

Timeline of Events in the Minister for Sport's and Prime Minister's offices regarding the Community Sports Infrastructure Grants.

Background

In the run up to the 2019 May 18th Federal election, and before the election was even called (reported in the Victor Harbour Times on 28th February 2019) the liberal candidate for the seat of Mayo presented a celebrity cheque for \$127,373 to the Yankalilla Bowling club for the Award of a grant to that club under the Move It – Community Sports Infrastructure grants scheme. Referred to as CSIG in this document.

Normally these announcements are made by the sitting member. The sitting member at the time was Rebekha Sharkie. Sharkie is an Independent (Centre Alliance) member.

The report from the Auditor general states

“The decision to undertake the audit followed a request from the Shadow Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, for an audit into the circumstances surrounding the Liberal candidate for Mayo’s presentation of a cheque to the Yankalilla Bowling Club for a project that received \$127,373 in funding under the second round. The key rationale for undertaking an audit was that Sport Australia (as a corporate Commonwealth entity) is not subject to the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs) when administering its grant programs.”

This report found:-

7. The award of grant funding was not informed by an appropriate assessment process and sound advice.

8. The design of the program was deficient in a number of important areas. A positive aspect was that the program guidelines were well structured and included clear assessment criteria with transparent weightings. A significant shortcoming was that, while the program guidelines identified that the Minister for Sport would approve CSIG funding, there are no records evidencing that the Minister was advised of the legal basis on which the Minister could undertake an approval role, and it is not evident to the ANAO what the legal authority was. The design would also have been improved had:

- greater analysis been undertaken of the likely demand for grant funding, and strategies developed for managing a high level of demand;
- strategies to manage risks to the quality of the assessment process set out in Sport Australia’s *Grant Management Framework* been implemented; and
- conflict of interest management arrangements been to a consistently high standard.

9. Sport Australia’s assessment of applications was largely in accordance with the published program guidelines. Sport Australia assessed each application for eligibility and against the three merit criteria to arrive at an overall assessment score. Scores against the three merit criteria were used to rank the applications, but Sport Australia did so within the three funding streams, which was not consistent with the program guidelines.

10. In parallel, the Minister’s Office had commenced its own assessment process to identify which applications should be awarded funding. The Minister’s Office drew upon

considerations other than those identified in the program guidelines, such as the location of projects, and also applied considerations that were inconsistent with the published guidelines. It was this assessment process that predominantly informed the Minister's funding decisions, rather than Sport Australia's process. This resulted in the assessment advice to the Minister being inconsistent with the approved program guidelines.

11. Funding decisions for each of the three rounds were not informed by clear advice and were not consistent with the program guidelines."

This report was sent to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 15th January 2020

Source.

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/award-funding-under-the-community-sport-infrastructure-program>

The link to the full report is here.

https://www.anao.gov.au/sites/default/files/Auditor-General_Report_2019-2020_23.pdf

Following the report, Many questions were asked by the main Stream media to the government about the processes followed.

"On 5 February 2020, the Senate resolved to establish a Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants to inquire into and report on the administration and award of funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant Program."

Source.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Administration_of_Sports_Grants

The ANAO gave evidence before this committee

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Fcommsen%2Fd0298186-bde8-4f3d-a14c-600ab8e111d4%2F0000%22>

The ANAO also answered Questions on notice.

<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=9d32c013-5731-4983-ac63-383996d52b44>

And

The ANAO were also asked by the Chair of the Senate Select committee into Sports Infrastructure grants to provide additional information.

<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=b588f6c0-45c0-4b71-8a83-6a963cba95c6>

Questions were also asked in Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs

The Portfolio covering CSIG is the Department of Health, Sport Australia is a Commonwealth entity not covered by the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines.

The following Timeline relates to pertinent information regarding Round three of the CSIG approval process, the differences between the Grants recommended by Sport Australia and the ones approved by the Minister.

All the information below is drawn from evidence given to the Senate committees mentioned above, The Hansard for the Committees mentioned above and from other searches done on the Sport Australia website as well as the "GrantConnect" portal of the Commonwealth Government.

Our conclusion is that three grants streams may have been manipulated to the Coalitions advantage, (otherwise known as "Pork Barrelling" or buying votes for the upcoming election).

