



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA,
SUZANNE ORR MLA**

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by MR COE MLA:

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate 2016/17 Annual Report, Economic Management, Output 4.1

In relation to Intergovernmental Agreement on Competition and Productivity Enhancing Reforms:

1. The Annual Report states that advice was provided by the Directorate on Intergovernmental Agreement on Competition and Productivity Enhancing Reforms:
 - a. Is the Directorate responsible for the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of these reports?
 - i. If not, who is?
2. In terms of Regulatory Reforms, Appendix A of the Agreement outlines that commercial planning and zoning is a priority regulatory area. How does the significant increase in LVCs in the most recent Budget encourage competition in the property marketplace?
3. Is the ACT Government considering any productivity reforms to residential and land use planning?
4. What is the Information Development Plan?
 - a. In what ways does the ACT Government work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics?
5. What is the timeframe for full implementation of these agreed reforms?
 - a. What steps are involved in order to implement these reforms?

Mr BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Treasury, within the Directorate, is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Competition and Productivity – Enhancing Reforms (the IGA).
2. The Lease Variation Charge (LVC) for variations that apply to enable unit titling on residential leases issued pre-2000 was increased to put these developments on an equal footing with other residential developments in the ACT.
3. The ACT has a strong track record of looking for opportunities for regulatory reforms which allow the use of land to change in response to changing community and business needs and aspirations. Recent reforms that improved the productivity of land include:
 - Changes to planning rules in early 2015 for local shopping centres are designed to allow for the development of other small and medium sized shops.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA,
SUZANNE ORR MLA

- A precinct-based approach to developments in areas such as Northbourne Avenue which provides for a mix of commercial uses and residential or office space against a setting of open space.

The success of urban renewal projects like Kingston Foreshore, New Acton and Braddon will be replicated where appropriate over coming years. The Government will continue to explore opportunities to maximise the benefits of land use across the Territory for the community, individuals and business.

4. The Information Development Plan (IDP) provides a high level strategic framework for ACT government and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to collaborate to improve the statistical information available for the ACT.

- 4a. The ACT Government has a close relationship with the ABS. ACT Treasury representatives sit on the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, the State Statistical Forum, the State Accounts User Group and the Labour Statistics Advisory Group. In addition, the ACT Treasury representatives attend regular briefings and meetings with the ABS in relation to economic data relevant to the ACT.

ACT Government directorates use ABS data every day and also provide a significant amount of data as input to statistical collections, including for example Government Finance Statistics and Voluntary Redundancy Data. The Territory and the ABS also exchange staff. During 2016-17, the ABS provided an official to work with ACT Treasury on a part-time basis, and the ABS also seconded an ACT Treasury official to work with the ABS for a short period.

5. The IGA is to be progressed through National Partnership Agreements (NPAs) for each of the four priority reform areas in its appendices. No NPAs under the IGA have been agreed.
 - In addition, the Commonwealth is seeking to progress small business regulatory reform through bilateral agreements for implementation by 30 June 2019.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 27.11.2017

By the Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr MLA

