

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

Organisation: Equestrian NSW
Date Received: 3 September 2021



EQUESTRIAN NSW INCORPORATED

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3 September 2021

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey
Chair of the Inquiry into OoS17/18-021
c/ Public Works Committee
Parliament of NSW
Attn: Ms Ohnesorge, Ms Dowd and Ms Blandon
By Email: Public.Works@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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

SUBMISSION BY EQUESTRIAN NSW INCORPORATED

1. Equestrian NSW Incorporated (**ENSW**) is the state branch of Equestrian Australia Limited (**EA**), the peak body for equestrian sports in Australia. ENSW is a non-profit organisation.
2. ENSW refers to its letter dated 24 August 2021 and its request for an extension to provide submissions in light of the limitations resulting from the Covid-19 Public Health Orders. ENSW received a response on 2 September 2021, that the request for an extension was being considered and would be addressed during the week commencing 6 September 2021. Noting the Public Works Committee timetable calling for submissions by 3 September 2021, ENSW provides the below submissions subject to the constraints and limitations identified in our earlier letter.
3. The main function of ENSW and EA, is to provide a structured and regulated framework for equestrian competitions and to promote, develop and grow the sport. ENSW comprises of individual members, affiliated clubs, constituents, coaches and officials with over 8,000 members throughout NSW. This submission is made on behalf of ENSW only.
4. ENSW is aware that the Public Works Committee of the Parliament of NSW has called an Inquiry into the granting of contract number OoS17/18-021 by the Office of Sport. ENSW welcomes the opportunity to provide submissions and **encloses** relevant correspondence and documents that may assist the Committee with its Inquiry.
5. The contract OoS17/18-021 by the Office of Sport was for upgrades to Arenas 5 and 6 of the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (**SIEC**). ENSW, its members and affiliated clubs utilise these arenas at SIEC and ENSW is able to speak to the nature and effect of the upgrade.
6. The SIEC was constructed for the Sydney Olympics in 2000. The facilities at the SIEC are vast, covering 96 hectares and include:
 - (a) 15 arenas (1 main arena, 1 indoor arena, 11 outdoor sand arenas and 2 grass arenas);

- (b) 300 stables;
 - (c) Accommodation consisting of 40 cabins and 160 campsite spots; and
 - (d) Conference and meeting rooms.
7. ENSW is the tenant of a small part of the SIEC, under license dated 1 January 2018. ENSW affiliated clubs organise a large number, if not the majority, of events that occur at the SIEC.

Performance of Arenas

8. At the Sydney 2000 Olympics, the SIEC facilities were of a high standard, however the arena footing was proving problematic on all arenas even at that stage. The base layer construction included a high clay content, causing drainage problems which became apparent during the dressage when it rained during the competition. In the show jumping several horses slipped badly and the USA Chef de Mission made the comment that "the surface is ok, but Olympic it was not". The Sydney Olympics show jumping course designer, Leopoldo Palacios, offered advice to ENSW about what was needed to bring the arenas up to standard, suggesting a stop gap measure to add woodchip to the main competition arenas (Arenas 1, 2 and 5) which improved performance marginally, however the basic drainage problem was not addressed (and continues today on all arenas except for the upgraded Arenas 5 and 6).
9. Since the Olympics, the facilities at the SIEC have been maintained, but not significantly upgraded. The Facilities were slipping behind newer and upgraded facilities throughout the country and internationally.
10. The SIEC arenas could not hold multi-disciplinary events, and there were concerns about the welfare of the horses using an old, degraded surface which had not been replaced since the Sydney Olympics in 2000.
11. The quality of an arena surface has an impact upon not only the horses' performance but also their health and soundness. By 2016 - 2017, serious concerns and complaints about horse leg injuries caused by competing on the degraded and shifting surface on Arena 5 began to emerge. These concerns and complaints were passed on to event organising committees and ENSW and subsequently referred to SIEC management and the NSW Office of Sport. Following the 2016 National Dressage Championships, both the Technical Delegate's report (prepared for the international equestrian federation (the **FEI**)) and the Chief Steward's report noted there had been issues with the arenas during the competition. As a result, the decision was taken by the governing body of Australia dressage (EADC) to move the 2017 National Dressage Championships away from SIEC to Boneo Park in Victoria.
12. In 2017, Arenas 5 and 6 were identified by SIEC and ENSW as being the priority arenas in need of a new surface. Arena 5 is the Indoor Arena. Arena 6 is a sand Arena opposite Arena 5 (used for warming-up, before competing in Arena 5).
13. In 2017, ENSW submitted a request for funding for upgrades to Arena 5 and Arena 6 to the NSW Office of Sport. After a tender process, the Office of Sport awarded the contract to Barrie Smith Motorsport (**BSM**) / OTTO. The intention, as understood by ENSW, of the upgraded arena surface was to use international expertise to deliver the latest in technology and materials.
14. The works awarded under OoS17/18-021 by the NSW Office of Sport were carried out over the 2017 Christmas period with the surfaces on Arenas 5 and 6 replaced with OTTO ArenaTex footing by BSM.

