



Date 26 April 2013

To Chief Minister

- Director-General
- Executive Director, Culture and Communications

From General Manager, Centenary of Canberra

Subject Launch of the Piccinini commission hot air balloon for Centenary of Canberra program

Critical date and reason

Approval of the launch plan for the balloon is required by 3 May to allow the launch to proceed.

Purpose

To update you on plans to launch the hot air balloon commissioned from sculptor Patricia Piccinini and provide you with images taken of the work during its test inflation by the manufacturer in Bristol, UK.

Background

In March 2012 the Centenary of Canberra Unit commissioned Ms Piccinini to design a hot air balloon envelope. In August 2012 the Centenary of Canberra Unit entered agreement with Global Ballooning, as the preferred operator of the balloon, to commission the construction of the envelope from special shaped hot air balloon manufacturer Cameron Balloons in Bristol, UK.

In February 2012 the Centenary Unit varied its agreement with Global Ballooning to allow for them to sub-contract a marketing company to produce promotional material to support the launch and other operations of the balloon. The promotional material will include high quality images of the work and background content relating to the Centenary of Canberra, the Work and the Artist and her process. It will be made available through a website for the project.

The balloon envelope was delivered to Australia in the week commencing 8 April and received its Australian flight certifications in the week commencing 15 April. Images and footage of the work are being captured in remote parts of Western Victoria / South-west NSW from 23 – 25 April. Images from the test-inflation of the work before it left the UK will be hand delivered to your office.

Issues

The work is called 'The Skywhale'. It will be launched in Canberra on the morning of Saturday 11 May, by way of a media call and a presentation that Ms Piccinini will give – partially in conversation with Centenary of Canberra Creative Director Robyn Archer – to the delegates

attending the *Sculpture: Space and Place* symposium being held at the National Gallery of Australia from 10 – 12 May.

The work will be tethered at a site adjacent to the National Gallery on that morning. Also on that morning, a website created to display promotional material supporting the project will be made publicly accessible.

The *Sculpture: Space and Place* symposium is part of a wider program called *TOUCH: Sculpture and the Land*, through which various local arts institutions will celebrate Canberra's rich collection of, and reputation for, high quality sculpture throughout May.

Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) will open its exhibition of two works by Ms Piccinini – which have similar themes to those explored through *The Skywhale* – on 6 May. *The Skywhale* will therefore be launched in the context of a wider celebration of sculpture and in the context of her other works. At CMAG on Monday 13 May, Ms Piccinini will give a talk to art students from Narrabundah College, where she herself went to school, and also hold a general public floor-talk. The scheduled appearances for the balloon are:

- Saturday 11 May: tethered at a location adjacent to the National Gallery of Australia from 8am – 12pm. Media call scheduled for 8.30am. Ms Piccinini / Ms Archer will address the sculpture symposium from 10am – 11am.
- Monday 13 May: 'The Skywhale' is flown from the area usually used for launches for the Balloon Spectacular. Flight takes place from dawn until approximately 9am, weather permitting.

There will be an opportunity for you to be involved in the launch or to take part in a flight (tethered on Saturday or a full flight on Sunday).

Recommendations:

That you approve the plans to launch 'The Skywhale' on Saturday 11 May as part of the *Sculpture: Space and Place* symposium.

Adam Stankevicius
General Manager
Centenary of Canberra

Action Officer: Julian Hobba
Phone: 59630

**Katy Gallagher / /
AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

Lasek, Jeremy

From: Scrivener, Sharon
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 2:54 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: RE:

Hi
Could I please get the pics for CM?
Thanks
S

Sharon Scrivener | Executive Officer to the Chief Minister | Office of the Chief Minister
t: 620 50287 | f: 620 53030 | sharon.scrivener@act.gov.au | www.chiefminister.act.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2013 2:49 PM
To: Scrivener, Sharon
Cc: Cappie-Wood, Andrew
Subject:

Hi Sharon
The new balloon will be officially launched on Saturday 11 May at about 8.30am at the National Gallery as part of a national sculpture exhibition.
Is the Chief Minister interested in a speaking role and/or being a part of a short tethered flight (attached to the ground) at that time?
Alternatively it will make a full Canberra flight the following day (Sunday 12 May) at about dawn – this is another opportunity to be involved.
The basket is small (two plus pilot) so it will be an ‘intimate’ occasion but of course the boss gets first offer.
I would expect the artist or Robyn may be the others involved on either the Saturday or Sunday.
We have some new ‘real’ images in, happy to share in strict confidence.

