

APPROPRIATION BILL 2021–2022 AND
APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY) BILL 2021–2022

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND
ECONOMIC EQUALITY

NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT 3

THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair)

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RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT

The Legislative Assembly for the ACT established the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality on 2 December 2020 by resolution¹ which states (in part) that:

- (1) the following general-purpose standing committees be established as set out in the table below. The purpose of such committees is to enhance the scrutiny of the Executive, to examine and suggest improvements to any bills referred to it, to enable the citizens of the Territory to engage and to participate in law-making and policy review, to enable financial scrutiny of the Executive's budget proposals and to review annual reports of taxpayer funded agencies;
- ...
- (7) the committees so established are required to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the main appropriation bills for the Territory and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the annual budget and prepare a report to the Assembly within 60 days of the presentation of the budget bills;

Committee	Primary Wellbeing Indicator/s	Areas of Responsibility
Economy and Gender and Economic Equality	Economy, Living Standards and Time	Chief Minister's responsibilities Economic development and diversification Tourism Industrial relations and workplace safety Social impacts and outcomes of economic policies including gender considerations (excluding Office for Women) Minister of State responsibilities (excluding Justice and Community Safety Directorate reporting areas) Business and better regulation Arts

¹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 2, 2 December 2020, p 17 (as amended 11 Feb 21, 30 Mar 21, 22 Apr 21, and 16 Sept 21).

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As outlined, the resolution of establishment² for standing committees of the Tenth Assembly requires the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality to inquire into ACT Budget 2021–22:

- (7) the committees so established are required to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the main appropriation bills for the Territory and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the annual budget and prepare a report to the Assembly within 60 days of the presentation of the budget bills.

At its meeting on Tuesday, 9 November 2021, the Assembly resolved to amend the due date for standing committees to report on the ACT Budget, and to require committees to report by Friday, 12 November 2021³.

² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 2, 2 December 2020, p 17 (as amended 11 Feb 21, 30 Mar 21, 22 Apr 21, and 16 Sept 21).

³ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 28, 9 November 2021, p 349.

ACRONYMS

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTCOSS	Australian Capital Territory Council of Social Service Incorporated
AFP	Australian Federal Police
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
CTPI	Compulsory Third Party Insurance
EBT	Electronic Benefits Transfer
EGEE	Economy and Gender and Economic Equality
EPIC	Exhibition Park in Canberra
FOI	Freedom of Information
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LIPP	Local Industry Participation Policy
LTCS	Lifetime Care and Support
MAI	Motor Accident Injuries
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
PCBU	Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking
SES	Senior Executive Service
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services
TOIL	Time Off In Lieu
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
WHoG	Whole of Government
WSIR	Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

- 4.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider publishing guidelines for how it is ensuring ethical procurement of textiles, clothing, and footwear.

Recommendation 2

- 4.7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider implementing recycled content quotas for procurements wherever possible.

Recommendation 3

- 4.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider publishing milestones for how and when it will ensure slavery-free supply chains in procurement.

Recommendation 4

- 4.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider the wide range of views and consult regarding paid parking in the Stromlo Forest Park carpark before a decision is made to introduce this measure.

Recommendation 5

- 4.10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider setting an accountability indicator for Stromlo Forest Park that measures customer satisfaction, as is done for the Arboretum, and further, that spending is prioritised on measures that improve these metrics.

Recommendation 6

- 5.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collaborate with the small business sector, particularly hospitality and retail businesses, and international students to fill skills shortages throughout the economy.

Recommendation 7

- 5.7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make public a breakdown of outcomes in relation to code of conduct complaints, including greater clarity on the nature of code of conduct complaints and referrals to the Integrity Commissioner.

Recommendation 8

- 7.5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish future budget allocations for its Future Jobs Fund by year and forward estimates.

Recommendation 9

- 8.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government monitor the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel and consider reviewing its \$2.5 billion target for total domestic visitor expenditure for the year ending June 2022 as the recovery progresses, and publish any new goal that reflects an ambitious, yet achievable recovery of the domestic and international visitor economy.

Recommendation 10

- 10.5 The Committee recommends for future Estimates hearings that the ACT Government provides clear, concise, and timely information to Committee Support about Ministerial responsibilities for Budget outputs.

