facilities water reduction strategies (p69, BP5)

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism Sport and Recreation

In relation to : “Where will we play” Outdoor Sports Facilities Water Reduction Strategies (p69, BP5)

1. What is estimated average cost of sewer mining per oval or sports ground?
2. What is estimated average cost of storm water capture per oval or sports ground?
3. What is the is estimated average cost for retrofitting of irrigation systems to existing ovals?
4. What is the is estimated average cost for fitting of irrigation systems to new ovals?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: -

1. Currently unknown. ACTEW own and operate the infrastructure that is currently utilised to irrigate sportsgrounds with recycled effluent water in the ACT.
2. Currently unknown. No sportsground in the ACT is currently irrigated with stormwater. A number of consultancy projects are currently investigating opportunities in this area for application in the ACT, including potential costs.
3. Unknown. Costs are dependant on the level of infrastructure in place and the amount of repairs/maintenance required at each individual oval.
4. Approximately \$50,000 per hectare. An average sized sportsground is approximately 2.5 hectares.

Throsby district playing fields and netball centre

Zed Seselja MLA : To ask the Minister for Tourism Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Throsby District Playing Fields and netball centre (p69, Budget paper 5)

1. What will be the estimated future cost for construction of each new playing field?
2. What will be the estimated future cost for construction of the Netball Centre precinct and what will be the breakdown between outdoor and indoor netball facilities?
3. What is the is estimated average cost for water systems for new playing fields, as broken down by irrigation systems, stormwater and greywater capture and other water recycling measures?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. This is not known at this stage. The forward design process funded in the 2008/09 budget will determine these costs.
2. Once again, detailed costings will not be known until the forward design is complete. It is not intended to construct any indoor netball facilities at this stage.
3. Details will be determined as part of the design process, but it will be a key objective of the project to minimise the use of potable water for irrigation. Opportunities will be explored for the use of non-potable sources.

443 Tourism, Sport and Recreation Smyth

QTON - Drought proofing work package

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : \$3m drought proofing work package (page 776, 27 May 2008)

How many applications did you receive.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

37 applications were received and 18 were funded.

QTON - Drought proofing initiatives

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : \$3m drought proofing initiatives (page 782, 27 May 2008)

How much of the \$3m has been spent and can you provide a list of the 18 projects funded in the grant round.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

\$1,816,420. It is expected that all funds except for the rollover figure (\$275,000) will be paid this financial year (\$2,725,000). The rollover figure is set aside for further long term planning initiatives to support the "Where Will We Play" vision in 2008/09.

The 18 projects in the grant round are listed below.

Organisation - Name	Project Description
GRASS CONVERSION AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT	
Federal Golf Club	Couch conversion of fairways
Eastlake Football Club	Couch conversion of Calwell Oval
Murrumbidgee Country Club	Installation of a more efficient irrigation system
Fairbairn Golf Club	Couch conversion of fairways and replacement of inefficient sprinklers
Softball ACT	Hawker International Softball Centre - replacing current grassed areas with soil diamonds and couch grass

WATER RECYCLING PROJECTS	
Belconnen Bowling Club	Installation of rainwater harvesting system and tanks
Canberra Grammar School	Collection of pool backwash and roof water run off for storage in tanks and irrigation of sportsgrounds
Hockey ACT	National Hockey Centre - Storm water harvesting and recycling project
Radford College	Grey water recycling from Gymnasium to water P & F oval
Belconnen Dog Obedience Club	Installation of tanks for storm water harvesting
Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union & Amateur Sports Club Ltd	Town Centre Sports Club - Harvest storm water to be used on bowling greens. Reduce irrigated areas
ACT Motor Cycle Club	Increase capacity of dam, construct overflow dam, harvest storm water at Fairbairn Park complex
SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT	
Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union & Amateur Sports Club Ltd	Vikings Park - Installation of a sewerage treatment plant
LIGHTING	
Western District Rugby Union Club	Lighting - Jamison Oval
Capital Football	Hawker Enclosed Oval - Installation of lights
SURFACE UPGRADES	
ACT Equestrian Association	Creating artificial arena surfaces x 2
Belconnen Model Aero Club	Installation of synthetic grass runway
Capital Football	Hawker Enclosed Oval - Seed funding for installation of a synthetic grass surface

445 Tourism, Sport and Recreation Smyth

QTON - Funding for lighting upgrades in the drought proofing package

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : funding for lighting upgrades in the drought proofing package (page 782)

How many facilities have got lights.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Eleven sporting fields at seven locations across Canberra will receive lights as part of this initiative.

