



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Dear Chief Minister

Congratulations on your re-election to the Legislative Assembly and on your forthcoming re-election as Chief Minister of the ACT.

The ACT Public Service stands ready to support you and your Government to deliver your plan for Canberra. Your plan builds on the progress of your Government to make Canberra an even better place to live.

You have signalled significant investment in our health infrastructure and workforce, school infrastructure and education initiatives and public transport. You have highlighted measures to ease the cost of living and deliver relief across the community including energy bill relief, free bus travel, incentives to bulk bill GP services and increased preschool offerings.

You have outlined priorities to increase social housing and the number of homes to build, buy and rent. You have set out significant plans for Canberra's regions including infrastructure and upgrades to town centres, local shops, health centres, community facilities, roads, parks, playgrounds and sports facilities. These priority areas of investment will enhance local amenity and support the needs of Canberra's growing population into the future.

You have also outlined initiatives to further strengthen Canberra as a place where everybody is treated fairly, is valued and feels included: women, people with disabilities, veterans, seniors, our multicultural and LGBTIQ+ communities. You have committed to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Your plan for the future of Canberra builds on the strength of the investments and policy frameworks put in place over the previous term of Government. The Public Service will continue to support implementation of the Government's key strategies and action plans, its ongoing investments in electrification and renewable energy storage and key infrastructure including the new Canberra Theatre and cultural district, a new stadium and sports precinct, a Canberra convention precinct, and ongoing expansion of the light rail. The Public Service will support you to maximise investment from the Commonwealth Government through programs including the National Capital Investment Fund and the Infrastructure Priority List.

As Head of Service, I am here to direct the effort of the Public Service to support you and your Ministers to deliver your priorities.

The Incoming Government Brief

The Incoming Government Brief package of information attached to this letter provides you with key information to assist you in your role as Chief Minister, particularly in the first few weeks of the 11th Legislative Assembly. An electronic version of this package will also be provided.

It includes information on re-establishing governance such as the process for appointing your Ministers, ministerial portfolios and the Administrative Arrangements, the ceremonial sitting day, the election of the Speaker and establishment of Legislative Assembly Committees.

Overviews of each of the ACT Public Service directorates are also provided. The overviews reflect the current directorate structure and give a high-level snapshot of functions and key contacts. As Head of Service, I will work with you on any reorganisation of directorates to align with your priorities for this term of Government.

Register of election commitments

The package also includes a compilation of briefs on your party's election commitments that we have tracked throughout the election campaign. These briefs provide preliminary advice on options for implementation of these commitments. We will work with you and your Ministers to finalise the details of those commitments and plan for their implementation during this term of Government.

Matters for immediate attention

The package provides information on the key issues and immediate actions requiring your consideration. While caretaker arrangements have been in place, there has been the necessary hold on decisions that now require your consideration. The information briefs address items from across government that require action within the first 30 days of Government. I am available to discuss these items at your earliest convenience.

Minister Induction Pack

A draft Minister Induction Pack has been developed to assist in providing your Ministers with information to support them in their roles. You may wish to consider if this content continues to reflect your expectations and direction, particularly on Cabinet processes. I am also available to discuss any amendments you would like to this pack prior to providing it to your Ministers.

Congratulations again on your re-election and I look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience to commence work to support you and your Government during the 11th term of the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely



Kathy Leigh
Head of Service

19 October 2024

Issues for Immediate Consideration

The following briefs have been included from across the ACTPS for items that may require immediate action (e.g. within the first 30 days of government formation).

01	National Skills Agreement – Funding Agreements	ASAP after Government is formed
02	Rugby World Cup 2027 Content Considerations	ASAP after Government is formed
03	Sch 1 1.6	
04	Sch 2.2(a)(iv), Sch 2.2(a)(xvi)	
05	Attendance at Local Government Ministers forum	01 November 2024
06	Whole-of-Community Newsletter	05 November 2024
07	Premium Increases – Residential Builders Warranty Insurance	05 November 2024
08	Council for the Australian Federation meeting	05 November 2024
09	Sch 2.2(a)(x)	
10	ACT Australian of the Year Awards 2024	07 November 2024
11	Correspondence from Prime Minister regarding Social Media	07 November 2024
12	Sch 1 1.6	
13	Sch 1 1.6	
14	Major Events Declaration for Summernats 2025	08 November 2024
15	National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2025-2030	11 November 2024
16	Small Business Ministers Meeting	11 November 2024
17	Digital and Data Ministers Meeting	14 November 2024
18	Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) Meeting	14 November 2024

