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THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS MET IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, HOBART ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024

TASMANIAN JACKJUMPERS HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The committee met at 2.00 p.m.

CHAIR (Ms Rattray) - Welcome, everyone. Before we commence the hearing, I will introduce the members of the committee. I know some of you at the site visit were introduced earlier today, but for formalities we have the Honourable Dean Harriss MLC, Simon Wood MP, Jen Butler MP, Tania Rattray MLC and Helen Burnett MP. The secretary is Scott Hennessy and we have Rosemary from Hansard. There are no apologies.

We have a message from Her Excellency the Governor in Council in regard to the Tasmanian JackJumpers high performance centre. I will ask the secretary to read the message from Her Excellency the Governor in Council referring the project to the committee for inquiry.

SECRETARY -

Pursuant to section 16(2) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*, the Governor refers the aforementioned proposed public works to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works to consider and report thereon.

Pursuant to section 16(3) of the act, the estimated cost of construction of such works being completed is approximately \$15 million. Tasmania JackJumpers High Performance Centre.

CHAIR - Thank you very much. We are in receipt of the submissions from the JackJumpers High Performance Training Centre for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works submission, 7 November 2024, Infrastructure Tasmania, Department of State Growth, and we also have a submission from a member of the community, Robert Richardson. The committee is in receipt of two submissions from those two people identified. We need to have someone move that they be received and tabled. Would a member of the committee move that?

Ms BUTLER - I so move.

Motion carried.

CHAIR - I understand the witnesses appearing before the committee are representing the proponent, Infrastructure Tasmania, and other areas. If you would please introduce yourself at the table, identify your name and take the sworn oath. Thank you.

Mr ALEX BARBER, DIRECTOR, MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, INFRASTRUCTURE TASMANIA; **Mr STEVEN DE HAAN**, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE TASMANIA; **Mr TIM CUTHBERTSON**, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, ARTAS ARCHITECTS; **Mr DANIEL KAIMATSOGLU**, PROGRAM MANAGER TRANSFORM KINGSTON, KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL; and

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Ms CHRISTINE FINNEGAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TASMANIA JACKJUMPERS, WERE CALLED, MADE THE STATUTORY DECLARATION AND WERE EXAMINED.

CHAIR - Thank you for appearing before the committee. The committee is very pleased to hear your evidence today.

Before we begin, I would like to inform you of some important aspects of the committee proceedings. The committee hearing is a proceeding of parliament. This means it receives the protection of parliamentary privilege. This is an important legal protection that allows individuals giving evidence to the committee to speak with complete freedom without fear of being sued or questioned in any court or any place outside of parliament. It applies to ensure that parliament receives the very best information when conducting its inquiries. It's also important to be aware that the protection is not afforded to you if you make statements that may be defamatory and are repeated or referred to by you outside the confines of the parliamentary proceedings.

This is a public hearing, so members of the public and journalists may be present. We don't have any present, but they may well be listening. That means your evidence may be reported on. Do you all understand?

WITNESSES - Yes.

CHAIR - Thank you very much. Do we have anyone who would like to make an opening statement? I'm looking at you because it's probably you, Alex.

Mr BARBER - Thank you, Chair. I would like to make an opening statement and then if we may proceed to a fly-through video - I'm not sure how that'll come across on the broadcast - as additional information for the committee today.

Today we are very excited to showcase today's submission and the JackJumpers high-performance training centre through the latest fly-through video and submission before you. This is inclusive of design enhancements. You will notice several improvements and refinements, specifically around public and community access. The layout emphasises accessibility and flow, allowing the community to also enjoy the space seamlessly.

The project, since transferring to ITAS, has carefully and practically balanced the needs of the community and elite sport, creating a facility where kids can not only watch the JackJumpers play and train, but also practise and train in the same venue as them, inspiring our next generation of athletes.

Our vision for the high-performance training centre is to be a true home for local talent, family-friendly events and elite-level sports, blending the best of both worlds to benefit our entire community. As part of our project objectives we, together with the JackJumpers and supported by Kingborough Council, are progressing a community access and engagement plan for the facility. This plan aims to ensure that the facility remains a space for both elite and grassroots sports, open and accessible for the community at large.

[Video played for committee]

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This is coming down Twin Ovals Drive, as you can see on the on the right-hand side being the subject matter site. Coming through the main entrance to the JackJumpers component. Administration facilities on the right. Ability for merchandise for the JackJumpers. Some of the insides of the administration facility. Another part of the player lounge and kitchen facilities. Wet recovery area. Briefing room. The courts, the dual courts, with show court facilities and the gymnasium component. Just a very brief introduction.

[Video ends.]

CHAIR - Our usual practice is that we start at the beginning of the submission on page 1. I'll open it up to questions from the committee members in regard to the introduction or anything that Alex has provided to us thus far.

I'm happy to make a start. I took my mind back, when we received the submission, to the original centre that was proposed at the Derwent Entertainment Centre then, now called MyState Arena. I'm really interested to have an understanding and some public record around why the Wilkinsons Point project wasn't proceeded and how we have arrived at the new proposal at Kingborough. I don't mind who answers that. It may well be for Alex or the CEO.

Ms FINNEGAN - I'm happy to talk on behalf of the JackJumpers. Wilkinsons Point was touted as the original site next to the arena where we play. However, we ran into a number of issues with the site and some ongoing discussions between the council and the government that were taking a lot of time to be resolved, predominantly around services, roads and other things where responsibility was not owned by either party.

It became quite frustrating at our end. When I took on the CEO role from Simon Brookhouse, I picked up the project as part of my responsibility. Once I could see that there was really no resolution coming immediately or as quickly as we would have liked at Wilkinsons Point, and after the Kingborough Council had applied for the AFL high-performance centre and missed out, I made a call to the mayor and to the Kingborough Council to see if there would be any interest in housing our high-performance centre, given that we had a plan that was ready to go and had been approved by all parties, but we didn't actually have a site that was serviceable to put the centre on.

My job at the JackJumpers is to a number of both external and internal stakeholders and my very keen stakeholders in my club and my coaches and my players. It was becoming an increasing frustration, particularly for our coaching staff having to try to work in shared facilities at Kingston. We work in a public facility at the moment. We have allocated times where we can use the facility. We don't have our own gym or locker rooms and our administration staff is currently housed in Macquarie St. We've undergone a number of challenges in the site that we're currently training in and the urgency for this centre became apparent the longer we dragged on.

I must say that high-performance centres go to the heart of high performance and to the heart of professional teams. If you don't have these facilities you are going to find it very hard to recruit the best players from around the world, which we play in that space, so we do all sorts of tricks to get people here and show them the beauty of Tasmania. We show them other things, but when they ask to see our training facility we drop them back to the airport because we don't have a facility to show them. So it has played in very much to this space for us. I think

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we're feeling the effects of that this year and I hope we can expedite this process now that we have secured a site.

CHAIR - We were informed this morning that there were a number of other sites. I think 17, from memory, were looked at.

Mr BARBER - No, that was for the community component that was announced on the weekend. For this particular site there were two sites at Kingborough identified.

CHAIR - Right, so the other site was in another part of Kingborough?

Mr BARBER - Yes, over the road from -

CHAIR - On the top side?

Mr BARBER - On the top side of the Kingborough Sports Centre. They were identified as the two potential locations with this one being preferred for a number of planning constraint reasons and also neighbouring onto close-by residents as well. This site fitted the bill - much neater.

Ms BURNET - Can I follow on from that, please?

CHAIR - You certainly can, Ms Burnet.

Ms BURNET - Thank you. Just to recap, at the moment the team is training at the Kingborough Community Sports Centre. How many courts is that?

Ms FINNEGAN - We use two courts in total there and we only use them between certain times. We have to be off for pickleball at 3 p.m. on Sundays and we have to roll everything in and pack it up as soon as we go, so it's quite a process. I should add that one of the most challenging things I've dealt with the coach over is that when we're training in the colder months it's absolutely freezing in the centre. We've had to invest in eight industrial heaters just to get the facility we're currently training in to an acceptable standard for the players to even be able to turn up and train, such is the frozen nature of the venue.

Ms BURNET - So are they in permanently now?

Ms FINNEGAN - Once again, they're temporary heaters that we've sourced.

Ms BURNET - Just going back to the 'Ant Nest'; it's not suitable for training at all for you?

Ms FINNEGAN - It's a venue only when we play games. It's obviously a multipurpose venue and we're even finding it harder and harder to secure back-to-back games where we don't have to pack up and reset because they're getting so much more content in, which is actually great for the arena in Tasmania. So as a home, it literally is for home games only, to the extent where we might not even be able to do a captain's run the day before the game if the arena is not available.

Ms BURNET - That creates its own problems, doesn't it?

Ms FINNEGAN - It does.

CHAIR - We were informed this morning by the JackJumpers representative who met us on site that this potentially could be a community facility. We acknowledge that Kingborough Council has gifted the land for this proposal to be built on and that there would be an opportunity for the community to access the facility into the future, yet you've just indicated that you don't necessarily want to have to pack up your own gear at any given time maybe by 3 in the afternoon. Can I have some understanding of how this facility can be used by the community but also be what's designated as a facility for the JackJumpers?

Ms FINNEGAN - The very clever design of the centre allows for public access to the two courts. It is critical for our basketball community to be able to use those facilities and not disrupt the other end of the building, which is obviously office space for administration. It's also our medical space and other things. We'll also have permanent lock-up lockers in there so our players can lock their things away at the end of the day and that is something the community won't disturb.