QTON - Harrison district playing field

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Harrison District Playing Field (page 778 of 27 May 2008)

Can somebody give us a reconciliation of how that works?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Harrison District Playing Fields – funding reconciliation

Year	Budget Paper Reference	Commentary	\$'000
6 June 2007	2007-08 BP 4, page 301	Funds appropriated in 2007-08 Budget	3.750
March 2008	2008-09 BP 4, page 298	Rollover of 2007-08 funding requested as delays had arisen due to water restrictions, however a recent exemption approval from ACTEW had allowed programming, development application and documentation preparation to commence.	-3.600
April 2008	2008-09 BP 4, page 299	Additional funding was approved by the Treasurer to address cost pressures arising from the high level of volatility in the market. Funding was provided from savings within the National Convention Centre Upgrades project.	0.500
April 2008	2008-09 BP 4, page 299	Rollover of additional \$0.5m 2007-08 funding requested as delays had arisen due to water restrictions, however a recent exemption approval from ACTEW had allowed programming, development application and documentation preparation to commence.	-0.500
6 May 2008	2008-09 BP 4, page 297	Additional funds appropriated in 2008-09 Budget required to address cost pressures arising from the high level of volatility in the market. Civil works expected to be complete by December 2008. The pavilion and playing surfaces are likely to be completed about mid 2009, depending on weather and rainfall.	1.000
6 May 2008	2008-09 BP 4, page 302	The Capital Works Program table identifies Harrison District Playing Fields as a work in progress with a total cost of \$5.25m.	Total Funding 5.250

447 Tourism, Sport and Recreation Smyth

QTON - Autumn balloon spectacular - no of visitors

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Autumn Balloon Spectacular (page 810-811)

Were the visitors to the torch relay included in the balloon fiesta numbers?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

No.

QTON - Floriade car parking

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Floriade car parking (page 794)

What is the parking availability in the City for Floriade:

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Australian Capital Tourism is currently reviewing the weekday parking situation in and around the city and is considering suitable options to accommodate Floriade visitor parking. A parking strategy is being developed and will be communicated over the coming months to address the weekday Floriade visitor parking arrangements.

QTON - Autumn balloon spectacular - no of staff

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to: Autumn Balloon Spectacular (page 807)

How many staff were involved between the launch and the event and during the event?
How many staff were involved, and how many hours did they contribute?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

No Australian Capital Tourism staff members were involved in the operation and delivery of the 2008 National Autumn Balloon Spectacular.

Four tourism staff members contributed to aspects of the launch and promotion of the event. It is not possible to ascertain the hours contributed.

450 Tourism, Sport and Recreation Smyth

QTON - Autumn balloon spectacular - officials for the events

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Autumn Balloon Spectacular (page 809)

Who provided the officials for the events, for instance the launch marshals?
The refuelling marshals?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Chief Minister's Department coordinated these arrangements.

Balloon Aloft provided the officials for the launch and refuelling marshals as part of the project management contract.

451 Tourism, Sport and Recreation Smyth

QTON - Autumn balloon spectacular - Insurance amount

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : Autumn Balloon Spectacular (page 810-811)

Who paid for the insurance and how much was it?

Who organised and provided the entertainment?

Were any benefits that you are aware of provided to any commercial enterprises that were involved in the event?

Who organised and provided the things like cold rooms, barbecues, power generators, site sheds, toilets, portable lighting, emergency services, road blocks and control measures?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

I understand the Acting Chief Minister has responded to these questions.

QTON - See yourself in Canberra

BRENDAN SMYTH MLA: To ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

In relation to : See Yourself in Canberra (page 812-813)

What were the conclusions on the effectiveness and the return to the people of Canberra for the investment that the government has put into the see yourself in Canberra campaign?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The "See Yourself in The Nation's Capital" brand position is a long-term program aimed at creating customer loyalty in a very competitive domestic tourism market.

Australian Capital Tourism obtains quarterly data from the independent Roy Morgan Holiday Tracking Survey which provides information on advertising awareness and travel preferences. Awareness and preference levels are primary indicators for future travel intentions to the ACT. Australian Capital Tourism is meeting the targets set for these indicators.

In response to a question from Mr Smyth about an evaluation report for the "See Yourself in The Nation's Capital" campaign, the General Manager of Australian Capital Tourism, Ms Simonne Shepherd, indicated she would need to see what was released to industry. The report was never released to industry.