19	Sch 1 1.6	
20	Sch 1 1.6	
21	Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards	15 November 2024
22	Government Procurement Board – Board Vacancies and Appointments	15 November 2024
23	Local Government Engagement Matters	15 November 2024
24	Sch 1 1.6	
25	2024-25 CRA Statement of Operational Intent	18 November 2024
26	Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) Lord Mayors Meeting	20 November 2024
27	HMAS Canberra Freedom of Entry Parade	22 November 2024
28	National Health Reform Agreement Addendum 2025-30	22 November 2024
29	National Access to Justice Partnership	22 November 2024
30	National School Reform Agreement – Better and Fairer Schools Agreement	25 November 2024
31	Appointment of the Commissioner for International Engagement	29 November 2024
32	Ministerial Council on Trade and Investment: 10-11 December 2024 South Australia – First Nations Economic Uplift Statement of Intent	29 November 2024
33	Appointment of Death Review Coordinator	30 November 2024
34	Skills and Workforce Ministers meeting and Australian Training Awards	30 November 2024
35	Federation Funding Agreement for the National Firearms Register (NFR)	30 November 2024
36	Disallowable Instrument – Ambulance Levy 2025	13 December 2024
37	Sch 1 1.6	



ACT
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RENEWAL
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OFFICIAL Sensitive - Legal Privilege

MINISTERIAL BRIEF

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

To:	Chief Minister	Tracking No.: 24/91782
CC:	Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development (EPSDD) Deputy Director-General of the Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy (OIRWS)	
Date:	24 October 2024	
From:	Chief Executive Officer, City Renewal Authority (CRA) Under Treasurer, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)	
Subject:	Section 121 City – Caretaker	
Critical Date:	30 October 2024	
Critical Reason:	To advise you that the City Renewal Authority is finalising a significant contract for the sale of Block 1 Section 121 City, consistent with the Indicative Land Release Program, Territory Budget and following a longstanding and public divestment process.	

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Note** the information contained in this brief;

Andrew Barr MLA   / Please Discuss
27/10/24

Minister's Office Feedback

19. Due to the complex nature of the contract negotiations, they have extended into the Caretaker period.
20. Paragraph 3(d) of the Guidance on Caretaker Conventions (Guidance) relevantly provides that:

“The Government should avoid entering into major contracts ... during the caretaker period, including ... agreements, which could bind an incoming government or would be considered politically contentious.”
21. Relevant considerations in the Guidance include:
 - the dollar value of the commitment;
 - whether the commitment involves a routine matter of administration or rather implements or entrenches a policy or program that is politically contentious;
 - whether the commitment requires ministerial approval;
 - the duration of the commitment; and
 - the content and extent of other financial and non-financial obligations.
22. The Guidance also provides that:
 - a. The Government may enter into contracts that relate to routine matters of administration, contracts that the Government has committed to and announced before the caretaker period, subsidiary contracts or contracts that would result in a breach if signing was deferred. A routine matter may include tenders or contracts that pertain to services that an incoming government would ordinarily be expected to continue to provide, or service or operations that would be expected to be delivered to maintain the operations of the Territory.

Justification for executing a contract during the caretaker period:

23. There are arguments the land sale of Block 1 Section 121 City might usually be characterised as “a routine matter of administration”, including for the reasons described below:
 - a. The land sale was announced and committed to before the caretaker period, having been released on 4 May 2023.
 - b. Following Cabinet approval of the ILRP, land sales are a routine matter for the Authority that an incoming government would be expected to continue to provide. Such sales are within the delegation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Authority and not a matter for Ministerial approval.
 - c. The sale has been the subject of media coverage (as set out below) and scrutiny through Budget Estimates and Annual Report hearings. The transcript from the most recent hearing on 23 July 2024 is provided at [Attachment 1](#).
 - d. There is a high risk that delays to signing the contract could stop contract negotiations and the land sale would need to be re-started. This would significantly delay or reduce revenue and represents a sovereign risk.
24. As indicated above, due to the high risks associated with delays, the sale cannot be deferred.
25. Please note that for commercial reasons, confidentiality will be maintained until all

