

Introduction

Referral of Work

- 1.1 On 25 March 2003 the proposal to redevelop the Australian Institute of Sport at Bruce, ACT was referred to the Public Works Committee for consideration and report to the Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969* (the Act).¹ The proponent agency for this work is the Australian Sports Commission (the Commission).
- 1.2 The Hon Peter Slipper MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration, advised the House that the estimated cost of the proposed works was \$65.4 million. Mr Slipper stated that, subject to parliamentary approval, the works would commence early in 2004, with a view to completion by mid-2007.

Background

The Australian Sports Commission

- 1.3 The Commission is the Commonwealth Statutory Body responsible for the development of Australian participation in sport at both the

¹ Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives, No. 85, Tuesday, 25 March 2003

elite and community levels. It was formally established in 1989 by the *Australian Sports Commission Act*, which amalgamated the AIS and other Commonwealth sports agencies.

- 1.4 The Commission comprises two primary business groups: the AIS and Sports Performance and Development Group, and the Business Operations Group. The three major organisations representing these groups are:
- the AIS, which is responsible for the development of elite sport at a national level;
 - the Sports Performance and Development Group, which provides advice and support to national sporting organisations; and
 - the Business Operations Group, which provides for corporate integration of the ASC and manages its public outreach, education and commercial operations.²

All three organisations are accommodated at the AIS Bruce campus.

The Australian Institute of Sport

- 1.5 The development of the AIS at Bruce began with the establishment of the National Athletics Stadium in 1977. In 1981, the National Indoor Sports Centre was set up as a training venue for the AIS.
- 1.6 Since the early 1980s, the facilities at Bruce have been expanded and altered several times in an ad hoc fashion to accommodate growing demand.³

Site of the Proposed Work

- 1.7 The AIS campus is located in the suburb of Bruce, ACT some 5km north of the Canberra CBD. The site occupied by the facility is leased by the Commonwealth from the ACT Government.⁴
- 1.8 The campus currently comprises 12 major building units with associated sports fields, car parks and vehicular and pedestrian access routes.⁵

2 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 2

3 ib id, paragraphs 5 – 7 and 25

4 ib id, paragraphs 1 and 45

5 ib id, Attachment 2

Inquiry Process

- 1.9 The Committee is required by the Act to consider public works over \$6 million⁶ and report to Parliament on:
- the purpose of the work and its suitability for that purpose;
 - the need for, or the advisability of, carrying out the work;
 - whether the money to be expended on the work is being spent in the most cost effective manner;
 - the amount of revenue the work will generate for the Commonwealth, if that is its purpose; and
 - the present and prospective public value of the work.⁷
- 1.10 The Committee called for submissions by advertising the inquiry in *The Australian* on Wednesday 2 April 2003 and the *Canberra Times* on Monday 14 April 2003. The Committee also sought submissions from relevant government agencies, local government, private organisations and individuals, who may be materially affected by or have an interest in the proposed work. The Committee subsequently placed submissions and other information relating to the inquiry on its web site in order to encourage further public participation.

Inspections and Public Hearing

- 1.11 The Committee inspected the site and environs of the proposed works on Friday 20 June 2003. A public hearing was held at Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday 26 June 2003.⁸

⁶ *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, Part III, Section 18 (8).

⁷ *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, Part III, Section 17.

⁸ See Appendix D for the official Hansard transcript of the evidence taken by the Committee at the public hearing on Thursday, 26 June 2003 in Canberra.