Andrew, let me know and I'll drop them up for your viewing pleasure.

Cheers

Jeremy

Jeremy Lasek - Executive Director
Culture and Communications - Centenary of Canberra
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate
ACT Government

Ph: + 61 2 6207 9024 Mob: 0417 652771

email: jeremy.lasek@act.gov.au

Level 4, Canberra Nara Centre, GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

canberra100.com.au

Lasek, Jeremy

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2013 4:04 PM
To: Hobba, Julian; Stankevicius, Adam
Cc: Cirson, Adina; Cronan, Patrick; Roberts, Susanne
Subject: RE: Questions and Answers - Balloon

Thanks Julian

Noting that the balloon will remain permanently in Australia (not Bristol)...it has just flown (on a jet) back to Bristol for some repairs at no cost to the ACT Govt or the project.

IL

From: Hobba, Julian
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2013 3:58 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy; Stankevicius, Adam
Cc: Cirson, Adina; Cronan, Patrick; Roberts, Susanne
Subject: RE: Questions and Answers - Balloon

Hello,

I have put some answers in below.

Cheers
Julian

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Wednesday, 8 May 2013 3:20 PM
To: Hobba, Julian
Cc: Cirson, Adina; Cronan, Patrick; Roberts, Susanne
Subject: FW: Questions and Answers - Balloon

Some questions from CM office - I think I know the answers but best to come from you Julian thanks.

Yes public welcome to see the balloon on Saturday...we will be promoting that...Sue could you ask Ian if he can add this to tomorrow or Friday's Gang-Gang please?

From: Cirson, Adina
Sent: Wednesday, 8 May 2013 3:17 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy; Cronan, Patrick
Subject: RE: Questions and Answers - Balloon

Jeremy

Just a couple of follow up questions on the below – in anticipation. (also Ian Warden said today Monday would be first opp to see – are public able to attend on Saturday?)

1. Was there the potential for the balloon to stay in Canberra?

Yes. A proposal for the commission/operation of the balloon was submitted by a Canberra based company, however, it was deemed in the evaluation process that the proposal from Global Ballooning offered the greater opportunity for the work to promote the Centenary of Canberra interstate and internationally with strong marketing and documentation support. (See below evaluation report for commissioner/operator and signed brief to approve commission).

So question is – was there an option to retain ownership of the balloon? – I am not sure why ownership transfers to the manufacturer.

Yes, that option did exist. The two ownership options on which Government Solicitors' Office advice were sought were: the Territory owning the balloon and leasing it to an operator for the duration of 2013 or the Territory transferring ownership to a qualified balloon operator. The second option was considered, and ultimately accepted based on the advice of the Government Solicitors' Office because:

- Hot air balloons have specialised storage, handling and transportation expertise that the Territory does not possess;
- Keeping the balloon operational requires specialised licences and insurances that the Territory does not possess;
- Flying the hot air balloon carries very high risk to public safety, which is greatly mitigated against by being maintained and owned by a balloon operator
- The risk to the Territory from operational risks and liabilities – which are considerable – are essentially eliminated by the balloon being owned by a qualified operator
- There are considerable whole of life costs in the maintenance and operation of the balloon that the Territory does not have an ongoing project budget to expend

Another significant reason to place the balloon in the ownership of a qualified operator was because, with a contracted obligation to make the appropriate acknowledgement of the Centenary of Canberra at all further appearances, that operator with extensive international experience and connections was most likely to continue the project into the future, making it a lasting legacy of the Centenary of Canberra.