These grants streams were:-

- a. Move it Community Sports Infrastructure grants (CSIG) to the Value of \$100M, chosen in 2018 and 2019. The Coalition seats attracted 61.58% of the value, Labor 31.54%
- b. Community Development grants over a period from 2014 to the May 2019 Election, a value of \$1,125,652,095. The Coalition Seats attracted 69.24% of the value, Labor 24.53% and finally
- c. A series of Regional Development grants over the time that the Coalition were in power from 2013 to present for a value of \$719,363,851. The Coalition seats attracted 72.95% of the value, Labor 21.66%.

A total of over \$2 Billion of public money spent which was very largely skewed to the advantage of the Coalition electorates.

A further conclusion is that someone in the Prime Minister's Office was responsible for co-ordination the distribution of these grants between electorates to the advantage of Coalition electorates.

The evidence for this is:-

- a) The mention of The Grange-Thistle Soccer club for a grant of \$500,000 which was taken out on advice from the PMO's office on 9 April 2019 and then reinserted as an approved grant on 11 April 2019. On the 9 April it had apparently been funded under the Community Development grants program and on 11 April it was to be funded under the Sports Infrastructure program.
- b) Another Grant, which had been approved by the Minister and which was asked to be taken out by the PMO's office was a Grant for \$500,000 in the seat of Kennedy, and which apparently was going to be funded under another Grants scheme.

A search of the grants connect data found a Grant in Kennedy for \$500,000 for the Munro Martin Parklands in Cairns.

This grant was awarded under the building better Regions Fund BBRF _ Infrastructure stream, a Regional Grant scheme. It was approved on 20 March 2019 and published on grant connect on 12 June 2019 (after the 21 days stated in the Rules and Grants guidelines. The project had a start date of 30 May 2019 and an end date of 21 June 2021.

Following further research and evidence before the Senate Select committee given in a letter

From the ANAO to the Senate Select Committee on 16 April 2020 and the sighting of the spreadsheet which contains all of the applications, there is another grant which may be the candidate for this removed grant. The grant in Question was an application from the Cassowary Coast Regional Council which was moved to the Community Development Grant program [GA58077] (DiTRC via DoFin 25 Mar'19; part of 2019/20 CDG Budget and approved on 5 August'19). This grant was announced by press release by the member for Kennedy on 4th April 2019

<https://www.bobkatter.com.au/media/media-releases/view/1012/start-practicing-your-mexican-waveshellip-katter-secures-extra-3m-for-tully-grandstand-/media-releases>

One has to ask the Question. How can Bob Katter announce that he has secured funding for a Grant worth \$3 million on 4th April 2019? When it was approved on 5th August 2019 and gazetted in GrantConnect on 9th September 2019. AND that Grant had been recommended by Sport Australia for maximum funding (\$500,000) under the Sports Infrastructure Scheme on the very same day that Bob Katter was announcing the \$3 Million CDG grant? The very same day that Minister MacKenzie signed the final approval for all the grants in that round.

- c) Further evidence of manipulation of the grant process was highlighted by Senator Watt in Questioning in the Community Affairs Legislation Committee where he asked about a grant for the Bayside United Football club for \$580,000, which apparently the local Federal member (for Bonner) had promised the club this money.

Further investigation revealed that Vasta had indeed put out a media release when the work was done on 13 March 2020.

<https://www.rossvasta.com.au/renovations-complete-for-bayside-united-fc/>

This press release also states an amount of \$580,000. However an investigation on the 2019 GrantConnect database revealed no such grant amount. Further investigation found a 2020 Community Development Grant for an amount of \$638,000 approved on 28 November 2019 and published on Grant connect on 17 January 2020. The start date was 10 January 2020 and finish date 30 Sept 2020. This was Published after the 21 Days Required under the Rules and Guidelines.

This grant accords with the press release on 13 march 2020 which the grant says is for :-

“To provide upgraded facilities to allow for a greater number of female players participating in sport and recreation pursuits.”

The works had actually finished, according to the Press statement on Mr Vasta’s webpage at the time of the 13 March 2020 Press release.

Our conclusions lead us to believe that Manipulation of grants money was done in order to advantage the Coalition government.

We believe it was co-ordinated across three grants streams administered by two portfolios, The Department of Health (CSIG) and the Department of infrastructure grants and Regional Grants schemes.

