

VERIFIED VERSION

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into budget estimates 2014–15

Melbourne — 20 May 2014

Members

Mr N. Angus

Ms J. Garrett

Mr D. Morris

Mr D. R. J. O'Brien

Mr C. Ondarchie

Mr M. Pakula

Mr R. Scott

Chair: Mr D. Morris

Deputy Chair: Mr M. Pakula

Staff

Executive Officer: Ms V. Cheong

Witnesses

Mr D. Drum, Minister for Sport and Recreation,

Mr D. Yates, Secretary,

Mr P. Hertan, General Manager, Sport and Recreation, and

Ms S. George, Director, Community Sport and Recreation, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.

**Necessary corrections to be notified to
executive officer of committee**

The CHAIR — The estimates hearings will resume for today with hearing 27 for the portfolio of sport and recreation. I welcome the Honourable Damian Drum and, from the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, the Secretary, Mr Dean Yates; the General Manager, Sport and Recreation, Mr Peter Hertan; and the Director, Community Sport and Recreation, Ms Susan George.

As has been the practice in recent years, these hearings are being webcast on the Parliament's website. In accordance with the guidelines for public hearings, I remind members of the public gallery that they cannot participate in any way in the committee's proceedings. Departmental officers may approach the table during the hearing to provide information to the minister or other witnesses if requested, by my leave. Written communication to witnesses can only be provided via officers of the PAEC secretariat. Members of the media are requested to observe the guidelines for filming or recording proceedings in the Legislative Council Committee Room. I outlined those earlier in the day, so I am sure I do not need to repeat them.

All evidence is taken by this committee under the provisions of the Parliamentary Committees Act, attracts parliamentary privilege and is protected from judicial review. Any comments made outside the hearing are not protected by parliamentary privilege, including any comments made on social media from the hearing itself. The committee does not require witnesses to be sworn, but I remind you all that questions must be answered in full and with accuracy and truthfulness. Any persons found to be giving false or misleading evidence may be in contempt of Parliament and subject to penalty.

All evidence given today is being recorded by Hansard. You will be provided with proof versions of the transcript for fact verification within two working days of the hearing. Any PowerPoint presentation will be placed on the committee's website as soon as it becomes available, and verified transcripts will be posted within five days of their receipt.

Following a presentation by the minister, committee members will ask questions relating to the inquiry. Generally the procedure followed will be that relating to questions in the Legislative Assembly. Sessional orders provide a time limit for answers to questions without notice of 4 minutes, while standing orders do not permit supplementary questions. It is my intention to exercise discretion in both matters; however, I do request that each answer is answered as succinctly as is reasonable, recognising that sometimes these are complex issues.

I ask that all mobile telephones be turned off or to silent. The minister now has an opportunity for a brief presentation of no more than 10 minutes on the budget estimates for the sport and recreation portfolio. Welcome, Minister.

Overheads shown.

Mr DRUM — Thank you, Chair, and I will get straight into it. The coalition government recognises that sport and recreation help build a strong and healthy Victoria. We are working hard in five priority areas to build the contribution of sport and recreation to our state. This is underpinned by a commitment to deliver more top-quality, accessible sporting facilities and to inspire and support Victorians through the programs we deliver. We are also working to boost the community benefits of Victoria's sporting events and our world-class sporting facilities. As we go through each of these main areas, there have been many achievements in relation to active and healthy communities in the 13–14 year, helping more people get more active more often.

The Access for All Abilities program was refocused, giving state sporting associations a stronger role in supporting the work of their clubs to develop and provide opportunities for active participation by people with a disability. The Victorians More Active program supported 58 state sporting associations to develop participation, membership, coaches and officials and club capacity within their sports. Approximately 1.4 million Victorians are engaged by SSAs in participation activities, while 1.7 million Victorians are paid-up official members of their sport.

The supporting volunteers strategy delivered a range of initiatives including local coaches for local clubs and the volunteer innovation program. Approximately 37 000 coaches are accredited in Victoria. Over 60 000 Victorians visited SRV's five residential camps in 2013. The camps generate in the vicinity of \$62 million and have employed hundreds of people over the last seven years.

The January 2014 VICSWIM Summer Kidz program saw continued growth, with 8749 participants taking part in programs at 133 locations. Also, 753 sporting uniform grants were approved in 2013–14, helping clubs in all

parts of Victoria. As you can see on the map, most of Victoria was covered by the recipients of these grants. Over 90 000 people in Victoria registered to participate in the 2014 Premier's Active April, more than in any previous year.

There has also been great progress in relation to facilities for active communities. Grants for 125 projects have been approved under the community facilities funding program, and I would like to show committee members two maps, which show the location of community facility projects across Victoria and also across metropolitan Melbourne. These projects have been funded under various categories of the community facilities funding program, the country football netball program and the small-scale facility program.

As usual Victoria successfully hosted many outstanding sporting events in 2013–14. In October 2013 the Australian Masters Games were held in Geelong, with one of the members of this committee taking part. Nearly 8000 people, along with Mr O'Brien, coming from 48 sports took part in the masters games; 40 per cent of those participants were from outside of Victoria. Melbourne Victory's match against Liverpool in July last year attracted 95 000 fans to the MCG and delivered \$35 million in economic benefit to the state.

In addition to these outstanding major events, I would like to highlight the events shown on the slide, which are just a few of the many that are supported under the Significant Sporting Events program.

In relation to major sporting infrastructure and particularly Melbourne Park, stage 1 of the redevelopment of Melbourne Park continued strongly, with works at Margaret Court Arena on time and on budget and set to be completed later this year. In January this year the Premier and the former minister, Hugh Delahunty, announced a revised master plan and a further \$338 million for the delivery of stage 2 of the redevelopment. I will return to this project at the end of my presentation. The State Sport Centres Trust undertook a range of capital works and maintenance across its three facilities — the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, the State Netball and Hockey Centre and Lakeside Stadium — to maintain the facilities to an international standard. The facilities also hosted a number of significant sporting events.