Secondly

Is the Operation, licences & insurances, test flight, documentation and supporting website: \$166,000

Providing for only one flight on the Monday? ie does each additional flight cost the same? What is the remaining budget for additional flights in Canberra?

Each flight costs \$3,500 plus the cost of travel and accommodation for the balloon and the operators. After the Hobart flight in June, there is budget for three more flights. Discussion is underway for a flight in Melbourne (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art), which would leave two which could be used in Canberra. But I would like to revisit the conversation with ACCA in Melbourne so that they pay for that flight, thereby allowing for the possibility of three more flights in Canberra, if desired. The flight schedule is variable in writing and will be revisited after the launch.

Thirdly

When will the balloon go back to Bristol?

The balloon has been back to Bristol for minor repairs and arrived back in Melbourne on Monday 6 May.

Fourth

Why is there no Centenary or Canberra branding on the balloon? – given that it is meant to promote the Centenary of Canberra?

The balloon is a work of art; it is not designed to be, in itself, a marketing tool. The website www.theskywhale.com that has been created will carry the message of the Centenary of Canberra and its role as the commissioning body of the work, rather than a logo on the work itself. Branding on the work would render it valueless as a work of art.

Cheers

A

Adina Cirson | Communications Director | Office of the Chief Minister
t: 620 50384 | f: 620 53030 | m: 0435 964 454 | adina.cirson@act.gov.au | www.chiefminister.act.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other

party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2013 3:15 PM
To: Cirson, Adina; Cronan, Patrick
Subject: FW: Questions and Answers - Balloon

Team
As discussed see these balloon Q and As...if you have any more Qs please let me know.
Cheers
Jeremy

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2013 12:56 PM
To: Hobba, Julian
Subject: Questions and Answers - Balloon

For the CM...can we also attach any relevant briefs around approvals for the project please.
Thanks
Jeremy

2. How did the balloon project originate?

In the course of scoping and developing the Centenary of Canberra program, in 2011 Creative Director Robyn Archer approached Patricia Piccinini about her interest in designing a sculpture that would be delivered as a hot air balloon. Ms Archer was keen to commission the work because it would celebrate Canberra's love of, and reputation for, hot air ballooning as well as its rich history in, and collection of sculpture.

3. How long has the project taken?

The draft Centenary of Canberra program endorsed by Cabinet on 27 April 2010 described the commission of a hot air balloon from an artist, with Patricia Piccinini identified as the preferred artist. Creative conversations with Ms Piccinini and the scoping phase of the procurement process began

in July 2011. Contract negotiations with Ms Piccinini began in December 2011 and the procurement process was approved by the Director General at the same time.

4. Why was Patricia Piccinini selected?

Patricia Piccinini was selected for a number of reasons: she arrived in Canberra as a seven year old child of Italian immigrants and, after attending Red Hill Primary, Telopea Park High, Narrabundah College and Australian National University, has gone on to achieve world renown as a sculptor. She is Australia's most successful and recognisable contemporary sculptor and has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, the Victoria and Albert Museum London, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Documenta in Germany.

Centenary of Canberra Creative Director Robyn Archer considered that Ms Piccinini's work, which focuses on organic forms, was particularly suited to a work of the scale and form determined by a functioning hot air balloon. She considered an artist with Ms Piccinini's proven record of delivering ambitious work of high quality and design expertise was required. It was serendipitous that the sculptor most suited to the commission is also, in Ms Piccinini's own words, a "daughter of Canberra".

Ms Archer considered that a work of the type, scale and ambition of *The Skywhale* would focus attention on Canberra's strength in bold, innovative design.

5. Were other artists considered?

No, for the unique confluence of reasons described above, Ms Archer determined that Ms Piccinini was the ideal choice for the commission.

6. What does the balloon project cost?

Balloon purchase, freight, etc: \$172,000
Operation, licences & insurances, test flight, documentation and supporting website: \$166,000
Patricia Piccinini fee: \$8,000
Patricia Piccinini travel & accommodation: \$2,000
Contribution to CMAG exhibition freight (up to, and may not be required): \$2,000
Total: \$350,000

Minus, contribution from Aranday Foundation: \$50,000.

