

NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

16 NOVEMBER 2018 HEARING

MAAS RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

1. The Hon. WALT SECORD: In the preparation of budgets for 2016-17 and 2017-18, had there been an increase or decrease in expenditure on maintenance at the Ultimo site? Mr ELLIOTT: I would have to take that question on notice.

The 2017/18 approved internal budget showed an increase of 25% in direct maintenance expenditure spend compared to 2016/17. This budget applies to all current MAAS sites, including the Sydney Observatory, the Museums Discovery Centre in Castle Hill and the Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo.

There has also been no reduction in capital funding in relation to annual minor capital works on a year to year basis. Additionally, the NSW Government also recently allocated an additional \$1.6 million towards the upgrading of several key systems at the museum including the Building Management System.

2. Professor GLOVER: I have no recollection of what the table centrepiece was, I am sorry. We can take it on notice to get you photographs or whatever is available to assure you of what it was. I am sorry, I do not recall what it was.

The budget line discussed by Mr Shoebridge MLC was actually encompassing a number of other items, not just the table centrepieces. A picture of the table centrepieces from the event is attached below.



3. Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: In a competently run organisation every event, particularly if you are talking about an event that is going to cost in the order of \$388,000, has a budget. What was the budget for this event and what was it budgeted to do? Was it budgeted to lose \$137,000? Was it budgeted to gain a certain amount of money? What was the budget and what was the final position predicted? Mr ELLIOTT: The event occurred on 1 February, which is some time ago, and I have dealt with a lot of numbers. To accurately answer that question I would have to take it on notice.

The MAAS Ball was held to develop, build and establish critical long-term relationships and partnerships for the MAAS Centre for Fashion and to promote the Museum's collection.

The objectives of the Ball were to:

- **introduce the Centre for Fashion to key stakeholders**
- **build relationships with key corporate, industry and cultural partners**
- **raise funding for the Australian Fashion Fund**
- **increase the MAAS' fashion collection**
- **enhance the reputation of MAAS as the leading public centre for fashion in Australia**

The original expenditure for the event was predicted to be \$333, 261.50 (GST inclusive) with the final expenditure being \$388, 391.32 (GST inclusive). Day-to-day management and individual project budgetary decisions are made by the MAAS Director. As such, the predicted original expenditure and additional expenditure were both approved by the previous MAAS Director.

MAAS invests in stakeholder events and strategic initiatives, like the MAAS Ball, which are intended to build networks, long-term strategic relationships and partnerships with the aim of growing the donor base.

The NSW Government has reiterated to the CEOs of the Cultural Institutions that the Government expectation is that the Cultural Institutions' Boards are briefed and have oversight of the Cultural Institutions' strategic plans, budget, planning for events and sponsorship, and take care with public money to ensure that event/sponsorship strategies for these organisations do not result in additional cost to the taxpayer. MAAS has complied with this request. MAAS Trust is briefed out of session on items of high value or important strategic relevance for their noting and input.

4. The Hon. WALT SECORD: Have any of the completion dates or plan dates been revised since the last time the Committee has met? Professor GLOVER: Planning dates for what? The Hon. WALT SECORD: For the completion and the opening of the museum? Professor GLOVER: I think a lot of work is going on about that as more detailed work goes into design and so on. I think 2023-24 is now the envelope for completion. Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Perhaps you could give us the current timetable on notice. Professor GLOVER: I could only refer it to Create NSW. You should seek it from Create NSW.

As indicated at the inquiry, MAAS has referred the committee's request for the current project timetable to Create NSW.