1 INTRODUCTION

PRESENTATION OF THE ACT BUDGET 2021–22

- 1.1 On 6 October 2021, the Appropriation Bill 2021–2022 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2021–2022 were presented in the Assembly⁴, and the related Budget papers were published on the Treasury website.⁵
- 1.2 During this inquiry the Standing Committee on Gender and Economy and Economic Equality (the Committee) was required to examine the expenditure proposals for the following outputs in the main appropriation bills for the Territory, as outlined in Budget Statements B: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) together with associated agencies.

CONDUCT OF INQUIRY

- 1.3 Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 (COVID) and the ACT lockdown between August and October 2021, the Committee held its hearings remotely via Webex.
- 1.4 Hearings were held as follows:
 - 15 October – Community and industry groups
 - 20 October – Minister for Business and Better Regulation
 - 22 October – Special Minister of State
 - 25 October – Chief Minister; Minister for Economic Development
 - 27 October – Minister for Tourism; Chief Minister: Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety
 - 29 October – Minister for Arts; Assistant Minister for Economic Development.
- 1.5 All evidence referred to in this report can be found in the Proof Transcripts of Evidence from the hearings, which are available on the Committee webpage.⁶

⁴ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 25, 6 October 2021, pp 306–309.

⁵ Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Budget Papers*, 6 October 2021, <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2021-22/budget-papers>.

⁶ Committee Transcripts Tenth Assembly, *Committee Hansard*, 9 November 2021, https://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2021/comms/default.htm#1_egee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1.6 The Committee held public hearings between 15 and 29 October 2021. The Committee heard from community and industry groups on Friday, 15 October 2021. At the remaining hearings the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers and their accompanying directorate officials, statutory officers, and members of governing boards.
- 1.7 Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at [Appendix A](#). Transcripts from the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Legislative Assembly website.

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT HEARING AND QUESTIONS PLACED ON NOTICE

- 1.8 Questions were taken on notice by Ministers and statutory office holders during the hearings. Questions on notice were submitted by Committee Members and other MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.9 A list of questions (by subject, submitter, recipient) and responses to questions are available at [Appendix B](#), and on the inquiry webpage.
- 1.10 Due to the shortened timeframe for reporting, not all responses to questions on notice had been dealt with by the Committee at the time it resolved to adopt this report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 1.11 The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted with this inquiry. This includes ACT Government Ministers, directorate officials, statutory officers, members of governing boards, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members' staff, and staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

2 COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS

- 2.1 The Committee sought the views of community and industry representative groups on the ACT Budget 2021–22 by inviting them to complete an online survey. The Committee received five survey responses and two submissions. This information can be found on the Committee’s webpage.⁷
- 2.2 On 15 October 2021, the Committee heard from four community and industry representative groups regarding their views on the ACT Budget 2021–22 during a public hearing:
- ACT Council of Social Service Inc (ACTCOSS)
 - Canberra Business Chamber
 - Perinatal Wellbeing Centre
 - YWCA Canberra.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- ACTCOSS
 - Community facilities for the not-for-profit sector are run down
- Canberra Business Chamber
 - Skill shortages
 - Working with universities to build the economy
 - Path to recovery appears vague, given there is no stimulus money
- Perinatal Wellbeing Centre
 - No residential mental health facilities for new mothers in the ACT
 - Lockdown has led to a spike in demand for their services
- YWCA
 - Women’s budget statements are inadequate compared with Canada, for example
 - Difficulty in progressing their social housing project in Ainslie; possibly policy settings need to be tweaked given the Tribunal has blocked it despite community support.

⁷ Economy and Gender and Economic Equality, *Inquiry into the ACT Budget 2021-22*, 9 November 2021, <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/committees/egge/act-budget-2021-22#tab1865923-2id>.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

- 2.3 The Committee takes this opportunity to thank all the witnesses who gave their time to discuss a range of important matters with the Committee. Members noted they could have easily spent much longer exploring issues raised during this hearing.
- 2.4 In future, the Committee would like to see a greater level of coordination between the Assembly Committees to ensure that all Committees and witnesses are able to make the best use of the short amount of time allowed in the schedule.

3 MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND BETTER REGULATION

- 3.1 This chapter outlines the key issues considered by the Committee at the Budget estimates hearing with the Minister for Business and Better Regulation. The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials on 20 October in relation to Output Class 1 in relation to Government Policy and Reform, and Gambling Regulation and Harm Minimisation; Output Class 2 in relation to Access Canberra (except in relation to planning development, land, and lease regulation), and Access Canberra (Gaming); and Output Class 3 in relation to Business and Innovation (business advocacy and development, small business functions).