7. Where was it manufactured?

The balloon was manufactured by Cameron Balloons in Bristol, UK. See below for more detail.

8. Is the manufacturer reputable?

Cameron Balloons was founded in 1971 and has been manufacturing balloons for 40 years. The company has manufactured nearly 400 special shape hot air balloons, which is approximately 80% of all the special shape hot air balloons in the world. Thirty four balloons have been manufactured by the company for export to Australia, seven of which were special shapes.

9. Who else is involved in the project?

Global Ballooning are the Operator of the balloon and they have partnered with Blue Boat, a marketing company, who are carrying out the marketing and documentation and building and maintaining the website for the project

10. Is the balloon fully funded by the Centenary (ACT Government)?

The Aranday Foundation have provided \$50,000 in philanthropic funding towards the commission of the work.

11. What process was undertaken to select the project team?

On 18 November 2011, the Director-General approved a Procurement Plan for a Hot Air Balloon Commission Project outlining the strategic approach for the planning and delivery of the proposed hot air balloon, including single select for artist Patricia Piccinini.

On 14 December 2011, the Centenary of Canberra Unit advertised a Request for Proposal procurement process for a design and manufacturing feasibility report study (RFQ 2011.17950.110) via select tender. The RFQ was sent to five companies manufacturing hot air balloons. On 27 January 2012, the procurement process was closed with one submission received from Cameron Balloons Ltd of Bristol UK.

On 28 February 2012, the Territory executed a Letter of Agreement with Cameron Balloons Ltd to provide a feasibility report for a special shape hot air balloon based on a design by an artist selected by the Territory.

On 13 March 2012, the Territory executed a contract with artist Patricia Piccinini to design a special shape hot air balloon and to collaborate with Cameron Balloons Ltd to produce a feasibility report for the proposed balloon.

On 17 April 2012, the Territory received the feasibility report prepared by Cameron Balloons Ltd for the hot air balloon designed by Patricia Piccinini.

On 8 May 2012, the Centenary of Canberra Unit advertised a Request for Proposal procurement process for the commission and operation of a hot air balloon (RFP 2012.19698.110) via select tender. The RFP was sent to three Australian companies operating hot air balloons.

On 29 May 2012, the procurement process was closed with two submissions received. One submission was a combined proposal from the two Canberra based companies, 'Dawn Drifters' and 'Balloons Aloft Canberra'; and the other submission was a combined proposal from Melbourne based operator 'Global Ballooning' and 'BlueBoat' marketing company.

On 3 July 2012 an evaluation report was signed authorising the negotiation of a Services Agreement with the Territory's preferred tenderer to operate and market the balloon, Global Ballooning and BlueBoat marketing.

On 10 August 2012 a Services Agreement between the Territory and Global Ballooning was executed to allow Global Ballooning to commission the manufacture of the hot air balloon envelope from Cameron Balloons.

On 13 March 2013 a Deed of Variation to the Services Agreement between the Territory and Global Ballooning was executed to allow for a test flight of the balloon and to allow Global Ballooning to engage their proposal partner – Blue Boat – to provide the full scope of marketing services.

12. What influence did the ACT Government or the Centenary have over the final shape of the balloon?

The Centenary Unit provided the artist with a broad brief for the envelope design: is uniquely identifiable when flying at height and which inspires wonder, stimulates imagination and provokes conversation in the wider public. The design produced by the Artist has been discussed with the Centenary Unit, but not altered as a result of those discussions.

13. Is it a complicated design?

The Skywhale is a very complicated design for a special-shaped hot air balloon. In 40 years, Cameron Balloon had not worked on a balloon with as many fabrication complexities.

Exempt s43

That basic design would consist of five pieces of fabric and one colour. *The Skywhale* has approximately 115 pieces of fabric and 256 different colours. It was built to an exacting artistic concept and has varied remarkably little from the Artist's design. Six people stitched *The Skywhale* together with over 3.3m stitches, taking seven months and 1880 hours to design and build in total.

