

The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC
Chair
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Inquiry into the granting of contract OoS17/18-021 by Office of Sport

11 April 2022

Dear The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2022, enclosing the transcript for the Committee's hearing of 17 March 2022 and inviting the Office of Sport to respond. I also take this opportunity to provide information on the safety of the Indoor Arena at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC).

In relation to the transcript of the Committee's hearing on 17 March 2022, I note on page 31 it is reported that the Office of Sport had to pay \$300,000 to repair SIEC 'less than a year' after the surface was installed. The Office of Sport has not paid any such sum to repair the surface. I further note that page 31 refers to the '\$300,000-plus' figure being 'about 10% of the original cost'. As noted in the Office of Sport's submission at paragraph 240, the tender price was under \$750,000.

As stated in the Office of Sport's submission, some work was done to assess the surface by Geotech Pty Ltd, shortly after installation. This was not paid for by the Office of Sport. When remediation works were conducted in 2020, this was performed at no public expense (see paragraphs 284 and 302).

During the Committee's hearings, it has been alleged that the SIEC surface continues to be unsafe. The easing of COVID restrictions means that SIEC is open, and several bookings have been made for 2022 (refer Attachment A) including many repeat bookings reflecting user confidence in the facility.

The Office of Sport recently undertook a further safety assessment on 17 March 2022. The assessment was conducted by Ms Mary Seefried, an eminent equestrian most recently Technical Delegate to the Tokyo Olympics. Ms Seefried observed three expert dressage riders and three expert show jumpers using the Indoor Arena. Ms Seefried and all six riders indicated no safety concerns and a copy of the report, which appends the riders' own feedback, is attached (Attachment B).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to the Committee's report. I welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further with the Secretariat should the Committee require any further information in relation to the above.

Sincerely,

Karen Jones

Chief Executive

Attachment A: Booking statistics
Attachment B: March 2022 Safety report