15. The upgrade to the surface of Arenas 5 and 6 has been judged by riders to be a resounding success.
16. The OTTO system uses a combination of superfine sand, geofabric and fibre, cushion mats and ebb and flow watering, to achieve a superior surface.
17. In an arena surface, sand provides impact firmness and grip while the fibers provide cushioning, elasticity and responsiveness. As well as providing an additional cushioning function, the mats provide a more substantial barrier between the embedment layer of the ebb-and flow and lessen the shear action of the sand. Ebb-and flow construction was deemed the most suitable for a multi-purpose venue as the various disciplines have unique arena footing requirements and by changing the water levels, the footing firmness can be altered. Whilst others offer ebb and flow systems, the OTTO system is considered superior.
18. The installed surface of superfine, sub-angular silica sand, geotextile fabric and fiber, combined with the ebb-and flow watering system and cushion mats provides a footing that has the right give, slip, grip and rebound for the primary user groups of dressage, showjumping and showing. There is no question that the upgraded arena surface has met expectations.
19. Immediately following construction, and as part of the project completion and hand-over phase in February 2018, Arena 5 was road tested by elite dressage riders Brett Parbery and Denise Rogan. The test was a resounding success. Images of the riders during the test are below.



20. A week later, international riders David Cameron, Jamie Kermond and Billy Raymont tested the Arena 5, prepared for showjumping. Once again, it was a success with the feedback being "as good as any top-class arena in Europe". Feedback from the international course designer at the test was "it feels right, sounds right, the colour will make for amazing photo's [sic] and the horses could not have jumped better."



21. John Vallance (international show jumping course designer) was also engaged by the NSW Office of Sport in February 2018, to write a report about the performance of the completed arena upgrades. In that report Mr Vallance wrote:

"I am of the strong opinion that, from previous experience with this type of arena and my observation of the testing and the discussion with the knowledgeable riders used to test the arenas, that the arenas are fit for purpose. They are a milestone event for equestrian sports in Australia and will lead to improved performance by all athletes at all levels."
22. The first major event in 2018 to use Arena 5 was the very successful Sydney CDI (international dressage event). The CDI was the final selection event for the World Equestrian Games in the Tryon, USA. The Grand Prix competition is normally an outdoor competition but was moved to the indoor arena after intense lobbying from riders, who wanted the benefit of the new arena surface to enhance their qualifying performances. Riders from all over Australia attended the CDI event. Following from the success of the 2018 Sydney CDI, Dressage NSW submitted a bid for and won the right to stage the Australian Dressage Champions at SIEC in 2019.
23. In October 2019, ENSW ran a tournament at SIEC, including the Australian Interschool Championships, the Australian Jumping Teams League (**AJTL**), and Jump Off for off-the track thoroughbreds.
24. The AJTL was run in Arena 5, in front of a full-house crowd, with Australia's best riders competing for a \$100,000 prize purse. For the first time, on the upgraded Arena 5, course designer John Vallance, was able to build a course that showed the full potential of the horse and rider combinations with the stable surface allowing tight turns out of corners onto large oxer (parallel) jumps.
25. The event was shown on Channel 7, showcasing Australian showjumping and the SIEC facility, with high ratings and great feedback. Other competitions have since joined the calendar at SIEC, utilising Arena 5. Waratah Showjumping, a prestigious international showjumping event, is staged over three days at SIEC, with grass roots up to elite riders enjoying the opportunity to jump on the best indoor surface in Australia.
26. In April 2021, five-time Australian Olympic rider Mary Hanna competed at the CDI Lite Dressage Championship at SIEC, in her final hit-out before competing at the Tokyo Olympics.

