

The committee commenced at 12.05 pm.

**Madam CHAIR:** Thank you all for making the time. On behalf of the committee I welcome everyone to the public briefing on the Warren Park Project.

I welcome to the table: Mr Alastair Shields, the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Tourism and Culture; Mr Phillip Leslie, the Executive Director of Sport and Recreation, Department of Tourism and Culture; and Ms Susan Kirkman, the Executive Director, Infrastructure and Corporate Services, Department of Tourism and Culture. Thank you for coming before the committee we appreciate you taking the time to speak to the committee today.

This is a formal proceeding of the committee and the protection of parliamentary privilege and the obligation not to mislead the committee apply.

This is a public session, it is good to see members of the public here and it is being webcast through the Assembly's website. A transcript will be made available for use of the committee and may be put on the committee's website.

If at any time during the briefing you are concerned that what you will say should not be made public, you may ask that the committee go into a closed session and take your evidence in private.

Can you please each state your name and capacity in which you are appearing? We might move on because I think I have said it twice, at least your names twice. Mr Shields, would you like to make an opening statement?

**Mr SHIELDS:** Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to outline the plans for the Warren Park Project and the related procurement processes.

When the Department of Tourism and Culture was formed in September last year we were charged with implementing the government's election commitment, and that commitment was initially for an investment of \$20 million, that was revised up to \$25 million, to develop a new home for Rugby League at Warren Park in Marrara.

There were two key issues for determination before we advertised for tenders. Firstly was, what was it that would be built, and that needed to be determined having a regard to stakeholder input, physical characteristics of the site, and the budget. And the second thing was tenure arrangements for the complex, given that the current lease structure is a perpetual Crown lease held by the South Darwin Sporting League.

We made a conscious decision to consider what would be built first, on the basis that we could not really have meaningful discussions on tenure until we determined how we would get three fields onto the site, whether the complex could be built for the budget, and whether we would test the stakeholder support for the project.

Existing on the site currently are two rugby fields, one for Union and one for League, an old club house, an ablution block and some car parking. There is also a drainage easement down the Dante Street side of the site.

We had to do a fair bit of work initially to see how we would fit three fields and associated infrastructure onto the site, having regard to things like the physical limitations of the drainage easement, the orientation of fields, having regard to where the sun rises and sets, and stakeholder requirements and views.

Naturally the peak bodies for rugby, NRL NT, and the national body, NRL, were key stakeholders for this purpose, and that is exactly the same sort of process we have done in the past for bodies like tennis and netball. NRL NT was heavily involved in the development of the proposed design and both NRL NT and NRL have confirmed their unflinching support for the project.

In December last year, we formed a project control group to develop the design, and that consisted of representatives from my department, the Department of Tourism and Culture, from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, representatives from NRL NT, NT Rugby Union, South Darwin Sporting League, South Darwin Rugby Union and South Darwin Rugby League.

That project development group held five formal meetings, the first being on 1 December 2016, then on 14 December 2016, 8 February 2017, 26 April 2017 and 12 September 2017.

I also attended an additional stakeholder meeting at the NRL NT offices on 17 July 2017. As I said I was there, Phillip Leslie was there, Caleb Johnston from our department was there, Nigel Roy from NRL NT, Ryan Canavan from NRL, Belinda Howie the President of NRL NT and representatives of each of the clubs.

The ultimate design that we have put out to tender comprises of three fields, with a grandstand facility and associated infrastructure, servicing the number one field, and a change room, kiosk, and viewing platform servicing the other two fields. Temporary grandstands when required can be placed along the eastern side of field one. The grandstand structure will accommodate corporate hospitality and offices for NRL NT.

The main playing field will have capacity for 4000 to 6000 spectators - subject to final design - which includes a minimum 1200 stadium seats, corporate space for approximately 200 spectators and three temporary grandstands that provide approximately 1000 seats. The car park will have capacity for approximately 600 cars. The main playing field requires a minimum of 1400 lux lighting.

