

## Legislative Council Hansard – 08 March 2017 – Proof

**SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL 2017***Second Reading***The Hon. RICK COLLESS ( 11:29 ):** On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The objective of the Sporting Venues Authorities Amendment Bill 2017 is to amend the Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008 to give the Government full control and governance over the Stadium Australia business, currently known as ANZ Stadium, under Venues NSW, following its return to government ownership in July 2016. With the Government buying back the leasehold rights for Stadium Australia in July 2016, the Government has reached the point where all major stadia are now government owned and controlled. The major stadia include ANZ Stadium, Allianz Stadium, the Sydney Cricket Ground, Western Sydney Stadium at Parramatta, McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle, and WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

I turn to the comments made by the member for Fairfield in another place. He tried to imply that the stadia in Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong are regional. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are not regional stadia; they are in major metropolitan areas. There is an almost continuous metropolis from the north of Newcastle to the south of Wollongong, and they are in that major metropolitan area. The key point to make is that Parramatta is about as far west as members of the Opposition ever get. They do not understand regional sporting facilities and stadia that are west of the mountains. I advise the House that a reform of governance will have no impact on this Government's investment in community regional sporting programs. The New South Wales Government has delivered on its election commitments and has invested tens of millions of dollars in regional community sporting facilities. Since 2011 the Government has also invested some \$34 million in more than 2,700 projects—

**The Hon. Lynda Voltz:** Point of order: I refer to the long title of the bill and ask that the Parliamentary Secretary be brought back to the bill before the House.

**The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT ( Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile ):** Order! The Parliamentary Secretary will confine his remarks to the long title of the bill and its contents.

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS:** The Government has spent a lot of money on regional sporting programs. Opposition members in debate in the other place indicated that the definition of regional stadia includes those in Newcastle, Parramatta and Wollongong. Major regional projects include \$1 million for the next stage of the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence at Tamworth, which will offer high-quality, modern facilities for multiple sports. An additional \$3.25 million—

**The Hon. Lynda Voltz:** Point of order: We are considering the Sporting Venues Authorities Bill 2017. I ask that the Parliamentary Secretary be brought back to the long title of the bill.

**The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps:** To the point of order: The tradition of this House is that second reading debates are generally broad and include points that are relevant to wider topics than those covered by the bill. While, strictly speaking, this bill relates to the administration of sporting stadiums, the key component is that it deals with sport in regional areas. On that basis, given previous rulings and the latitude granted to second reading speeches and debate during the Committee stage—although not to speeches on the third reading—I believe the Minister is within the leave of the bill and the generally accepted conventions of this House.

**The Hon. Lynda Voltz:** Further to the point of order: I have no problem with the Parliamentary Secretary outlining what the Government identifies as regional stadiums under the sporting venues authorities—which are Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong stadiums. All the venues he is talking about at the moment are not under the purview of the Sporting Venues Authorities Amendment Bill 2017, which is the bill we are considering.

**The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT ( Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile ):** Order! I ask the Parliamentary Secretary to confine his remarks to the bill before the House. He should outline the purpose of the bill and explain its importance for the State.

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS:** I am trying to point out that Opposition members in another place referred to the stadiums at Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong as regional. The Government does not see them as regional; they are metropolitan stadiums. A large amount of money has already been invested in regional stadiums. This bill will have no impact on the future of regional sporting stadiums and facilities outside Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Parramatta. That is the point I am trying to get across to Opposition members. They seem nervous about accepting the details on the amount of money that has been spent on sporting facilities in regional New South Wales—outside Newcastle, Wollongong and Parramatta. The proposed amendments to the Sporting Venues Authorities Act will consolidate the governance structures for the stadia network from three entities to two. Those amendments will enable network-wide planning and decision-making.

Many of the drivers and influences are outside the direct control of the single venue owners but are enhanced or facilitated through decisions made at the network level. Governance reform for the stadia network will be possible through approval of those amendments to the Sporting Venues Authorities Act. The proposed amendments will ensure a number of benefits and outcomes for the State, including economic benefits such as the attraction of events and associated tourism to New South Wales, thereby enhancing the visitor economy, and community and social benefits such as amenity enhancement in areas surrounding the venues, thereby improving liveability for the people of New South Wales. It will also enhance sporting outcomes through improvements in the elite pathway for professional sport. Our world-class athletes deserve world-class facilities.

The proposed amendments to the Sporting Venues Authorities Act will permit full governance of ANZ Stadium and support the realisation of the benefits of the State-owned stadia network. The proposed amendments to the Sporting Venues Authorities Act will give the Government vesting powers through Venues NSW to become a party to ANZ Stadium contracts and facilitate the efficient transfer of ANZ Stadium assets and liabilities to full government control, and ensure that Venues NSW compliance with the vesting orders is exempt from the application of section 45 of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Section 45 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 prohibits entering into or giving effect to a contract that has the purpose or is likely to have the effect of substantially lessening competition in the market. Section 51 of the Competition and Consumer Act provides that the State can exclude certain activities from the operation of section 45 by way of legislative provision, such as that contained in the bill.

The vesting powers will ensure that the rights of members of the ANZ Stadium remain intact and that the ANZ Stadium operator, VenuesLive, negotiated contracts, including naming rights and other valuable assets, remain current. The amendments give the Government the opportunity to develop efficiencies for tenants and hirers to make the New South Wales stadium network more attractive and more efficient and to meet the current expectations of local, national and international sports and event professionals. The proposed improved stadia governance arrangements that the amendments will deliver will allow the Government to realise synergies across the stadia network, including: improved hiring agreements; better matching of supply and demand of sporting content and other major events to the appropriate facilities; an enhanced ability to offer a coordinated offering to attract large events; benefits from joint catering operations; benefits from joint procurement of supply rights such as ticketing and pourage rights; benefits from joint sponsorship opportunities; and economies of scale in operating expenses.

These legislative amendments will allow Venues NSW to support and concentrate on the delivery of the new Western Sydney Stadium at Parramatta and the redevelopment of ANZ Stadium. Streamlined, consistent and transparent governance over ANZ Stadium—alongside those venues currently overseen by Venues NSW, including the Western Sydney Stadium at Parramatta, Newcastle Stadium and Wollongong Stadium—will serve to maximise the Government's return on stadia investment and contribute positively to the visitor economy and the liveability of this State for residents of New South Wales. With these amendments, the State's major stadia precincts will be governed to maximise commercial viability and community benefit and the effective coordination of major events. I stress that this bill will not have any effect on regional stadia and sporting facilities outside Newcastle, Parramatta and Wollongong. I commend the Sporting Venues Authorities Amendment Bill 2017 to the House.