27. In July 2021, just prior to the Tokyo Olympics, elite eventing riders Shane Rose, Stuart Tinney and Sonja Johnson trained at SIEC, under quarantine, on Arena 5, under the coaching of elite German coach Bettina Hoy. Shane went on to represent Australia at Tokyo and won a team silver medal.
28. The upgrade of Arena 5 and Arena 6 at SIEC has been an outstanding success. It has provided the SIEC with the capability to run multi-disciplinary events back to back now that they have a surface that:
- (a) Provides a stable footing to ensure horses and riders are not injured;
 - (b) Provides the right dynamic characteristics (give, slip, rebound and grip) so that horses and riders can demonstrate their highest level of capability;
 - (c) Is consistent throughout a whole day of intensive competition;
 - (d) Is robust enough to cope with high volumes of use without intensive maintenance; and
 - (e) Is able to host multi-discipline shows at one event (for example, grand prix dressage and world cup jumping at the one event).
29. ENSW has no knowledge of complaints about the improved surfaces or of any horses injured since the new surface has been installed.
30. Through this upgrade to Arena 5 and 6, SIEC has the best ebb and flow surface in the market.
31. At **Schedule 1**, ENSW provides detailed technical reasons showing that the solution that was adopted was the best solution available.

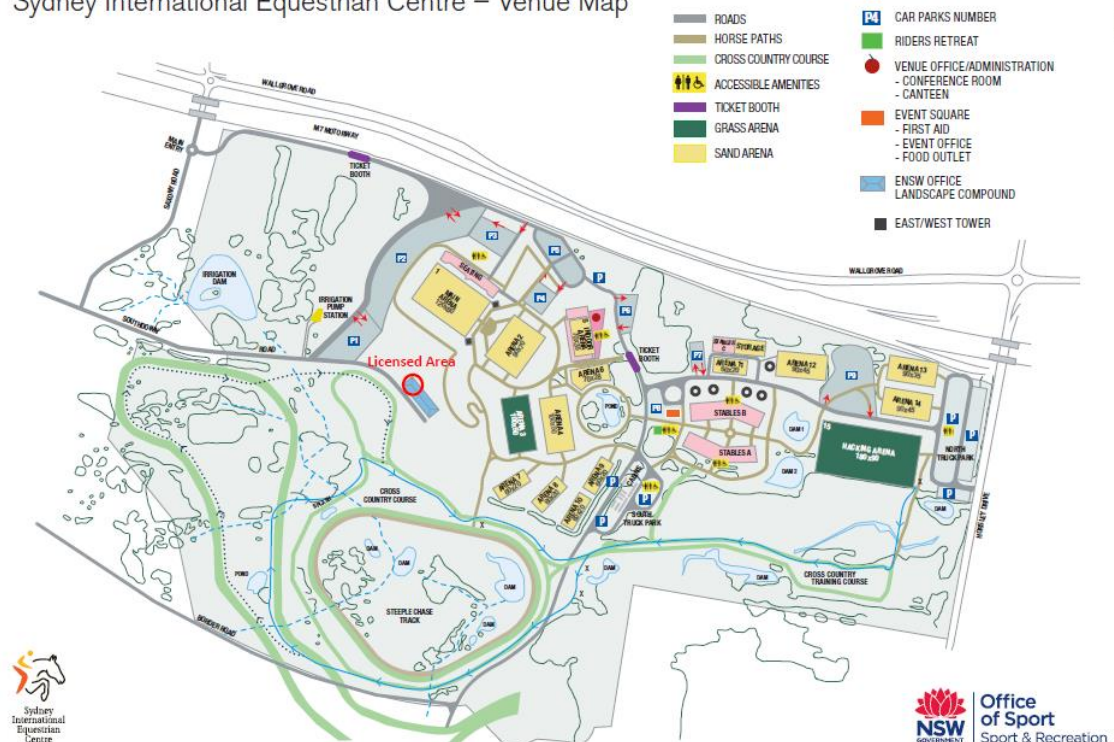
ENSW Lease

32. The SIEC site was acquired by the NSW State Government ahead of the 2000 Olympics with most of the dwellings on the site demolished for the construction of the SIEC. The SIEC site is located within the NSW Government owned public open space corridor known as the Western Sydney Parklands.
33. Although most of the dwellings were demolished some of the old residential cottages remain on the site.
34. Following the Olympics the SIEC became the preferred site for major dressage, eventing, show horse and show jumping competitions within NSW. SIEC has offices within the Main Arena building and control the access to the site.
35. To help ensure SIEC was a well utilised legacy venue, in 2000 EA was offered the opportunity to occupy one of the surplus cottages as its head office – EA deemed the cottage not fit for purpose and the offer was rejected. ENSW then negotiated with SIEC and the NSW Minister for Sport to establish their state office on the site, a move seen as beneficial to both parties. There was a verbal agreement that ENSW could occupy one of the disused dwellings, a 1960's style 3 bedroom cottage (an image of the cottage is below).



36. NSW pays its own utilities, including electricity, water and telephoning/internet. NSW does not have access to or usage of the wider SIEC site outside of the cottage.