I might say that one of the advantages of having all of this is how you define 'community'. It's not just about kids or adults who play basketball. It should be about schools being able to come in, do a tour of the facility, be able to get into a high-performance environment, meet our coaches and listen to what it's like from our players. This is a centre that we are committed to inviting people in, for whatever reason that might be, and it's not limited to basketball. It's about sharing our IP, our knowledge and our love of community with the whole community and everybody will be welcome in this space.

Ms BUTLER - On that, I'm not sure if you or Alex is the appropriate person to answer, but I think it's really important for the record to have an indication of whether or not there'll be engagement with Kingston High School because of the close proximity of that school to the proposed site, and whether there has been communication, either informal or formal, with the school about potentially utilising that space as a shared site.

Mr BARBER - Yes, I'm happy to kick things off. It's probably a two-part question, one that the JackJumpers can answer in terms of getting them through and, as Christine referred to, in terms of getting kids in and actually seeing what a high-performance centre does. The other part of that is around council's willingness to provide the site to the government to enable these opportunities ensuring that community has direct access to this particular facility. The school is one of those key stakeholders that we're very much embedded to making sure get accessibility to the facility, particularly the court sections of the facility as well.

Ms BUTLER - In a practical sense, what would that access look like?

Mr BARBER - As I mentioned in my opening remarks, we are pulling together a community access and engagement plan with the JackJumpers and with council. We still have to work through exactly how that manifests itself in terms of timeframes and those kinds of things. I think we heard on site today from Darren of the JackJumpers around the timeframes in which the JJs predominantly train. There's obviously opportunity in late afternoons, particularly when schools finish at around 3 p.m. and the like, to be able to then start the rotation around the use of those particular courts as well.

We just have to work through those scheduling regimes, because there are a number of stakeholders, as you've quite rightly highlighted. We see no barriers and the JackJumpers have been certainly open to facilitating those kinds of needs. That's one of the benefits of having our state team right at your doorstep.

Ms BUTLER - There is that opportunity there for mentorship and leadership potentially with some of those students from the school. What do you think those sorts of programs would look like from the JackJumpers' perspective?

Ms FINNEGAN - I think what hasn't been explored yet, which could be explored with Kingston High particularly, is a model that's used in other parts of Australia where schools become high-performance schools, so talented athlete kinds of programs. A great example of that is Maribyrnong College in Melbourne, which is situated around great facilities that this centre will also have. We all know it's already a great community facility; it has great sporting facilities both for AFL and for basketball. What I'd love to explore with the school is creating something where kids who have a swing towards sport want to come and be educated and sport becomes part of their curriculum. Those programs are going up everywhere around the country and they're keeping kids in schools, which is great. That's how I think we could talk to Kingston, given the proximity.

I do want to say that we've been very matter-of-fact and purpose-driven in our sense that we are the team for all of Tasmania and we have tried where possible that our physical location doesn't mean that we are, I guess, narrowing our focus just to one area. While Kingston would be really important in that and the contribution of council is recognised and appreciated, we would like to think that school excursions from all around Tasmania could come and visit the centre, meet and greet with our coach to have their photo taken with our championship trophy, which will be proudly displayed in our foyer, and really just inviting people into this high-performance environment. Due to the proximity of Kingston, there definitely is a further opportunity to create something really special that's been done. As I said, a master leader in that space would be the Maribyrnong project in Melbourne.

The second part of that is a couple of weeks ago with the Tasmanian Devils, with netball and with cricket, we announced the Tasmanian Academy of Leadership and Sport. The JackJumpers are going to play a very active role in that. That is giving young people at TasTAFE the opportunity to now study sport in Tasmania. We're getting to the point where we are not able to find the talent we need for some very particular jobs here on the island. What we want to do is rather than have to go off the island to find the talent, we want to find it here and train it here.

As part of this centre in our administration facility, we'll be having desks for at least six interns to come in and do 100 hours with us at the club and actually learn in a professional environment on the job.

CHAIR - Thank you. While we're talking about the actual site, and this one may be one for you, Daniel, I have already mentioned that the Kingborough Council has kindly donated the land, the footprint, around 7700 square metres of community-owned infrastructure to put this proposal onto. That actually takes away the Hobart Radio Controlled Car Club from their site, and we saw that today on our site visit. Can we have on the public record the engagement with the Hobart Radio Controlled Car Club, just for completeness around our role here as a committee?

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - Thanks for the question, Chair. We reached out to the remote control car club as part of the initial process when we were looking at the two sites that Alex mentioned earlier. When it became the preference of the radio control car club site for obvious reasons, we reached out to them and met with them, and followed up with a letter to explain why that site was chosen.

We asked the question: how can we help with the club and any potential relocation of the club? The council workshopped this a number of times and came up with the conclusion that we would assist in relocating the club. We wouldn't build a brand-new facility. So, as part of the relocation, we've investigated a number of options, including reaching out to Orielton racetrack where there is a go-karting track at the moment. We discussed it with MyState Arena, about potentially using the car park when there's no events on, which had quite a few restrictions around it.

Then the third and probably best option was, we spoke to Glenorchy council about the remote control car track out at Goodwood. There are some issues with that site for the Hobart Radio Controlled Car Club because of the different-sized vehicles they use. The Hobart club uses petrol-powered cars, which are quite large and fast, whereas the RC club out at Goodwood uses battery-powered, smaller vehicles. So, the track configuration out there is for the smaller vehicles. As I have said, we discussed with Glenorchy, we have flagged the idea that we could potentially make some modifications to the track out there to accommodate the Hobart control club. That discussion hasn't gone anywhere as yet. We have written back to the Hobart Remote Controlled Car Club and explained what we have done to date. We are waiting for their feedback as to what their preference is for us to do.

CHAIR - But there is a willingness from the council to assist this group who will no longer have a home if this goes in?

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - Yes, absolutely.

CHAIR - While we are talking about neighbours to the site, we also saw that there was an active tennis club beside and then Mr Wood identified the Scout Hall. So, just an understanding for the public record around those relationships and the conversations with those adjoining neighbours.

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - I will pass this one back to the State Growth team, if I can, because I understand they have done that stakeholder engagement.

CHAIR - We know all about handballs here, so thank you. Alex?

Mr BARBER - I am on the receiving end of a lot of those. We have actively engaged with the tennis club, as you mentioned. I think I mentioned onsite today that we had a meeting, both Steven and I, part of the project team, with both the president, the club secretary, treasurer, late one evening with them, showed them through the fly-through video, talked them through the plans. We even discussed some overshadowing components as part of that, talked them through those particular issues, to which they were very satisfied with our engagement, particularly given they are our closest neighbour to this particular development.

In terms of the Scout club, Steve, you had -

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Mr DE HAAN - Yes, we reached out to the Scout club, as the neighbour on the other side of the proposed new facility, to offer a similar sort of briefing and presentation. We are yet to receive any sort of response from the club.

CHAIR - So, no news is good news?

Mr DE HAAN - Well, we will certainly follow up with the club. We have been engaging with the club on other issues surrounding this project. So, just something for us to follow up just to make sure they're informed.

Mr WOOD - That's great. And also noticing across the road above the centre, there's maybe five or six residences there. Have they have been spoken to or advised and allowed feedback?

Mr BARBER - Yes, so, very early on in the process, when council was going through the land disposal process, we reached out to them well in advance to say, 'Look, this is coming, this is our initial thinking around the size and scale of the building'. We put that opportunity to them in the letterbox drop. As part of that, we are also designing the building to retain its 10-metre height setbacks, as required under the planning scheme. Otherwise, it becomes discretionary in that particular space.

You would have noticed on site today, too, it is a natural embankment down. We are trying to make sure the building is built down below to ensure that the public amenity, or their view lines and the like, are maintained as practically possible as well. We have had no feedback otherwise at this particular stage. They will get another opportunity through the public DA advertisement process as well.

Ms BUTLER - I was wondering if you would be able to talk us through the civil requirements of the project in relation to sewerage and stormwater drainage.

Mr BARBER - I might hand over to Tim a little bit, as our architect. I know we got a bit of an introduction through the session this morning. CES aren't here today but Tim will talk through that, if that's all right.

CHAIR - All very valuable information, but it wasn't on the public record, so that's why we ask people to repeat what we've asked about in the previous site visit. So, thanks, Tim.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - I'm happy to answer that. Basically, the way the services have been designed on the site is that they're responsive to what we are actually proposing on that site, with connections into the existing infrastructure to the south and east of the site in terms of stormwater and sewer connections. There is a large sewer main to the south of the site that we are looking to feed into.

Our site will require stormwater pollutant treatment and stormwater detention. A pollutant treatment, the size of that, will be very much determined by the nature of the infrastructure and we have all the allowances we'll need for that. In terms of detention, we are still working with council to resolve whether that's onsite detention or whether we make a contribution to future infrastructure down the site as part of the master plan for the general area.

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Ms BURNET - Are there any swales or any sort of treatments onsite?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - There is an existing swale to the south of the site. We have been very conscious to maintain that and not interrupt the natural use of that.

CHAIR - You can see there is some former local government expertise on this committee.

Mr BARBER - I don't know if Daniel, or the council, if you've got anything further in terms of the stormwater upgrades more broadly than was mentioned onsite today?