The government continued to assist Victorian athletes to reach their potential through a range of programs in 2013–14. Funding of \$6.7 million was provided to the Victorian Institute of Sport, including support to the Bendigo, Gippsland, Ballarat, Barwon, Sunraysia and South West regional academies of sport. Elite athlete travel grants were provided to athletes across 70 sports, as illustrated by the graph, which demonstrates the breadth of the program. The two sports with the highest number of recipients — 11 each — are lacrosse and sailing. Travel grants were also provided to eight snow sport athletes to compete at events in Europe, Canada and North America, where they qualified to compete at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. This included an aerial skier with the funny name of David Morris — who you can see on the screen — who went on to win the silver medal at the men's aerials in the games, one of the three medals Australia brought home from Sochi.

Our key priority in relation to healthy and active communities in 2014–15 will include the new integrity in sport initiative announced in the budget. We will be conducting a review to establish the best way to support Victorian sports in dealing with integrity issues such as gambling and match fixing, the use of performance-enhancing drugs and the use of illegal supplements.

Our key priorities in relation to facilities and active communities in 14–15 will include two new budget initiatives: \$35 million has been provided over two years for the strategic sporting infrastructure program, with 17 million included in this year's budget; and the community sports facility program will provide \$2 million over two years for significant upgrades to grassroots sporting facilities. We will also continue to support top-quality accessible sporting facilities through the community facilities program and the country football and netball program.

The 2014–15 year will be very exciting for sporting events in Victoria. The budget includes a four-year commitment for the Significant Sporting Events program for the first time, recognising the outstanding benefits of this program for sports and for communities across Victoria. Matches of the 2015 Asian Cup in football — or soccer — and the 2015 Cricket World Cup will also be highlights.

The 2014–15 state budget includes several key initiatives in relation to major sports infrastructure. Most importantly, \$338 million has been allocated for stage 2 of the Melbourne Park redevelopment over seven years, including \$40 million from the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust; \$30.8 million of that was allocated for 14–

15. The budget also includes further support for the State Sport Centres Trust, with an announcement of \$16.2 million for capital funding and 1.5 annually for four years in operational funding.

I would now like to take the committee through a 2-minute flyover of one of our most significant infrastructure investments, being Melbourne Park. The Victorian government has embarked on a major redevelopment of Melbourne Park to secure the Australian Open until at least 2036 and to maximise the more than \$420 million of economic activity the precinct provides each year.

Video shown.

Mr DRUM — The first \$366 million stage has delivered a new eastern plaza, including a new national training facility. The second major part of stage 1 is the redevelopment of Margaret Court Arena. We have put a new, unique opening roof on an expanded 7500-seat stadium, at Margaret Court Arena. This will now not only be a great addition to the Open but will also provide fantastic facilities for netball and also for basketball and will also act as a further concert venue within the precinct.

As I said earlier, we have also committed \$338 million towards stage 2 of a revised master plan. The key features of the master plan are a new transformative entrance into the precinct via a bridge from Birrarung Marr, across Batman Avenue, delivered in stage 2; a new administration building to be used for the media during the Open, delivered in stage 2 also; a new function centre that will be used as a broadcast centre during the Open; an expansion of the very popular but crowded garden square; a new eastern annex to Rod Laver Arena, delivered in stage 2; and a new central terrace, usable all year round for a variety of public events.

On the screen you can see that one of the major shifts we have made in this revised master plan is with the new 5000-seat public show court 1, right in the heart of the precinct. This will be followed by a refurbishment of Hisense Arena and a new link between the new central terrace and the eastern plaza, completing the spine through the precinct. This will leave Melbourne Park with a fantastic legacy to ensure that we remain one of the world's greatest sporting cities and that we do maintain the open until 2036.

The CHAIR — Thank you, Minister. We now have until 12.30 p.m. for questions, and I will, as is my usual practice, kick off with the first one. Minister, would you outline to the committee the budget initiatives in the sport and recreation portfolio which will contribute to the growth of Victorian jobs both in the coming year and over the forward estimates period?

Mr DRUM — Thank you, Chair. Melbourne, indeed Victoria, is the sporting capital of Australia and, some would argue, the world. But as the international events market becomes more competitive it is important that our world-renowned sporting facilities are not just keeping pace but staying ahead of our competition. Major events are not only important for our reputation and to nourish the enormous appetite Victorians have for sport, but they make good economic sense. The major events in this state secured by VMEC alone contribute in excess of \$1.4 billion to the economy each year, and the 200-plus events in the Melbourne Olympic Park precinct alone, including the Australian Open, deliver in excess of \$420 million of economic benefit each year.

With the aim of building on this success the government has a range of capital infrastructure projects under way in the sport and recreation portfolio. As you have seen in my presentation, the government has almost completed the \$366 million stage 1 of the Melbourne Park master plan, including improved access between Rod Laver Arena and Hisense Arena; significant upgrades to the landscaping of the oval, including the installation of 4.5 megalitres of water tanks; a new eastern plaza and National Tennis Centre, which incorporates 8 new indoor courts and 13 outdoor courts, for elite training and general public use; as well as change room facilities and a gymnasium. There is also additional car and bus parking and the Edwin Flack footbridge linking Melbourne Park to AAMI Park as well.

Work commenced in March 2011 and was completed in December 2012, ahead of schedule and on budget. This facility was opened by the Deputy Premier, Peter Ryan, just prior to the 2013 Australian Open. As you saw in the video, there is a major upgrade to fully enclose Margaret Court Arena, including the installation of a retractable roof and additional seating to approximately 7500. Work on this upgrade commenced in February 2012 and will be completed by the end of this year.

Following extensive reviews of the first stage of the project in January this year, the Premier and the former minister, Hugh Delahunty, announced a revised master plan of \$338 million for the revised delivery of stage 2.