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 3.2 The following matters were considered:
- Better Regulation Taskforce
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business support package
 - work of the Gambling and Racing Commission including its role in collecting funds for the gambling harm prevention and mitigation fund and the Chief Minister's charitable fund
 - Modernising government ICT infrastructure
 - Accessibility of the Working with Vulnerable People card
 - Canberra Innovation Network and small business start-ups.
- 3.3 The following matters were considered in relation to Access Canberra (except in relation to planning development, land, and lease regulation):
- Fix My Street system upgrade project
 - Use of AFP letterheads
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
 - Building quality standards
 - Role in administering building disputes
 - Modernisation of the Access Canberra Service Centre Belconnen.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 3.4 The Committee noted initiatives scheduled for delivery in 2020–21 include the establishment of the Better Regulation Taskforce and delivery of phase 1 of the program which covers a range of actions to identify ways to improve the ACT Government rules, regulations, processes,

information, and support for business.⁸ The Minister confirmed that the delay in delivering phase 1 discovery – which involved consultation with businesses – was due to COVID-19. The Committee also noted the broad remit of the Better Regulation Taskforce includes work relating to automatic mutual recognition for occupational registration.⁹

- 3.5 The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials in relation to several separate matters within Access Canberra, including with respect to KPIs and specifically *Strategic Indicator 3c: It is easy to do business with the ACT Government*.¹⁰ This accountability indicator measures satisfaction with the ease of interacting with Access Canberra and the result is determined by responses to independent annual surveys of the Canberra community. The Committee noted that Access Canberra has not met this KPI since 2017,¹¹ prior to the impacts of COVID-19.

⁸ ACT Government Budget 2021-22, *Budget Statements B*, p 42.

⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 20 October 2021, p 23.

¹⁰ ACT Government Budget 2021-22, *Budget Statements B*, p 15; *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 20 October 2021, p 38.

¹¹ ACT Government Budget 2021-22, *Budget Statements B*, p 46.

4 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE

- 4.1 This chapter outlines the key issues considered by the Committee at the Budget estimates hearings with the Special Minister of State. The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials on 22 October in relation to Output Class 1 relating to Government Policy and Reform, Territory Records, Digital Strategy; Class 3 in relation to Venues (excluding venues Canberra infrastructure upgrades), Output Class 6 relating to Shared Services and Digital Data and Technology Solutions, Output Class 7 relating to Procurement, and Output Class 8 relating to Property Services (excluding Aquatic facilities); as well as the ACT Insurance Authority, EBT Class 1 Lifetime Care and Support Fund and the Motor Accident Injuries Commission.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 4.2 The following matters were considered:

- Procurement
- Digital strategy
- Upgrading of community facilities
- Stromlo Forest Park facilities
- Human resources information management system upgrade
- Deloitte FOI review
- Rent relief during lockdown
- Motor Accident Insurance scheme
- Motor accident injury and the taxi CTPI premiums
- Shared Services – now Digital Data and Technology Services
- Family friendly workspaces
- Impact of lockdowns and restrictions on Venues Canberra and its revenue.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 4.3 The Committee noted various procedures and policies in place to support local businesses to access the Government's procurement opportunities. The Minister outlined initiatives including the Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy (LIPP) to government procurement under which agencies are required to consider local capability and economic benefits for the Canberra region when determining best available procurement outcome.¹²

¹² *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 22 October 2021, pp 57-59.

- 4.4 A range of measures to ensure ethical procurement were outlined. The Committee notes the statement of procurement values adopted by the Government to inform the way in which procurement is carried out within the Territory to try and ensure that agencies are not engaging with suppliers who are unethical.¹³ In particular, the Committee noted the discussion in relation to the procurement of uniforms across the ACT Public Service.¹⁴
- 4.5 Two main issues were raised in respect of the plans to upgrade the Stromlo Forest Park carpark: first, whether paid parking would be introduced and whether consultation has occurred with individual users about this next step. The Committee notes the original Stromlo Forest Park masterplan was reviewed in 2016 and suggests that, prior to introducing paid parking, it would be useful to consult with the community given the potential for changes in usage since that time. The Committee further notes that the Minister has indicated a decision has not yet been made in relation to paid parking for the Mt Stromlo carpark.¹⁵

Recommendation

- 4.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider publishing guidelines for how it is ensuring ethical procurement of textiles, clothing, and footwear.
- 4.7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider implementing recycled content quotas for procurements wherever possible.
- 4.8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider publishing milestones for how and when it will ensure slavery-free supply chains in procurement.
- 4.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider the wide range of views and consult regarding paid parking in the Stromlo Forest Park carpark before a decision is made to introduce this measure.
- 4.10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider setting an accountability indicator for Stromlo Forest Park that measures customer satisfaction, as is done for the Arboretum, and further, that spending is prioritised on measures that improve these metrics.