- d) The Minister Bridget McKenzie has stated in two documents before the Select Committee inquiring into Sports Infrastructure grants, that she signed off and approved 228 grants on

4th April 2019.

The evidence below shows that the attached document of approved grants was altered after that date.

This raises the spectre of a Criminal charge under section 143.3 of the Criminal Code Act 1995. This defines a Commonwealth document.

Offences related to Forgery are detailed under Section 144 of the Criminal Code Act.

This leads on from other unlawful matters to do with these grants schemes.

1. Against the constitution.

Whether the Commonwealth has the power to appropriate money to various Infrastructure projects for sporting bodies?

See Professor Anne Twomey's submission (14) to the Senate Select committee. From Sydney University Law School.

<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=68e3a1fc-012d-4006-89be-ebb93d402e40&subId=678782>

and submission 16 from Professor Saunders and Professor Michael Crommelin from Melbourne University.

<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=bb3ce000-f067-49f6-be88-fe7468a4533d&subId=678882>

2. Against Statute law. Again see Professor Twomeys submission.

Did the minister have authority to approve the grants funded?

3. Against Statute law.

Did the officers of both the Prime Minister's office and the Officers of the Minister of Sport's office commit criminal Offences against the Criminal Code Act 1995?

There is no doubt that their actions need to be further investigated. This brings into stark light the powers needed to investigate Government. Bodies such as an Integrity Commission or a Royal Commission come to mind.

In the Last 2 years alone, (2018 and 2019) the Government has granted \$30 Billion to over 48,000 grantees. We have analysed \$2 billion covering 6 years, a small part of which was part of that \$30 billion.

Another area to review and investigate in depth is the tenders let by this Coalition Government. A search of their TenderAus portal reveals that since 2013 this Coalition Government has let \$348 Billion in Tenders.

Timeline of Approval of Sports infrastructure grants (Round Three).

1. **14 September 2018.** Applications for the Move It Community Sports Infrastructure grants closed.
2. **24 October 2018** Media release from Senator Bridget McKenzie re 50 million funding for High performance sports leading up to the Next Olympics. (Media release in Folder media releases McKenzie.) Also mentioned on page 197/330 MYEFO 2018-19.
3. **9:32am 5 December 2018** Email from Sport Australia to the minister's office regarding a revised list of grants from the minister's office and advising the minister of the obligations when making changes to recommendations by Sport Australia for specific grants.
Source Answers to Question on notice from Sport Australia 27 February 2020
4. **9:03pm 9 December 2018.** Email from Sport Australia to the Minister's office regarding the approval of 130 grants which were not recommended by Sport Australia. These grants were Low scored by Sport Australia and some of them were ineligible. It also asked that if changes had been made that the Minister record the reasons why they were approved.
5. **December 2018** Web page in Sport Australia folder which says Round 1 was awarded to "224 successful (round 1) applicants were announced and notified in December 2018."
6. **13 December 2018** Minister visited Pennant Hills AFL Club. new application for \$500,000 approved on 11 April 2019.
7. **17 December 2018** MYEFO FOR 2018-9 BUDGET issued. It contained an extra (new) \$30.3 million for Sports infrastructure grants. (Page(s) 146/330 and 197/330 refer).

Source.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiP5Z3DtKjgAhUdzzgGHRdBCtAQFjADegQIBRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Farchive.budget.gov.au%2F2018-19%2Fmyefo%2Fmyefo_2018-19.pdf&usq=A0vVaw2DU9QHZS6ocdrUWGHznYAM

8. **02 February 2019** Minister visited Westbury Bowling Club. (They submitted a new application for \$232,000, approved for a grant of \$235,000 on 11th April 2019.) also visited Yarra Ranges Shire Council's (new application for \$500,000 approved for funding on 11th April 2019.)
9. **05 February 2019** Minister visited Yeppoon Swans AFL Club. (New application for \$146,200 approved on 11th April 2019)
10. **18 February 2019** Local Member of Deakin (Michael Sukkar) announced on social media that the Maroondah City Council's project for the Cheong Park Pavilion upgrade was receiving Australian Government funding. This amended application received funding on 11th April 2019.
11. **1:12pm 5 March 2019.** Email from Sport Australia to the Ministers office re a request from the minister's office for an Application form for the CSIG. Sport Australia advised that applications were closed and to consider new applications would not accord with the guidelines and may disadvantage other applicants/potential applicants.
12. **March 2019** "232 successful (round 2) applicants were announced and notified in March 2019." (Details In Sport Australia Folder (website saved))