In setting the design for this facility, we made sure that the venue will meet the standards for national tier two games. We looked at similar designs at the Sunshine Coast Stadium and Glen Willow Stadium at Mudgee as models for our construction requirements.

Then once a preferred design was developed – we are still at the development stage. We put it out for public and stakeholder comment via our Have Your Say website. That opened on 16 June and closed on 3 July. There were 93 responses and 995 views of the website. While the Have Your Say was under way, we went into full swing with tenure negotiations with South Darwin Sporting League and NRL NT. By July the outcome of those negotiations was an agreement in principle for a lease structure.

There will be several lease structures proposed here. Initially, there will be construction lease which will be valid for the projected construction period, up until practical completion. That will give the Northern Territory the capacity to take the lease of the whole site and enable the construction to proceed, and for us to grant appropriate licences to whoever it is who is chosen to undertake the project.

Once it has been completed to practical completion, a 30-year head lease will come into effect between South Darwin Sporting League and the Territory for fields one and two and the car park. With that lease, the NTG will grant an under-lease to NRL NT. Additionally, there will be a non-exclusive licence between NRL NT and South Darwin Sporting League to use field two for training purposes. Negotiations for all the leases are well advanced and we anticipate that all leases will be executed prior to the tender being awarded, which is expected to happen in mid-December.

Under the proposed arrangement, South Darwin Sporting League will retain exclusive rights over field three and the clubhouse. The Territory will have rights over fields one and two, including the car park, which we will then hand on to NRL NT.

As a final part of the leasing arrangements, we will seek the appropriate consent from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics under the *Crown Lands Act*.

I can talk about some of the key features of the lease. They are based on other facilities that have been constructed by the Northern Territory. Having regard to the fact that South Darwin Sporting League will not receive any financial compensation for grant of a long-term lease, the Territory will, under the leases, repair and maintain all the fields, the car park, buildings, fixtures and fittings – fair wear and tear excluded – will pay rates, undertake field repair and maintenance. South Darwin Sporting League will be responsible for the day-to-day expenses and R&M for their clubhouse.

The lease arrangements are one thing, but there will also be some operational issues that need to be determined between South Darwin Sporting League and NRL NT such as naming rights, alcohol licences and operational issues like that.

The tender was released on 15 September this year. It closed on 30 October 2017. As I mentioned before, an expected award date – subject to finalisation of leases – is mid-December.

In recognition of the need to support NRL NT and each of the individual clubs to ensure that any financial impacts and additional costs are addressed, the Northern Territory government has appointed KPMG to work with the clubs.

Whilst this is not strictly part of what you have asked me to talk about today, I am aware that some members of the community feel that Richardson Park should, once again, become the home of rugby league in Darwin.

As I was born and bred here, I have memories of having gone to Richardson Park as a child. Whilst I understand why there is much strong community feeling about Richardson Park, it is important to place on record that Richardson Park is no longer an appropriate location for the sport to develop and grow. It is located in a residential area, which should make things such as lighting, having night games and events, car parking and traffic control very difficult. That is why successive governments have established Marrara as the sporting precinct in Darwin and why it is proposed that Warren Park be at Marrara.

Richardson Park would, I believe, be suitable as a community facility, subject to consultation with the community on what that should be and obviously the adjacent school but it is really not suitable as the home of rugby league in Darwin, and so the choice for discussion is not so much Warren Park or Richardson Park, it is really Warren Park or not.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today and make these opening remarks. I look forward to responding to your questions.

**Mr WOOD:** I did not always realise that Souths had one field, it was rugby union. Was there any discussions held with NT Rugby Union to see whether their field could be upgraded? My understanding originally—this was all about trying to get a field up to the standard where national games could be played at, televised. Obviously we have tended to move away from that because you said this is now a tier two stadium. Was there any talk about sharing facilities, especially as now I did not quite understand that Souths also had a rugby union field as well?

