

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Alice Springs Athletics Track

1. What is the total cost of services provided to the NT Government by the New Zealand company "Sports Surface Consultants Ltd" for work undertaken in relation to the proposed Alice Springs Athletics Track in 2015 and 2016?
2. When will work commence on the construction of the Athletics Track at Blatherskite Park?
3. What plans does the NT Government have to construct a multi-purpose sport facility at Blatherskite Park?
4. Will the NT Government follow the full recommendations of the Consultant's report on the best site for an Athletics Track in Alice Springs and provide a soccer field in the centre of the Athletics Track at Blatherskite Park?
5. Is the NT Government committed to establishing a Master Plan for Sport in Alice Springs?

ANSWER:

The Northern Territory Government allocated \$2 million in the 2015-16 Budget to construct a new, national standard, first class track in Alice Springs to be available for school carnivals, Alice Springs Masters Games and national sporting events.

1. The total cost of services provided to the NT Government by the company Sports Surface Consultants Ltd for work undertaken in relation to the proposed Alice Springs Athletics Track is \$5544. This fee included provision for Athletics NT staff to travel from Darwin to Alice Springs as part of the investigation. It should be noted that Athletics NT engaged Sports Surface directly, not the Northern Territory Government.
2. It is too early to determine a commencement date for the construction of the athletics track, however it is anticipated that works will commence in 2016. A process to gather community feedback of two preferred sites, being Centralian Middle School and Blatherskite Park, is now underway. Blatherskite Park has not yet been determined as the final site.
3. There are currently no plans by the Northern Territory Government to construct a multi-purpose sport facility at Blatherskite Park.
4. Once public feedback has been collected, the Department of Sport and Recreation will prepare a final report for the NT Government's consideration. This report will encompass community feedback and consultant recommendations. The final design of the project will be subject to budget constraints and community feedback.
5. The Northern Territory Government is in the final stages of delivering a Territory wide Sport and Active Recreation Master Plan.