



Select Committee on the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid

Hearing Date: 27 February 2024

Questions taken on notice

Directed to: Bendigo Stadium Limited (Red Energy Arena), Stacie Wright

Received Date: 14 March 2024

1. **The CHAIR, page 18**

Question Asked:

Just netball, yes. As part of this, were you expecting any funds to be directed to the arena for upgrades? Would it have been capable of handling this in its current state?

Stacie WRIGHT: In the current capacity, netball would have been fine. There were obviously discussions on potentially a second sport, which never eventuated to anything.

The CHAIR: What other sport?

Stacie WRIGHT: There were lots of different sports thrown around. As you would know, there were a number that there was not a home for yet, so there were a number of discussions again in the operational detail that the CEO would have taken on notice, but from what I understand, there were a number of sports discussed.

Response: Squash was one sport spoken about.

2. **Joe McCRACKEN, page 18**

Question Asked:

...What involvement did the Bendigo Stadium play in the games preparation, to your knowledge? Were they part of the original bid or anything like that? Were you consulted on forming the business case? Did you see a business case? To your knowledge I know.

Stacie WRIGHT: To my knowledge. As I said, I can take it on notice. Definitely not involved in the bid, from what I understand, but there were a number of tours with various different delegates that came through the venue alongside the Bendigo City Council. Obviously it is their asset, so the majority of the work was by the city council.

Joe McCRACKEN: Do you know about when those tours and –

Stacie WRIGHT: No. I would have to take that one on notice for sure.

Response: We had 13 official visits to the stadium after the announcement on April 2022.

3. Joe McCracken, page 18-9

Question Asked:

In terms of consultation, do you know if the stadium gave any advice to the government in terms of capacity, seating – all those sorts of things – in the lead-up to the games?

Stacie Wright: Yes. Obviously we gave the information about our capacity – via the council, again, being their asset, but yes, we did.

Joe McCracken: So you gave it to the council. Are you able to give us a copy of all that stuff, if you have got it on hand?

Stacie Wright: Possibly, yes.

Response: The City of Greater Bendigo completed negotiations around preparation, including the supply of information relating to capacity.

4. Joe McCracken, page 19

Question Asked:

Yes, that is fine. I know I am going back a little bit, but on 17 March 2023 the then minister for Commonwealth Games – Jacinta Allan, as you might know – visited the Bendigo Stadium to announce a goods and services procurement pipeline at that particular time. Did you meet with the then minister at that point?

Stacie Wright: No, I did not.

Joe McCracken: Or the CEO?

Stacie Wright: The CEO potentially, but again I will have to take that one on notice.

Response: This ‘event’ was not in our CEO’s diary upon further review, he can recall the announcement at some stage post April 2022.

5. Joe McCracken, page 19

Question Asked:

Okay. We heard from other evidence that in January, February, March there were concerns about the capacity to deliver, but we have also heard that the government were going out and talking to people as though it was going to be delivered. That is certainly what you understood at the time?

Stacie Wright: Yes. From our point of view it felt like the process slowed down, but whether that was a result of the cost –

Joe McCracken: When, about, do you think?

Stacie Wright: Potentially during that time frame. Again, I would have to take that on notice.

Response: Yes, the process slowed down in early 2023.

6. Sarah Mansfield, page 24

Question Asked:

Thank you. Thank you for appearing today. I am just wanting to get some clarity on the extent of engagement with both of your organisations prior to the cancellation of the games...

Stacie WRIGHT: Yes, I would have to take it on notice too. It all was, from what I understand, coordinated alongside the City of Greater Bendigo, but there were direct, as I said, tours of our facility.

Response: We had 13 official visits to the stadium after the announcement on April 2022.