37. The cottage is located away from the arenas and has no practical purpose for SIEC. The cottage is identified on the map below of the SIEC as the circled "Licensed Area".

Sydney International Equestrian Centre – Venue Map



38. In 2018, NSW sought to put in place a licence which reflected the ongoing agreement from 2000. As a result of that 2018 licence, NSW pays \$1pa to occupy the premises.
39. NSW, a not for profit sporting organisation and the peak body for equestrian sport in NSW, (the main user group of the SIEC facility) with over 8,000 members, is the natural (and in reality only) tenant for the cottage.

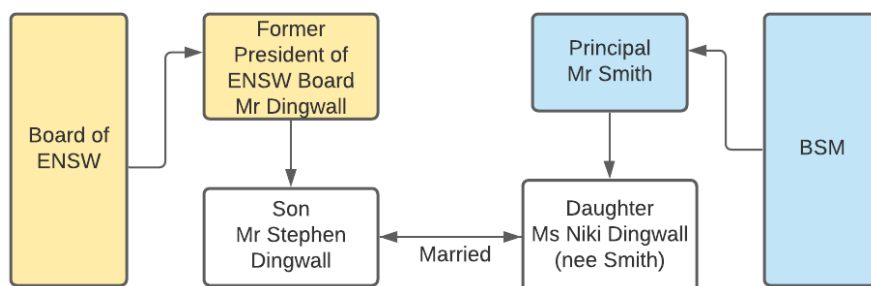
40. There is no real opportunity to the NSW Government to license the cottage to any other tenant as:
- (a) The cottage is not suitable for residential use as access to the ENSW cottage is through the SIEC site, which is within perimeter fencing, gated, and generally only available during the day (unless there is a multiday event being held) with the gates locked of an evening. This means the cottage is unsuitable for a tenant who might require 24/7 access.
 - (b) The cottage is not needed for occupation by SIEC staff nor for operational purposes. There are purpose-built facilities more conveniently located within SIEC which meet all operational needs, including administration offices within the main arena complex.
 - (c) ENSW maintains the building in habitable condition. Left vacant it would potentially fall into disrepair and require state funds to either maintain or demolish it.
41. ENSW has many grass roots members across a wide demographic (including able-bodied and para athletes), located throughout the whole of NSW. The use of the cottage at a peppercorn rent allows those member funds, which would otherwise be paid to a commercial landlord, to be used to develop equestrian sport and to support our members.
42. Projects undertaken by ENSW include club grants for development projects throughout NSW, official and judge education programs, safety initiatives and support for events and competitions. For example, \$40,000 last year allowed ENSW to provide free education seminars and workshops for 175 dressage judges and officials throughout NSW, sponsor a 2 day coaching seminar (held in regional NSW) for 200 equestrian coaches free of charge, and provide some seed funding into a learning management system to assist our remote and regional officials maintain their education standards.
43. In the circumstances, the location of the cottage, the role of ENSW and its resources mean that the peppercorn rent is appropriate.

