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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At this time of the year, we ordinarily would be getting ready for the start of the top end BMX season; this year has started somewhat different: with the announcement of a company to build a roof over the Satellite City BMX track.

I'd like to take the opportunity to publicly applaud the efforts of the Satellite City Sub-Committee. A significant amount of effort has been put into getting to where we are today. Thanks to the sub-committee members Jason Eccen, Sally Walker, Michelle Holt, Michael Smart and Stephen Van Anholt. Their work is not yet over though. The next step is to decide what track we will build.

There are a number of tracks being displayed publically at the moment. I have noted that all comments are positive. It is good to see the buy in from riders across the Northern Territory and Australia. The track designs will be removed from public viewing on Friday 18 March and the sub-committee will meet soon after to go through the results of the comments and 'likes' on FaceBook. Then, the tender process will start for the track build.

With regard to the building of the roof, I am pleased to say that the progress is ahead of schedule. The old track and old canteen / kiosk have been demolished and the ground flattened at the new canteen level. It is also great to see all of the positive comments on social media about the roof.

Expenditure of a Government grant can't go without public comment; especially driven by those that were not successful during the tender process. Despite an adverse email being received about the process, the article in the NT News on 11 March 2016 and two letters to the editor, the commentary on social media has remained very positive which is great to see. As the president, when reading the article (which I was not asked for comment on), I noted the one sided and ill-informed commentary. I had two decisions: respond and fuel the fire or ignore and hopefully it will go away. I opted for the second. For your information, here are some truths about the matter:

1. There is no company in Darwin or the Northern Territory that can turn iron ore into steel; steel has to be sourced from Whyalla (and two other locations in Australia) or overseas.
2. Every other tender discussed the probability of sourcing their steel from overseas to reduce costs.
3. With exception of the steel manufacturing, all other labour will be from the Northern Territory. That is 70% to 75% of the project will utilise local labour.
4. Essentially, the project will be 100% Australian.

Lastly, I'd like to express congratulations to all riders who recently travelled to Bathurst and represented the Northern Territory. Everyone did a great job whether riding or supporting the riders. You all did the Northern Territory proud. Well done.