- 13. 3:15pm 22 March 2019.** Email from Sport Australia to the Minister's office, advising that "the Community Sport Infrastructure program closed on 14 September 2018" It also advised that no new or amended applications had been received/accepted and that this would go against the guidelines.
- 14. 4.33pm 22 March 2019.** Email from the Minister's office thanking Sport Australia for an email which allows them to clarify the Minister's request. It then goes onto quote clause 8.1 of the CSIG guidelines which would allow the attached table of new and amended applicants to be evaluated and considered. The attached list of 9 new or amended applications are the same as those detailed in **Para 56** below
- 15. 9:40am 25 March 2019** Email from the Minister's office to Sport Australia asking for Sport Australia to consider a list of new and amended candidates for the CSIG because of Emerging circumstances.
- 16. 26 March 2019** PMO to Sports Minister (Footnote 5 ANAO additional Information) The Prime Minister's office had advised the Minister's office that it was expected that the Minister would write to the Prime Minister to seek 'authority' on the approved projects and inform him of the roll out plan.
- Note. See letter of 10th April from the Minister to the Prime Minister.
- 17. 28 March 2019** Move It –Community Sports Infrastructure round 3 Participation program announced by Press release by Bridget McKenzie.
- 18. 19:44pm (29 March 2019) Version 1** of Ministers office spreadsheet was created. Senior Adviser in Minister's Office emailed this version from **Dept of Health** email account (on an ipad supplied by DofH.) to same account + **her Dept of Infrastructure** email account which she accessed through a laptop supplied by DofI.
- Note "**her**" with two email accounts in the minister's office shows that she also liased across Health and Infrastructure and was working on Sports grants as well.
- Note This spreadsheet was called Copy of Copy of Copy of ROUND # UPDATE.xlsx.
- Note. this spreadsheet contained 220 projects for funding.
- 19. 03 April 2019** Media release from Bridget MCKenzie re the INVESTING IN OUR NATIONAL SPORTS PLAN value \$385.4 million package. It added a further \$42.5 million for the Sports Infrastructure Grants program.(Round 4). (In folder Media Releases McKenzie.)
- 20. 11:05am (03 April 2019)**(Source Additional Information provided by the Auditor General on **16 April 2020** in response to a Letter from Senator Chisholm on **13 March 2020 Paragraph 1**).

Sport Australia submits Ministerial Briefing to the Sports Minister for Round 3 funding of the Sports Infrastructure Grants.

The briefing was sent to the Department of Health to be entered into the PDMS and the Minister's office was copied into this 11:05am email.

21. **5:33pm (03 April 2019)** The briefing package was assigned to the Minister's office in PDMS.(Source Additional information from Auditor general **Paragraph 2)**

The Briefing package contained

1/ A covering briefing recommending that the minister approve funding for 245 applications identified in Attachment A.

2/ 2 Attachments

- A. Recommended 245 round three Grants for funding
- B. Those grants not recommended for funding.

22. **12.16pm (03 April 2019) Version 2** of the Ministers office spreadsheet created and the Senior Adviser in Minister's Office emailed to a Dept Liaison Officer's official email account in Minister's Office at **12:16pm – Version 2** was sent **one hour and 11 minutes** after the Ministerial briefing from Sport Australia was received by the Minister's office.

Note. Comparing Spreadsheet **Version 1** and Spreadsheet **Version 2** One project (a Project in Denison) was removed from **Version 1** and two were added into **Version 2**. (these two were funded in round 3)

Note. This document was called 'Copy of Copy of Copy of ROUND # UPDATE.xlsx'.* (same name as **Version 1**)

Note. The Auditor General's information was that this spreadsheet version also contained 220 grant applications.

Important Check. When we look at the Auditor general's original report we see on page 9/76 that the grants recommended by Sport Australia were not the same as the Ones approved by the Minister.