**Mr SHIELDS:** Member for Nelson, thank you for your question. It was never intended that this would be a field for national games. A field for national games would require an expenditure well in excess, perhaps 10 times the election commitment. This is really about a home for rugby league in Darwin. National games will continue to be held at TIO

**Mr WOOD:** This facility, will it be the home of NRL from a point of view with administration? So there could be administrator buildings built there as well?

**Mr SHIELDS:** That is right. Offices are part of the specifications.

**Mr WOOD:** Do you need anything else—sports medicine was mentioned once before—is that also being located here?

**Mr LESLIE:** Sports medicine as a body will not be but there will be sports medicine rooms and rooms available for drug testing and the like.

**Mr WOOD:** Were any other options looked at in relation to the design? All we have seen is what was put up first for comment. Were there various designs put forward?

**Mr SHIELDS:** Yes, definitely. It is quite an iterative process with the project control group and many designs were considered and discussed. As I said, there are some physical constraints to the site, there is a drainage easement and there are also practical considerations about access to the stadium, access to club houses, access to change rooms, and so I guess it is fair to say there was quite a lot of consultation and discussion at the project control group, and obviously we worked very hard to try to accommodate the needs of all of the stakeholders that would be there.

**Mr WOOD:** Is access still granted to the rugby union side as well? At the present time there is a gate between the rugby union ground, the main one and these grounds. Will there be a connection between the two?

**Mr LESLIE:** We had Northern Territory Rugby Union as part of the project control group from the start and we are aware that rugby union still uses the current facility on a Friday night, so the expectation is that rugby union will still use the third field on a Friday night. Also to add to your question about various designs, we had designs with the grandstand in between field one and two. There were suggestions about the grandstand being on the eastern side. Usually we do not do that. The main grandstand in sporting venues are usually on the western side so that late afternoon spectators are not looking directly in to the sun for games played at that time. There are a number of iterative designs and the views of rugby union were taken into account in that.

**Madam CHAIR:** I am interested in field three. You noted that field three is retained by South Darwin exclusively, but in the costings when you were talking about who is paying for what, I am presuming they will pay for the ongoing costs of maintaining field three—which I think you just said that NTRU will also access

field three. I am presuming that will be an agreement between them and South Darwin will not have anything to do with the NTRL facility?

**Mr SHIELDS:** We will be maintaining field three as well. In recognition of there being no financial compensation for the grant of the lease over the other areas of land, we have taken on that responsibility. I guess it is really important, one of the things that NRL NT wanted to ensure was that all three fields were maintained to the same standard, so there is an economy of scale in us organising for all the maintenance of the fields to happen together.

**Madam CHAIR:** South Darwin have a separate club house, not part of the main infrastructure for NTRU?

**Mr SHIELDS:** That is right, yes. They will be responsible for maintaining the club house itself and obviously costs associated with that.

**Madam CHAIR:** Not the one that is currently there—a new one?

**Mr SHIELDS:** A new one.

**Madam CHAIR:** And who is paying for the building of a new one?

**Mr SHIELDS:** That is part of the project costs.

**Madam CHAIR:** Right, thank you.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Just following on from you Madam Chair, do we know what the ongoing costs are then for all of our ongoing obligations for maintenance and correct me if I am wrong, did you say the government will be paying lease payments to South Darwin for ...

**Mr SHIELDS:** There is no lease payments but we would pay rates and we will be paying ...

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** All the maintenance?

**Mr SHIELDS:** Water.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Rates, water.

**Mr SHIELDS:** And maintaining the ground surfaces and the line markings.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Is it the ongoing costs of that known to government?

**Mr LESLIE:** The ongoing costs and the rates certainly are but the tender has gone out as a design and construct tender. It has not gone out as a construct tender because it has gone out as a design and construct tender because tenderers have had the ability to provide a plan that may not be the same as went out.