¹³ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 22 October 2021, pp 59-60.

¹⁴ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 22 October 2021, pp 74-75.

¹⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 22 October 2021, pp 67-69.

5 CHIEF MINISTER

- 5.1 This chapter outlines the key issues considered by the Committee at the Budget estimates hearings with the Chief Minister. The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials on 25 and 27 October in relation to Output Class 1 in relation to international engagement and Coordinator-General Whole-of-Government (Non-Health) COVID-19 Response, Government Policy and Reform, Workforce Capability and Governance, Coordinated Communications and Community and Engagement. The Committee also heard evidence in relation to the ACT Executive and Public Sector Standards Commissioner.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 5.2 The following matters were considered during hearings on 25 and 27 October:
- Glasgow climate talks and emissions targets
 - International students
 - International engagement strategy and related activities including trade missions
 - Cost to ACT economy due to lack of international travel during the COVID pandemic
 - Whole of government non-health COVID response
 - Cost of upgrades to Ministerial office suites
 - Cost of Ministerial travel
 - Executive Time Off in Lieu (TOIL)
 - Good News Canberra social media pages
 - Classification of Senior Executive Staff (SES) and classification review
 - The work of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner including number of complaints
 - Secure Local Jobs Code
 - Government Strategy spending increases
 - ACT public service transition to flexibility and agile working
 - Workforce Gender Equity Strategy as part of review of Respect, Equity and Diversity Framework
 - Economic advisory bodies
 - Secure Employment Framework.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 5.3 The Committee appreciates the comprehensive information provided about the work the ACT Public Service has been undertaking throughout the pandemic and notes learnings that will help inform future flexible working arrangements for staff. The Committee views this as a positive step towards the continuing modernisation of a sustainable public sector workforce.

- 5.4 Across a number of hearings, the Committee noted that concerns were raised about skills shortages in the ACT. The Committee also appreciates the importance of international students and international travel to the local economy and encourages the ACT Government to take steps to rebuild these sectors. Such efforts should include collaborating with businesses and international students to identify and address skills shortages.
- 5.5 The Committee notes the discussion with the Public Sector Standards Commissioner that suggests an increase in numbers of misconduct processes in 2021, although the Committee appreciates this number is small in the context of a large public service and notes the Commissioner's evidence that the number of complaints has dropped more recently.¹⁶ The Committee was advised that some complaints have been referred to the Integrity Commission, although no details were provided during the hearing.¹⁷

Recommendations

- 5.6 **The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collaborate with the small business sector, particularly hospitality and retail businesses, and international students to fill skills shortages throughout the economy.**
- 5.7 **The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make public a breakdown of outcomes in relation to code of conduct complaints, including greater clarity on the nature of code of conduct complaints and referrals to the Integrity Commissioner.**

¹⁶ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, pp 149-151.

¹⁷ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, pp 153-156.

6 MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND WORKPLACE SAFETY

- 6.1 The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials on 27 October in relation to Output Class 1 in relation to Workforce Injury Management and Industrial Relations, Policy; EBT Class 1 Public Sector Workers Compensation Fund; the Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner (WorkSafe ACT) and ACT Long Service Leave Authority (Statement of Intent).

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 6.2 The following matters were considering during the hearing:
- Workplace Safety as We Enter COVID Normal policy
 - WorkSafe ACT proactive workplace visits
 - Strategy for dealing with psychosocial hazards including education, awareness and supporting compliance
 - The People at Work tool which is free to all persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) in Australia
 - Young Worker's Month (November 2021), Young Workers Centre, the Young Workers Advice Service
 - iAuditor tool for managing risks
 - Measures to address sexual harassment in the workplace
 - ACT Work Safety Council
 - Support available for migrant workers, including the Migrant Resource Centre
 - Lead dust at the Kingston Markets
 - Silica dust regulations and silica-safety
 - ACT hazardous materials policy
 - Labour Hire Licensing Scheme.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 6.3 The Committee noted with interest the considerations underway for returning to the workplace after COVID, and issues around dealing with COVID in the future. The Committee heard evidence that WorkSafe ACT continues to ensure that PCBUs meet their obligations

under the Work Health and Safety Act as restrictions ease in the ACT and notes that there are a range of proactive engagement and activities with different industries.¹⁸

