From Page 1

Sport and Recreation Minister Matt Conlan said, while he supported the project, they couldn’t confirm whether they would be in the budget to be announced on December 4 as they were awaiting cabinet approval.

The Country Liberals budgeted $2 million for the Anzac Oval upgrade and $250,000 for works on the golf course as part of the Callenders and Springs report in August. Another $50,000 was included in the report to be spent on recurring costs at the Alice Springs golf course between next financial year and 2015-16.

Infrastructure Minister Adam Giles threw his support behind the Anzac Oval upgrade, which would improve the lock and changing rooms and help fund a small grandstand.

“I think it’s a really important development for our town,” Mr Giles, the Member for Brasington, said.

Mr Giles said the oval needed upgrading to meet the needs of national sport- ing codes, providing a base for rugby league and rugby union, with the potential for soccer. “Lasser ... made a commitment to upgrade it and they didn’t,” he said.

“We’ve made a commitment in our election and I’m looking forward to it.”

Alice Springs councillor EJ Melky said events held at the oval, such as Callenders by Candlelight and the Masters Games ceremonies, would benefit from an upgrade.

He said investment in facilities that encouraged sports tourism would build the town’s economy. “I think Anzac Oval is in bad need of upgrading,” Mr Melky said.

Golf Club president Steve O’Bullivan said he was dis- cussed with Mr Conlan, government funding for a busi- ness plan and new irrigation system at the golf course. He said the Government had confirmed his club would receive the funding. “This is a pre-election pledge. It’s not like it’s new funding. It was a pledge made prior to the election. It was something we knew they were going to do and they budgeted for that this year,” Mr Conlan said Alice Springs had one of the best dedicated golf courses in the world and was a popular destination for locals.

Karting Club President Jamie de Beaufort believed the track lights funding promised by the CLP.

Our wild weather

Cameron Boon
IT’S been a wild week of weather in Central Australia, with stifling humidity, huge gales of wind accompanied by thunder and lightning, and reports of hail.

Weather bureau sen- ior forecaster Ashley Patterson said the erratic weather was caused by a slow moving trough coming from southern Western Australia.

“It hit Alice Springs on Sunday evening and has mainly affected the north-eastern parts of Alice Springs,” he said.

Things will be sunny in the Alice from Friday morning and through the weekend.

“Tennant Creek and the Barkly region will clear up on Friday as well, as the trough moves further north.”

Mr Patterson said the grape farm north of Alice Springs got 28mm of rain while Arltunga got 22mm between 5am on Wednesday and 9am yesterday.

However, the Alice Airport only recorded 2mm of rain. Lighting caused a number of fires to the north-east of Alice Springs. Lightning strike-watching- ers say they pose no threat.

The stunning picture on page one was taken at 5:30pm Wednesday. The lightning strike was 2.3km from pho- tographer Lala Hatz- oula, who stood at the Tanami Rd turnoff on North Stuart Hwy. The red and yellow lights are a passing truck.

Doubts over oval, golf club funding

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