So the actual cost determined electricity and whatever else, would depend on the actual successful tender given that they can still meet the overall needs but perhaps come up with an alternative view for it. That will be established.

We know what the fixed costs are but in terms of the details, they are usually established on projects like this as they are with other sports that we have dealt with at the 50% design stage with the successful tenderer. But they are well and truly known given that before it is finished, given the intended completion of this will be January 2019.

**Mr WOOD:** A couple of teams do not have a home ground, is this going to be Souths home base or will the new facilities be able to be shared by clubs or, like St Mary's and Wanderers, they share TIO 1. Has there been any discussions about whether this field can be regarded as one of those teams home ground?

**Mr SHIELDS:** So Souths will retain field 3, so I guess in a sense it is their home ground. We provided it as the home for Rugby League so it is going to the peak.

**Mr WOOD:** That's right. TIO is the home of AFL but it is the home for St Mary's and Wanderers. So has there been any discussions about the use of it as a home ground?

**Mr LESLIE:** Whilst it is a home in TIO their club houses are located just outside the eastern boundaries. You know that typically training no longer occurs on the TIO number 1 field because on a surface like that, you have to manage the load.

So in terms of this facilities, the design is for it to be the home of rugby league. How games are scheduled and how that load is managed is the responsibility of NRL NT. In terms of government, we do not dictate to the sport they can play; these can train; and these cannot train.

You have to take account of the load on the ground so that you can maintain it at the level. But as for who plays there and who trains, that is an issue for NT Rugby League or NRL NT to manage and decide in conjunction with their clubs.

**Mr WOOD:** I suppose looking at putting facilities in there, administrative facilities, change rooms, etcetera. Whether a home ground or club could use that facilities as their home base, because I know a couple of them have not got a home ground, I didn't know whether there had been any discussion with the clubs about that possibility.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** I was just going to ask, which clubs were consulted on the relocation from Richardson Park to..?

**Mr SHIELDS:** I guess it is not so much a relocation in that Richardson Park was handed back to government in 2014.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Sorry, consulted on the redevelopment of ...

**Mr SHIELDS:** Sure, so the public meeting I mentioned in July which was in NRL NT offices, each of the clubs had a representative.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Okay.

**Mr SHIELDS:** And there has been ongoing consultation with clubs by NRL NT along the process.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Do you have a split of who is in favour and who is not?

**Mr SHIELDS:** I guess from our point of view, we have been dealing primarily with the peak body which is NRL NT and the national body, NRL, and as I said before, they are offering their unflinching support for the project.

**Mr SIEVERS:** it is great you have been doing consultations but what has been the main feedback on the consultations and what has the department done about concerns?

**Mr SHIELDS:** The prime feedback has been in respect of the design of the facility, and to be fair, that has probably what we have mainly asked for comment on, and as Phillip has said before we have done quite a bit of tweaking and changing of the design to suit and address those comments. So as Phillip has said, location of things like the stadium and the grandstand and the clubhouse change rooms has moved from between fields to the end of the field and we have done some other things to address those sorts of things such as access to change rooms and how far you are from various facilities and the like.

**Mr LESLIE:** And also, the initial meetings of the planning group, it was essentially about what are the best things we can put into this and how many of them can be fit in within budget. So, the strong recommendation from the stakeholder groups is that they want the facility to have three fields.

So, there was a lot of work that went into putting three fields into that facility, bearing in mind you are bordered by McMillans Road, you have got a road at the other end, you have got a carpark, you have got an easement on the far side, and it is not just the three fields, there is a setoff so you have to have another five metres beyond the sideline in Rugby League for players and play that goes past the sideline.

So, trying to fit those three fields in, and then also having a grandstand, so that every seat in the grandstand had an effective sightline of the main field in front of it. If you put the main field too close in front of it, grandstand seats get restricted view.

So, managing all of that took quite a bit of time, especially in the view we got, the strong feedback we got continually from the stakeholders was essentially not negotiable. It had to have three fields.