This stage will include an administration and media building, the new administration facilities for Melbourne and Olympic Parks and Tennis Australia and also temporary media and broadcast facilities for the Australian Open until the new media broadcast centre is developed in future stages. A Batman Avenue bridge between Birrarung Marr and Margaret Court Arena will create a new primary pedestrian entrance to the precinct from the western end, or the city end, and provide direct connection to Flinders Street and the CBD. The Rod Laver Arena refurbishment will have a new expanded east-facing primary entrance to Rod Laver Arena and also provide food and beverage facilities and toileting. There will be expanded public concourse space, new accessible entrances to the seating bowl and significant back-of-house improvements to ensure that Rod Laver Arena can continue to host the best events in Australia for the next 25 years.

I am pleased to also advise that the government has provided long-term support to the State Sport Centres Trust, with \$16.2 million in capital funding over four years in the 2014–15 budget and a further \$6 million in operational funding over the same period. The State Sport Centres Trust manages three of Victoria's most important sports venues — Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, or MSAC, the State Netball Hockey Centre and Lakeside Stadium — providing opportunities for major events, representative teams, elite athlete development pathways, support to the sports system and participation at the grassroots level.

The capital funding projects across these three facilities include new fitness and sports equipment; leisure pool equipment; the replacement of the hockey pitch at the State Netball Hockey Centre; refurbishment, including painting and structural works to the roofs and the buildings; major pool and mechanical plant replacement; diving boards; competition pool concourses; portable grandstand maintenance; lighting upgrades; IT infrastructure, including easier online booking functionality; and OHS and disability action plan compliance to improve safety and access for people with a disability. This investment will help the trust venues to maintain a perfect balance, serving both elite and grassroots sport.

I am also pleased to advise that the government has provided \$35 million over two years to fund a new category of sport and infrastructure called the strategic sporting infrastructure program. The strategic sporting infrastructure program is a targeted grants program to provide funding to Victorian sporting organisations, clubs and local governments for the delivery of facilities that foster and support community sport and recreation, elite training, sports development and major events in both metropolitan and regional Victoria. The strategic sporting infrastructure program is designed to support facilities which may not be able to be funded through existing Sport and Recreation Victoria funding programs due to the size of the facility, the level of the funding required and the need to be innovative to meet local requirements.

The new program also provides the government with flexibility to fund many projects that do not meet existing guidelines which are principally designed to be managed by local government. This includes projects on private land or at universities, private schools, golf clubs, yacht clubs, surfing clubs et cetera that will still provide outstanding community benefits. The strategic sporting infrastructure program will assist in funding infrastructure that will improve event capacity in regional and rural areas, with the aim of attracting more events to country Victoria. Having more events in regional areas contributes to the livability of these areas and boosts the local economy. Funding and infrastructure in regional areas which promote multiuse facilities and assist in the accommodation of large crowds makes holding events in regional Victoria more attractive and cost effective for national and state sporting associations.

The CHAIR — Minister, could I ask you to reach a conclusion?

Mr DRUM — That is enough.

The CHAIR — Thank you very much for that comprehensive answer.

Mr PAKULA — I can see this is going to be a hearing of attrition. Minister, I want to ask you about the Junction Oval redevelopment. On 9 April, as you would be aware, there was an article in the *Age* by Caroline Wilson where there was talk from you about potential cooperative work between cricket and the AFL and speculation about whether the St Kilda Football Club might move back to the Junction Oval. That article referred to the fact that the state government has already pledged \$10 million to help fund a redevelopment of state cricket. A couple of days later or the next day in the *Port Phillip Leader* there was an article where the St Kilda Football Club hosed down speculation that it was on the move to the Junction Oval and where a release from the club said:

When you consider our whole of bayside strategy, existing quality facilities at Linen House Centre, strong relationships with Frankston and Kingston city councils and commitments that are in place, it is highly speculative to imply any situation beyond that which has been articulated above —

that being them staying where they are. In light of that, Minister, and in light of the fact that you have made an issue of the \$10 million commitment that you have made, can you take us to where in the budget papers that \$10 million for the Junction Oval is?

Mr DRUM — The announcement we made, Minister Pakula — —

Mr PAKULA — Thank you for calling me ‘Minister’.

Mr DRUM — Mr Pakula, we have already stated this is a complex project with many stakeholders and potential beneficiaries. Whilst the state has made a commitment, we are still waiting for Cricket Victoria to secure funding from other beneficiaries. Until Cricket Victoria have secured the required funding, the government will not know when the cash flow and the timing of our funding contribution are required. Therefore, it has not been formalised as a funding commitment in a particular year in the budget papers.

However, I can confirm that the funding is definitely available for Cricket Victoria when the details of the projects are finalised. Cricket Victoria have been informed that that is the case, and they are very comfortable with the knowledge that the \$10 million on the table from the Victorian government is real and that once a project is finalised and put to the government the money will be made available.

Mr PAKULA — You say it is real, Minister, but it is not allowed for in the budget papers over the forward estimates unless you can point to somewhere it might be in contingencies. There was a lot of talk about — —

Mr O’BRIEN — There is money in contingencies, so you have already answered your own question.

Mr PAKULA — I know you think you should be the minister, but I am asking — —

Members interjecting.

The CHAIR — Order! Deputy Chair, I am calling you to proceed with the question.

Mr PAKULA — There was a lot of talk about the commonwealth making a contribution, and now it is clear from Tuesday night’s budget that the federal government’s money is not there, so what is the status of the state’s promise of \$10 million now that it is clear that the feds will not be coming to the party?

Mr DRUM — As I have already stated — and Mr O’Brien is correct — the money is in contingencies. The money is there, and Cricket Victoria are very comfortable with the allocation of state government funding to this project. We have put the money on the table in good faith, and it is critical that they now go and source other funding partners. We would expect the federal government to be part of that funding arrangement.

However, as I said, our \$10 million is on the table. The project has a number of beneficiaries, as I am sure you are aware, including Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria. The AFL has an interest in this project going ahead, and the MCC and Cricket Victoria are all beneficiaries of a proposed redevelopment of Junction Oval so that we end up with an alternative first-class venue of the highest quality. We are expecting a whole raft of partners to come together to formulate a project. They will then come to government to tell us the extent of the project, to actually design the project and to find out exactly what is going to be in the project. Upon that happening, our money will be released.

Mr ANGUS — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 252, which indicates that the 2013–14 expected outcome for the performance measure ‘Community facility grants: number approved’ is 160. Can you inform the committee about the government’s support for community facility projects?

Mr DRUM — The government believes that encouraging community participation in sport and recreation is an effective way of strengthening communities across Victoria and improving our collective wellbeing. One of the keys to increasing participation in sport and recreation is providing modern, high-quality, accessible community facilities. There is currently a very high demand for new facilities and upgrades to existing community facilities to provide quality sport and recreation opportunities to the community.

To respond to this need, the Victorian government has allocated funding in the 2014–15 budget for a new strategic sporting infrastructure program and a community sports facility program. The strategic sporting infrastructure program involves funding of \$35 million over two years, including \$8 million for the redevelopment of Moorabbin Community Reserve and \$15 million for the new Greater Bendigo aquatic centre.

The strategic sporting infrastructure program is a targeted grants program to provide funding to Victorian sporting organisations, clubs and local government for the delivery of facilities that foster and support community sport and recreation, elite training, sports development and major events in both metropolitan and regional Victoria. The strategic sporting infrastructure program is designed to support local government facilities which may not be able to be funded through existing Sport and Recreation Victoria funding programs due to the size of the facility, the level of funding required or the need to be more innovative to meet local government needs. The new program will also provide the government with flexibility to fund many of the projects that do not meet existing guidelines.

The community sports facility program will provide \$2 million over two years for significant upgrades to grassroots sport facilities. This program will enable further support to be provided to local councils for the development of community sport and recreation facilities, particularly in the minor facility category. It will provide more flexibility in working with councils to continue to meet the needs of the community around Victoria for new and upgraded facilities.

The government has also committed to build and upgrade a range of important community sport and recreation facilities through Victoria, with more than 80 election commitments pledging approximately \$16 million in investment. The funds being managed under the small-scale facility program are being used to support sporting clubs undertaking projects such as improved change rooms, providing facilities for women and lighting upgrades. These types of projects offer tangible benefits to communities, enabling them to use existing facilities more effectively.

The community facility funding program has operated in various forms since 1972. It has a proud history of investing in quality community-based sport and recreation infrastructure across Victoria. Since December 2010 the Victorian coalition government has approved funding for over 380 projects across the state from the community facility funding program with grants to the value of over \$57 million. The total value of these projects is approximately \$350 million.

The funding includes the government election promise for a further \$5 million over four years to fund more minor facilities across Victoria. This additional money focuses on upgrading existing or developing new community facilities to assist with clubs most in need. One hundred and twenty-five projects across the state have been announced from the 2014–15 CFFP. The CFFP has been funded from the Community Support Fund for many years, and the government recently announced new program guidelines for local governments and clubs to apply for grants under the 2015–16 CFFP. I anticipate making funding announcements for that year later this year.

The state government has also provided \$9 million over five years to the country football and netball program until 2014–15. The country football and netball program has also assisted the state government to strengthen its work in relationship with the AFL, AFL Victoria, AFL Victoria Country, Netball Victoria and the MAV through the involvement of these organisations on the program steering committee and also their combined contribution of \$1 million. So far over \$6.8 million of the \$10 million has been committed to 97 projects. The program is on track to allocate the total funds by June 2015. Funding to the value of over \$2.1 million has been approved to support 27 projects in the 2013–14 year.

Mr SCOTT — Minister, I refer you to page 252 in budget paper 3. There is a measure there called ‘Combat sports licences, registrations and permits issued’, and underneath there is a reference to ‘continued high levels of participation in the professional boxing and combat sports industry’. One of the combat sports industries in Victoria is mixed martial arts, and there has been an ongoing controversy in that particular activity relating to a ban that exists on the enclosures specifically designed for mixed martial arts bouts and the use of boxing rings. In 2012 there was media reportage of views upon it raised by the professional combat sports board and concerns raised about the health and safety issues that arise for participants using boxing rings by the Australian Ringside Medicine Association. I ask this very straight question: I understand the ban on the enclosures continues; what is the government’s rationale for continuing the ban, considering the concerns that have been raised?

Mr DRUM — Just to retrack on the member's question, the government is proud to support a whole range of sports in Victoria. In December 2008 the former Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, James Merlino, determined, in a Labor government, that cage fighting and contests conducted in enclosed rings such as those used in the UFC are combat sports for the purposes of the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985. That Act controls professional boxing and combat sports in Victoria to ensure the safety of contestants and to reduce the risks of malpractice. The Act creates the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board appointed by the minister to approve and oversee the conduct of all professional boxing and combat sports in Victoria. It is illegal to hold a professional combat sports event in Victoria without a permit from the board.

Minister Merlino wrote to the board in December 2008 seeking their continued cooperation in not issuing permits for any event that includes cage fighting. This position currently remains in effect. We have not had any community angst or community pushes from the broader health sectors, law and order sectors or community sectors at large. Apart from the actual sport itself, there has not been anybody who has asked the government to overturn a decision that was made by the previous minister in 2008. So that is our rationale: there has not been any community push. As a government we would like to represent and reflect community views, and there has not been one skerrick of a community push from any organisation other than the sport itself to overturn a decision made by the previous Labor government.

Mr SCOTT — Minister, I just ask you to respond to reported comments in the *Age* in 2012 by Mr Peter Lewis from the Australian Ringside Medicine Association. There is a reference there that:

... staging ... martial arts fights in a boxing ring had significantly increased the risk of injury to competitors.

Does the government have a different view to that particular opinion?

Mr DRUM — The board will issue permits for promotions involving mixed martial arts provided they do not involve cage fighting. Mixed martial arts contests featured in 11 of the 71 promotions held in 2013, with the approval and supervision of the board. The unified rules of mixed martial arts — established in the US by the Association of Boxing Commissions in 2009 and adopted by many tournament operators, including the UFC — provide for MMA contests to be held in either a fibro boxing ring or a cage. We allow fibro boxing rings. I understand that several overseas MMA tournament operators held contests in roped rings instead of a cage, including tournaments in Canada, Finland, Germany, the Philippines and Russia.

Mr O'BRIEN — Thank you, Minister. I would like to refer to your presentation and to budget paper 3, page 56, under the item 'Integrity in sport', and I ask: could you inform the committee about this initiative?

Mr DRUM — Thank you, Mr O'Brien. As at June 2011 at the meeting of the Sport and Recreation Ministers Council there was agreement on a national policy on match fixing in sport. In February 2013 the Australian Crime Commission, ACC, released its report titled *Organised Crime and Drugs in Sport*. Since that report was released the government has established the Victoria Police integrity in sport unit and has passed legislation to make it a crime to fix a sporting event or Racing Victoria event.

There have also been two high-profile integrity matters that have involved sporting organisations here in Victoria. These include the supplements use issue at the Essendon Football Club, which is still the subject of an ongoing investigation by ASADA, and the match fixing by the Southern Stars soccer players, or footballers, in the Victorian Premier League, in which players have been found guilty of match fixing and have received subsequent worldwide bans from further competition.

Through the ministers for sport and recreation meeting, Victoria supported a number of national initiatives aimed at improving integrity systems within sport, including the establishment of a national integrity of sport unit within the commonwealth government sports portfolio. As a result there is considerable work occurring at a national level with national sporting organisations on the importance of integrity in elite-level supporting competitions. It is unclear how this work is filtering down to local-level competitions throughout Australia.

Therefore, to understand the requirements for Victorian state leagues and local community sporting organisations to combat integrity in sport matters, I have allocated \$300 000 in the upcoming financial year. This funding will be used to conduct a review to establish the best way to support Victorian sports in dealing with integrity issues, such as gambling and match fixing, the use of performance enhancing drugs and the use of illegal supplements. The aim of the review is to work with the key stakeholders in Victoria, such as the sports,

Victoria Police and the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation to establish the nature of the problem in Victoria and the appropriate measures for government to support sports into the future.

Outcomes from the review could include better information sharing between sports and between sports and regulators; assistance in developing codes of conduct and guidelines; and conducting education programs relating to improving integrity capability; working with smaller sports on building their collective integrity capacity and the establishment of an advisory area to provide sports with up-to-date information on key integrity issues.

Ms GARRETT — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 65, with respect to the government's proposed east–west link and the impact that it will have on Royal Park. In particular, I refer you to the State Netball and Hockey Centre, and I ask: can the minister guarantee that access to the centre will not be impacted and there will be no loss of car parking spaces during the proposed construction of this road?

Mr DRUM — In relation to the east–west link, this has the potential to deliver enormous community benefits, but we know that a project of this scale represents major change. Impacts during construction and operation need to be thoroughly understood and considered. The Linking Melbourne Authority is responsible for the delivery of the east–west link tunnel and will continue to work closely with the community and the stakeholders as planning progresses to develop a project which responds to local concerns and supports the need for people and goods to move efficiently and safely around Melbourne. The planned western portal of the east–west link project is to be located on Ross Straw Field, the old grass hockey fields. The land south of the State Netball and Hockey Centre may be required during the construction phase. This will obviously affect the sporting clubs use of these facilities.

An extensive consultation process has been undertaken with all sporting groups affected. These workshops, briefings and individual meetings have included, amongst others, the directly affected sporting clubs, the State Sport Centres Trust, Cricket Victoria, Baseball Victoria, Victorian Rugby Union, Parks Victoria, VicSport, City of Melbourne, Moonee Valley City Council and Moreland City Council. The government has announced a \$15 million package of works to accommodate the sporting clubs. Both during the temporary relocation period whilst the tunnel is under construction and following its completion, these works include an upgrade to a series of ovals and pavilions in both Royal Park and Princes Park to accommodate temporarily affected clubs.

Works will also be conducted at a number of other sites to accommodate displaced clubs, including construction of an oval in the city of Hume and an upgrade of baseball fields in Moonee Valley city. The City of Melbourne has now commenced works on the upgrades, including a significant upgrade to the oval at the south end of Princes Park. The City of Melbourne has advised government that once the works start on the east–west link project, all Royal Park sporting clubs will be able to relocate to new grounds or temporary facilities. Cricket Victoria has highlighted the positive move for cricket, with no loss of turf pitches and with an additional three synthetic cricket pitches provided — —

Ms GARRETT — On a point of order, Chair, I note the minister is reading a very long answer that has been prepared for him. I spoke specifically about the State Netball and Hockey Centre and access to parking and the centre generally, and I would like you to draw the minister back to answering that specific question.

The CHAIR — The minister has a minute or two to conclude his answer, so I am sure he can address those issues in that time.

Ms GARRETT — Forthwith.

The CHAIR — In that time.

Mr DRUM — In relation to the State Netball and Hockey Centre, Ms Garrett, the department and the State Sport Centres Trust have worked with the Linking Melbourne Authority on the requirement for continued access to the State Netball and Hockey Centre. The Linking Melbourne Authority has confirmed that this important access is a condition in the tender of the construction of the east–west link and that access will become part of the tender, so we do not expect access to the State Netball and Hockey Centre to be impacted during the construction.

Ms GARRETT — What arrangements have you made with respect to the State Netball and Hockey Centre, with Netball Victoria, to address their very significant concerns about impacts on the use of the facility during the construction?

Mr DRUM — I have just been through, as you called it, Ms Garrett — I was halfway through a very lengthy answer about the amount of consultation that the department has actually had —

Members interjecting.

The CHAIR — Order! A point of order was taken, and the minister then changed his direction in response to the point of order that was taken. It was entirely reasonable. He is now suggesting, quite reasonably I think, that he was in the process of getting to that point when he was diverted.

Members interjecting.

The CHAIR — They are informative answers.

Mr DRUM — I am quite happy to continue on from where I was when I was previously interrupted, that is okay, but the Linking Melbourne Authority is continuing to consult and has had extensive consultation with Netball Victoria.

Ms GARRETT — Have you met with Netball Victoria about it?

The CHAIR — Order. If there are continued interjections, then we will start docking supplementaries again. You can have it either way; I do not mind.

Mr DRUM — We have met with Netball Victoria and spoken about this issue exactly. If that is part of the question you want, the answer is yes. Will there be further talks? The answer is yes. Will they have access blockages to their state centre? No.

Mr ONDARCHIE — Minister, I welcome you to your first estimates hearing as minister. Can I ask you about budget paper 3, page 252, which talks about sport and recreation's output initiatives. It talks about improving community sport and recreation facilities across the state. I wonder if you could tell estimates how the country football and netball program contributed to this process?

Mr DRUM — Thank you, Mr Ondarchie. The country football and netball program was developed in response to a parliamentary rural and regional services and development committee inquiry in 2004 into country football. It provides grants to assist country football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations in rural, regional and outer metropolitan communities to develop facilities, including football, netball and umpiring facilities, shared community multiuse facilities and lighting.

The state government has provided funding of \$9 million over five years to the country football and netball program until 2014–15. Combined contributions of \$1 million have also been made from program partners — the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. The investment recognises the important role country football and netball play in developing healthy and active lifestyles, and their contribution to the social fabric of many rural, regional and outer metropolitan communities.

The country football and netball program has also assisted the state government to strengthen its working relationship with the AFL, AFL Victoria, Netball Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria through the involvement of these organisations on the program's steering committee. So far over \$6.8 million of the \$10 million has been committed to 97 projects. The program is on track to allocate the total funds by June 2015. Funding to the value of over \$2.1 million has been approved to support 27 projects in the 2013–14 financial year.

Examples of projects funded include \$100 000 to Surf Coast Shire Council, to Stribling reserve, to redevelop the netball courts and upgrade the football oval; \$81 000 to East Gippsland Shire Council to install lighting to the football oval at Lucknow recreational reserve; and \$60 000 to greater Shepparton council to install competition lighting to eight netball courts at the Shepparton sports precinct. Last week I started visiting football and netball clubs and announcing funding from the latest round of the country football and netball program. Examples of these projects include \$100 000 to Macedon Ranges Shire Council to install competition

football oval lighting and to reconstruct the netball courts to meet standards at Gardiner Reserve in Gisborne; \$100 000 to Loddon Shire Council to construct new netball and football change rooms at Janiember Park recreation reserve at Serpentine; and \$100 000 to Greater Bendigo City Council to install training-standard lighting to the football oval and two new netball courts — one to be upgraded and one to be brand new — at North Bendigo recreation reserve. Over the coming week I will continue to make announcements from the latest round.

In addition, the country football and netball program provides grants of up to \$250 000 for facilities that have been identified to host AFL preseason fixtures or in some cases to develop premier quality regional venues for grassroots fixtures. I have recently approved funding of \$250 000 to Swan Hill Rural City Council to install VFL-standard lighting at the Swan Hill showgrounds. This upgrade will provide opportunities for AFL Victoria competitions to host finals, lightning competitions, preseason competitions, Herald Sun Country Cup and Herald Sun shield, and interschool sporting competitions. As demonstrated by this latest round of funding, the program continues to deliver strong infrastructure, participation and community capacity outcomes right across Victoria.

Mr PAKULA — Minister, I want to ask you about the community sporting code of conduct. That was a program that was funded under the previous government. Your government has let the funding run out. Last year your predecessor, Hugh Delahunty, indicated on the Neil Mitchell program that he would continue with the program, but I cannot find any funding for its ongoing continuation in the budget papers. Can you indicate whether the government plans to continue with the program, and if so, where is the funding to allow that to occur?

Mr DRUM — Thank you for your question, Mr Pakula. However, the premise of your question is incorrect.

Mr PAKULA — You learn quickly.

The CHAIR — Order!

Mr DRUM — I will just take you through — —

Mr PAKULA — You are meant to say, ‘I reject the premise of your question’ — I think that is the formulation you are after.

The CHAIR — Order!

Mr DRUM — In relation to the codes of conduct, we have the welcoming and inclusive sporting clubs program, and the welcoming and inclusive sporting clubs create an environment where everybody is encouraged to participate regardless of their ability, background or personal attributes. These sporting environments are friendly and safe places that are free of harassment and discrimination. Sport and Recreation Victoria has worked with the state sporting associations to implement the Victorian code of conduct for community sport and raise awareness of minimum standards of acceptable behaviour at community sport. The Victorian coalition government strongly supports the code. What we were talking about is the actual development of the code. Once you develop a code, you do not keep spending money on developing another code, and you do not have to keep spending money developing another code. What we have done is we have worked with what was already in place to finish developing the code, and what I will go on with now is what we have done after we developed the code to actually help clubs and organisations and sports implement the code.

It is now well established, and sports have incorporated the code of conduct into their policies and practices. Ongoing adherence to the code is also required for sports to receive funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, so over recent years following the development and implementation of the code Sport and Recreation Victoria has continued to support clubs, associations and leagues to build friendly, safe and inclusive sporting environments by providing training and resources to help develop practical skills, knowledge and understanding of inclusive practices within clubs and sports; developing skills within sports in conciliation, mediation and complaint management; and supporting state sports associations to implement projects that maintain positive behaviour in sport and promote safe and inclusive environments.

To date over \$520 000 has been allocated for projects which build on the code of conduct and support clubs with its implementation. Associations and leagues are now developing and maintaining welcoming and inclusive sporting environments. A range of new projects has been approved for the 2013–14 period, including \$20 000 to Gymnastics Victoria to develop a web app that provides clubs with guidelines and resources on how to implement best practice in inclusion. The app will also provide Gymnastics Victoria with statistics on the inclusive status of affiliated clubs, number of gymnastics participants with disabilities and examples of inclusion that can be shared with other affiliated clubs.

Twenty thousand dollars will go to AFL Victoria to support community cultural awareness training in metropolitan and regional community football leagues. Club volunteers will be given practical strategies to become welcoming and inclusive to engage people from multicultural communities specifically.

Mr PAKULA — On a supplementary, Minister, I take it from your evidence that the government's position is there is no continuous funding required for the implementation of the code itself, but I suggest to you that all of that money you have just referred to is money that was committed by the previous government and that you are spending over the period of your government. What additional funding has been put in by your government to this program since you have been in office?

Mr DRUM — Thank you very much for the question. I have got a little list here I would like to refresh you — —

Mr PAKULA — Additional funding you have put in.

Mr DRUM — Projects approved in the 2013–14 year.

Mr PAKULA — Not approved with old money.

The CHAIR — Order! If we continue to have interjections, there will be no supplementaries.

Mr DRUM — We have already spoken about Gymnastics Victoria and we are now going to move on to Cycling Victoria and BMX. They are going to focus on delivering a program which will help cycling clubs deal with complaints and disciplinary matters. This program will be a joint initiative between Cycling Victoria and BMX Victoria. Twenty thousand dollars to Hockey Victoria. They will be working very closely with all of their clubs and associations to identify, educate, train and support, and promote the introduction of an inclusion ambassador at each club. The inclusion ambassador will be the club advocate for creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment in their club.

Eighteen thousand dollars for the Victorian Rugby League respect and responsibility program focusing on respectful relationship education through 10 member clubs. This program, to be tailored to the VRL market profile, provides violence prevention strategies addressing both on and off-field decision making while introducing best behaviour awareness and modification principles. Twenty thousand dollars to AFL Victoria, which will aim to support metro and regional football clubs and their volunteers with practical strategies, which I spoke about earlier, about inclusion and welcoming. Twenty thousand dollars to Basketball Victoria, Mr Pakula, is committed to increasing the awareness of sexual and gender diversity.

Mr PAKULA — On a point of order, Chair.

Mr DRUM — You asked me for some examples of where funding had been allocated this year.

Mr PAKULA — Chair, I am concerned that the minister has misunderstood my question. I am not asking for where money was allocated. All of the projects the minister is referring to are from previously allocated funds. I am asking what additional money has been put into the program by his government. This is not additional money.

Mr O'BRIEN — On the point of order, Chair, the minister is answering the question, and if Mr Pakula cannot understand the answer, that is Mr Pakula's problem. The minister is answering the question.

Mr PAKULA — It is a travesty that you are not in that chair, it really is.

The CHAIR — Order! Two points on the point of order. Firstly, it is not an opportunity to say the minister has misunderstood the question and restate the question. You do not use points of order to restate the question. Secondly, the Chair does not have the opportunity to direct the minister on how to answer the question. The minister is entitled to answer the question in the way he thinks is appropriate.

Mr DRUM — It is a long stretch for Mr Pakula to say the programs implemented in 2013–14 were paid for by the previous government. I do not have the exact amount of money, but I have got a list here of hundreds of thousands of dollars. I have got a list here of projects, and I can inform the committee that a large portion of this has been found from within the internals of Sport and Recreation Victoria. We are funding many, if not all, of these projects.

Mr ANGUS — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 253, and the expected outcome reported against the budget performance measure for ‘Events facilitated: sport and recreation’. Minister, can you please outline to the committee the achievements in your portfolio in relation to major sporting events in 2013–14?

Mr DRUM — Thank you, Mr Angus. Victoria’s major sporting events industry is what sets us apart from the rest of Australia and indeed the world. Melbourne has been awarded the crown of the world ultimate sports city three consecutive times and was only beaten by Olympic host London at the 2012 and 13 awards. However, in those years it still won the best large city, best events strategy and best sports infrastructure categories. The expected outcome reported against the budget performance measure ‘Events facilitated: sport and recreation’ of 86 includes both major events and events funded under the Significant Sporting Events program.

Our annual program of major events is one of the most prestigious and successful in the world. Collectively the events work together over the year to provide constant positioning and profile for Victoria, both within Australia and overseas. They are a major driver of tourism, employment, industry development, business linkages, sports development and community outcomes for the benefit of the state. Victoria’s major events contribute about \$1.4 billion to the state’s economy and attract around 230,000 visitors to Victoria each year. In 2013–14 Victoria hosted a number of major sporting events, including the British and Irish Rugby union tour and the Liverpool Football Club match against Melbourne Victory at the MCG, which respectively delivered \$80 million and \$35 million in economic benefit to Victoria, in addition to reinforcing our national and international reputation as a host of outstanding major events.

We also recognise the importance of delivering major events in regional locations and are very proud to have supported many outstanding regional events this year, such as the Festival of Sails in Geelong, the World Superbike Champions at Phillip Island, 2013 Australian Masters Games in Geelong, the Jayco Herald Sun tour, the Rip Curl Pro Surfing at Bells Beach, the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island and the Australian Goldfields Open snooker in Bendigo.

Victoria’s major sporting events credentials this year have also been boosted by the staging of events in Melbourne such as the Sailing World Cup — Melbourne, the World Cup of Golf and Australian Masters tournaments, the Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship in Melbourne and lawn bowls Australian open at Darebin. All of that on top of our five prestigious annual events: the Australian open, the grand prix, the Boxing Day test, the Spring Racing Carnival and the AFL Grand Final.

Over the next couple of years an outstanding variety of sporting events will continue to enhance Victoria’s reputation, including the 2014 World Masters Rowing Championships at Ballarat and matches of the 2015 Asian Cup and the 2015 Cricket World Cup. Our government is committed to enhancing the value of major events by working with each event to deliver a community sporting benefit alongside the important livability, economic and tourism benefits that these events generate. The strong government support received by the sport and event sector ensures that Victoria’s thriving sports industry will continue to provide valuable social and economic outcomes to all Victorians.

