

Minister for Economic Development
Question Time Briefs
April 2021

Ref No	Page number	Title	Status	Reason for Exemption
1	2	Canberra Cavalry (Baseball) in Administration	Full	n/a
2	3	Amp It Up! Fund	Full	n/a

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CM2021/1248

Portfolio/s: Economic Development

Sport and Recreation

Canberra Cavalry (baseball) in administration**Talking points:**

- On 31 March 2021, Baseball Australia notified Sport and Recreation that the Canberra Cavalry had formally appointed an administrator for its organisation.
- While Baseball Australia is aware of this matter, we are yet to receive direct notification from the Canberra Cavalry of its financial situation.
- I understand Baseball Australia will continue to keep Sport and Recreation informed as the matter develops.

Key Information

- The most recent financial support provided to the Cavalry by the ACT Government was \$33,000 through the 2020-21 Performance Sponsorship Program for the 2020-21 ABL season. This season was impacted by COVID-19 with a lesser number of games played, however the full funding amount was provided as a commercial decision and an additional pandemic assistance measure for the organisation.
- The Cavalry is required to pay commercial sportsground hire rates for use of the ACT Government owned Narrabundah Ballpark, which hosts all ABL games. As part of the ACT Government's COVID-19 Sport Sector Support Package, the Cavalry benefitted from the waiving all ACT Government sportsground hire fees for a period of twelve months between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- It is understood Baseball Australia has an interested party for take over of the current ABL licence pending the outcome of the current process with the Cavalry.

Background Information

- In April 2018, Mr Donn McMichael and Mr Dan Amodio were successful in obtaining an Operating License from the Australian Baseball League (ABL) for the Canberra Cavalry (Cavalry).
- Assistance was sought by the Cavalry in June 2020, due to financial pressures, through a requested waiver of an outstanding sportsground hire debt with Transport Canberra and City Services (\$34,138). You did not agree this request as any decision to waive outstanding debts for the Cavalry would be at odds to your agreement to suspend, rather than write-off, sportsground debts for all users as part of the current COVID-19 assistance measure. This debt remains unpaid.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/04/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:
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CM21/21695

Portfolio/s: Economic Development

Business and Better Regulation

Amp It Up! Fund**Talking points:**

- On 21 April I announced direct support will be offered to local live music venues to help them continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
- The support will help grow opportunities for local musicians and other performance artists to get back on stage, and give Canberrans and visitors even more great live entertainment options throughout 2021.
- The ACT Government *Amp It Up!* Fund, worth \$700,000 will assist small to medium sized live music venues to recover by offsetting the costs associated with performance programming and promotion, offering live performance and music lovers an exciting calendar of gigs from June to November 2021.
- Funding will open on 3 May and close on 17 May. Venues will be supported by Music ACT to apply for funding.

Key Information

- The *Amp It Up!* Fund is \$700,000. There is an additional \$40,000 for Music ACT to assist administration of the program and \$10,000 for a Night-time Economy Forum to be held later in the year.
- Venues should be able to demonstrate that they regularly host live music or other gig performances, and/or have history of hiring acts, and/or have a dedicated performance and audience space.
- Venues can apply for a grant through the *Amp It Up!* fund to meet 100% of their expected costs between 1 June 2021 and 30 November 2021 for engaging artists and technicians and up to 50% of their marketing and promotion costs.
- MusicACT will assist in the administration of the fund and support local venues in their applications and programming.
- As part of the assessment criteria, at least half of the acts programmed by venues for this fund will need to be local acts, ensuring that we are continuing to provide opportunities and paid employment to local artists.

Background Information

- It is likely the Fund will support between 20 and 30 venues.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 22/04/2021
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