

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Wood to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Construction of a pool in the Rural Area

During the Budget announcements the Minister made the following statement;

'I am sure the member for Nelson would be interested to know that plans for a pool in the rural area have advanced. The project is on the design list. This may not sound like much, but members would know once a project is on the design list it indicates a commitment to proceed. The reason it is not in this budget is design and construction estimates need to be completed, but I am heartened it is on this important list'

Could you please say:

- Where is the pool to be located?
- What size pool is planned?
- What other facilities will be incorporated with the pool – gymnasium, water park?
- Who will operate the pool?
- Who will pay for the ongoing operating costs?
- Have there been any discussions with 1. The Litchfield Council 2. The local members of Parliament 3. Swimming clubs 4. The public?
- If there haven't been any discussions with the above what has been the basis for the design and location of the pool?
- Is the Government aware of previous plans drawn up for a swimming pool at Freds Pass Reserve and/or at Coolalinga and if so have those plans been incorporated in the new design?
- Is the government aware of a proposal by a private company to build a pool in the rural area at Coolalinga?
- If not, will the government talk to this company before they make a final decision about a pool?

ANSWER:

The project is on the 2016-17 Design List which is an in-principle commitment to proceed, commencing with concept design and budget considerations in the 2016-17 Budget Cabinet process although the first

step will be extensive community consultation once budget parameters are known.

- A location has not been finalised at this stage and will be the subject of community consultation.
- The proposed facility is a 25 metre, eight lane FINA compliant short course pool.
- Other facility inclusions that may be considered depending on final budget are:
 - heating for the pool;
 - a wet play area for children;
 - a dry play area for children;
 - spectator seating.
- The operator has not been identified at this stage in the process.
- Recurrent funding has not been considered at this time.
- No stakeholders have been consulted at this point.
- There is no design for the pool with preliminary analysis for the proposal based on the previous work undertaken by the Department of Local Government and the Department of Infrastructure for a pool in the rural area some two to three years ago. The existing design is site specific taking into account easements on the then identified location and cannot be overlaid on a new site.
- The Department of Sport and Recreation, which undertook the preliminary analysis that resulted in the project being added to the Design List, was not aware that a private company is looking to build a pool at Coolalinga and this will certainly be taken into consideration prior to proceeding further with the Northern Territory Government proposal.