

**Andrew Barr MLA**

Chief Minister

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Tourism and Trade

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 02**

**7 February 2024**

**Question No. 158**

**PETER CAIN MLA:** To ask the Minister for Tourism and Trade

1. What is the proposed timeline for the return of the Birdman Rally to Lake Burley Griffin.
2. What specific steps has the ACT Government taken so far to facilitate the return of the Birdman Rally.
3. How does the ACT Government plan to address the insurance and safety concerns that led to the discontinuation of the event in 1992.
4. What budget has been allocated for the re-commencement of the Birdman Rally.
5. How will the ACT Government ensure the event is inclusive and accessible to all members of the community.
6. How will the ACT Government promote the Birdman Rally to attract participants and spectators.
7. How will the ACT Government gather and incorporate public feedback on the return of the Birdman Rally.

**ANDREW BARR MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Work is due to commence on a feasibility study in 2025-26 with the pilot expected to be delivered in the second half of the term.

A key consideration for the timing of the event is the water level in Lake Burley Griffin. The National Capital Authority (NCA) have publicly stated that the water level in the dam will be dropped due to upgrades at Scrivener Dam. The NCA has indicated that the lake's water level will be lower than average for the duration of the project, which is set to be completed by mid-2027.

2. Events ACT has engaged with the City of Melbourne who are currently delivering a Birdman Rally as part of the Moomba festival. The Government has also discussed the event proposal with the NCA.
3. The previous Birdman Rally was delivered by a commercial operator, and no decision has been made on the delivery model for its return. This will be explored as part of the feasibility study, which will assess various options for event management and execution. As part of this process, Events ACT will engage with the City of Melbourne to discuss their approach to safety, risk management, and insurance for their own Birdman Rally. These insights will help inform the planning and development of appropriate models to

ensure a safe and well-managed event in Canberra.

4. Funding for the event will be considered as part of normal budget processes.
5. The Government will ensure the Birdman Rally is inclusive and accessible by providing wheelchair-accessible routes, ramps, and viewing areas, along with accessible toilets and facilities at the venue. Event information will be shared in advance to support those with accessibility needs in planning their journey. Accessible transport options and parking will be available, and sensory-friendly spaces will be considered to accommodate individuals with sensory sensitivities.
6. The event's funding will consider marketing, promotion, and communications, utilising paid, earned, and owned channels to target key areas in Canberra and the surrounds, as well as the three to four-hour drive markets.
7. In line with other government-delivered events, post-event surveys and independent research will be conducted to assess various aspects of the Birdman Rally. This will include measuring overall attendee satisfaction, identifying areas for improvement, and gathering insights on accessibility, inclusivity, event experience, and economic impact. Feedback from participants, stakeholders, and the broader community will help refine future events and ensure they continue to meet the needs and expectations of attendees.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Andrew Barr MLA**

**Minister for Tourism and Trade**

**Date: 7.3.25**

This response required 1hrs 0mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$120.48.