So, one of the key time issues for us in working through it with planners was to make sure we could get three fields in there comfortably and still meet national design standards, and setoff standards between fields, and that we had a grandstand that unrestricted sight. There are some national standard as well in size of change rooms, in size of lux, access for emergency vehicles, ability to have a referee's room.

And other things we took into account was shade. We had some feedback for shade. We have looked at that as best we can. The other area is also to keep the crowd segregated, if you like, from the players so that we have got the crowd up above where the players come in and having the change rooms with easy access out. As well as that there are national standards on size of referees' rooms and the like.

So, all of those national standards for tier two, had to be meet as well. So, that going forward, if there is tier two played, it ticks the box.

**Mr WOOD:** Couple of questions. One is if, just talking about the design of the grandstand, taking into account that we now have a substantial number of women playing rugby, Rugby League and Rugby Union, and Aussie rules, and also referees. So, is that particular work that is done on the grandstand taking that into account, particularly with change rooms?

**Mr LESLIE:** Yes.

**Mr WOOD:** It has? The other one is the carpark. Now, is the carpark part of South Darwin's lease?

**Mr SHIELDS:** It is currently a part of the lease and is part of the area that will be leased back to the Territory, then on leased to NRLNT. Although, we have had discussion with Souths about that they use it for fundraising for other events. So, there is agreement that for events like that, if South Darwin want to man the carpark, or person the carpark, and collect the gold coin donations then that can continue.

**Mr WOOD:** So, will the carpark be upgraded to a bitumen sealed standard?

**Mr LESLIE:** It will depend on what the tenders has come back to us with the design and the draft. In the tender that we put out, we had bitumen for the carparks closest to the fields and then rolled earth, if you would like, for the carparks that are furthest away. But, it will depend on what we get back from tender, especially if they decide to move things around a little bit.

**Mr WOOD:** Will there be any other upgrades, for instance. I mean, there is drain on one side, where Abala Road goes along. And any improvement in access for in and out of Marrara that would help? Because one of the problems always there, is when there is large number of people parked in Marrara, it takes a while to get out. Maybe not as much as some of the other big stadiums in Australia. So, has there been any look at improving access and ingress, if you want, out of the facility.

**Mr SHIELDS:** I was at the rugby too, on Friday night. Yes.

**Mr LESLIE:** We have looked at access into the precinct - not necessarily an additional access point—from McMillans Road. One of the things we know and will require a cultural change is the view of many of the participants who go to Marrara is they do not consider, 'I have a car park unless I am right outside the venue I am going to'. During significant events at Marrara, we regularly check all the car parks. Our view is it is a precinct that has various car parks across the precinct. We have to get to a culture where people are prepared to park in another car park and walk 100 m, 200 m, 300 m to the one they are attending.

We know for the Adelaide Crows versus Melbourne game—because we checked all the car parks on the precinct—which was sold out, there were still spare car parks on the precinct. Not all the car parks on the precinct were taken up. That requires some people to walk—park outside hockey, clay target or netball and walk on one of the paths. We knew there was spare parking.

The other thing we do, Member for Nelson, is that during major events you will note we have traffic control and we do one way. There is some traffic study work being undertaken to see how that can be improved. One of the suggestions is that we permanently make it one way around Marrara, which will then have two lanes going the one way and spilling out, which could speed up the egress afterwards.

But certainly, after the Rugby League World Cup game last Friday night, it was reasonably quick for people to get out.

**Mr WOOD:** One of the issues of parking is that people park on McMillans Road. One of the issues we have had lately is the police will not allow people in through that access where the bus comes through. As far as I know, it is a public road, but they will not allow people access there. I do not know whether ...

**Madam CHAIR:** I think we can park that ...

**Mr WOOD:** ... they can walk through. The point is ...

**Madam CHAIR:** Keep your discussion about Marrara.

**Mr WOOD:** Yes, but the point is how parking is controlled here. There is an issue with Richardson Park and that needs to be taken into account as well.