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - Yes, as mentioned onsite this morning, the architect and the team have worked with the stormwater manager at the council about what our requirements are, and the guys have designed to those requirements, including the detention and any waste-type treatments that would be required, generally as part of a new car park.

The other thing that council has been looking at is a precinct-wide stormwater strategy, which the team has put together before this project came to light, so it has allowed them to tie into that strategy. As I said, we have a wider precinct strategy to try to upgrade what is currently an under-capacity site for stormwater management.

Ms BUTLER - The lower ovals from the proposed site, where they play soccer, are prone to dampness. I'm not quite sure about the cricket oval. Are there contingencies within this plan to ensure that it is flood-proof to a certain extent?

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - I don't think you can ever be flood-proof, but, as I said, especially in that particular area you have mentioned, that has been identified as an under-capacity stormwater treatment at the moment. So, that is part of the plan that the team has been looking at upgrading. There is also a separate section which runs from the new soccer ground that Kingborough use that runs down below the bottom twin oval, that's, I think, next on our list, as far as upgrading at council. It is going to be a long-term project, but it's definitely on the books to upgrade.

Ms BUTLER - Is the existing power and sewerage infrastructure appropriate at the moment, or will there have to be upgrades to facilitate this?

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - From what I understand, there is capacity in the sewerage at the moment. Once again, sorry to handball, but it is probably a TasWater question. From what I understand the architectural team has looked at the capacity of that infrastructure and it seems to be fine.

The electrical capacity: I know that when the twin ovals were built there was a new transformer installed and that transformer has extra capacity within it. However, there may be upgrades required to run a brand new building as well. Once again, that would be part of the design process.

Mr BARBER - There is allowance for a new substation to be housed onsite. I think you would have seen slightly on the on the fly-through video there, just to the left-hand side as you enter, so we've made allowances for that as well.

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Ms BUTLER - That substation would be conducive with the potential master plan for that to be a whole sports precinct area? You're not doubling up of sorts?

Mr BARBER - Yes, potentially. There are allowances in any kind of substation, so you can upgrade them to be bigger if there needed to be bigger capability within that substation; obviously from an, I won't say selfish, project sense, we're obviously designing for the load and capacity associated with the JJs high-performance training facility. To Daniel's point about a broader master plan coming online, it doesn't preclude from any further upgrades or requirements associated with any further expansion of facilities within the broader precinct.

CHAIR - I know we've jumped over a few pages. That's possibly our fault because we asked this question, but it talks about on page 13: new TasNetworks substation kiosk provided for new infrastructure power supply. So TasNetworks has already had a heads-up that this could be coming?

Mr BARBER - Yes, very much so. There are normally long lead times.

CHAIR - You probably need a couple of years' lead time and that's with the greatest respect, but we can prove that on this committee.

Mr BARBER - No comment.

CHAIR - That's fine. I'm making the comment. If you've made some initial engagement, I'd suggest that's possibly well thought out.

We're between page 2 and 3. Okay, so let's get as many of these questions out.

Ms BUTLER - I'm looking at the car parking. I note that it states in the submission that there are 40 car parking spaces. I think we had contrary information to that this morning; that has been reduced. If you could run us through the car parking.

Mr BARBER - Our car parking strategy, and to make the committee aware, we have done some minor configurations to the car parking layout as to best maximise both for turning circles, provisioning for some gardening treatments as well, some refuge islands to facilitate that. For the committee's noting too, under the scheme we're only required for this particular facility to accommodate 32 car parking spaces so we are above the requirement in terms of the 38. However, obviously we're going through the DA process as we speak. We've had good dialogue with the Kingborough Council around that and there seems to be no need for any further car parking at this early stage before the DA is lodged.

Ms BUTLER - For the record, so 15 players, 17 staff, plus seven high-performance staff, I think. That's getting you up to every car spot already gone. Is it a big enough car space to meet the requirements of the performance centre?

CHAIR - I can't see too many carpooling.

Ms BUTLER - And the public transport being what it is, unless people are riding bikes or motorbikes and especially if you have visitors to the centre and there isn't any spill car parking nearby. Can you run me through that? It doesn't look like it's going to be enough.

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Mr BARBER - I'm not entirely sure how many of the JJs staff and administration actually physically drive. Some might walk, cycle, et cetera. We are making provisions -

CHAIR - Run.

Mr BARBER - They might. They are elite athletes, let's remember this. They shouldn't be driving.

CHAIR - Can somebody cut and paste that and put that in their contract?

Mr BARBER - As part of our remit and as part of the delivery of this particular facility we are trying to comply with the scheme requirements. We have gone above that. We certainly acknowledge the ability for potential future expansion. Having said that, we are constrained with the site itself. There is additional car parking that leverages off the Kingborough Sports Centre at the moment and there is off-street parking as you would have witnessed onsite today. It is a corner block. There is provision for off-street parking as well, as required.

Ms FINNEGAN - There should be no assumption by the players and staff that everyone gets a car park. I think all the players live around there, which is another reason I probably wanted that as our alternative site when Wilkinsons Point became difficult. Most of our players have purchased or are renting in that particular precinct. Our current head office staff don't get car parking in Macquarie St. Whilst I acknowledge the public transport issue is a hard one, we'd be encouraging carpooling with others but we won't make an expectation of it either. I've worked in high-performance facilities in St Kilda and Melbourne Storm and they've not been able to provide everybody car parks. So, players have to get clever sometimes about how they organise it too.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - We've certainly been mindful of this issue and we've definitely had a lot of specialist advice on that. We've had a whole traffic impact assessment done as part of the DA so it meets requirements.

CHAIR - As Tasmanians, we all like to drive on our own, where we want, and park out the front. That's the way it is.

Ms BURNET - I'm glad you said that. I'm going to ask a question about bicycle parking and bicycle infrastructure. Clearly this is a sports precinct. Clearly this land has been given to the JackJumpers as a high-performance centre to the government to develop. What sort of infrastructure spend, like that contribution, is likely to occur to link the school and have better pathways to and from the facility for bike riding and pedestrians.

Mr BARBER - Yes, thank you. I'll answer this in the two-part question. Physically onsite as we talked through on site today, we are accommodating bike storage out the front. We are still working through the detailed design on what that might envisage. I note the comments raised onsite today around potential bike storage, physical storage; more than happy to look through that as we go through the detailed design aspect and picking up on your comments. So more than happy to do that. Nevertheless, there is that provision on the physical site.

In addition to that, we are connecting through the pedestrian footpath from the site through to the top side of Kingston View Drive. As we discussed onsite through Daniel this

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morning, the council itself is doing much broader dedicated cycling at the bottom side of the twin ovals site as well, if you want to explore a bit more on that.

Ms BURNET - And that linkage between the existing sports centre and high school, for pedestrians and bike riders or wheelchair users -

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - Yes, that's what you've mentioned, wasn't it, Alex? Part of the proposal here is to connect that footpath up to the existing one near the Scout Hall that will connect through to the high school.

Ms BURNET - Right. Okay, and totally accessible. Good luck with the gradients being fine through there.

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - You'd have to ask the team who have done the design.

CHAIR - From memory, Tim gave us that very good answer this morning.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - Yes, there's a flat plain, a natural grade on the site at the top. The plan is to run the pathway across there. Obviously, we can't run the driveway as we'd planned through there because there is an electrical easement, but we've got a little bit more flexibility to run a pathway over that rather than a driveway. So, we can keep that on grade.

Ms BURNET - I might just make a comment. Obviously the state government's putting in funds for the upgrade of this facility and, whilst we're looking at a cogent project, surely there's those benefits to other community members and the broader community when we're thinking about community asset upgrades. That's a question for you, Alex.

Mr BARBER - Very much so. We don't like to build projects in isolation of our surrounding infrastructure. We certainly take that on board. Obviously, the department more broadly has much broader active transport initiatives going on at the moment. We're certainly not trying to do anything that would block any of those kinds of initiatives. What we're trying to do is make sure that we continue on and are making it as accessible to that surrounding precinct back towards our project location as well.

Ms BURNET - Any of those active transport projects - I'm not familiar with the ones in Kingborough because I know the ones very well in Hobart or the ones that were going ahead - are they relating to this site? You talked, Daniel, about the Whitewater linkage.

Mr KAIMATSOGLU - The underpass. Yes, the underpass is 50 per cent funded through the Hobart City Deal. There is some government funding contributing towards that project.

Ms BURNET - Great. All right, good.

CHAIR - Alex, how much or what parts of this facility, if anything can be used for other sports? You know how you have some double lines or triple lines or various other sports, you know, in the facility. Are there any of those volleyball, futsal, netball included in this design?

Mr BARBER - Not in this particular design. The design of the court layout structure is two basketball courts with a show court over the top running the other direction, effectively.

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We haven't included additional lines in this particular facility because we are - I suppose it is a high performance as opposed to community. We certainly do that on a lot of the community projects that we run across the state as well.

CHAIR - Is that what's planned for the Claremont College site facility that was announced on the weekend?

Mr BARBER - Yes, that's the real community component in terms of additional sports and the like, where this one is much more focused on basketball outcomes and not trying to grow the lines around netball, basketball, futsal, as you mentioned, no.

Ms FINNEGAN - The two courts we will free up in the Kingborough Sports Centre are multipurpose courts. The ones we're currently training on that we get off for at certain times are designed for -

CHAIR - For netball, futsal, volleyball?

Ms FINNEGAN - Correct, they cater for all of that. We will free two up to get to -

Ms BURNET - Essentially, they're community assets being used by the JackJumpers now?