- 6.4 The Committee noted discussion about work-related psychosocial injuries and the measures being taken to address these. This includes a strategy launched on 6 October as part of Safe Work Month, the identification of priority hazards and industries and groups of workers that have been prioritised within the strategy. The Committee heard about the iAuditor tool which will allow information to be provided to PCBU's about the maturity of their risk management systems in relation to psychosocial hazards.¹⁹
- 6.5 Support for migrant workers in the ACT was discussed during the hearing and the Committee noted evidence about the Migrant Resource Centre, a whole of government support for migration into the ACT and skilling migrant workers.²⁰In addition, there are laws designed to protect workers in the ACT, as well as intervention and actions that can be taken as needed,²¹ although details were not provided about these are.

¹⁸ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, pp 173-174.

¹⁹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, pp 174 -176.

²⁰ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, pp 179-180.

²¹ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, p 179.

7 MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 7.1 The Committee heard from the Minister for Economic Development and directorate officials on 25 October in relation to Output Class 3, relating to Business Innovation, Tourism and Events (including Event attraction and Special Events Fund), Sport and Recreation (Elite sporting performance and venue agreements), Venues (venues Canberra infrastructure upgrades only).
- 7.2 The Committee also heard from the Assistant Minister for Economic Development on 29 October in relation to Business and Innovation (functions relating to advanced technologies, creative industries, key industry capability area sector development, science, manufacturing, science, and Screen Canberra) and Tourism and Events (ACT events fund and community events).

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 7.3 The following matters were considered during hearings on 25 and 29 October:
- Small Business Hardship Scheme and Small Business Grants scheme
 - Preparation for business support prior to lockdown
 - Challenges of attracting skills to the ACT
 - Summernats
 - Future Jobs fund
 - Renewable energy projects
 - Cyber hub
 - Sports-related economic development activities
 - Cost of big-ticket events to ratepayers
 - Canberra Innovation Network
 - Action plan for recovery from Events Canberra
 - Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund
 - Local manufacturing
 - 'Amp It Up' program to support small and medium live venues
 - Academy of Interactive Entertainment
 - Screen Canberra
 - Spread of accountability indicators across Chief Minister and Assistant Minister of Economic Development
 - Rejected applications for event funding
 - New events planned for 2022

- Promotion of filming in Canberra
- Specific new events to be run in Canberra in 2022 and how the community wellbeing outcomes of those community events will be measured
- Environmental impacts of events and efforts to transition away from the use of gas and plastics
- Administrative arrangements.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 7.4 The Committee notes the Chief Minister's evidence that projects funded under the Future Jobs Fund were made public via media release.²² The Committee is of the view that retrospective reporting is not an adequate mechanism for reporting on the allocation of public funds and notes that a yearly breakdown of appropriations across the forward estimates would be more transparent.

Recommendations

- 7.5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish future budget allocations for its Future Jobs Fund by year and forward estimates.**

²² *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 25 October 2021, p 119.

8 MINISTER FOR TOURISM

- 8.1 This chapter outlines the key issues considered by the Committee at the Budget estimates hearings with the Minister for Tourism. The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials on 27 October in relation to Output Class 3, Business, and Innovation (aviation industry development), Tourism and Events (including Major Events, Floriade, Enlighten, Innovation Festival).

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 8.2 The following matters were considered during the hearing:
- Visit Canberra ‘More Than’ campaign and redeployment of resources during lockdown
 - Tourism, international and domestic travel
 - Aviation sector during and post-COVID
 - The future of Telstra Tower
 - Cycle Tourism Strategy
 - The COVID Safe Tourism Co-investment Program
 - Major Events Strategy
 - Delivery of events by Events ACT during the pandemic and plans for the 2022 season
 - Major Events Fund.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 8.3 The Committee noted the Minister’s assurance that the ACT Government had been lobbying Telstra to reinvest in Telstra Tower, an iconic Canberra asset. The Committee shares the Minister’s interest in the future of Telstra tower and also looks forward to Telstra “... *making some public announcements in the not-too-distant future.*”²³
- 8.4 The Committee noted that a contract to market for events strategies for Floriade and Enlighten, from 2023 to 2027 was awarded to a Victorian contractor at a cost of \$65,000.²⁴ While the Committee appreciates that in some cases there may be limitations in hiring local firms, it nevertheless encourages the ACT Government to place a greater emphasis on doing so in the future to assist with recovery post-COVID and to grow more sustainable local business over the long term.

²³ Proof Transcript of Evidence, 27 October 2021, p 138.