14. When will the balloon make its first flight?

The balloon has had a test flight in a isolated location to test its flying qualities. It will be officially launched on 11 May 2013 at the National Gallery of Australia as part of the Sculpture: Space and Place symposium that is part of the wider TOUCH: Sculpture and the Land program for the Centenary of Canberra. The flight on the 11th will be a tethered flight, but the work will fly again two days later on the morning of Monday 13 May.

15. Are there plans for additional flights?

MONA will present the work on two weekends in Hobart 15/16 June and 22/23 June and the work will be presented at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne in Spring/Summer this year. An operating budget exists for two other flights in Australia in 2013, including additional flights in Canberra if desired.

16. How many times could the balloon fly?

The balloon has approximately 250 hours of flying life; this is estimated to be 70 – 100 flights depending on the length of the flight.

17. What will become of the balloon after 2013?

After 2013, it is envisaged that the Work will appear at galleries, festivals and balloon festivals throughout Australia and the world, acknowledged always as originally being a commission of the Centenary of Canberra.

18. Was there the potential for the balloon to stay in Canberra?

Yes. A proposal for the commission/operation of the balloon was submitted by a Canberra based company, however, it was deemed in the evaluation process that the proposal from Global Ballooning offered the greater opportunity for the work to promote the Centenary of Canberra interstate and internationally with strong marketing and documentation support. (See below evaluation report for commissioner/operator and signed brief to approve commission).

19. How was ownership of the balloon incorporated into the RFP for the operator?

It was a requirement of the RFP (commission and operation) that the successful tenderer would commission the balloon from Cameron Balloons in its own name, because *they*, as per GSO advice and the procurement plan, would be required to own and operate the balloon. During 2013 they would operate the balloon in agreement with the Centenary and the Artist, and beyond 2013, in agreement with the Artist. There is no direct contractual arrangement between the Territory and Cameron Balloons, though the Territory did sight correspondence and agreements between those two parties. Both tenderers had experiencing in commissioning new hot air balloons.

links to relevant documents:

GSO advice on procurement process:

<E:\Centenary\Centenary\PROCUREMENT\2011-12\Hot Air Balloon\GSO advice\Centenary of Canberra Hot Air Balloon - GSO advice.rtf>

Single select for Patricia and agreement to sign procurement process and reassess after feasibility by DG:

<E:\Centenary\Centenary\BRIEFS & MINISTERIALS\Approved Decision Briefs\2011\2011 11 14 Hot Air Balloon.pdf>

Signed Procurement Plan:

<E:\Centenary\Centenary\PROCUREMENT\2011-12\Hot Air Balloon\Procurement Plan\PP - signed by all 18-11-11.pdf>

Signed brief to approve the commissioning of the balloon following the feasibility study and RFP to find an operator:

<E:\Centenary\Centenary\BRIEFS & MINISTERIALS\Approved Decision Briefs\2012\2012 07 30 Approved Hot Air Balloon Commission.pdf>

Evaluation report for manufacturer:

<E:\Centenary\Centenary\PROCUREMENT\2011-12\Hot Air Balloon\Manufacturers\Evaluation Report\Signed Evaluation Report.pdf>

Evaluation report for the commissioner/operator:

<G:\Centenary\Centenary\PROCUREMENT\2011-12\Hot Air Balloon\Operators\Evaluation\Signed Evaluation Report.pdf>

Signed evaluation report for DoV 2 to agreement with operator to allow for test flight/marketing/documentation:

<G:\Centenary\Centenary\PROCUREMENT\CONTRACTS\Hot Air Balloon\DoV 2\2013 1 4 Signed evaluation report for DoV2.pdf>

Jeremy Lasek - Executive Director
Culture and Communications - Centenary of Canberra
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate
ACT Government

Ph: + 61 2 6207 9024 Mob: 0417 652771

email: jeremy.lasek@act.gov.au

Level 4, Canberra Nara Centre, GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

canberra100.com.au

Lasek, Jeremy

From: Cirson, Adina
Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2013 1:08 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: RE: Skywhale on the weekend

Can you send me the advice on the artists fee please...

