



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 5

Friday, 11 April 2025

Question No. 258

MS BARRY: To ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs —

1. In relation to the transfer of Boomanulla Oval and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control, can the Minister provide details of the Government's strategy to deliver ten-year-old promise to return these facilities to community control?
2. Can the Minister provide the Government's planning date for the transfers to take place.

Suzanne Orr MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT Government has been progressing work with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (Elected Body) about the best approach to establish an interim management committee for Boomanulla Oval. This committee would oversee the management of the oval while the ACT Government would continue to provide facilities management support and provide advice on the pathway to returning it to community control. The Elected Body maintains an office at Boomanulla Oval, supporting their engagement with the community.

The ACT Government through the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) is taking steps to transition the NBHF to community-control. This requires a formal grant process where the ACTHD will go to market to engage a suitable Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. This is anticipated to occur in late 2025.

To support this, Ngaimpe Consulting Pty Ltd has been engaged through a 12-month contract to work alongside NBHF staff, ACT Government and Community stakeholders to further improve the day program and ready the service for Community-Control residential services, this work began in February 2025.

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) is also continuing to work with the Elected Body to develop a model that will re-engage the community with the management of Boomanulla Oval, with the long-term objective of transitioning it back to being a community facility operated by a community group.

TCCS Executive addressed the October 2023 meeting of the Elected Body to present an example of a Governance framework that might be able to be applied at Boomanulla Oval.

The framework proposed would facilitate an advisory committee being formed to provide TCCS Sport and Recreation with cultural guidance and relevant advice on matters of interest to the Aboriginal community at Boomanulla. This would be the first step in a pathway that would facilitate community led governance over the site in the longer term.

The Elected Body held public meetings with community members in February 2024 to invite comment and discussion on the future of Boomanulla Oval.

2. A grant process for the NBHF to engage a suitable Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation is anticipated to occur in late 2025.

The ACT Government continues to work with the Elected Body and community in establishing governance arrangements for the smooth transition of Boomanulla Oval to community control.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Date: 01/05/25

This response required 70 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$120.39.