“Sport Australia provided a written briefing that identified the 245 applications it was recommending for approval. The briefing was annotated and attached a list of 228 projects that the Minister had approved. One hundred and sixty-seven (73 per cent) of the approved projects had not been recommended by Sport Australia.”

23. **04 April 2019** Minister's signature on briefing signed “Agreed” (ANAO Additional Information document from Select Committee) The list of attached projects had handwritten edits against them. (Must have been a lot of edits. See note below).

Note. The difference between those approved by the Minister and those recommended by Sport Australia. The minister did not record reasons as to why she approved those grants which were not recommended. (167 of them out of 228)

24. **04 April 2019** “228 successful (round 3) applicants were notified in April 2019.” From Sport Australia Website (In Sport Australia folder) (Sport Australia was actually notified on 11 April 2019)

Note. the 228 Successful projects don't accord with the 245 recommended by Sport Australia or the 220 which were approved by Bridget McKenzie on 4th April.

25. **04 April 2019** Bob Katter, the member for Kennedy posted via social media: \$3 million in Federal funding. GrantConnect: \$3 million from Community Development Grants (footnote 6 ANAO additional information)

26. **04 April 2019** Dept of Health records identify that the Departmental Secretary (Ms Glenys Beauchamp) sought advice from her officers on status of Minister's approval of briefing / following interactions within Dept were recorded:

Note. Ms Beauchamp knew that she was attending estimates the next day (5 April 2019)

27. **2:54pm (04 April 2019)** Urgent response to Secretary's query requested by Acting Deputy Secretary's Executive Assistant from office for Sport at the Dept of Health;

28. **7:00pm (04 April 2019)** A senior official in the Minister's Office, emailed 'aware of deadlines and was making this a priority to ensure that it would be signed before caretaker period commences.'

(This is an extremely important fact. The caretaker period didn't commence until after 08:29hrs on 11 April 2019 when the parliament was prorogued) So why discuss it here? Obvious that the election was imminent.)

Note. Senator McKenzie was in Canberra on this day. On 5th April she flew to Adelaide, then on 6th to Melbourne and on the 7th to Sydney where she stayed until the 27th /28th April.

29. **7:27pm (04 April 2019)** A senior official recorded that she would be in Adelaide with the Minister the following day (5 April 2019) and could raise this matter with Minister then.

Note. So this senior official didn't know at 7.27pm that the Minister had already signed the Briefing Approvals.

30. **05 April 2019** Sport Australia (with Dept of Health) informed the Community Affairs Legislation Committee that, to its knowledge, round three decisions had not yet been made; (Source Hansard Community Affairs Legislation Committee, 5th April 2019 pp 60-61)

31. **10.27am 08 April 2019 Version 1** of Minister's office spreadsheet created on 29th March emailed by Senior Adviser in Minister's Office to ****her personal Gmail account**** and to the official email Account of another staff member.

Grange Thistle Soccer Club, was included in this circulated copy

32. **09 April 2019** Itinerary document by Chief of Staff to Mia Davies (Leader of Nationals WA) (Footnote 8 ANAO additional answers)

33. **09 April 2019** Media Release from Local Member for Brisbane [Trevor Evans] that included statement / 'the Federal Government will provide funding of \$500,000 to improve the sports facilities at Grange-Thistle Soccer Club located at Lanham Park in Grange, Brisbane' The PMO advised Minister's Office this project would be funded through CDG (Community Development Grants) program, so it was removed from list attached to Minister's **10 April 2019** letter to the Prime Minister.

Note. The Grange Thistle Soccer club was funded under Round 3 of the Sports Infrastructure grants.

34. **10 April 2019** PMO provided with a copy of a letter from the Minister. Attached to letter were printouts of two worksheets within spreadsheet - list of 220 projects to be approved for Round 3 funding (titled 'COPY PMO.pdf') / and worksheet **with summary tables of distribution by state, political party and electorate** (titled 'COPY PMO overview.pdf').

Note. The Prime minister's office didn't want this information in PDF but in Excel format.