**Madam CHAIR:** In the interests of time, because we have another briefing coming up, I want to make sure all my colleagues have had a chance to raise any questions they might have.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Can I ask about the design? I do not know whether you are still waiting for that to come back from the prospective tenderers, but will all the clubs have their own club room within the facility? Is that part of the ...

**Mr LESLIE:** That was one of the initial requests. As I said, at the start we asked for everything they need and then we worked to see if we can accommodate it. In the template and the funding we have, we cannot do their own club room for every individual sport. We have four change rooms in areas in the grandstands – two at the back and two at the sides—so we can accommodate women and well as men, so they are separated. We were not able to accommodate everyone having their own area and change room. The design we have gone with is similar to what we had at rugby union and soccer with the change rooms—you come in and share and move out again.

**Mr KIRBY:** From stepping through the consultation process, do you believe there have been any gaps in the process or anything you need to do differently, either now or in the future?

**Mr SHIELDS:** Thank you for the question, Member for Port Darwin. Clearly, that is something we always stop and consider at the end of every consultation—could we or should we have done it better? There clearly has been some concern expressed in the press and on social media about the consultation. I believe we have had an effective consultation. I also believe that with any significant change like this, there will always be some dissatisfaction about it.

But I think back to when TIO Stadium was first constructed. Many people at the time thought it would be a white elephant or did not like what was being constructed. Then, I was there on Friday night and saw what a wonderful atmosphere there was and what a great community facility it is. Once it is built and operational, it will become very much embraced by the community and the sport.

**Madam CHAIR:** Can I presume that the project is on track and you anticipate delivering it on time? It is early days yet, but that is how you would anticipate? I also ask what you think the challenges might be over the next 12 months with the project.

**Mr SHIELDS:** Subject to finalising our leases, as I said before, we expect to award the tender in December. An immediate challenge will be that is at the start of the Wet Season. Wet Season and weather is always an issue for the construction. Other challenges?

**Mr LESLIE:** We will also work through how we are going with one of the immediate things we need to do is make sure that the grass is down and the turf is in place ready for the next wet season as we have a bit of growing period then prior to the season in 2019.

But there will be the normal challenges associated with a build of that size and we will work through them. We do not see anything significant at this stage that would deviate us from the project timeline which would need to be finished in January to February 2019 so that the NRL NT season can start in the April immediately afterwards.

**Mr MILLS:** Thank you for the presentation. I noticed in the design and construct there is reference to a budget, what is that allocation and how was that determined to be the amount allocated to this project?

**Mr SHIELDS:** The amount is \$25m and I guess that election commitment as confirmed by government.

**Mr MILLS:** How did you arrive at \$25m as being the number?

**Mr LESLIE:** It was arrived at as an upper number for the department as per the election commitment. It was a budget that was given as part of the election commitment that we had to work with as an agency.

**Mr MILLS:** You do not know any of the science behind \$25m or is it sort of a, that's sounds like a good number for an election commitment?

**Mr LESLIE:** This is hard for us to speculate as bureaucrats, we cannot speculate.

**Mr MILLS:** You are in a difficult position where you now have to cut your profit according to a number that has been communicated.

**Madam CHAIR:** Yes, it was originally \$25.

**Mr SHIELDS:** Member for Blain, I cannot speculate on how the figure was arrived at but what I can say is that if I was given an election commitment with a figure that I didn't think we could build anything reasonable or meaningful with, I would go back to government and explore that.

You have heard the processes explained by Mr Leslie where we had the figure, we listened to what all the clubs wanted and we went to see what we could fit within that budget and we think what we have fit within the budget is going to be a good facility.

**Mr LESLIE:** Also, we have benchmarked against the Sunshine Coast stadium and Glen Willow Stadium. So the Sunshine Coast stadium has the Sunshine Coast team that competes in the Intrust Super Cup which is a tier two competition. So we have got all of the plans for that. We had the costings and I have spent hours going all over that facility.

