



ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Inquiry: Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Hearing Date: 28 June 2021

Questions taken on notice - attachment 1

Directed to: Simon Phemister, Andrew Abbott and Claire Febey

1. Mr DAVIS Page no. 28

Question asked.

Processing time between submitting an event plan and the approval of the plan.

Response:

- The average time to receive approval for an event under the Public Events Framework depends on the Tier of the event. For Tier 1 events, the average time is 48 days which is within the approval timeframes of 8 to 10 weeks outlined on the public events webpage. For Tier 2 events that are seeking an exemption for the Public Events Framework, the average time is 42 days which is within the approval timeframes of 4 to 6 weeks outlined on the public events webpage.
- Events compliant with the Public Events Framework are no longer required to be approved by the Victorian Government. There is an average of 12 days between submission of an event and confirmation of registration, which is within the approval timeframes of 3 weeks outlined on the public events webpage.
- Tier 3 events are automatically registered.

2. Ms WATT Page no. 29

Question asked.

..how many events have actually been approved or registered under the framework, because that would be helpful to understand just how functional, how very effective this framework has been in our state.

Response:

Since the implementation of the Public Events Framework the following events have been approved or registered:

- Tier 1 – 65 approved
- Tier 2 (Public Events Framework Exemption) – 132 approved
- Tier 2 (Public Events Framework Compliant) – 412 registered
- Tier 3 – 9,345 registered

3. Mrs McARTHUR Page no. 32

Question asked.

Provide a summary of consultation and other engagement activities undertaken with stakeholders from the events sector in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures

Also related to the question by Mr Tarlamis on page no. 36:

I think any information you can provide about the engagement around the round tables and about the different streams would be really helpful for the committee to get an understanding of, because it may be that there is a disconnect between the information that has been provided through the engagement with the department and those participating and how that is filtering out to those in the sector.

Response:

As per the response provided by DJPR to the committee on 7 July 2021:

- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, DJPR has:
 - Established a dedicated Public Events Team, which has supported organisers of 8,607 Tier 1, 2 and 3 events (as of 21 June 2021) through the Public Events Framework (PEF) registration and approval process.
 - The team has worked closely with individual event organisers, venues and other bodies to provide information and advice on the requirements and process under the PEF, and how these apply to specific types of events and venues.
 - For example, for a complex event such as the Royal Melbourne Show, the team will put in place a series of meetings with the event organisers and representatives from the Department of Health, to work through the event plan, identify COVID related risks and develop mitigations to support the finalisation of the event plan and the pathway for approval.
 - Established the Event Observer Program.
 - Event observers were established to engage with event organisers through attendance at their events. As of 27 June 2021, Event Observers have attended 198 events approved or registered under the PEF and helped the event organisers self-regulate to comply with their COVIDSafe Event Plans.
 - Feedback from these events is passed onto the Department of Health and the Public Events Team to inform future engagement with event organisers.
 - Conducted approximately 26 industry engagement roundtables and information sessions for the events industry with nearly 1,000 invitees from across business events, sport, recreation and racing, creative arts, tourism, local government and multicultural and interfaith communities. The roundtables have included targeted sessions for subsectors such as business and local government.

- Engaged with industry peak bodies and representative groups including the Victorian Tourism Industry Council, Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), Live Performance Australia (LPA), Live Entertainment Industry Forum (LEIF), Exhibitions Events Association of Australia (EAAA), LGPro Events Special Interest Group, Meetings and Events Australia and Save Victorian Events through industry forums and direct engagement.
- Met regularly with Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) and Business Events Victoria (BEV) to discuss and understand the impacts of restrictions on business events.
- Consulted directly with events businesses and industry bodies to design the Events Support Package and incorporated insights from event organisers, venue operators and event suppliers into the design of the grants program.
- Worked with the Department of Health to resolve and directly respond to event industry queries about restrictions and impacts on events.
- DJPR is implementing a program of engagement with event organisers, including regular events newsletters, and increasing participation in community-based event information sessions in partnership with local government and Multicultural Affairs, to facilitate better grassroots outreach to large and small event organisers. Insights gained from these activities will provide an evidence base to better support the industry's recovery.

4. Mr DAVIS Page no. 36

Question asked.

...about \$10 million of that \$20 million that was announced was moved to an arts focus, and it is very appropriate that there be that support, but the fact is about half of that money was not actually directed at the broad events sector. That is correct, isn't it?

Response:

- The \$20 million Victorian Events Support Package was announced on 30 May 2021 to support events impacted by the May/June 2021 circuit breaker restrictions. The package delivers five streams of support:
 - The \$7 million Sustainable Event Business Program will provide up to \$250,000 to major event organisers, hosts and suppliers who have suffered a loss as a result of the recent restrictions that began in late May, and the ongoing viability of their event or business has been significantly affected by the pandemic.
 - The \$3 million Impacted Public Events Support Program will deliver up to \$25,000 to eligible event organisers and up to \$10,000 to eligible suppliers of Tier 1 and Tier 2 public events under the Public Events Framework that were approved to take place between 11.59pm on 27 May 2021 and 11.59pm on 24 June 2021.
 - An \$0.9 million Independent Cinema Support Program will deliver up to \$12,000 to independent cinema operators unable to operate due to the COVID-19 restrictions that commenced at 11.59pm on 27 May 2021.

- A \$7 million Live Performance Support Program (Presenters) will provide up to \$7000 to presenters of live performance events that have cancelled events between 11.59pm on 27 May 2021 and 11.59pm on 24 June 2021 because of COVID-19 restrictions; and
- A \$2 million Live Performance Support Program (Suppliers) will provide a \$500 grant per event for up to four different events for suppliers of goods and services to live performance events, including musicians and performers.
- Victoria's events industry is broad and diverse. It encompasses the people and businesses that contribute to the staging of events, including but not limited to event organisers, suppliers, creatives and performers and venue providers.