Position of ENSW CEO

44. The Board of ENSW was neither involved in any activities, nor privy to any of the discussions of the Sports Advisory Panel and had no involvement in the awarding of the contract to BSM.
45. During the tender review process, the NSW Office of Sport invited international equestrian arena footing expert, Oliver Hoberg, to submit a proposal to evaluate the tenders. Mr Hoberg is the preferred consultant used by the FEI and recently delivered the arena surfaces at the Tokyo Olympics. He submitted a proposal to the NSW Office of Sport, but it was considered too costly.
46. The NSW Office of Sport formed a Sport Advisory Panel and invited international show-jumping Course Designer, John Vallance, elite breeder and dressage horse owner, Julie Farrell, and ENSW CEO Bruce Farrar to join the panel.
47. The Board of ENSW considers that given his expertise, the CEO of ENSW was an appropriate member of the Sports Advisory Panel and makes no criticism of the NSW Office of Sport for appointing him as such. The tender scope, the awarding of the contract, and the completion of works were managed by the NSW Office of Sport, to the benefit all NSW equestrians and users of the SIEC.
48. The CEO of ENSW, Bruce Farrar, is a former civil servant having worked for NSW Rail Infrastructure Corporation (1996 - 2008), including as CEO (2006 - 2008). His expertise and suitability to be a member of the Sport Advisory Panel is as follows:

- (a) ENSW is the peak body representing the majority of the users of the SIEC facility.
 - (b) Mr Farrar is an Engineer and a rider.
 - (c) Mr Farrar has a keen interest in arena surfaces and technology. Mr Farrar researches this topic both domestically and internationally at his own expense. Domestically, Mr Farrar inspected many arenas in NSW and Victoria, both completed and under construction, and collected sand samples for independent testing to understand what is being used in the market and speaking to local firms about their products. In 2014, Mr Farrar met Leopoldo Palacios, the international Course Designer, who oversaw the show jumping courses at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and had detailed discussions about the history of the SIEC arenas and what needed to be done to upgrade them. In 2015, Mr Farrar travelled to Europe on a private vacation and attended the Aachen Championships in Germany, engaging with all the major international arena suppliers and gathering detailed information about the latest surface technology.
49. The Sport Advisory Panel was not the decision making body in the process to select the winning tender. Its role was to provide technical advice as to the suitability of the tender submissions to the NSW Office of Sport. This is evident, by reference to the timing of the NSW Office of Sport decision which was signed off by the Tender Evaluation Panel on 27 October 2017, prior to the opinion of Mr Farrar being provided to the NSW Office of Sport on 30 October 2017. Whilst this was not known to Mr Farrar at the time, it seems that the NSW Office of Sport was using the Sport Advisory Panel as a 'health check' to ensure that its views and tender assessment process had reached the same decision rather than as an intermediate step in the decision making process. The opinions of Mr Farrar could not by definition have influenced the decision of the NSW Office of Sport Tender Evaluation Panel.
50. The Board of ENSW notes that:
- (a) The equestrian community is tight knit and connected. Relationships are developed over many years, usually by travelling to competitions across the country. The sport is competitive, but information and skills are readily shared between riders, breeders, owners and equipment suppliers.
 - (b) Mr Farrar attends around 30 competitions a year and has been involved in the high performance programs for dressage, eventing and show-jumping.
 - (c) There were 3 primary tenderers to the NSW Office of Sport, all of which were known to Mr Farrar. Prior to drafting the SIEC funding request, Mr Farrar had met the principals of each of the 3 tenderers and had received from them details about their arena surfaces.
 - (d) It cannot reasonably be said that the CEO had any "special" personal bias, personal obligation, allegiance or loyalty to *any one particular* bidder (as Mr Farrar, in fact, knew all the tenderers due to the matters above).
51. The Board of ENSW has seen a statutory declaration made by the CEO of ENSW on 25 October 2017. Although the statutory declaration refers to ENSW, the statutory declaration cannot have been made by ENSW and was made by Mr Farrar.
52. Mr Farrar is a former public servant and is familiar with the required "three levels of separation". With his knowledge of identifying conflicts, Mr Farrar's statutory declaration was not incorrect.