Then we have got Glen Willow in Mudgee, which had recently held city country and other venues. We had the plans and costings for all of that. In addition, we spoke to rugby league club who competes in that Intrust Super Cup that was based in Brisbane and looked at their plans and designs and what the costings they had for theirs as well to be compliant to continue to compete.

We had two that we specifically benchmarked against around the costs and another one that we looked at who currently are developing their new facility.

**Mr MILLS:** Cyclone ratings and so on would have been part of the calibrations?

**Mr LESLIE:** Yes.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Just flowing on from ...

**Madam CHAIR:** The Member for Nelson had a further one, just for a moment.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** It is on the same topic.

**Mr WOOD:** You will be right because mine is not on the same topic.

**Madam CHAIR:** Are you changing topic?

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Does the \$25m include those unknown costs at the moment for rates, water and ground maintenance because they will be additional costs coming out of government.

**Mr SHIELDS:** So that is the capital costs, the \$25m. The recurrent costs I guess is something part of our recurrent budget.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** And you do not have an estimated figure for that?

**Mr LESLIE:** We have got estimated figures for some of those but the rest, as I said, will come through once we are at the 50% design stage when we have got all—because the 50% design stage you actually know how many toilets you have got, how many lights you have got, how many other bits you have got and that depends on the design. But that is common with any project of this size.

**Mr WOOD:** This time, a little more down to earth level in regards to the temporary grandstand. We had temporary grandstands used for the Davis cup, there were temporary grandstands used for the rugby league on the other night.

Who will own the temporary grandstands? Is that cost being attributed to this particular facility? Or is it going to be a Marrara cost?

**Mr LESLIE:** I can answer that. In relation to the temporary grandstands for the Davis cup, they were a Tennis Australia initiative. So they were in and out. In relation to the three temporary grandstands that we have got at the moment and there were three of them at the rugby league world cup on Friday night, they are owned by government and they are not part of this cost. They will be available to be used at a variety of sporting venues where they are needed. The three of them will cater for just over 1000 spectators.

**Mr WOOD:** The ones you are talking about for this facility will be separate from those?

**Mr LESLIE:** No, these are the ones that we use on the facility.

**Mr WOOD:** So they are not included in the cost.

**Mr LESLIE:** Correct. We have already purchased these.

**Mr WOOD:** Okay, that's fine.

**Madam CHAIR:** Any further questions? Do you have anything to add because I am really conscious of time? We have to do a turn over for us in the hearing.

**Mr LESLIE:** The other comment to be aware of is that on completion of this project this gives seven rectangular fields in a row. In terms of events going forward it gives capacity, provided that the sports work with each other. In future where there is a national carnival at under 18 level or a junior carnival that needs access to a whole number of fields together in the one vicinity, we have that. That is not very common around the country to have seven lit rectangular fields all in a row with various grandstands and amenities so it opens up the possibility for the Northern Territory to bid for national championships in rugby league, rugby union, touch and to have access to those facilities.

**Mr WOOD:** Are you saying that all those fields will be lit in to a lower standard?

**Mr LESLIE:** Yes. All the fields will be lit. The ones at Warren Park will be lit. The ones currently at Larrakeyah Park and Rugby Park are lit already.

**Mr WOOD:** That is right. We had three fields, I thought there was just one being lit.

**Mr LESLIE:** One will be lit to 1400 lux the others will be lit to club level.

**Madam CHAIR:** The committee might reserve our right to further on down the track, perhaps check in with you and get an update and a report because we do have some interest to make sure that the project is on time and on track. Thank you for your contribution today.

**Mr SHIELDS:** Thank you and we welcome the opportunity to further brief you on the project as it proceeds.

**Madam CHAIR:** I know the Member for Nelson would be very keen.

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The committee concluded.

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