

**INQUIRY INTO GRANTING OF CONTRACT NUMBER
OoS17/18-021 BY THE OFFICE OF SPORT**

Name: Mr Rod Brown

Date Received: 25 August 2021

**SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE GRANTING OF CONTRACT NUMBER OoS17/18 - 021
BY THE OFFICE OF SPORT.**

In the context of recent statements before Parliament by Mr Mark Latham, surrounding resurfacing of the indoor and adjacent outdoor warm-up arenas, I would like to make a submission to the Parliamentary Committee.

My Name is Rod Brown and I am an Olympic and World Equestrian Games representative in Showjumping, a Level 3 Specialist Showjumping Coach, former Australian National Coach and Selector and current Showjumping Coach for the National Eventing Squad. I have run a training and breeding business and sold horses internationally for over 40 years. I believe my experience both in Australia and overseas gives me a legitimate voice in respect to the submission regarding the re-surfacing of the indoor and warm-up arena.

Since the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, I have been involved with squads, students and my own horses in competition and training at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. The non-grass arena surfaces have degraded over the years and ended up being unsafe for elite competition. Hence the premier equestrian facility in the country has lost both State and National competitions to other facilities.

In my opinion, the long needed resurfacing of the Indoor and warm-up arenas have without doubt lifted the standard of not only elite showjumpers performance but amateur and junior as well. It is a surface that can be groomed to suit the preferences of all Olympic disciplines and other horse activities.

I understand that Equestrian NSW were involved in the selection of the contractors used for the upgrade and am thankful of the thorough research done by them. I consider the Otto arena surfaces supplied by the Barrie Smith Motor Sports P/L to be one of the best surfaces in the world, and the best currently available in Australia.

The footing in any sport is imperative to the athlete and this surface is recognized around the world as safe for the horse and is the predominant surface used in elite competition. This resurfacing has been such a game changer at SIEC and the Office of Sport should be encouraged to re-surface the Olympic Arena and adjoining arena as well, it is that much of an improvement.

Yours faithfully

Rod Brown

10th August, 2021.