Ms FINLAY - 100 per cent, yes.

Ms BURNET - Which will be freed back to the -

Ms FINNEGAN - Back to the community, yes.

Ms BURNET - Some sort of liberation of community assets. I know the JackJumpers is a very important component of Tasmania and the sporting side of things but it seems like a kind of a perverse logic, doesn't it?

A question to you Alex, in relation to the coordination of sports facilities because I'm a member for Clark and I was very pleased to hear the Claremont announcement. I've been very interested in sporting facilities coordinated across southern Tasmania for a very long time. I'm curious as to the plan to increase community facilities for not only basketball, but for other codes as well, like netball.

Mr BARBER - Yes, very much. In terms of the strategy, I'll try to keep this specific to this particular project without going too far out of scope.

CHAIR - But it is all interconnected because this facility originally was promised at Wilkinsons Point for other community groups to use. I'm interested in whether there's a detriment to the Glenorchy and Elwick community because of it heading down to Kingborough.

Mr BARBER - To answer that particular question then and try to cut both of those. Look, in terms of the community aspects with the government announcing on Sunday the multi-court facility, that's -

PUBLIC

CHAIR - That wouldn't have been strategic before this committee, would it?

Mr BARBER - That's not a question for me. At the end of the day, they've been bookended at that particular area of Claremont, to provide that. That is where the need is. Look, we've taken advice through our Active Tasmania who run the sporting bodies, deal with the sporting bodies. As part of that strategy, obviously there is consultation across all those sporting groups to find the best location. As part of the government selecting that particular site, there was a 17-site selection process that went through. Part of that was with the Glenorchy City Council at the table. They were part of that and everyone has been extremely comfortable with that particular site chosen. In this particular instance, obviously trying to make sure we get the balance right across community assets across all those particular municipal areas as well.

Ms BURNET - How many are there? How many will be provided for how many different sports?

Mr BARBER - At Claremont? Four courts, multi-user courts at this stage catering for basketball, netball, futsal and volleyball line marking. That doesn't preclude other sports such as pickleball or table tennis rolling in and those kinds of things.

CHAIR - And that leaves gymnastics completely out at Brighton?

Mr BARBER - We're working with the Brighton council around gymnastics. There hasn't been a site announced for that at this particular stage.

CHAIR - On page 3 of the submission it also talks about high level considerations at the planning and design phase of the project are also being made for a potential future expansion of the facility. Do you want to expand on that before we leave this particular area?

Mr BARBER - Yes, that's fine. Thank you, Chair. As part of our early site selection process, we looked at sites that actually - and one of the criteria was around what could be expanded. For argument's sake, that other site that we didn't select, being able to expand is very problematic in that particular location. This site does have challenges, as you would have seen with the embankment. However, it doesn't preclude - subject to funding, or whatever it may be into the future - the ability to include additional courts into that, in that broader precinct, if you will. Likewise, you could also bring additional courts into the Kingborough Sports Centre if the need ever arose, or if there was funding made available.

What we're trying to do is future-proof all our developments across the state that we control, so that there is opportunity. Not just thinking about the here and now, let's think about the long-term game and how you make a building more flexible into the future. That's something we're trying to do through the good work of the design team.

CHAIR - That'll be after the Silverdome and the Elphin Sports Centre get their upgrades, possibly?

Mr BARBER - Again, not part of this particular committee, but I know there is funding allocated for those particular -

CHAIR - Well, this got put in the submissions, so -

PUBLIC

Mr BARBER - Yes, \$21.5 million for Elphin and \$8 million for the Silverdome.

Ms BURNET - Yes, sorry. I still have another question in relation to community needs and how they might have been identified. I'm very interested in this. As far as a shortfall of courts for the community, does the government have that kind of information?

Mr BARBER - Yes, we do. I don't know if it is part of the submission, but I'm sure we can make that available for the committee if that's - more than happy to do that.

Ms BURNET - Thank you, yes, probably for netball as well, because certainly in the Southern Tasmanian Netball Association there's always a shortfall. I'm very interested to know what that might be. Again, it goes back to that coordination.

CHAIR - And the Kingborough Centre, my understanding is, usually hosts those significant statewide netball events. I've attended one or two.

Ms BUTLER - Can I ask a question about -

CHAIR - Thank you, Ms Butler.

Ms BUTLER - Could you run us through the schedule? There's a note here - and I know it's later on in the submission as well around the commencement in mid-2025 with its completion plan for mid-2026. Keeping in mind that further information in the submission points out that the development application process is yet to be completed with the Kingborough Council, as well as the commercial arrangements between JackJumpers and the government, do you think that commencement of mid-2025 is doable?

Mr BARBER - I wouldn't be here if I didn't think otherwise. Look, our team is working extremely proactively, both from a design and tendering point of view. We've undertaken early market engagement, as I mentioned on site today, with prospective pre-qualified tenderers. The timing works quite well from a construction industry point of view. In terms of getting the documentation ready to go, that is still very much our intent shortly thereafter Christmas, without giving specific dates away from a privity sense.

I see no barriers to being able to achieve that, given the work that we've done - particularly with the JackJumpers in a relatively short period of time since the site was announced to transfer to Kingborough. Both site selection, design, all that has - Christine can probably support that, that we have tried to turn this as quickly as possible.

CHAIR - That is noted by the committee, the short timeframes. As we know, short timeframes often throw up some curveballs, if you like. I'm interested in having an understanding of whether there are any pitfalls that you see, when things perhaps haven't taken as long to progress to where you are with this submission today.

Mr BARBER - I suppose one of the biggest benefits of the early work that was done at Wilkinsons Point, largely around the design and the work that was already factored into, particularly with the JackJumpers component, we've largely picked a lot of that early work done and engagement done as part of that, and really refined it to fit the proposed site we're talking about today.

A lot of that design work already been really put through its paces in terms of testing that.

Working with the Kingborough Council has been really positive. There has been a real willingness to make these kinds of things occur as quickly as possible. We're not trying to cut corners, that's certainly not the intent. We follow the processes to the nth degree.

As I mentioned, working with the industry a lot more proactively, particularly in the team that we've - certainly been more recently since my branch was established is really engaging with industry as early as possible to understand if there are red flags to those particular programs and it's worked wonders in some of our other projects as well.

Ms BUTLER - In relation to that schedule of work, would this potentially, if a decision was made for a high performance AFL centre to be located next door, provide building opportunity and expertise if one's being built and then potentially another one's being built next door?

Mr BARBER - What I would say to that particular question is this -

Ms BUTLER - It's hypothetical.

Mr BARBER - It's hypothetical, very much. What I was -

CHAIR - I think it's clear that Kingborough Council has put their hand up for the AFL high performance centre, so it's a genuine -

Mr BARBER - As part of those discussions and a part of the land becoming available for this particular project, this project does not preclude any future development, whether that be AFL high performance, whether that be council's future master plan. We're making sure that we're, as I mentioned earlier, future proofing this site so it does not impact on other potential decisions into the future.

CHAIR - Any other questions? We'll move onto the costs. I want to acknowledge that we really appreciated having a fulsome understanding of what's envisaged.

Ms BURNET - Sorry, can I just ask a question about geotech?

CHAIR - Geotech? I said we had expertise on this committee and I'm absolutely going to stand by that.

Ms BURNET - We didn't ask this morning, but has there been any sort of geotechnical assessment on the site as part of the DA, presumably?

Mr BARBER - Happy to jump in on that. Before we even, basically, selected this site, we undertook the geotech just to make sure there were no red flags as part of that. Again, going back to that point around not trying to cut corners, we wanted to actually know that upfront before we start designing the building. We undertook that through the team. That raised no particular red flags. We actually go back and do some further geotech now that the designs have been largely completed. That's just part of the due course, but we've had no red flags.

PUBLIC

Mr CUTHBERTSON - The detailed Geotech has actually been completed now. We're fully informed in terms of the ground conditions to allow us to move forward with confidence from a budget perspective.

Ms BURNET - Yes. Do you have to cut into - because it's a sloping surface as you said - so you have to cut into it a little?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - There's a little bit of cut that we're doing towards the northern end of the site. Most of our site and the way we've positioned the building on the site is to sit on the natural plane or the natural cut that already exists.

CHAIR - I want to throw your attention to the construction and escalation contingencies. There's quite a variance there. I'm interested in how you've arrived at that. Also, on site this morning, there was an indication that there were a number of companies that were well placed, if you like, to provide a quote or put in a tender. Do you want to walk us through what you have so far in regard to that without giving away, you know, your trade secrets?

Mr BARBER - Yes, I understand. Yes, there is a significant amount of pre-qualified tenders under the -

CHAIR - That's what I was looking for.

Mr BARBER - Pre-qualified tenderers. As I mentioned, we actively undertook early marketing engagement back in the start of October, ran a number of sessions. Nine pre-qualified companies attended those, which is quite a lot, particularly in this -

CHAIR - Softening market?

Mr BARBER - Well, I wouldn't say softening marketing but I -

CHAIR - But that's what you said this morning.

Mr BARBER - Well, not in that particular case. Nine pre-qualified attended those. For this value of project, when we get above \$50 million, those pre-qualified numbers really diminish in the state. It's really encouraging to see that we've got those particular firms really keen to pursue this. No doubt it's a good one to put on your CV when you have something like JackJumpers' High Performance Centre to say that you've built and can be proud of because you're seeing that -

CHAIR - Do you get front row seats with that?