37. Failure to complete the contract would have significant revenue impacts.
38. Failure to complete the contract would decrease industry confidence.
39. Unsuccessful tenderers may express concern or complain about the process delays and failure to complete.
40. Future land sales may be impacted if this process does not conclude as the industry may not have confidence to tender for land.
41. While the sale process and associated Affordable Housing Deed is considered to be routine for the Authority CEO and Under Treasurer, it is prudent to avoid a concern as to disruption of the intent of the Caretaker Conventions.
42. Section 116 (surface carpark opposite Commonwealth Avenue) is marked for land release in Financial Year 2025-26. Failure to complete the current land sale may impact the success of that land sale process as the Authority would have two identical sites for sale concurrently.
43. Failure to complete the sale delays the benefits from the sale including residential and affordable dwellings in the city.

Communications, media and engagement implications

44. The current process is highly confidential, and no media can be undertaken until after contracts are exchanged. Further, confidentiality provisions continue to bind all parties until all tender processes (e.g. advising unsuccessful participants) are completed, requiring a number of weeks to complete. As a consequence, publication of outcomes is some weeks away and will be made after a new Government is formed.
45. Below is a table of all the times the project has been mentioned in the media:

Date	Media Outlet	Headline	Link
NA	City Renewal Authority website	Land release program	https://www.act.gov.au/cityrenewal/about/land-release-program
4 May 2023	City Renewal Authority blog	Milestone land release to reshape City Centre	https://www.act.gov.au/cityrenewal/blog/city-renews/milestone-land-release-to-reshape-city-centre
9 May 2023	City Renewal Authority Facebook	The City Centre will be home to a new mixed-use precinct in the coming years.	https://www.facebook.com/CityRenewalCBR/posts/pfbid0cEeVPH72AGSKkL91wctUouEnHVQa86ruBuxceAukntiE7SSzHjyabFfB74qR8hzl
15 May 2024	City Renewal Authority Facebook	Announcing a milestone land release that will shape our City Centre for decades to come.	https://www.facebook.com/CityRenewalCBR/posts/pfbid0rT5EjyxaacThaz869QYsfLW9yiNrq7N4jzSErw9Dp3qhnq3aY31KBbFPaKa2enVl

From: EPSDD DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 8 October 2024 3:05 PM
To: ODonoghue, Yersheena
Cc: EPSDD DLO
Subject: BRIEFING PACK PULLED: 241010 - CRA Info Brief - Barr - Section 121 Caretaker - 24-91782

OFFICIAL

Hi Yersheena

The CRA has requested withdrawal of this briefing pack with advice that the Authority will consider resubmission after the election.

I have therefore removed/deleted the briefing pack from your folder.

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

MS Teams | Email: EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government | ACT Legislative Assembly

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 October 2024 11:21 AM
To: ODonoghue, Yersheena <Yersheena.ODonoghue@act.gov.au>
Cc: EPSDD DLO <EPSDDDDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: 241010 - CRA Info Brief - Barr - Section 121 Caretaker - 24-91782

OFFICIAL

Hi Yersheena – this brief is now with you – [saved here](#) for your review please ahead of consideration by the Chief Minister for signing.

Critical Date: 10 October 2024

Critical Reason: To advise the Leader of the Opposition that the City Renewal Authority is finalising a significant contract for the sale of Block 1 Section 121, consistent with the Indicative Land Release Program, Territory Budget and following a longstanding and public divestment process.

Kind regards
Michelle

Michelle O'Donnell | Directorate Liaison Officer

MS Teams | Email: EPSDDDLO@act.gov.au

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government | ACT
Legislative Assembly**

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: [Trussler, Riley](#)
To: [CMTEDD, Economic Development MECT](#)
Cc: [Orr, Melissa](#)
Subject: RE: CALL FOR INPUT - DG Report to the CM - Due to MECT noon 2/10
Date: Wednesday, 2 October 2024 9:08:00 AM

Good Morning Stacey,

Please see below Venues input:

Fitzroy Pavilion

- The refurbishment of Fitzroy Pavilion at Exhibition Park In Canberra has concluded and the site has been handed back to Venues Canberra.
- Bookings have commenced with the first event being held on the 20th of October, 2024.