Adina Cirson | Communications Director | Office of the Chief Minister
p: 620 50384 | f: 620 53030 | m: 0435 964 454 | adina.cirson@act.gov.au | www.chiefminister.act.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2013 12:38 PM
To: Roberts, Susanne
Cc: Perkins, Anita; Cronan, Patrick; Cirson, Adina; Lavers, Dominic; Brennan, Bernadette; Hobba, Julian
Subject: RE: Skywhale on the weekend

Team

Can we get an early heads up from Julian please on the likelihood of a flight Sat and Sun as I would like to get this promoted as broadly as possible starting this arvo...

Cheers

Jeremy

From: Roberts, Susanne
Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2013 12:14 PM
To: Cirson, Adina
Cc: Perkins, Anita; Lasek, Jeremy; Cronan, Patrick
Subject: Skywhale on the weekend

Hi Adina

The current plan for The Skywhale this weekend is that she will be tethered for an hour or two and then make a short flight (weather permitting) on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The location and time will be decided a little later this afternoon after we have spoken to the pilot, and we will keep you informed.

We are taking out 14x3 ads in *The Canberra Times* on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, headed *Come and see The Skywhale*, with an image of it and brief text along the lines of

**Come and see the Centenary of Canberra's latest commission, Patricia Piccinini's *The Skywhale*, on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 May!
The huge hot-air balloon sculpture will be tethered (where) from (time) to (time), and will be making short flights (weather permitting).
All welcome!**

Cheers

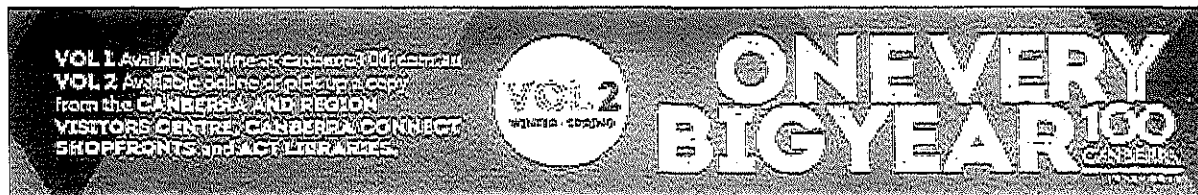
Susanne

Susanne Roberts | *Senior Public Relations Manager*

Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government

Phone: +61 2 6207 5820 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0414 805 456 | Email: susanne.roberts@act.gov.au

Level 4, Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | canberra100.com.au



To keep up to date with the latest Centenary news, subscribe to the Centenary of Canberra e-newsletter [here](#)

Lasek, Jeremy

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Sunday, 12 May 2013 1:33 PM
To: Gallagher, Katy; Gillespie, Margaret; Scrivener, Sharon; Cirson, Adina; McFarlane, Scott; Cronan, Patrick; Smorhun, Vic; Cappie-Wood, Andrew
Subject: skywhale update

Dear all

We are still hopeful of a skywhale flight about 7am tomorrow.

Weather tomorrow and all week is iffy and safety is first priority.

Have told media I will call them at 5.30am with an update whether flight is on and best location for viewing.

We will also have the info on C100 website.

Go the Raiders!

Jeremy

Stankevicius, Adam

From: Stankevicius, Adam
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:47 PM
To: Cronan, Patrick
Subject: RE: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

Importance: High

Yep all sorted!
Thanks

Adam Stankevicius | *General Manager*

Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government

Phone: +61 2 6207 5909 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0434 601 659 | Email:

adam.stankevicius@act.gov.au

From: Cronan, Patrick
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:42 PM
To: Stankevicius, Adam
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

See below.