Mr BARBER - Well, that's a matter for -

CHAIR - That will be it for the CEO, thank you. Corporate boxes?

Mr BARBER - Certainly nothing to do with me, a public servant. We wouldn't accept those.

CHAIR - Nor would we, no.

Mr BARBER - Having said that, getting back to the numbers, the construction costs there before you, I know there is a range of between 2 per cent and 8 per cent around escalation, construction and contingencies. We do have them broken down by element, but what we've done is provide what that range is across those three particular contingency categories. That amounts to just over a couple of million dollars in contingencies, so within that \$13.3 million, there is a couple of million within that.

CHAIR - Having those figures shown in that format is very appreciative by the committee, thank you. I don't want to ask all the questions because it means that I'll be in all the *Hansard*, so I'm going to spread it over.

Mr HARRISS - You're going alright, Chair.

CHAIR - Thank you. Ms Butler.

Ms BUTLER - Why don't we ask about the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme that's part of those costs. We know that that is an amazing injection into our art sector for the state and there was advice provided by a member of our committee this morning in our initial hearing that it would be good to see that money used in a practical sense. Have you put your mind to what the arts scheme might look like?

Mr BARBER - I might pass to Steve for that to get him on the *Hansard*. That'll be handy.

Ms BUTLER - Thank you, Steve.

Mr DE HAAN - We certainly have engaged with Arts Tasmania who lead that particular program. We're dealing with other priorities at the moment. We've purposely just held that engagement over further to the next month, maybe six weeks, to prioritise the DA and this particular forum. We have a nominated project officer from Arts Tasmania, so we'll re-engage with that person and go through the normal process that they manage on behalf of government.

Ms BUTLER - Also a fun fact for the record that the art scheme was introduced by Jim Bacon to help boost our arts economy in Tasmania.

CHAIR - It used to be a percentage of the projects, and there was a lot of pushback by particular members saying that sometimes it pushed budgets over unnecessarily, hence we have a limit now. That's a bit more of a fun fact.

Ms BURNET - I'd like to ask a question maybe of you, Mr Barber, in relation to the overall cost. We're looking at overall estimated project cost is \$17.6 - \$17.7 million.

Mr BARBER - Yes.

Ms BURNET - Do you have a comparable facility and costing to this. Can it be built for this amount of money, is my question.

Mr BARBER - Yes. We have WT partnership on board as part of our QS estimate process. We do that and we do regular reviews of the project at various whole points. Sometimes, for argument's sake, concept design, detailed design, pre-tender design, and the like - we get a review of that. Sometimes, the contingencies fluctuate as part of that because

some of them get eaten up as you get closer and a more refined design. Likewise, as I mentioned, with the early market engagement we're seeing, we've also made sure that there is competitive tension in the market.

One of the other added benefits - again, we're not giving away too many trade secrets - but as part of our procurement, when we go to market, we also look for value management opportunities from industry as well. We're not saying we know everything about everything. You know, industry knows industry and how to build things. That's what we want to see the market respond to. Yes, in a long way.

Ms BURNET - The northern hub is - I think it's a project around \$43 million.

Mr BARBER - 43.6.

Ms BURNET - And it's a larger, quite a larger project, is it or?

Mr BARBER - Very much so. That's on the scale of around 10,000 square metres on a 3.5 hectare site, utilising some of the existing steel infrastructure there. That's not a simple new build. I won't say this is simple. That one also had some latent conditions associated with the site that was selected as part of the early work.

Ms BURNET - For the record, how many square metres is this?

Mr BARBER - Just over 3365.

Ms BURNET - Thank you. So, you're pretty confident that it can be built for 17.7?

Mr BARBER - Yes. We're still working through that, as I said. We'll get those refined costs as we go forward, but that's very much - the target approach is to try to bring this to within the budget.

Ms BURNET - In the event that it goes over? I'm not sure what usually happens, Chair.

CHAIR - I can tell you what happened at the Derwent Entertainment Centre, when the government said we will not be putting in any more than \$41 million, and they did. I'm as interested as Ms Burnet about what sort of guarantee does the Tasmanian community have that the budget that the Tasmanian government is putting into a private company is going to be at that and no more because we have it in black and white here, but it didn't happen. I know you weren't in charge. I understand that.

Mr BARBER - What I can say to that is, we run a very tight ship at Infrastructure Tasmania around how our costs are explained and making sure there are contingencies and allowances within that. As I mentioned, we work with industry to make sure we value-manage. We are seeing a little softening of the market as you alluded to, Chair. We are hopeful that we hit the timing right. You referred to the Northern Suburb's Community RecHub up north. Again, we did that early marketing engagement and that came in under our QS estimates at that time because we went to the lengths of engaging with industry. I have every confidence that we can make sure that we get value for money in this particular project as we've been assigned.

PUBLIC

Ms BURNET - It begs the question, since this is a lot of public money, has there been any question that the owner of the JackJumpers team contribute to this?

Mr BARBER - To the development? This is part of the state government election commitment. At the end of the day, the role of the department and me is to deliver on the commitment. I can't speak for government, but what I've been tasked with is delivering on the allocation of funding and delivering the outcomes and the vision for that site.

Ms BURNET - We did get a little bit of money out of the AFL for the stadium, I might add.

Mr BARBER - Christine will probably jump in, but I suppose the broader benefits of the JackJumpers, they're playing north, south of the state these days. They're selling out those venues, getting people going to those. They have really embraced the state. Not only that - and I'm sure Christine, I know she talked about it with us in a meeting once - they're out in Singapore flying the flag for investment in Tasmania. How often do you get that opportunity? They have two Olympians, I think that's correct, representing Tasmania. There's those broader things that you can't quantify in dollars and cents, but that's for the public.

Ms FINNEGAN - I will pick up on that question because it's a very fair one. I think what we would say is that when we were granted the tenth licence here in Tasmania, it came with a number of caveats. The two territories in Australia were looking for the same licence, and it was granted because there were certain things that were agreed to, including the upgrade of MyState Bank Arena, including a fully funded training and a high-performance facility and, of course, support for the team from both the government and private point of view. They were the three things that were agreed to give us the licence.

That is the model of the NBL regardless, and it is a model that they're taking forward because it's worked here in Tasmania. It's not just worked because we're a profitable organisation at all. We work incredibly hard for good commercial outcomes to not fully rely on the government but to stand on our own two feet. But part of that commitment from the government came with a number of stipulations to us of how we must behave and how we must return it to our community. I wouldn't say it's a document I have on my desk and tick a box for every day. It's something that's innate in our organisation that we truly believe we are the team for Tasmania. I, for one, certainly don't take for granted that taxpayers are putting in money to this organisation and we work incredibly hard to give it back to our community.

A lot of that is intangible benefits, I will say that, but the fact the JackJumpers have put us on the national and global stage, and I have Netflix and others wanting to do a documentary and showcase the team and Tasmania as part of that, shows that we've had an impact not just here nationally, but globally. I think that going to Singapore, playing in the world cup, being one of six teams that represented the NBL. We played against the five other championship continents and we use that to go to the High Commission to engage with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and see what we could do to really promote Tasmania. Off the court and on the court we take that responsibility seriously.

Ms BUTLER - A supplementary question on ownership and this being funded by the Tasmanian state government -

CHAIR - Us, the community?

Ms BUTLER - Us, yes, and the taxpayer. Currently, it's my understanding that the JackJumpers team itself is on the market. Is there an understanding or a guarantee that upon sale, if there is a sale, that the new owners of the JackJumpers would have the same obligations you've just explained to the committee and that would proceed? I'd just hate to see this kind of investment made in a high-performance centre, going to new ownership and then have a completely different understanding of what their obligations are.

Ms FINNEGAN - You and I both. The NBL currently owns the JackJumpers. There's no doubt that there's a conflict of interest when the league that you play in own the team that plays in the competition. It's very much the hope of the other nine teams that, while they've seen what the JackJumpers' impact has been, and they know that it's only been positive for the competition, that that conflict is removed at the earliest possible time.

There's been a number of conversations, as we all know, going on, and I come into those conversations right at the back end. What I try to do is make sure that they understand that this team is something that's built on more than a basketball court. It's built on the fabric of Tasmania. My job has been to any interested parties to really make sure that they understand the obligation that they will have to the community in purchasing this asset.

Those conversations are ongoing. I'm not actually part of the negotiation but I'm certainly part of making sure that there's a very, very strong understanding that all of this is being provided by the Tasmanian people, and that we've got an obligation to return it to them. The most interested parties that I've dealt with, that I think would be the ones that would probably go into the negotiation, certainly understand that in no uncertain terms and appreciate that, and know that part of the success of this team has been based on that. So, I can only hope that they will only amplify that and work harder. In a lot of ways, there may be, when we take the conflict away, other things that we can go and negotiate.

Ms BUTLER - Thank you. For the record, I want to say how much we support the JackJumpers, and they make such a positive contribution to our community.

Ms FINNEGAN - I appreciate that.

Ms BUTLER - I want to make sure that we are investing our money appropriately in a high-performance centre. But we have so much time for the JackJumpers. I want to make sure that's clear.

