

SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL 2017

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Stuart Ayres, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (10:10): 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, Sydney Cricket Ground, Western Sydney Stadium at Parramatta, McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle, and WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

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 improve the 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, enhancing the visitor economy; community and social benefits such as amenity enhancement in areas surrounding the venues and enhancing liveability for the people of New South Wales; and enhance sporting outcomes such as improvements in the elite pathway for professional sport. There is no doubt our world-class athletes deserve world-class facilities and so do their fans.

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 prohibits entering into or giving effect to a contract which 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 what is contained in this bill.

The vesting powers will ensure that ANZ Stadium members' rights 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, more efficient and meet the current expectations of local, national and international sports and event professionals.

The proposed improved stadia governance arrangements that the amendments will realise, 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 NSW residents.

With these amendments, the State's major stadia precincts will be governed to maximise commercial viability, community benefit and the effective coordination of major events. I commend the Sporting Venues Authorities Amendment Bill 2017 to the House.

Debate adjourned.