



Petition

Registration No.	11
Title	GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR FRED'S PASS RESERVE AND THE LITCHFIELD SWIMMING POOL
Presented on	Tuesday 19 February 2013
Presented by	MEMBER FOR NELSON (Mr Wood)
Referred to	Sport & Recreation (Mr Conlan)
Date referred	19 February 2013
Response due	22 August 2013
Response received	5 April 2013
Response to be presented	14 May 2013

Petition

Petition re cutting all NT Government funding for Freds Pass Reserve and the Litchfield Swimming Pool

We the undersigned, ask that the Government reverse its decision to cut all NT Government funding for the Freds Pass Reserve and the Litchfield Swimming Pool. Litchfield is a growing area and recreational facilities are an important part of the development of the region especially when it comes to sport, recreation and opportunities for our youth. We believe this decision by the Government was done without any consultation with the community, the Freds Pass Management Board, the Litchfield Council or the local electorate members. We therefore ask that the Government reverse this retrograde decision and continue to fund the Freds Pass Reserve and the Litchfield Pool.

Response

I refer to your letter received on 22 February 2013, forwarding the terms of a petition read in the Legislative Assembly on 19 February 2013 (Petition No. 11 – cutting all NT Government funding for Freds Pass Reserve and the Litchfield Swimming Pool).

In accordance with Standing Order 100A, following is my response to the petition for presentation to the Assembly.

In 2009-10 the former Northern Territory Government's Parliamentary Agreement with Mr Gerry Wood MLA, Member for Nelson was allocated to the then Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport with responsibility for a priority list of infrastructure funding upgrades at Freds Pass Reserve (FPR).

A \$2.29 million Capital Grant was to be provided to the Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Management Board (FPSRMB) to be released in stages over three years. The first stage comprising \$980 000 was released in 2010-11.

With three restructures of the FPSRMB and other issues, there were on-going delays to project components resulting in the first stage's projects not completed within the agreed timeframe. The 2011-12 funding of \$810 000 was subsequently deferred until 2012-13 to be released with the \$500 000 third and final stage.

With a number of the 2010-11 projects still not complete in 2012-13, a decision was made to withdraw the final stages of the grant. A balance of approximately \$320 000 remains unspent from the stage one payment.

Following consultation with the 22 user groups, the FPSRMB recently submitted a list of projects to be funded from the balance of the grant for consideration. Approval has been given for:

- re-roofing and upgrade of the stables;
- top soil for the Rugby Union fields;
- chain mesh fencing around the soccer facility; and
- an ablution block.

The former Northern Territory Government also committed \$1 million in 2012-13 for site works for the proposed rural swimming pool with a further \$11.5 million in 2013-14 for design and construction. The pool was to be built on a parcel of land near the intersection of Girraween Road and the Stuart Highway at Coolalinga.

As a saving measure, it was announced in the 2012-13 Mini Budget that the rural pool would not proceed.

This Government supports an active community and has increased investment this financial year into sport and recreation in the Northern Territory by \$5.9 million. This includes delivering on two major sports commitments made prior to the election by increasing funding by 50 percent to peak sport and recreation bodies and introducing the \$75 Sport Voucher Scheme to registered school children from government and non-government schools.

This Government must be fiscally responsible in the current difficult economic environment and the decision to cut funding to the Freds Pass Reserve and the proposed rural swimming pool was essential if other priority concerns for the community were to be supported.