

**ATTACHMENT:                    QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER  
   INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE  
   HEARINGS**

**Hon John Eren MP            SPORT PORTFOLIO**

**Questions submitted to the Chair from PAEC Members absent from the hearings:**

- 1.    The Victorian government has frozen \$15 million in funding for a proposed redevelopment of the State Football Centre at Darebin and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Women's football unless the Football Federation of Victoria addresses its governance problems. At the local level, there is concern that Football Clubs do not have a direct say in the election of the board. Please explain the Government's position on this issue.**

**Response:**

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) is an independent incorporated association under the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012. The arrangements concerning voting rights and governance rules are a matter for the members of that organisation. I note that many State Sporting Associations (SSAs) share similar structures. However, the Victorian Government works with SSAs to ensure they have robust governance practices and procedures within the structures of their individual constitutions.

In the case of FFV, recent reports have raised issues which the Victorian Government encourages FFV to address. The Government believes that the continued independence of FFV's tribunal system, both in practice and perception, is critical to maintaining the public's confidence and engagement with sport.

It is not accurate to say that the government has frozen funding for the proposed redevelopment of the State Football Centre at Darebin. The Government receives proposals from sporting organisations on a regular basis and works with all sports in the context of lifting sport engagement and healthy outcomes.

- 2.    In BP3, p90, a total of \$4.9 million has been allocated for planning for Kardinia Park and the State Netball Hockey Centre. In a media release by the Minister on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017<sup>1</sup>, \$3.9million of that \$4.9 million will go towards planning and design of stage 5 of Kardinia Park, leaving only \$1 million for planning the State Netball/Hockey Centre. But in an article in the Herald Sun on 30 March 2017<sup>2</sup>, Hockey Victoria and Netball Victoria asked for \$4 million to start development.**
  - a)    Given the Government's commitment to increasing women in sport, why have you shortchanged this critical development?**
  - b)    The Herald Sun article also says a master plan has already been provided to the Government. Does the lack of funding for planning mean that the government disagrees with the masterplan that has been presented?**
  - c)    Will the Minister ensure that reforming those undemocratic rules is part of the 'governance problems' that must be addressed before those funds are unlocked?**

**Response:**

The relative contribution to each of these projects reflect the degree of planning already undertaken on each project. The business case for State Netball Hockey Centre is already well advanced compared to the business case for the final stage of Kardinia Park.

The State Sport Centres Trust Master Plan was a key foundation document for the State Netball Hockey Centre redevelopment. Infrastructure cannot be built solely on a master plan, which is why we committed \$1 million to further develop the designs, investigate risks, and progress the business case for this important project.

Since 2014, Victorian Government funding towards netball infrastructure projects has reached just over \$34.6 million. This includes:

- a. 2014 Election Commitment - Inner City Netball Program - \$9.6m to develop 64 competition netball courts in the inner city.
- b. 2017-18 Victorian State Budget - Netball Hockey Centre Business Case - \$1m to prepare a business case for investment into the redevelopment of the State Netball Hockey Centre.
- c. Three projects funded under the Better Indoor Stadiums Fund:
  - i. Maroondah City Council - \$3m funding for the HE Parker Multi Sport Complex development (predominantly netball usage).
  - ii. Monash City Council - \$3m funding for Oakleigh Recreation Centre Indoor Stadium and Gymnastics Facility Development (predominantly basketball usage).
  - iii. Alpine Shire Council - \$1.3m for the Myrtleford Indoor Sports Stadium Expansion (predominantly basketball usage).

Over this same period, the Victorian Government has contributed over \$2.2 million towards 13 hockey infrastructure projects. This includes major developments such as:

- a. \$650,000 towards the Latrobe City Synthetic Field Pavilion Construction
- b. \$650,000 towards the Gippsland Regional Sports Complex Multipurpose Synthetic Field and Pavilion

In the 2017-18 Budget, the Victorian Government committed an additional \$9.6 million to support the State Sport Centres Trust's operational activities. This will allow all three facilities that the Trust manages, including the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, State Netball Hockey Centre and Lakeside Stadium, to continue to host major sporting events and provide quality sporting facilities and opportunities to the public.

Under the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, Netball Victoria receives \$120,000 per annum (total funding of \$420,000 over 3.5 years) to adopt a targeted approach to increasing diversity and inclusion in netball. This will be achieved through the establishment of partnerships, participation programs and training/education which will cater specifically for people with a disability, CALD and aboriginal communities and male participants.

Under the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, Hockey Victoria receives \$120,000 per annum (total funding of \$420,000 over 3.5 years) to increase and diversify their membership base. This will be achieved by providing opportunities for people of all ages, race, gender and abilities to participate in hockey through the introduction of new programs, pathways and club development.

3. **BP3, p85 shows \$5.8 million for the "State Sport Centres Trust" only for 2018 and nothing further in the forward estimates. That trust is for the ongoing operation of facilities.**

- a) **Is this a one-off top up?**
- b) **Why is there no further funding across the forward estimates?**

**Response:**

The State Sport Centres Trust (SSCT) has detailed a series of initiatives to improve their operating position into the future. As per BP3, p79 the SSCT has been provided \$9.6million over 2 years to support the implementation of these initiatives, with a view to achieving greater financial sustainability for the Trust in the future.

In addition to this funding, the Trust receives \$1.5 million per annum on an ongoing basis to support their operations.



The SSCT currently hosts over 2.4 million visitations a year, including over 1.9 million at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, over 420 000 at the State Netball Hockey Centre and over 90 000 at Lakeside Stadium.

The Victorian Government will continue working with the State Sport Centres Trust so that it continues providing important services to our sporting community.

#### 4. Community Sports Facilities Budget paper reference: BP3, pp. 84-85

**In some areas there just aren't enough facilities for local sports teams to keep up with demand. The budget allocates some money to community sports facilities.**

- a) **What percentage of state wide need will this funding cover?**
- b) **What planning is conducted to ensure that this funding goes to where it is needed most, and anticipates growth in demand?**

#### **Response:**

In 2014, the Government committed \$100 million to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to upgrade and develop new facilities. Through the 2017/2018 Victorian State Budget an additional \$20.1 million has been allocated towards community sport and recreation facilities. This includes an additional \$4 million to expand on the existing \$10 million Female Friendly Facilities Program.

In addition to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund the Government is investing:

- \$22 million towards the Better Indoor Stadiums Fund
- \$8 million towards the Country Football and Netball Program plus an additional \$1 million from Program Partners the AFL and Netball Victoria
- \$9.6 million towards the Inner City Netball Program to develop 64 competition ready netball courts in Darebin, Melbourne, Moreland and Yarra municipalities.

In recent years the Department of Health and Human Services has undertaken research demonstrating the demand across Victoria for a range of community infrastructure. This includes evidence for the demand for indoor multi-sport stadiums for instance that supported the development of the Better Indoor Stadiums Fund.

In addition, through the Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, support is provided to local governments across Victoria to undertake detailed needs assessments through municipal and regional recreation planning that seeks to quantify future community infrastructure needs.

Further, the Government also supports State Sporting Associations to undertake State wide facility plans that identify community infrastructure needs of their sports across Victoria.

Need in this context is very difficult to define, and there is no single accepted definition of 'need'. Different communities across the State have different needs whether they be inner city, suburbs, growth, regional or rural areas. All these planning activities provide critical information to Government to inform future investment priority projects and locations.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/labor-kick-starts-next-upgrade-of-geelong-kardinia-park/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/netball-hockey-in-60m-bid-for-new-home/news-story/949ba515cd02e619138c85c665a69474>