Thank you

Riley Trussler | Executive Assistant to Matthew Elkins |
Phone 02-625 66705 | **Mobile** [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | **Email** RileyTrussler@act.gov.au
PO Box 666 Jamison ACT 2614

From: Aksenov, Stacey <Stacey.Aksenov@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** CMTEDD, Economic Development
Sent: Monday, 30 September 2024 11:14 AM
To: CMTEDD, artsACTsupport <artsACTsupport@act.gov.au>; CMTEDD, Skills Canberra Government Relations <SkillsGovernmentRelations@act.gov.au>; Cunningham, Catherine <Catherine.Cunningham@act.gov.au>; White, RuthA <RuthA.White@act.gov.au>; Dean, Cindy <Cindy.Dean@act.gov.au>; Kovacevic, Anita <Anita.Kovacevic@act.gov.au>; Trussler, Riley <Riley.Trussler@act.gov.au>; Spring, Harriet <Harriet.Spring@act.gov.au>; Blundell, Maddisson <Maddisson.Blundell@act.gov.au>; Tran, Chloe <Chloe.Tran@act.gov.au>; Wu, Qianyi <Qianyi.Wu@act.gov.au>
Cc: Fulton, CarolineM <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>; Harriott, Mark <Mark.Harriott@act.gov.au>; Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>; Kelley, Rebecca <Rebecca.Kelley@act.gov.au>; Triffitt, Ross <Ross.Triffitt@act.gov.au>; Elkins, Matthew <Matthew.Elkins@act.gov.au>; de la Rue, Annie <Annie.delaRue@act.gov.au>; Maclachlan, Hugh <Hugh.Maclachlan@act.gov.au>; Kobus, Jonathan <Jonathan.Kobus@act.gov.au>; CMTEDD, Economic Development <ecodev@act.gov.au>
Subject: CALL FOR INPUT - DG Report to the CM - Due to MECT noon 2/10

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Morning all,

MECT is seeking input from business units on any new and emerging issues, key milestones in existing initiatives to include in the Directors-General weekly report to the Chief Minister for the week commencing Monday, 7 October.

Please note that during caretaker no FOI update is required.

The content of your response should be briefing information that is concise and to the point, with no more than a couple of dot points on each subject.

Please provide your input, including nil response, via reply to this email by noon Wednesday, 2 October 2024

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Stacey



Andrew Barr ACT Chief Minister is at EPIC Exhibition Park in Canberra.

12 October 2024 · Canberra · 🌐

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As promised, the fully refurbished Fitzroy Pavilion is now open.

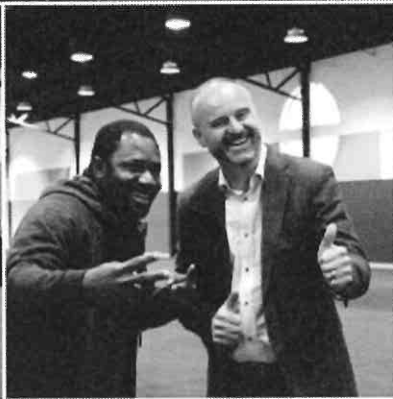
Had a look inside yesterday.

The venue can host a wide variety of community events:

- 🍷 Stand up functions: 1752 guests
- 🎭 Theatre style seated events: 1575 guests
- 🍽️ Sit down banquet dining: 1000 guests

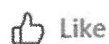
The Pavillion has heating and evaporative cooling, a PA system, kitchen, licensed kiosk, toilets, change rooms, showers, and multiple 10amp/15amp & 3 phase power outlets.

For further information or obligation free quotation, please
phone 6205 5230 or 📧 infoepic@act.gov.au



and 80 others

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Mallika Raj's post



Mallika Raj is with Andrew Barr ACT Chief Minister at EPIC Exhibition Park in Canberra.

12 October 2024 · Canberra · 🌐

...

📍 Great news for organisers of major community events!

As promised, the fully refurbished Fitzroy Pavilion is now open for large scale events.

The Pavillion can accomodate a wide variety of events:

- 🍹 Stand up cocktail functions: 1752 guests
- 🎭 Theatre style seated events: 1575 guests
- 🍽️ Sit down banquet dining: 1000 guests

The venue has heating and evaporative cooling, a PA system, kitchen, licensed kiosk, toilets, change rooms, showers, and multiple 10amp/15amp & 3 phase power outlets.

For further information or obligation free quotation, please phone 6205 5230 or infoepic@act.gov.au