53. The current Board of ENSW is aware that there was a relationship between the former ENSW Board President and BSM which may, to an observer, raise concern. That relationship is that the son of the former ENSW Board President is married to the daughter of the principal at BSM.



54. Mr Farrar's knowledge of that relationship is as follows:
- (a) Mr Farrar was aware that Stephen Dingwall is married to Niki Smith.
 - (b) Mr Farrar knows Stephen Dingwall as the son of Peter Dingwall, the former ENSW President. Mr Farrar has met Stephen and spoken with him on several occasions since 2015 regarding show jumping, but not arena surfaces or related issues.
 - (c) Mr Farrar first met Niki Dingwall (nee Smith), the daughter of Mr Barrie Smith of BSM, in passing in 2015 whilst visiting Barrie Smith's property in Murrumbateman. The first time Mr Farrar had a conversation with Ms Dingwall was in April 2018, after the contract had been awarded, at the Sydney CDI Dressage competition.
 - (d) In January 2018, after the tender had been awarded, Mr Farrar had a conversation with Stephen Dingwall in which he told Mr Farrar that he had started working for BSM in a part-time capacity.
55. However, in the tight knit Australian equestrian community, these relationships were known to many (including the Board of ENSW). The Board of ENSW appreciates that an observer might have concerns regarding the statutory declaration, to the extent it states that:
- "3.... Neither she/he nor any immediate relative or close friend has an interest or perceived interest in relation to any of the parties who submit or are likely to submit a Tender, including but not limited to ...
- b) any personal bias or inclination which would in any way affect her / his decisions in relation to a tender....
 - c) any personal obligation, allegiance or loyalty which would in any way affect her/his decisions..."
56. There were 3 lines of separation between Mr Farrar and the former ENSW Board President in relation to the tender for Arenas 5 and 6 in that the:
- (a) The former ENSW Board President was not involved in the application for funding to the NSW Office of Sport.
 - (b) The former ENSW Board President was not involved in the comments on the tenders.

- (c) The former ENSW Board President was not provided with copies of the tender documents.
 - (d) The ENSW Board, including the former President, was provided with a draft copy of the funding application in January 2017 as is recorded in the ENSW Board minutes.
 - (e) The ENSW Board was respectful of confidentiality and received only a high level update on the progress of the project, which was recorded in Board Minutes of 27 November 2017.
 - (f) Mr Farrar did not discuss the tender evaluation process with the ENSW Board President or any other Board members at any relevant time.
57. Mr Farrar had no external influences on his recommendation that BSM was the most suited tender, and in any event ENSW notes as set out above at paragraph 49, that Mr Farrar's recommendation was not part of the NSW Office of Sport's decision-making process.
58. The Board of NSW does not agree that there is a conflict of interest and can understand why Mr Farrar considered there to be a sufficient degree of removal from him personally, and his role on the Sport Advisory Panel providing a 'health check' for the NSW Office of Sport, for Mr Farrar to execute the statutory declaration.

