

SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES BILL 2008

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Second Reading

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (Parliamentary Secretary) [4.16 p.m.], on behalf of the Hon. Ian Macdonald: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have my second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The **Sporting Venues Authorities Bill 2008** will repeal the Sporting Venues Management Act 2002 and establish the State Sporting Venues Authority and regional sporting venues authorities.

The State Sporting Venues Authority is a NSW Government agency and the bill provides for the Minister to manage this authority.

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.

This new authority will take over the responsibilities of two Crown Lands Trusts—the Newcastle International Sports Centre Trust and the Newcastle Showground and Exhibition Centre Trust.

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 twenty to thirty year vision in recognition of the anticipated growth of Newcastle city and the broader Hunter region.

This new entity—the Hunter Region Sporting Venues Authority—will pave the way for a better, more streamlined and functional approach to meeting the recreation 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 far 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 NSW Government agency and is to be managed by the Minister. It enables this authority to delegate its functions to certain people and establish advisory committees.

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 will enable the authority to enter into an arrangement with a regional 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.

The bill enables the State Sporting Venues Authority to exercise its functions through subsidiaries or in a partnership, joint venture or other association with people or bodies - and it can form and acquire interests in certain private corporations.

The bill constitutes as bodies corporate the regional sporting venues authorities named in the proposed schedule 1. Currently there is only one regional sporting venues authority specified in the proposed Schedule 1, the Hunter Region Sporting Venues Authority.

Each regional sporting venues authority is a NSW 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 members are subject to the direction and control of the Minister.

The bill enables the Governor by order published in the 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.

Under this bill, 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.

Although the State Sporting Venues Authority may deal with the land vested in it, a regional sporting venues authority needs the consent of the Minister.

The bill will also make it easier for a government agency to transfer land to the relevant sporting venues authority. And the bill will also make it easier 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 they own it. However a regional sporting venues authority may only exercise those powers with the consent of the Minister. A sporting venue authority may manage, develop and deal with land despite the terms of any grant, reservation or dedication to which the land is or was subject.

There are also extensive obligations for regional sporting authorities to prepare and make publicly available management plans. The Minister may also 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 and 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.

A new consolidated entity would be able to focus on a future vision for sports and entertainment in the Newcastle region.

This will be to the absolute advantage of the people of Newcastle City and the broader Hunter region whose population is anticipated to grow steadily.

The Act will be reviewed in five years.

I commend the bill to the House.