35. **10 April 2019** Compared to prior version (V1 & V2) circ within Minister's Office on / **3 & 10 April 2019** one project was added to those approved with a grant value of \$500,000; and one Project was removed with a grant value of \$500,000. These projects were in the electorates of Kennedy and Kooyong respectively.
36. **10 April 2019** V2 of the spreadsheet emailed within Minister's Office again. On both dates, it identified 220 applications as approved for funding. Comparing V1 & V2, 1 project originally marked as successful in V1 was removed and two added in V2. These two projects remained on list and were funded under round three.
37. **10 April 2019** The status of Round 3 approvals was raised at Senate Estimates. Dept of Health informed Community Affairs Legislation Committee that funding decisions **had not yet been made**. Source. Hansard, Community Affairs Legislation committee, 10 April 2019, p.104
38. **10 April 2019** (V2): Denison project was removed.
39. **12:45pm (10 April 2019)** Prime Minister's office emailed the minister's office asking that one of the 220 projects be removed and substituted with another project. The one removed was for \$500,000 for the electorate of Kennedy (Bob Katter) and the one substituted was for \$500,000 for the Hawthorn Malvern Hockey centre located in the electorate of Kooyong (Josh Freydenberg).
- Note. Kennedy was described as a "target" electorate in the spreadsheet. (The 2016 result was with a margin of 19,130, a 61.12% lead).
40. **10 April 2019** The Minister's office informed the Prime Minister's office that it did not intend to remove the Kennedy project as it was a very important one to the region and the minister was due to visit Kennedy with the LNP candidate who had been pushing for the project.
41. **10 April 2019** Sometime after the Minister's letter was sent with the list of approved projects, the PMO's office asked the Minister's office to take The approval for the Grange-Thistle soccer club off the list as it had been funded under the Community Development Grants program.
42. **11:46pm (10 April 2019)** Advice from the Minister's office to the Prime Minister's office at 11:46pm on Wednesday 10 April 2019 had been "the minister has signed off on all the projects – we will send The brief to Sport Australia tomorrow. We wanted to wait until after estimates before sending." (Footnote 7 ANAO additional information).
43. **12:52am (11 April 2019)** Email from the Prime Minister's office advising that the Kennedy program had already been funded through another grants program.

Note. The Author of this document has done an extensive search of the grant connect Database for Grants which were for \$500,000 and also in the Seat of Kennedy. Only One grant came up. It was for the Munro Martin Parklands (MMP) Stage 2 Redevelopment in Cairns. Under the Building better regions (BBRF) Infrastructure fund. Round 3.

<https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/water-waste-roads/works-in-progress/open/munro-martin-parklands-stage-2-redevelopment>

It would have been ineligible in the Sports Infrastructure grants because it had a portable bar and cold room which was ineligible under the Sports infrastructure grants guidelines and may well have been ineligible also because the project had already commenced.

There are several questions that this application poses. The first is the opening date of the Scheme. It opened on 27 September 2018 and the closing date was 15 November 2018. The second is that final decisions were taken by a ministerial Panel, chaired by the Minister for Infrastructure.

44. **07:00am (11 April 2019)**. Prime Minister Visits the Governor General to call the election.
45. **07:13am (11 April 2019)**. Minister's Office's responds to PMO's request for Kennedy to be taken out, advising that requested substitution would be made and an updated spreadsheet circulated. There was no explanation recorded as how project in Kooyong was identified by PMO as substitute approval.
46. **08:27am (11 April 2019)**. The earliest version of signed briefing (approval of grants) located by ANAO and scanned by an administrative staff member in Minister's Office

Note. This is important because the signed briefing was supposed to have been signed on **4 April 2019**

Note. Refer to Senator McKenzies Submission (Submission 44) to the Senate Select committee and her press release of 5 March 2020 which is a tabled document in the same committee, both stating that the Ministerial Approval was signed on **4 April 2019**.

47. **08:27am (11 April 2019)**. Minister's Office created a PDF of the briefing the Minister had signed with a date of **4 April 2019**. No list of approved projects was attached to scanned briefing, which was immediately forwarded by an administrative staff member to the Minister's Senior Adviser.
48. **08:29am (11 April 2019)**. **++++++ Caretaker Mode Entered ++++++** (Source Parliamentary website.)

Note. Everything done after this time and date (**08:29am 11 April 2019**) was subject to the caretaker conventions.