Terms of Reference (TR)

59. Addressing specifically the terms of reference, the ENSW submits as follows:
- TR2 - The role played by the board, CEO and members of Equestrian NSW (ENSW), Equestrian Australia and officials within the Office of Sport, in both the application for funding and the process for selection of the grant by the Office of Sport**
60. ENSW refers to the comments above at paragraphs 12 - 14, 44 - 50.
- TR3 - The potential or otherwise for the existence of corrupt conduct and/or conflicts of interest within the Office of Sport, Barrie Smith Motor Sports P/L and ENSW, in the granting of the contract, with reference to the ICAC letter of 1 December 2020 to the Office of Sport**
61. ENSW has not been consulted in relation to any investigation by ICAC. ENSW is not aware of any corrupt conduct. ENSW has been made aware of suggested conflicts of interest which it has addressed above at paragraph 51 - 56(c).
- TR7 - The granting of a peppercorn rent by the Office of Sport to Equestrian NSW for access to and usage of the SIEC site**
62. ENSW refers to its submission above regarding the history of the lease regarding the site, as well as ENSW, a not for profit organisation, being the natural tenant for the site.
- TR8 - Options for rectification of any defects or complete replacement of the indoor arena surface to ensure the arena is safe for horse and rider and capable of use for high level competition**
63. ENSW refers to its submission above that the surface of Arena 5 and Arena 6 does not require rectification as ENSW, one of the primary users of the arenas, does not consider there to be any defects.

Summary

- 64. The ENSW Board considers that the surfaces of Arenas 5 and 6 at SIEC have been successfully upgraded and do not require rectification.
- 65. The Board of ENSW is willing to address any further questions or queries the Committee may have regarding its role in the upgrade to the arenas, or otherwise.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Frankum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PROF BRAD FRANKUM OAM
President Equestrian NSW Incorporated
Email: board@ensw.org.au

SCHEDULE 1

Technical reasons OTTO surface was best choice for SIEC

1. The most critical, and common, element between all arena surfaces is the sand.
2. Super-fine (i.e. mainly smaller than 0.15mm) sub-angular (i.e. similar to the shape of square rail ballast) silica sand is the building block for all arena surfaces.

Size (mm)	% Passing
0.600	100%
0.425	98%
0.300	93%
0.150	55%
0.075	10%
0.020	2%

Table: Typical Elite Level Arena Sand Specification

3. The smooth, coarse sand used at SIEC did not provide the right give, slip, grip and rebound. Dressage horses could not perform to their best and show jumping course designers could not place large oxer (parallel) jumps out of a tight turn, as horses would lose their back end and potentially fall. The dark coloured sand was also not suited to promotional photography and television.
4. Another core requirement of high level arena surfaces is to be consistent throughout a long day of competition. Since 2000, the SIEC arenas required regular watering and grooming throughout the day and were still not consistent. “Soupy” in the morning and “dusty” in the afternoon were frequent criticisms.
5. Ebb and flow watering systems use manifolded piping in embedment sand, with controlled water levels to create and maintain a constant moisture level, which provides a much more consistent surface. With a constant moisture content, the surface temperature is often below and cools the air temperature, providing a horse and rider benefit in Australia’s warmer climates.

BSM Tender

6. Only BSM/Otto offered the combination of superfine sand, geofabric and fibre, cushion mats and ebb and flow watering, to achieve a superior surface. Every expectation has been met. Willinga Park, which has now become the most prestigious equestrian facility in Australia, by virtue of its scale and architecture, has converted to using the Otto ebb and flow and cushions mats technology on its arena surfaces. Some waxed surfaces have been installed recently, most notably at the Werribee Equestrian Centre managed by Equestrian Victoria, but the BSM/Otto solution, selected for SIEC, remains the pinnacle of equestrian arena surfaces in Australia.

