



Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA on 20 November 2023: Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard Proof Transcript, 20 November 2023, Page 29-30

In relation to:

MS LEE: Thank you, Chair. Mr Barr, in 2008 then Labor Chief Minister Jon Stanhope called for a new convention centre. At the time he said, “At some stage in the future there will be a need for a convention centre that meets international standards.” Planning and negotiations were underway for a new convention centre with the federal government until eventually, in 2017, you scrapped the detailed design and scoping for one. Now the ACT Infrastructure Plan says that a convention centre will be developed as part of stage 2 of the convention and CBD precinct project, where construction is unlikely to be completed until the late 2030s. Last year, in the annual reports hearings of this committee, you said that you were looking at “complementary facilities”, I think your quote was, to help support some of the current Convention Centre’s limitations to host large-scale events. When you were asked a question about that in last year’s hearings, you specifically said, “including Exhibition Park and in the CBD precinct”. Could you tell us the capacity of Exhibition Park to host large-scale events and also what you meant by the CBD precinct? What are the areas that you are looking at there?

Mr Barr: Exhibition Park has a range of venues that support major conferences and exhibitions. I will provide the committee with the specifications of each of the facilities at Exhibition Park. In relation to the CBD precinct, a number of sites have been identified for facilities that would support convention activities. They are within what would be defined as the Civic area, east and west, and would encompass both the ANU and the University of New South Wales campuses. The ANU has had a significant investment in facilities that support convention activities. The UNSW Canberra campus would also have facilities that would support convention activities.

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

The table below, which can be found at [EPIC Venues Brochure Mar2012 Final2.pdf \(exhibitionparkincanberra.com.au\)](https://exhibitionparkincanberra.com.au) has the capacity and dimensions of the facilities at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

ROOM	CAPACITY				DIMENSIONS	
	THEATRE	COCKTAIL	BANQUET	CABARET	SQUARE METRES	CEILING HEIGHT
Budawang Pavilion	3000	3310	1900	1520	3310	7.5
Coorong Pavilion	1800	1929	1100	880	1979	6
Fitzroy Pavilion	1575	1752	1000	800	1752	5
Mallee Pavilion	690	770	440	352	770	3
Snowy River Room	-	720	410	-	720	2.6
Parkes Room (a+b)	540	600	340	272	600	2.65
Quokka Pavilion	480	538	300	240	538	3
Kakadu Room (a)	270	300	170	136	300	2.65
Daintree Room (b)	270	300	170	136	300	2.65
The Terrace	140	200	110	88	200	3.2
Pelican Room	80	220	60	48	220	2.4
Tea Tree Room	80	160	60	48	160	2.4
Namadgi Room	80	140	60	48	140	3
Ningaloo Room	60	77	40	32	77	3
Freycinet Room	-	-	12	-	36	2.65

Capacity for large festivals at Exhibition Park in Canberra is based on risk assessments. Variables can include production, fencing, lighting and movement across site.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 27.11.23

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA