

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Chief Minister:

Darwin Turf Club Grandstand Grant (ICAC Report)

1. Who made the decision to grant public money to the Darwin Turf Club (DTC) for a new grandstand?
 - a. Was it Brett Dixon?
 - b. Was it Alf Leonardi?
 - c. Was it Michael Gunner?
 - d. Was it Cabinet?
2. Who signed the grant agreement with DTC? And was the total amount paid?
3. Where in the ICAC report “Investigation into the application for, award and expenditure of a grant to the Darwin Turf Club for a public grandstand” (The Report) does it “clear” Ministers from any responsibility for granting \$12million?
4. Was the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister or Racing Minister formally interviewed by the ICAC about their knowledge, role, support for and participation in the granting of money to DTC for a grandstand, as part of the investigation?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If yes, what was the scope of those enquiries?
5. Was the Chief Minister required to attend the ICAC for examination pursuant to a section 34 Notice during its investigation into the Darwin Turf Club grant? If so:
 - a. Did the section 34 Notice state that you were under investigation?
 - b. Did you assist the ICAC by giving evidence or did you claim privilege, confidentiality or raise any other legal exemption?

6. Which of the recommendations in the Report will be accepted and implemented?
 - a. Which recommendations will not be accepted or acted on by Government?
 - b. Which recommendations have been completed/implemented?
 - c. What is the timeframe for full completion of the recommendations that Government has accepted?
 - d. What is the funding allocation attached to implementation of the recommendations?
 - e. Is Cabinet personally liable for these costs?
7. Please provide a copy of the Monteith Report.
8. As per paragraph 353 of the ICAC Report, how did you communicate your “in-principle support for the inclusion of the grandstand in the event a submission was made” to Alf Leonardi on 23 May 2019?
9. Please detail all gifts, benefits and hospitality you have accepted from Mr Brett Dixon, DTC or its members since 1 April 2016.
10. Please detail all gifts, benefits and hospitality accepted by any member of your staff from Mr Dixon, DTC or its members since 1 April 2016.
11. Apart from yourself as Chief Minister, whose instructions is your Chief of Staff expected to follow? Does the Chief of Staff of the Chief Minister’s office report to anyone other than the Chief Minister?
 - a. Do you as Chief Minister agree with Mr Leonardi in his natural justice response that he was acting on instruction?
12. How do you as Chief Minister intend to “take responsibility” for the giving away of \$12 million?

Answer

The ICAC had the ability to review all of the paperwork and processes over an 18 month investigation. The ICAC Report affirms Cabinet’s prerogative to award grants and made no findings against the Government or any Minister. Details of all government grants awarded are publically available in the responsible agencies annual reports. The Monteith Report was commissioned by the CLP Government in 2014. The Government has publically announced in principle support to implementation of all recommendations.