From: McFarlane, Scott
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:42 PM
To: Cronan, Patrick
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

From: Hobba, Julian
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:40 PM
To: McFarlane, Scott
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

Scott, this is a line in the response to Q 3

It should be noted that the basic balloon requires stitching of 5 pieces of material, whereas the Skywhale included 115 pieces of material in its complex design.

Which I would be more comfortable with saying:

It should be noted that the basic balloon requires stitching of less than ten pieces of material, whereas the Skywhale included 115 pieces of material in its complex design.

A small point, I know.

Thanks
Julian

From: Stankevicius, Adam
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:16 PM
To: Hobba, Julian
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

This is what we sent
Adam

Adam Stankevicius | *General Manager*
Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government
Phone: +61 2 6207 5909 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0434 601 659 | Email:
adam.stankevicius@act.gov.au

From: Stankevicius, Adam
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 4:58 PM
To: Cronan, Patrick
Cc: Roberts, Susanne; Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: FW: Draft responses to Noel Towell's Qs

Pat
Responses attached as discussed.
Adam

Adam Stankevicius | *General Manager*
Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government
Phone: +61 2 6207 5909 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0434 601 659 | Email:
adam.stankevicius@act.gov.au

From: Roberts, Susanne
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 4:51 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy; Stankevicius, Adam; Hobba, Julian
Subject: Draft responses to Noel Towell's Qs

Hi all
Draft responses – just waiting for Q1.

Cheers

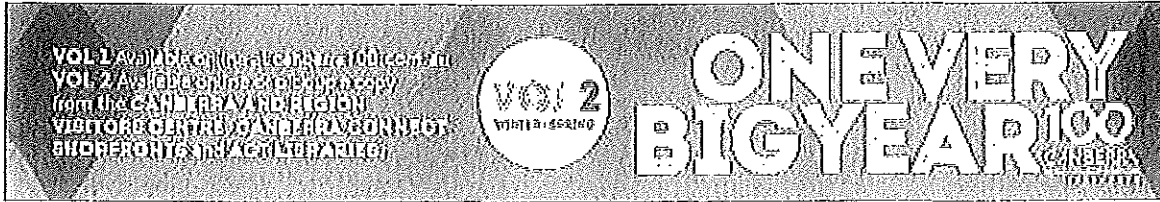
Susanne

Susanne Roberts | Senior Public Relations Manager

Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government

Phone: +61 2 6207 5820 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0414 805 456 | Email: susanne.roberts@act.gov.au

Level 4, Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | canberra100.com.au



To keep up to date with the latest Centenary news, subscribe to the Centenary of Canberra e-newsletter [here](#)



1. I note that several pages of the publicly available version of the Skywhale contract are blank and marked "confidential". Is the government prepared to publish those pages? If not, why not?

Advice from Shared Services Procurement is that: *"should consideration be given by the Territory to vary the existing Services Agreement with Global Ballooning Pty Ltd to release all information previously approved as "Contractor Confidential Text", then Global Ballooning will need to be consulted and provide their approval to the release of that information. This process is normally formalised under a Deed of Variation process to the Services Agreement. Depending on how amendable Global Ballooning are to the request by the Territory, this could take anywhere between a couple of days to a couple of weeks. "*

2. Several industry operators have approached us concerned that the price paid per operation of the balloon is way above the industry norm for a specialist balloon. What assurances can the government give that all efforts were made to ensure the deal for Skywhale was the best value for money for taxpayers? Industry standard rates for a flight of a specialised balloon is \$4000-\$5000.

The Centenary of Canberra Unit advertised a Request for Proposal (RFP) procurement process for the commission and operation of a hot air balloon via select tender. The RFP was sent to three Australian companies operating hot air balloons, and two submissions were received, and both included the cost per flight of the balloon. The successful tenderer submitted costs per flight of \$3,500 per flight.

The remainder of the \$166,000 tender price includes:

- Travel and accommodation for the operators for 2013
- The test flight(s), photography and videography including production costs and rights
- Photography and videography for one Canberra flight
- Website creation and maintenance, and social media operations for the remaining seven months of this year
- Educational resources for primary and secondary students.