Ms FINNEGAN - Well, previous models of the NBL haven't been successful for certain reasons, and a lot of them have been around the commercial viability. So, what we are doing now, and what the NBL is doing, is making sure that every team that comes into this competition has a robust financial commercial platform that they're building on so that we don't see teams come and go. My job, and Steve Old's job, is to make sure that this team is here for Tasmania for 35, 40, 50 years to come. That's what we're working on. We're always working ahead of time and I must say this facility plays into that a lot.

Of course, from that community point of view, just being able to invite our public in and make them feel like they're part of it is really important to us too. We do a lot of work around the state but this facility, I guess, gives us a home. Like any home, everybody's welcome to come in and visit us at whatever level they want to interact with us.

PUBLIC

Ms BURNET - Mr Barber, in relation to the WT Partnership review of the project, does that include some sort of cost and social benefit analysis?

Mr BARBER - No, not in the true sense of a QS estimate. No.

Ms BURNET - Is it something we could request to see, Chair, the review of the project?

CHAIR - The committee can request whatever it feels is appropriate to make a decision. Is that available?

Mr BARBER - Well, we have the material. It is quite detailed. But, yes, we have the material available.

Ms BURNET - I'm sure it would have an executive summary as well.

Mr BARBER - Yes, which is what we've tried to lift out as part of our submission as part of this, as well.

Ms BURNET - Right. We're looking again at public monies, and I'm curious to know whether your department looks at that social and economic benefit when you're doing that CBA.

Mr BARBER - Yes.

Ms BURNET - Thank you. I request that.

CHAIR - We will make sure that the secretary of the committee sends through something in a formal request for that.

Ms BURNET - Is it possible to ask something now about the merchandising?

CHAIR - Can I ask something about the cost first, before we get onto merchandising?

Furniture and equipment. It only has what I would consider a relatively small allocation when you look at what extra will be put into the high-performance centre itself. Some of these are fairly expensive items. I'm interested in whether that budget allocation is realistic. Is that where the JackJumpers organisation themselves, or the NBL, would pick up the cost of fitting out the facility? I mean, it's okay to draw some lines on a very nice floor, but staff amenities, cafeteria, players' lounge, they're all not cheap items to fit out.

Mr BARBER - No. That particular item under the estimated project cost, furniture and equipment, that's detailed and the allocation you referred to being \$400,000. That is the loose furniture and fitting type of equipment - so we're talking about desks, couches, those kinds of things. Everything else is inclusive within that construction element.

CHAIR - Right, okay. That doesn't include the recovery plant area and the infrastructure that goes with that?

PUBLIC

Mr BARBER - No, that's all part of the building, the supporting infrastructure. This is only in relation to loose furniture.

CHAIR - Okay. All the other items are included in the actual build cost?

Mr BARBER - Build cost, yes.

CHAIR - Well, that's quite a different thing. If there's something that the JackJumpers team needs and it's not in this, if this is approved, then that will go onto the JackJumpers themselves to provide their own facilities?

Mr BARBER - Yes, that would be my understanding. If there was, if they needed a new ute or something or other, that's not part of the project. They go and procure that on their own accord.

CHAIR - I'll hand back to Ms Burnet, who wants to ask about the merchandise.

Ms BURNET - Ms Finnegan, in relation to what you're proposing for the merchandise, are you looking at particular opening hours, and what kind of merch would you be selling?

Ms FINNEGAN - It's actually a great question and one that I think requires an ongoing conversation around the operations of the centre, including the merchandise shop because, whilst we would probably man it through office hours, I'd say the community will access it after those office hours and want to be accessing the merchandise shop as part of that facility.

At the moment we outsource our merchandise program. I would hope that by 2026, when we get in here, that we're a bit more sophisticated as a business and potentially be able to manage that internally ourselves, and if we were able to do that, work with our community about when we could make that available to the community. We don't actually have a permanent merchandise space at the moment. We work within game day at MyState Bank Arena and we rely on other businesses around Tasmania to support it. To be able to have our own facility there would be great. I know it would be well received by our community as well.

Ms BURNET - Yes. It kind of begs the question, Mr Cuthbertson, about the floor space, both to the merchandise area as a proportion and also the office space. Can you give me a rough indication as to the floor space that you're looking at providing?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - From memory, we're looking at about 60 square metres for merchandising and about 270 square metres for the admin space.

The plans in front of you today, too. We've made some refinements to that. A lot of that was taken up by excessive storage, so we've been able to tweak those and accommodate a smaller merchandise front-of-house shop. Yes, there's been some refinement to those, but nothing substantial. Just trying to maximise on that engagement with community more than anything, rather than wasted space for excess storage.

CHAIR - I'll turn over the page now. Believe it or not, we're only on page 4 on my copy. We've covered a lot of the submission. I'm interested in the lease agreement with the JackJumpers on commercial terms. Is there a draft lease available for the committee to look at this point in time?

PUBLIC

Mr BARBER - In short, no, there isn't. But what I'd say to that is the project team is working through the required leasing arrangements. This includes, obviously, engagement with the Office of the Crown Solicitor. The lease, once developed and negotiated, will be subject to appropriate rent. Rent review mechanisms that also take into consideration any potential community use offset based on the area occupied. I'm still working through that.

There're also mechanisms potentially to deal with any potential ownership changes too. We can actually fundamentally imprint that into the agreement. We've started that dialogue and we'll progress that over the coming month or two.

CHAIR - Would a template not have been the previous lease with the JackJumpers for the My State Arena? Would that not have been a template?

Mr BARBER - Probably a slightly different scale when you're talking about that. But look, the structure is there. Yes, there is a structure associated with any lease that the government does, but everyone is bespoke in their own right and we're just working through that at the moment.

CHAIR - The previous one was 49 years with some plus and plus. Is that something that's expected this time around?

Mr BARBER - Without getting into specifics, it does depend on the build life - the general build life cycle is around 50 years. That's what we've designed for and beyond.

We have to go through that discussion with the JackJumpers. Certainly, we don't want them there for 12 months and it becomes a vacant asset. That's not the intent around this. Obviously, there is investment going into this.

CHAIR - Kingborough community would be pretty happy. Well, not necessarily happy, but they'd pick up a fairly nice asset, I expect.

Mr BARBER - Look, that's not the intent around that. We're just working through those mechanics as we speak.

CHAIR - Right, so nothing available.

Mr BARBER - Nothing available for the committee at this particular stage.

Mr WOOD - In terms of the ongoing maintenance of the property, who actually owns the property and it's being leased to the JackJumpers and then the ongoing day-to-day regular maintenance? Who's responsible?

Mr BARBER - As I mentioned, there are mechanisms, or there will be mechanisms, around the offsets associated with the community access. At the end of the day, yes, it is a government-owned facility leased to private, but also with that community activation element, working through what that looks like from an operating and cost perspective.

With the JackJumpers and ourselves, because we have to get that balance right because we want the community in there, we don't want this to be a closed down facility at all. That's

PUBLIC

clearly not the intent. That gets factored into the rent mechanisms and the reviews structure as well.

Ms BURNET - There's unlikely to be any cost allocated to council in relation to this?

Mr BARBER - There'll be no costs allocated to council as part of our agreement. No, they've given the site as you're fully aware.

Ms BUTLER - Will the site be required to pay rates to the council?

Mr BARBER - Yes, we are required to pay rates.

CHAIR - That came into being a few years ago now.

Any other questions around that aspect?

Please stop me, members, if as we move over page 6, page 7, page 8 and we've already touched on TasNetworks. I had that on my list highlighted but also TasWater because it says a watermain runs below Kingston View Drive to the sites north. Are there any costs related to the TasWater obligations?

Mr BARBER - Only through the general connection of services. You plug it into that facility and what we've already spoken about a bit earlier.

CHAIR - Nothing major?

Mr BARBER - No, nothing major that I'm aware of.

CHAIR - It might cause us or the project to give TasWater significant notice because of their magnitude of infrastructure responsibility.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - No, we're very much involved in negotiations with them, particularly in the lead up to the DA. We've done a lot of hydraulic calculations and passed that on to TasWater for their information. They're all above board on that.

Essentially, all we need to do from TasWater, I guess in connection sort of perspective, is the existing water main or water connection on site is not suitable. We've just got to put a new connection that's suitable for this infrastructure on the north-east boundary of the site, which connects into that existing water line that runs along Kingston View Drive.

CHAIR - That's the project's responsibility to provide the infrastructure to hook into to the TasNetworks, if you like.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - From a cost perspective, yes.

CHAIR - Moving, over to page 9. The facilities at the high-performance centre will be accessible to the community. We've talked a lot about that and it will augment an increased community access to sporting facilities at KSG. My question is around who manages the cost of use and we've already touched on that a little, but is there an arrangement yet considered or is that still being worked through?

Mr BARBER - That's still being worked through. As I mentioned a bit earlier, I think in my remarks around the community access and engagement model and we're working through that both with the council. We meet regularly with the council and likewise with the JackJumpers to make sure we get that balance right.

As you, I think, heard on site today through Darren, when you look at the JackJumpers season from a simple terms, I think it's August through to late March or mid-March. There is broader opportunity in those bigger windows too. There's a bit of finessing to do associated with how we maximise that community integration as well.

CHAIR - They leave us for the Tasmanian winter somewhat, don't they? They head back to warmer climates.

Ms BURNET - I wonder if I can ask a question getting back to accessibility and wheelchair accessibility. We've witnessed a fantastic Paralympics and we obviously have an amazing national team, but I understand that we haven't got facilities and we haven't had that interest in wheelchair basketball as much in Tasmania and sometimes you need access to facilities. I'm curious to know what, Ms Finnegan, your club is looking at in support of that and also through the design as to wheelchair basketball might be pushed along, like encouraged in the facility.