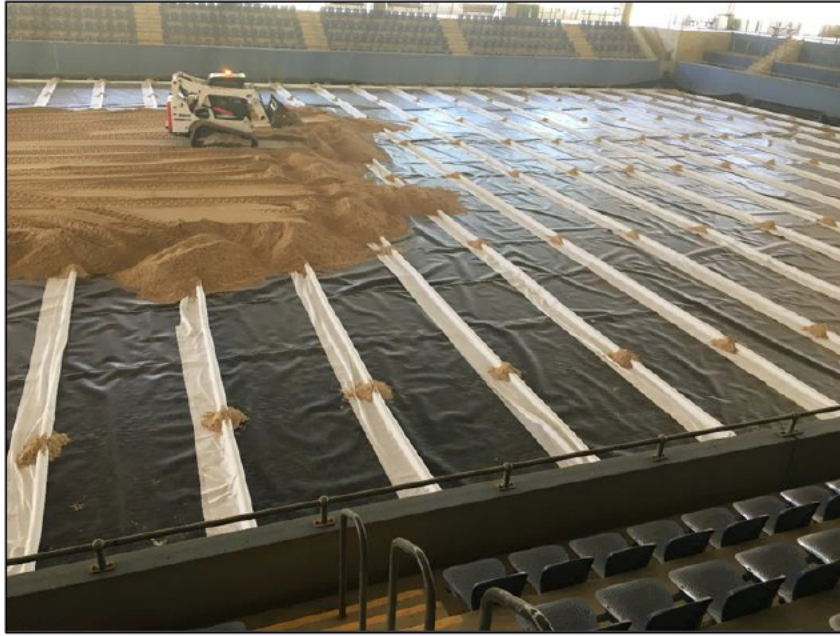


Image: Ebb and Flow Watering being installed at SIEC

7. In equestrian sports, especially show jumping, a considerable amount of force is applied on the surface. Considering a horse's average weight of approx. 600 kg, up to 5 tons of force may be applied on the surface when horse and rider land after a jump. In order to prevent short-term and long-term injuries of the horse, an equestrian surface needs to be able to absorb a large part of this force.
8. According to a scientific study by the German Association for Technical Inspection (TÜV), the OTTO-Perforated Mat absorbs more than 40% of the force applied on the surface. This means that a large part of the force is absorbed by the surface instead of travelling back into the horses' legs and being a considerable strain on joints, tendons and ligaments.

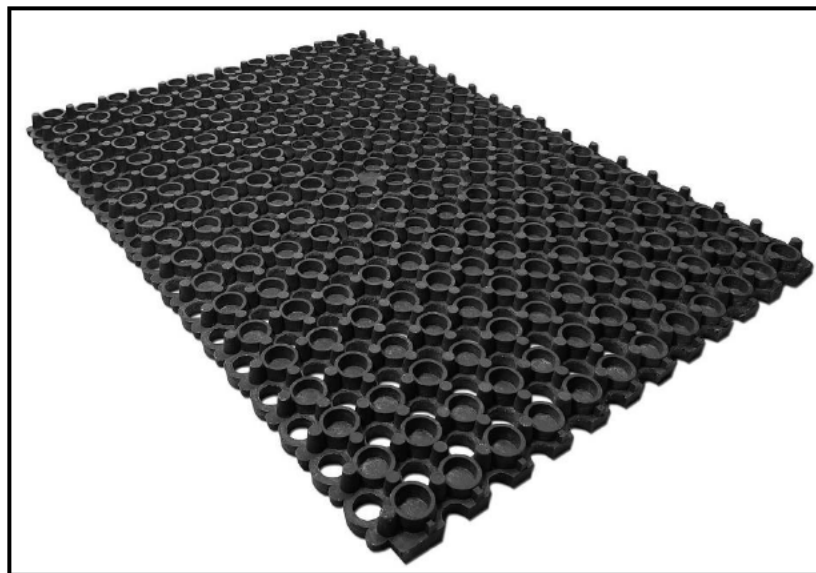


Image: OTTO Mats

9. Synthetic cushion mats, made from re-cycled PVC, provide extra give, retain water in the nodule cups, cutting sand sheer movement and provide an effective barrier between the drainage and top layers, reducing mixing over time.

"We have used the OTTO-Perforated Mats for 20 years. During all this time, no material from the subbase ever travelled up into the footing. Likewise, the sand doesn't trickle down. So, this separation really works perfectly – over decades!" – German Olympic dressage rider and elite coach Klaus Balkenhol. More than 6,000 arenas world-wide have OTTO-Perforated Mats installed." Source OTTO website.

Summary

10. Since being upgraded in 2018, Arenas 5 and 6 have provided the platform for all our horse and rider combination to perform at their very best. SIEC remains the only government owned facility in Australia which has such high quality, international standard arenas, to the benefit of all equestrians.