49. **08:43am (11 April 2019)**. (version titled 'COPY PMO v.1.pdf' created)
50. **08:46am (11 April 2019)**. signed briefing dated 4 April 2019 and a PDF version of updated an spreadsheet giving effect to substitution was sent to Sport Australia. This was called 'COPY PMO v.1.pdf'
51. **08:47am (11 April 2019)**. 'COPY PMO v.1.pdf' version also provided to the PMO
52. **08:54am (11 April 2019)**. PMO asked the Ministers office to provide them with a spreadsheet in Excel form rather than as a PDF.

'We need to be able to cross check against our list and also be able to pull individual projects out to coordinate announcements and material from CCHQ.'

Note. CCHQ is the Coalition Electorate team for the 2019 May Election and shows that the manipulation of grants approvals was political.

53. **11:48am (11 April 2019)**. The Minister's Office agreed to send the approvals in Excel format but the next version sent to the PMO's office was provided in the same PDF format.
54. **12:02pm (11 April 2019)**. A further request was sent from the PMO asking for Excel spreadsheet format.
55. **12:04pm (11 April 2019)**. Minister's Office's response again agreed to provide spreadsheet in Excel form that, 'there are a couple of mistakes which we are fixing- we were just missing a couple of additional projects'.
56. **12:35pm (11 April 2019)**. Final version of the Spreadsheet was sent to the PMO from the Minister's office. ANAO's analysis found a total of 11 changes made between 'COPY PMO v.1.pdf' sent to

Sport Australia and PMO, and 'Copy of MO Spreadsheet - 3.4.19.xlsx' sent to Sport Australia and the PMO. There was a net increase of \$2,767,071 to amount of grant funding approved:

Those changes are detailed below.

Grantee	Status	Value	Party
1 Westbury Bowling Club	New	\$235,000	Liberal
2 Pennant Hills AFL Club	New	\$500,000	Liberal
3 Yeppoon Swans AFL Club	New	\$146,200	LNP
4 Yarra Ranges Shire Council	New	\$500,000	Liberal
5 Shire of Strathbogie	New	\$350,000	Ind (INDI)
6 Katanning Country Club Inc	Amended	\$248,048 From \$500,000	Liberal
7 Shire of Coolgardie	Amended	\$287,823 From \$500,000	Liberal
8 Maroondah City Council	Amended	\$500,000 From \$100,000	Liberal
9 Wangaratta Rural City Council –North Wangaratta Football Netball Club	Amended	\$500,000 From \$174,500	Ind (INDI)

Source Answers to Questions on notice from the ANAO. Modified to add Electorate and values details.

57. **12:35pm (11 April 2019).** One grant of \$500,000 was removed from list. It had been added to the list on 10 April 2019. The other Grants added and amended were as follows.

1. Westbury Bowling club new application for \$235,000 was added to the list.
2. Pennant Hills AFL club new application for \$500,000 was added to the list.
3. Yeppoon Swans AFL club new application for \$146,200 was added to the list.
4. Yarra of Shire ranges Council new application for \$500,000 was added to the list.
5. Shire of Strathbogie's new application for \$350,000 added to the list.
6. Katanning country club Incorporated amended application for \$ 248,048 was added to the list.
7. Shire of Coolgardie's amended application for \$287,823 was added to the List.
8. Maroondah City Council's amended application for \$500,000 for Cheong Park Pavilion Upgrade approved. It was not approved initially: original application had sought \$100,000 for four light towers at Cheong Park and had been recommended for funding in first round by Sport Australia (with a score of 82) but not approved.
9. Wangaratta Rural City Council's amended application for \$500,000 approved. The original application had sought \$174,500.

Note. None of these approved projects were recommended by Sport Australia. Please see Answer to Question 6 Answers on Notice from Sport Australia. Name of file SA 27 February.PDF.

58. **12:43pm (11 April 2019).** The List of approved grants was emailed to Sport Australia, titled 'Copy of MO Spreadsheet - 3.4.19.xlsx'.

59. **12:43pm (11 April 2019).** Sport Australia, stated that they received an email from the Ministers office saying that the 8:46am emailed briefing contained errors ('some errors' in 'COPY PMO v.1.pdf' version sent that morning.)

- 60 . **9:10pm (11 April 2019)**.PMO asked Minister's Office to confirm that the Grange-Thistle Soccer club project would be included in list of grants approved in third round of CSIG as it had not been funded under the Community Development grants as advised on 10 April 2019, so it was re-included in the final version of spreadsheet as approved for funding.