Mr BARBER - I might just jump in, in terms of the design process, and then hand over to Christine in terms of what the JackJumpers - in terms of the design, as I mentioned on site earlier today, we've been engaging with the Premier's Disability Advisory Council at various stages of the project. They come on board, they really refine how we design a facility.

In addition to that, we've also been dealing with ParaQuad Tasmania in relation to that, particularly around some of the wheelchair accessibility points that you've raised. We are designing the facility to FIBA (International Basketball Federation) requirements as well. You can use the court for wheelchair basketball, whatever it may be that doesn't preclude any of that.

As I also mentioned, on site too, around our ability to make sure that people with or maybe confined to a wheelchair have worked with us around how we actually make them much more seamless from car park through the facility and so forth. No lips and curves, as I mentioned, on site; seamless, they're not coming up against those particular obstacles.

We're doing that across all our projects as well. But if Christine's got anything further on that particular matter -

Ms FINNEGAN - Equally the JackJumpers have a very strong commitment to people of all abilities and obviously BTAS oversees that program, but wherever possible we include our players and ourselves we integrate into clinics across the state. One of the things we've been very mindful of with MyState Bank Arena is to make sure that the limited DDA seating has been increased. What we've done by doing that is we've removed our whole corporate level on the baseline.

Our game encourages people to be on their feet a lot if they can and that obviously meant that people who couldn't be on their feet actually missed out on a key experience. We removed

what was a very high-income revenue stream for us to make sure that we could create that for our abilities, people who were in wheelchairs and have partnered with Saint Luke's to expand that this year. We've brought a sensory room at my MyState Bank arena, which was no mean feat because there's no room, but we were able to create that. It is something we're completely mindful of and they will have access to this facility and it's something that we'll be very keen to promote and be part of.

Ms BURNET - Working with ParaQuad and the Premier's access advisory committee is wonderful, but I'm curious to know about basketball wheelchair users. Are there teams or is there encouragement of teams in Tassie?

Ms FINNEGAN - Well, definitely and I know BTAS is running those competitions, and, as I said, we have been asked by wheelchair basketball to be involved in certain events, and we certainly turn up whenever we can in the same way we would do for able-bodied. Certainly, from our point of view, I know we've done a lot in that space over the last three years, and as it continues to grow, we just see them as part of the basketball landscape.

Ms BURNET - Yes. It's really good to hear about that seating at the DEC, so that if they did want to play there, they would have access.

Ms FINNEGAN - It was something that was pointed out to me by someone whose son was in a wheelchair, that he wasn't able to have the same experience, and it's something that we as a club took seriously and addressed very quickly. Want to make sure that they can train there, like any other member of our public.

Ms BURNET - Great. At the Kingborough Centre?

Ms FINNEGAN - Yes.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - I can speak further to disability access in a little more detail. The Disability Advisory Council has been an invaluable resource in informing this project. Some of the key principles are setting our disabled car park in right at the entry and reducing curbing barriers to the front entry, so that wheelchairs can get straight out in front of the entry and go straight into the building.

The building itself is all on one level, and there's only a 20mm transition between the external pathways to the perimeter of the building and the building itself, which is just for water ingress reasons, and we can provide a little threshold ramp and it's all to code there, to allow compliant access into the building.

We have a 40m corridor in the building which is 2.1m wide, so that allows for wheelchairs to comfortably pass in that space. All the doors to public spaces within the facility are all sized to code, so that they don't prevent wheelchair access, and we've got DDA facilities, both accessible to the community areas and private areas as well.

Ms BURNET - That's for training areas as well?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - Yes, because you will potentially get visitors into that zone at times.

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Ms BURNET - Great. Okay, thank you.

Ms BUTLER - Just on the key design principles -

CHAIR - That's page 12.

Ms BUTLER - Oh, sorry. I've done a really big jump, haven't I?

CHAIR - No, that's fine. No, I don't think so. No, I think it's okay.

Ms BUTLER - Okay. The second-last dot point in the first section says: 'Creation of a safe and secure site-wide precinct for all users through the adoption of crime prevention through environmental design principles throughout the site'. Could you run me through what some of those principles are?

CHAIR - Your domain, Tim.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - There's seven principles, I believe, for crime prevention, environmental, or for that section. The main thing we're doing is landscaping that section as part of that pathway so it becomes a much more inviting space. We've positioned the glazing to the work areas to that eastern side, so there's a large amount of, I guess, 'eyes' on that space at all times of the day, and just making sure that space is nice and safe.

Ms BUTLER - Insofar as potential break-ins and so forth, is there anything in the design to cater to prevention to keep the site more secure?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - I think the landscaping component of it just makes it a more inviting space and more community-focused side of things. There's no specific security measures we've taken.

Ms BURNET - Lighting?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - I guess from a car parking perspective, we'll have security lighting at night and lighting in the car park areas to prevent unsavoury behaviour. We're obviously conscious with that lighting that we're not providing spill into neighbouring properties or the night sky. We've also provided gates to the northwestern boundary, where we've got a pathway that could be perceived as a concealing space, and we've got landscaping and fences around that to sort of discourage people from getting into that zone.

Mr BARBER - And we do have security cameras; that was mentioned on-site -

Ms BURNET - CCTV?

Mr BARBER - CCTV, yes.

Ms BUTLER - Okay, thank you.

CHAIR - A question around what the clad looks like. It says here that it's going to be a visually engaging and inviting site presence which physically connects with the adjacent landscape and built environment. There's not going to be green, is it? Well, it's going to have

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some green and gold, I saw the building, but I'm just saying, we're not going to have a whole green building, are we?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - No. We have to be really, I guess, responsive.

CHAIR - It's got to fit in with what's already there.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - Exactly. We need to put enough in that it's clear what the building's purpose is without dominating the area.

CHAIR - Yes. What sort of clad? Is it a Colorbond clad? It didn't put any detail about what the actual building is going to be made of.

Mr BARBER - Well, without going into too much detail, there is the elevations plan that does detail a lot of the cladding requirements. We do have Colorbond 'Monument' finish. Yes, we do have the yellow, I don't know what the exact name because it is rather small to read, but there is the colour palette associated with that. That may have refined a little bit as part of our DA submission. But in keeping, you might see a look and feel of it in.

CHAIR - All the grey is 'Monument'? Monument's a really dark grey, not a light grey.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - No, that's a 'Wistow,' that's not that colour. 'Monument' refers to the frames which we need that darker colour for luminance contrast for the visually impaired.

CHAIR - Where's the 'Monument'? Inside?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - No, that's on the door frames and gates and things like that, so that we get that luminance contrast to the grey or the main grey cladding.

CHAIR - What colour's the grey?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - It's a Dulux 'Wistow' -

CHAIR - Oh, okay. That's not a grey I know.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - whereas the feature colours are designed to respond to the JackJumpers branding while also being in keeping with the council's requirements for light reflective values and the like.

CHAIR - Any other members interested in what the building may be constructed of? Our building expert, Mr Harriss?

Ms BUTLER - And it's non-combustible -

Mr HARRISS - No, I'm okay, Chair.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - Yes. The cladding's a mixture of aluminium panels and fibre cement sheeting.

Ms BURNET - Is there any wood panelling like a feature wood panelling?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - The timber-look panelling that you see on the facades is actually an aluminium material. We've tried to stay away from timber due to the durability restraints and also the issues given the size of the building, we are Type B construction. We have to be really conscious of the combustibility component of those parts.

CHAIR - And that's part of the bushfire requirements?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - It's part of the NCC or building code, but bushfire does come into it, but not so much in this particular development.

Ms BURNET - Could I ask some questions around the energy efficiency of the buildings? In relation to standard building requirements and going above and beyond those for energy efficiency, can you point to some of those features please?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - With our cladding selections, particularly with the timber-look battens and the aluminium cladding, we're working with Tasmanian suppliers because we're conscious with the embodied energy component of those. In terms of our insulation of the buildings, we're going above and beyond NCC requirements, while not going too overboard in terms of project budget.

Ms BURNET - Insulation cladding with embodied miles or kilometres?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - We're looking at Tasmanian supplier where we can.

Ms BURNET - And energy efficiency in relation to lighting and energy?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - All the lighting selections are to above and beyond standards.

Ms BURNET - Is that LED or you know -

Mr CUTHBERTSON - LED lighting mostly throughout.

CHAIR - There'll be eight heaters that the JackJumpers will have for sale if this proceeds. Well, it sounds like this is going to be a much warmer facility.

Ms FINNEGAN - I think we are leasing them, I'm not sure, I just know we had to get them.

Ms BURNET - In relation to the wet areas, we heard this morning about plant to reduce humidity and, you know, make sure that there's good aeration through the area. Can you give us an indication of the energy efficiency there? You know what sort of implications might there be for overheads?

Mr CUTHBERTSON - The plant to that area is very specific to what's actually required for that space. We are limited in terms of what we can supply there. In terms of the actual fixtures going in, we're looking at systems at dual-temperature pools rather than just the traditional method of a large hot pool and a large cold pool. That allows for full flexibility from a training perspective so that the staff can actually come in and more accurately program exactly what they need and, say they only need two players that need hot treatment, then they

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can actually just do two individual baths to hot and two individuals for cold so they can really affect - and it'll reduce their lifecycle costs throughout, in that regard.

