

VENUESWEST — PERTH MOTORPLEX

5050. Mr J.E. McGrath to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the ongoing interim operation of the Perth Motorplex by VenuesWest, and ask:

- (a) Can the Minister outline, since VenuesWest took over the management and operation of Perth Motorplex, the specific steps and/or processes that have been taken in seeking bids from private entities to acquire (via either lease or sale) the facility;
- (b) Between July 2016 and 8 March 2019, how many private entities formally expressed interest in acquiring the facility (via either lease or sale);
- (c) How many expressions of interest were submitted by:
 - (i) National/Australian entities; and
 - (ii) International entities;
- (d) Can the Minister provide the reasons why all the entities withdrew their bids;
- (e) Has there been a series of formal consultation processes undertaken with various stakeholders;
- (f) If yes to (e):
 - (i) Can the Minister provide a list of consultation workshops and/or meetings and a list of those who were invited/participated in these workshops/meetings; and
 - (ii) Who leads/facilitates these workshops/meetings;
- (g) If no to (e), why not;
- (h) Has the State Government formally engaged a private entity/company to provide advice in relation to this matter;
- (i) If yes to (h), what is the fee paid/to be paid to that entity to provide this advisory service;
- (j) When is the latest round of invitation for expressions of interest (announced on 8 March 2019) scheduled to close;
- (k) What options are available to the State Government if no private operator or buyer is appointed by the closure date;
- (l) If there is no closure date, why not; and
- (m) Given the lack of success in securing an independent private operator to date, why won't the Minister commit the State Government to continue managing and operating the venue for another five years in order to provide some stability to the users/stakeholders?

Mr M.P. Murray replied:

- (a) January 2017

VenuesWest release a 2 stage process seeking an owner/operator:

Stage 1: Expressions of Interest (EOI); and

Stage 2: Request for Proposal (RFP) from shortlisted respondents

The EOI called for suitably credentialed organisations who were interested in purchasing, leasing or managing the Perth Motorplex.

9 March 2017

The EOI closed and the responses were evaluated.

Of those received, 5 respondents were shortlisted to proceed to the RFP stage.

29 January 2018

The RFP was released to 2 of the shortlisted respondents who were still interested in pursuing owning/operating the Perth Motorplex.

23 March 2018

The RFP closed with no formal responses received.

Following the RFP closure parties continued to have discussions with VenuesWest about opportunities to own/operate the land.

September 2018

VenuesWest and one of these parties entered into an exclusive negotiation period.

October 2018

VenuesWest and the State Government rejected the offer.

The Department of Lands Planning and Heritage engaged a commercial real estate agent to pursue the lease or sale of the land.

The advertisement was released Wednesday 27 March 2019 and closes 30 April 2019.

- (b) Eight
- (c)
 - (i) Eight
 - (ii) Zero
- (d) A variety of reasons were outlined, including it not being an opportunity they wanted to pursue and that the opportunity did not align with their other business pursuits at the time.
- (e) Yes.
- (f)
 - (i) One-on-one EOI briefings were held with those that expressed interest in the EOI-Sale option. These were facilitated by VenuesWest staff involved in the process. A non-mandatory venue briefing, and site visit were also held at Perth Motorplex on 23 February 2017 with interested parties from the EOI process.
 - (ii) VenuesWest staff involved in the process.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h)–(i) Please refer to the Minister for Lands, Planning and Heritage.
- (j) 30 April 2019.
- (k) Options including funding the continued operation of the venue by VenuesWest, closing the venue, further attempts to find another party to own, operate or lease the venue.
- (l) The current expressions of interest process closed 30 April 2019.
- (m) The State Government believes it is in the best interests of the venue and the motorsports industry if the venue is run by a private sector owner/operator. Future funding options will be considered as part of the 2019–20 State Budget process.