

SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES BILL 2008

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Bill introduced on motion by Mr Graham West.**Agreement in Principle****Mr GRAHAM WEST** (Campbelltown—Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation) [4.11 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now agreed to in principle.

The Sporting Venues Authorities Bill 2008 will repeal the Sporting Venues Management Act 2002, provide for the establishment of the State Sporting Venues Authority and regional sporting venues authorities as well as dissolve the Newcastle International Sports Centre Trust and the Newcastle Showground and Entertainment Centre Trust. The State Sporting Venues Authority is a New South Wales government agency and the bill provides for the Minister to manage this authority. Some specific venues—such as the Dunc Gray Velodrome, Ryde Aquatic Centre and the Blacktown Olympic Centre—were included in the Sporting Venues Management Act to ensure the ministerial corporation had the functions and powers to manage the contractual arrangements, which were put in place at the conclusion of the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The new legislation, the Sporting Venues Authorities Bill 2008, will include a broader range of functions for the authority. Parliamentary Counsel has advised that the functions outlined in clause 9 (1) are more than adequate for the Minister to manage the contractual obligations. The original Act included a fourth venue, the Sydney International Shooting Centre. The land at the Sydney International Shooting Authority was transferred to the Western Sydney Parkland Trust in December 2007. Care, control and management of the shooting centre and the Sydney International Equestrian Centre remain with New South Wales Sport and Recreation and is unaffected by the new Act. Ownership of all land listed in the Sporting Venues Management Act will remain the responsibility of the Minister for Sport and Recreation and can be managed in accordance with the functions outlined in the new Act.

This bill provides a mechanism for the merging of Crown Lands Trusts—the Newcastle International Sports Centre Trust and the Newcastle Showground and Exhibition Centre Trust being the example of such mergers. This bill proposes to consolidate the administration of the Newcastle Showground and Entertainment Centre and the Hunter International Sports Centre through the establishment of a Hunter Region Sporting Venues Authority. Currently these two trusts are very much focused on day-to-day management of their existing sites. Under the bill these trusts will be dissolved and a new, consolidated, precinct-wide entity will be established. It will focus on strategic development initiatives with a 20-year to 30-year vision in recognition of the anticipated growth of Newcastle city and the broader Hunter region. This new authority will pave the way for a better, more streamlined and functional approach to meeting the recreational and sporting needs of the people of Newcastle and the Hunter for decades to come.

The current Hunter International Sports Centre Trust manages lands including Energy Australia Stadium and the Hunter Regional Trotting Track. The Newcastle Showground and Entertainment Centre Trust manages lands including the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and the Newcastle Showground. Having a single authority instead of two separate trusts will make the management of these facilities more coordinated and efficient. It will enable a more strategic long-term planning approach and maximise the effective use of capital investments. This is a more appropriate and efficient use of taxpayers' money. It makes sense for the most significant sport and entertainment venues owned and operated by the Government in Newcastle to be managed together. The establishment of precinct-wide authority to manage these two adjacent venues will ensure a better use of capital invested and help deliver better outcomes for people in Newcastle and the Hunter.

I will now outline some of the principles of the bill and the new framework it establishes. The Sporting Venues Authorities Bill 2008 repeals the Sporting Venues Management Act 2002 and incorporates and updates the remaining provisions of that Act by establishing the State Sporting Venues Authority as a corporation. The bill states that the State Sporting Venues Authority is a New South Wales government agency and is to be managed by the Minister. It enables this authority to delegate its functions to certain people. The bill sets out the key functions of the State Sporting Venues Authority, which include establishing and managing sporting grounds, sporting facilities and recreational facilities. The bill constitutes as bodies corporate the regional sporting venues authorities named in proposed schedule 1. Currently only one regional sporting venues authority is specified in

proposed schedule 1: the Hunter Region Sporting Venues Authority.

Each regional sporting venues authority is a New South Wales government agency, and the bill provides for each authority to have a board of management made up of no more than seven members. The board is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister and its members are subject to the direction and control of the Minister. The bill enables the Governor by order published in the *Government Gazette* to dissolve, amalgamate or change the name of any regional sporting venues authority, and enables an authority to delegate functions to certain people and establish advisory committees.

The bill sets out the key functions of the Regional Sporting Venues Authority, which include establishing and managing sporting grounds, sporting facilities and recreational facilities. The bill will enable the authority to enter into an arrangement with a State Sporting Venues Authority to manage any land vested in the State Sporting Venues Authority and to perform any function that it has in relation to that land. Land will be transferred to a sporting venues authority subject to any existing trusts, interests, conditions or other restrictions. On transfer, the rights and liabilities of the previous owner of the property become the rights and liabilities of the sporting venues authority to which the land is transferred. Such transfers will not constitute a breach of contract and State taxes will not be payable on land transfers.

The bill also will make it easier for a government agency to transfer land to the relevant sporting venues authority. The bill will make it easier also for parties to give property to an authority as a bequest or a gift. An authority may develop or manage sporting or recreational facilities on land whether or not it owns the land. However, a regional sporting venues authority may exercise those powers only with the consent of the Minister. A sporting venues authority may manage, develop and deal with land despite the terms of any grant, reservation or dedication to which the land is subject. There are also extensive obligations for regional sporting authorities to prepare and make publicly available management plans. The Minister also may direct an authority to review a plan of management.

Other key areas of the bill cover offences under the proposed Act for which penalties may be issued and the appointment of rangers to enforce regulations for the care, control and management of the land. The bill establishes a new Hunter Region Sporting Venues Authority and transfers the land held by the former trusts to the new authority. The land is transferred subject to any existing trusts, interests, conditions or other restrictions. On transfer the rights and liabilities of the previous owner of the property become the rights and liabilities of the sporting venues authority to which the land is transferred.

I will be directing the new authority to honour the existing arrangement with the Newcastle Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Association—which is commonly known as the Newcastle show society—for the show society to continue to use the offices and storage bays at the showground. The bill contains a clause that specifically allows the Newcastle show to continue to be held at the showgrounds. A new consolidated entity will be able to focus on a future vision for sports and entertainment in the Newcastle region. That will be to the advantage of the people of Newcastle and the broader Hunter region, whose population is anticipated to grow steadily. The legislation will be reviewed in five years. I commend the bill to the House.