Mr BARBER - Correct me if I'm wrong, team. I think we're meeting the FIBA requirements in terms of temperate air control from 18 to 22 degrees it can be controlled between. That's the requirement of the FIBA for the court facilities, as well. There won't be a need for those seven industrial heaters.

Ms BURNET - I asked a question this morning about solar panels because I noticed there wasn't anything in the design. I was corrected by my supposed misconception about the requirement for solar panels. Can you tell me why solar panels aren't considered in this kind of build?

Mr BARBER - I'm happy to jump in there, if I may. As part of that, we have done some modelling around what would be a preferred solar panel arrangement for the facility. That is something we're still working through. We want a provision for that at the very least, as mentioned on site. As part of that, we still need to go through a body of work as to what that balance is on how many panels, what the kilowatt is, the return on investment, et cetera, becomes. But we're still allowing for that under our existing cost parameters.

Maybe, at this stage, it is throughout contingency planning. Should that come to fruition, we have the ability to do that. We will certainly make sure that that is made available to the building.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - In terms of future proofing it, we're definitely making sure that there are provisions in the structure and the electrical infrastructure where they could easily be retrofit if they're not covered under this particular initial spend.

CHAIR - Can I have some indication of what a body protection zone, provisions for the consult room treatment areas is? It's foreign to me.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - Yes, it's not my area of expertise. Essentially, it's in places where you've got to isolate the system where you've actually got equipment being plugged in that's actually connected to people's bodies. It's just a safety mechanism.

CHAIR - They won't need that if they're riding their bikes to training.

Questions, members? We're on pages 13 to 14, which is around mechanical services. We just had electrical. Hydraulic services and civil services. We're at the very important one. If there's nothing around value for money.

Ms BUTLER - I've got one around traffic control.

CHAIR - Traffic control? We'll do that in accessibility.

Any questions around value for money? I did indicate at an earlier time that we had a submission from a member of the community who very well put the fact that the JackJumpers already received somewhere in the order of \$2 million worth of contribution from the government and then other entities as well: *Spirit of Tasmania*, TasWater, Metro, University of Tasmania and others. Why would the community need to provide more? I think we've had

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a significant answer from the CEO around that, but it is important that we acknowledge when we receive a submission for that. Are there any other questions, members, in regard to what's been presented to us around value for money?

Ms BURNET - Chair, I think you've made some good points. The community is certainly concerned about government spending on public lands for such facilities for elite sport.

I've asked the question, but I'll ask it again. It goes to the value - how do you measure the value that a community might get out of this facility? I totally understand the benefits associated with the success of the JackJumpers and the pride that so many Tasmanians have in the team. Congratulations on your success. How do you make that tangible?

Mr BARBER - That's a very valid point. Look, in terms of the building structure and the costs attributed to the building, obviously, that has significant flow-on effects not just to the end result for the JackJumpers and the community buy-in and their activation of the facility. Just because we go out to the market and get one tenderer, there is a range of sub-tenderers that form part of that. That creates jobs. If I looked across the table right now, I think we have, just the design process alone, 11 or 12 Tasmanian firms working on this; there are four interstate - that's 15, 16 different firms all employing businesses and keeping our economy going.

Any project of any scale has those flow-on effects. That's just something that comes part and parcel, but sometimes doesn't get tabled as well. As part of the submissions we get from tenderers as they go through the Tasmanian Buy Local policy. That's now got a 30 per cent weighting. They have to demonstrate how they're having those flow-on effects. That's just another element to the processing in itself. It is that flow-on effect, not just the end result, which ends up winning, hopefully, more championships, but inspiring others to come and be a part of that facility - is just part of the story.

Ms FINNEGAN - I think at the very heart of it, too, there are two new basketball courts that will be made available to the public. We all know there's an incredible shortage of courts across the state. I do believe we've been part of the problem. I'm hoping this facility is very much part of the solution and we won't be standing in the way of progress in the sense of just being able to make that centre available whenever we're not using it for our own purposes.

CHAIR - So there will be that period between August and March?

Ms FINNEGAN - Correct, but even when we are in season, I can't see a reason why on weekends that those courts aren't being used for competition - at night for training. Our players do not train at six o'clock at night. They train during school hours, generally. We have one day a week -

CHAIR - Darren told us 7.30, they start.

Ms FINNEGAN - Do they?

Mr BARBER - Not if they're riding their bike; they might be a bit late now.

CHAIR - I've started something now, haven't I?

Ms FINNEGAN - It must be why the coach texts me around 6 a.m.

But, yes, we are generally off by 3 o'clock. We've got our rhythms based around that because that's what we have to do at Kingborough. So, I don't think we should be looking at this as six months that we're not using the facility. We should be thinking about what's possible on weekends and after hours as well because I can't see why we would need to stand in the way of that.

Ms BUTLER - And your administrative staff component: they would keep working through the year, I imagine? It's just the players that aren't there, is that correct?

Ms FINNEGAN - Absolutely. I worked in a very similar facility at Seaford for St Kilda and the community component was there, the administration could keep working and the way we've designed this is very much like that. You can isolate that part of the building and the community can still come in with their public access and all the rest of it. It just means the players have to make sure their gear is locked away, and a normal part of being in a high-performing environment is that you take care of that anyway. That goes to the heart of what we should be doing. I definitely can see this as a good facility and two more courts for the state.

Ms BUTLER - Usually when we as a committee receive submissions and there's car parking involved - I'm going back to car parking - we receive a traffic-management submission of sorts when that work's being done. Has that been completed and, if so, would a copy of that be able to be provided to us?

Mr BARBER - We undertake a traffic-impact assessment as part of the DA lodgement process. I'm happy to provide a high-level summary if that's easier; otherwise, it will be made available as part of the DA. I think we're waiting on some minor tweaks coming through tomorrow, but -

MR CUTHBERTSON - I believe the updates have been completed.

Ms BUTLER - Also, it's my understanding that the current mapping, this is the public document, but there have been changes made to that, so would an updated map also be able to be provided for the submission?

Mr BARBER - Yes, I can't see any reason why we can't do that. The biggest changes I mentioned around the car parking lights have been now reconfigured to support what was the future expansion site on your particular plans.

CHAIR - When we were onsite today, I noticed there was quite a big mound of dirt next to the tennis court. I note that the new subdivision line takes part of the existing tree. Does that mean that that big mound of dirt will then become part of the new JackJumpers high-performance facility, or does that still stay as part of the boundary between the tennis club and the proposed new facility?

Mr BARBER - Tim might be best to answer that one.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - The existing fill pile will be removed as part of the project, with a new retaining wall going in to replace it.

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CHAIR - And the row of trees - I call them bushes because they didn't look very tree-like but -

Mr CUTHBERTSON - We had hoped to retain them, but removing the fill pile means there'll be too much root damage. We'll offset that with new native landscaping.

CHAIR - Right, along beside the retaining wall.

Mr CUTHBERTSON - Yes, they'll actually be all in different locations. There'll be more to the southern and eastern sides of the site, but we'll actually be increasing the native landscaping on the site.

CHAIR - Tidy up that area that's already there at the moment. Once we get into the coloured pictures, we're getting towards the end of the submission. I'll just go up and down the table and make sure that there are no outstanding questions and we have a couple of requests for further information, so, we very much appreciate the opportunity to have that for our consideration at a later time.

Ms BURNET - Can I make a few comments before we finish?

CHAIR - Yes, by all means.

Ms BURNET - I understand this is before us, but I suppose it raises some questions in my mind around the use of a public asset and how that might be turned over to a private user, essentially. We know full well that there are significant shortages of basketball courts, netball courts, and an underinvestment in those community facilities. My concern is that we're likely to lose basketball courts at the K&D site, we certainly don't have enough netball courts across the southern region and probably in other parts of Tasmania as well. My other concern is around this coming in on budget. I suppose those are my closing comments, but I thank everybody as well for their presentations.

CHAIR - Would anybody like to respond to any of the matters raised - you don't need to, but -

Mr BARBER - No, just acknowledging those, we appreciate the feedback and what we've presented today is our best endeavours to deliver what's in front of you.

CHAIR - There are five very important questions that sit alongside this process and it's my obligation on behalf of the committee to ask these questions.

The first one is: do the proposed works meet an identified need or needs or solve a recognised problem?

Mr BARBER - It does.

CHAIR - Are the proposed works the best solution to meet identified needs or solve a recognised problem within the allocated budget?

Mr BARBER - It is.

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CHAIR - Are the proposed works fit-for-purpose?

Mr BARBER - Yes.

CHAIR - Do the proposed works provide value for money?

Mr BARBER - Yes.

CHAIR - Are the proposed works a good use of public funds?

Mr BARBER - Yes.

CHAIR - Thank you, we appreciate having that information. Before you all leave the table, I take this opportunity to reiterate the statement that I made earlier around the committee proceedings and, thankfully, I only have a much shorter one. As you've been advised at the commencement of the evidence, what you said to us here today is protected by parliamentary privilege, but once you leave the table, you again need to be reminded that privilege does not attach to your comments that you make to anyone, including the media, even if you're just repeating what you said to us. Do you all understand?

WITNESSES - Yes.

CHAIR - Thank you very much and, on behalf of the committee, we very much appreciate you attending and giving the evidence and, on the strength of that, we shall stop the broadcast.

THE WITNESSES WITHDREW.

The committee adjourned at 3.53 p.m.