3. And to produce the balloon, about \$110,000.

The Centenary of Canberra sent a Request for Proposal (RFP) to five companies manufacturing hot air balloons (all the companies known to manufacture special-shaped hot air balloons) to work with Patricia on a feasibility study for her design. Only one company - Cameron Balloons Ltd of Bristol UK, (the acknowledged industry leader) submitted a tender, and they were subsequently chosen. It should be noted that the basic balloon requires stitching of 5 pieces of material, whereas the Skywhale included 115 pieces of material in its complex design.

We could not be happier with the level of commitment and professionalism shown by Cameron Balloons. At their own expense they flew their project manager to be present at the test flight – from the UK, travelling in Australia and accommodation for a week and a half. Also at their own expense they couriered the balloon back to the UK and carried out the repairs. That is about \$10,000 AUD each way.

4. Did Events ACT have a role in developing or contracting Skywhale?

Events ACT was aware of the project but had no direct role in its development.

Also of interest:

- Tourism Australia has shared a Skywhale photo library with its 4,276,876 followers on Facebook.
- Youtube first flight video: viewed 54,374 times to 4.30pm today.

Comacchio, Teresa

From: Hobba, Julian
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2013 11:36 AM
To: Comacchio, Teresa
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs
Attachments: Noel Towell Qs 13 May.docx

From: Hobba, Julian
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:40 PM
To: McFarlane, Scott
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

Scott, this is a line in the response to Q 3

It should be noted that the basic balloon requires stitching of 5 pieces of material, whereas the Skywhale included 115 pieces of material in its complex design.

Which I would be more comfortable with saying:

It should be noted that the basic balloon requires stitching of less than ten pieces of material, whereas the Skywhale included 115 pieces of material in its complex design.

A small point, I know.

Thanks
Julian

From: Stankevicius, Adam
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:16 PM
To: Hobba, Julian
Subject: FW: responses to Noel Towell's Qs

This is what we sent
Adam

Adam Stankevicius | *General Manager*
Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government
Phone: +61 2 6207 5909 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0434 601 659 | Email:
adam.stankevicius@act.gov.au

From: Stankevicius, Adam
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 4:58 PM
To: Cronan, Patrick

Cc: Roberts, Susanne; Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: FW: Draft responses to Noel Towell's Qs

Pat
Responses attached as discussed.
Adam

Adam Stankevicius | *General Manager*
Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government
Phone: +61 2 6207 5909 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0434 601 659 | Email:
adam.stankevicius@act.gov.au

From: Roberts, Susanne
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 4:51 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy; Stankevicius, Adam; Hobba, Julian
Subject: Draft responses to Noel Towell's Qs

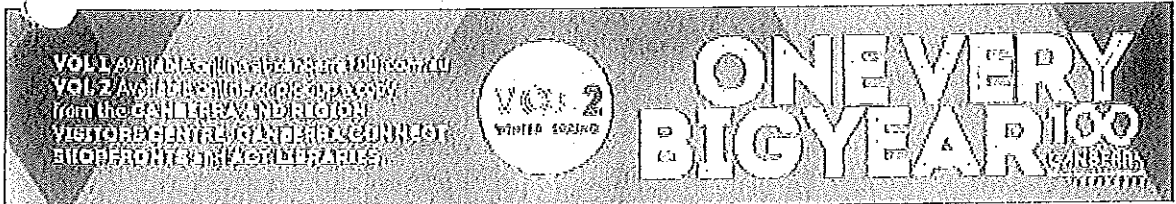
Hi all

Draft responses – just waiting for Q1.

Cheers

Susanne

Susanne Roberts | *Senior Public Relations Manager*
Centenary of Canberra | Chief Minister and Treasury | ACT Government
Phone: +61 2 6207 5820 | Fax: +61 2 6207 0163 | Mobile: 0414 805 456 | Email: susanne.roberts@act.gov.au
Level 4, Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | canberra100.com.au



To keep up to date with the latest Centenary news, subscribe to the Centenary of Canberra e-newsletter [here](#)