Mr SCOTT — Minister, can I refer you to budget paper 3, page 252. There is a performance measure there, ‘Community facility grants: number approved’. The actual for 2012–13 is 189 and the expected outcome for 2013–14 is 160. Can you please explain the decline in the expected outcome for that particular performance measure?

Mr DRUM — The 2013–14 target budget performance measure for investment in community sport and recreation facilities, which is page 253 — is that right?

Mr SCOTT — This is page 252 and it is the performance measure ‘Community facility grants: number approved’.

Mr DRUM — I think it is roughly the same. The number of projects expected in the 2013–14 year of 160 is lower than the 189 projects announced in 2012–13 as a number of the small-scale facility projects were completed in 2012–13. These projects were based on 2010 election commitments and are progressively being completed over the term of this government.

Mr SCOTT — By way of supplementary, I note that the target for 2014–15 is 130. Can you again explain why this is a continuing reduction in this program?

Mr ANGUS — Greater than 130.

Mr SCOTT — Yes, greater than 130.

Mr DRUM — Mr Scott would realise that when any government wins an election they do so on the back of a range of commitments that need to be followed through. This government was no different. We had in the vicinity of 80 odd sporting commitments that needed to have those commitments followed through over the four-year period of our government. When a project is in fact noted or when it becomes a statistic in a budget is when the contracts are signed. Apart from the mean amount of projects that get churned through in any one year, there is also a pattern that is very easy to see that follows the election cycle. As a range of projects are brought to fruition as a government comes good with its election commitments and actually brings those projects through its system, it will sign up the contracts for each of those respective projects. Once those projects are signed they become a statistic — in what you were talking about, with the 180 or the 130 the previous year or whenever — and you will obviously see a dwindling amount of projects that are continually being signed up as projects within this fund.

Mr O'BRIEN — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 63, and refer to the new Strategic Sporting Infrastructure program outlined on that page. Could you please advise the committee about the nature of the projects that will be supported by this program?

Mr DRUM — The Strategic Sporting Infrastructure program is a targeted grants program to provide funding to Victorian sporting organisations, clubs and local government for the delivery of facilities that foster and support community sporting and recreation, elite training, sports development and major events in both metropolitan and regional Victoria. The Strategic Sporting Infrastructure program is designed to support local government facilities which may not be able to be funded through existing Sport and Recreation Victoria funding programs due to the size of the facility, the level of funding required and the need to be innovative to meet local requirements. The new program also provides government with flexibility to fund many projects that do not meet existing guidelines, which are principally designed to be managed by local government. This includes projects on private land, at universities, private schools, golf clubs, yachting clubs, surf clubs et cetera, which still provide outstanding community benefit. The Strategic Sporting Infrastructure program will assist in funding infrastructure that will improve event capacity in regional and rural areas with the aim of attracting more events to country Victoria.

Having more events in regional areas contributes to the livability of these areas and boosts local economies. For example, the Geelong Cats have advised that every AFL game at Simonds Stadium contributes almost \$4 million to the Geelong economy. On a smaller scale, Sport and Recreation Victoria data shows that facilities in the range of \$1 million to \$2 million typically create over 40 construction jobs and result in 10 to 20 people being employed on an ongoing basis, generating over 40 volunteer positions and leading to a significant increase in participation in the local community.

The Strategic Sporting Infrastructure program aligns well with this government’s commitment to strengthening regional Victoria. Funding infrastructure in regional areas which promotes multi-use of facilities and assists in accommodating large crowds makes holding events in regional Victoria more attractive and cost effective for national and state sporting associations. Funding of \$35 million has been provided to this program over the next two years, and two key projects have already been announced as part of the budget: the Bendigo aquatic centre, \$15 million, and the Moorabbin Community Reserve project, \$8 million.

The Greater Bendigo aquatic centre will be a world-class health and recreation facility which will include an 8-lane 50-metre indoor pool, hydrotherapy, children's splash and learn to swim, gymnasium, cafe and childcare facilities. It is expected to attract over 430 visits annually.

At the Moorabbin Community Reserve we will support the development of a new playing and administrative home for over 15 000 AFL community footballers and their families. This will include a new pavilion with change rooms, umpire facilities, gymnasium, public toilets, new lighting and new offices for local community football organisations. Both the Southern Football League and the South Metro Junior Football League, the Dandenong Stingrays, the umpires in that area, administration — a very, very orchestrated group all singing the praises of the development of the project at Moorabbin.

The Bendigo project has been driven from the community up. I think everybody involved in the aquatic centre in Bendigo will be incredibly proud to see this facility built — a great addition to Bendigo into the future.

Ms GARRETT — I refer to budget paper 3, page 253. According to this budget paper the government expects to facilitate 50 sport and recreation events, which is a cut of 40 per cent from the expected outcome for 2013–14 and 20 per cent from the actual outcome for 2012–13. Can you detail to the committee why the government expects to facilitate fewer sport and recreation events this year?

Mr DRUM — Whereabouts are you looking, Ms Garrett?

Ms GARRETT — Page 253.

Mr DRUM — I have got 253; whereabouts on the page?

Ms GARRETT — The top — —

Mr DRUM — We have got the same target as last year.

Ms GARRETT — Really? That is your answer?

Mr DRUM — During the year we are currently in we have had an incredible increase in the amount of events facilitated through sport and recreation. We have increased our outcomes from 63 in the previous year; we have now got 86. The target has been consistent with the previous year, which is greater than 50. We have gone from 63 in the previous year to 86 in the expected outcome of this year. Whilst the target has remained the same, the expected outcomes have been incredible.

The CHAIR — Order! I am going to draw the line under the hearing at this point. That concludes the hearing for the sport and recreation portfolio. I thank the secretary and departmental staff for their attendance. We will have a quick turnaround and get back to veterans' affairs.

Witnesses withdrew.