²⁴ Proof Transcript of Evidence, 27 October 2021, p 141.

- 8.5 In relation to the \$2.5 billion target for total domestic visitor expenditure for the year ending June 2022, the Committee notes officials from Visit Canberra indicated that due to the 2021 ACT lockdown, this goal is no longer attainable²⁵

Recommendations

- 8.6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government monitor the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel and consider reviewing its \$2.5 billion target for total domestic visitor expenditure for the year ending June 2022 as the recovery progresses, and publish any new goal that reflects an ambitious, yet achievable recovery of the domestic and international visitor economy.**

²⁵ *Proof Transcript of Evidence*, 27 October 2021, p 137.

9 MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

- 9.1 This chapter outlines the key issues considered by the Committee at the Budget estimates hearings with the Minister for Arts. The Committee heard from the Minister and directorate officials on 27 October in relation to Output Class 3, including Arts, Cultural Facilities Corporation (Statement of Intent), and Output Class 1.1, Major Projects Canberra.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 9.2 The following matters were considered at the hearing:

- Canberra Theatre Centre upgrade
- Opportunities for the arts community stemming from an upgrade of facilities
- Impact of the pandemic on the work of the Cultural Facilities Corporation
- Kingston Arts Precinct planned works and management body
- Funding for public art for and by women and/or non-binary individuals
- Statement of Ambition
- Funding for Tuggeranong Arts Centre upgrades.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Committee appreciates the significant impact of COVID on the arts sector in the ACT and welcomes all efforts that have been made and are ongoing, to support this sector to recover as quickly as possible. The Committee particularly looks forward to an update at the next estimates hearings, about the progress of work towards the upgrade of Canberra's arts and theatre precincts.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 The Budget estimates process is a vitally important step in scrutinising the ACT Government's proposed spending for our community. Due to the necessary COVID-safe measures in place, the hearings presented logistical and technological challenges at times. The committee acknowledges the additional efforts that were made by staff and witnesses to ensure the hearings proceeded as well as possible under the circumstances.
- 10.2 The Committee notes that each committee was required to hold multiple hearings at different times over the two weeks scheduled for hearings. It also became apparent over the course of the hearings that it was sometimes difficult to know which Minister and officials were responsible for each output. In the Committee's view, this is a suboptimal situation that impedes the efficiency of this process. It is the Committee's view that the ACT Government's Administrative Arrangements are unnecessarily complex, and that it should, as a priority, consider ways to simplify these arrangements for greater clarity and efficiency.
- 10.3 The Committee understands that in coming months, a review will take place of the current Budget Estimates hearings process, which has recently shifted from a select committee model. Members look forward to providing feedback into this review.
- 10.4 Finally, the Committee notes that the Assembly's resolution on 9 November 2021 to shorten the reporting period from 5 December to 12 November 2021 impacted the time allowed to consider evidence received and to draft a report. At the time of drafting, not all information was available, including responses to questions on notice. In future, it would be preferable for committees to be allowed sufficient time to thoroughly scrutinise evidence and draft their reports. This would ensure a more meaningful process in line with community expectation.

Recommendations

- 10.5 The Committee recommends for future Estimates hearings that the ACT Government provide clear, concise, and timely information to Committee Support about Ministerial responsibilities for Budget outputs.**

The Committee made ten recommendations and looks forward to the ACT Government's response to these.

Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Chair

10 November 2021

APPENDIX A – WITNESSES

20 OCTOBER 2021

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)

- Mr David Pryce – Deputy Director-General, **Statutory Office Holder:** Registrar-General – Access Canberra
- Ms Margaret McKinnon – Chief Operating Officer – Access Canberra
- Mr Josh Rynehart – Executive Branch Manager, Fair Trading and Compliance Regulatory Strategy – Access Canberra
- Ms Emily Springett – Executive Branch Manager, Engagement, Compliance and COVID-19 Response – Access Canberra
- Ms Derise Cubin – Executive Branch Manager, **Statutory Office Holder:** ACT Commissioner for Fair Trading, Controlled Sports Registrar, Licensing and Registrations – Access Canberra
- Ms Yu-Lan Chan – Executive Branch Manager, **Statutory Office Holder:** Chief Executive Officer, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission – Access Canberra
- Ms Jo Verden – Executive Branch Manager, Customer Coordination – Access Canberra
- Mr Nick Lhuede – Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection – Access Canberra
- Mr Daniel Ng – A/g Executive Branch Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs – Access Canberra

CMTEDD / Output Class 3: Economic Development

3.1 Business and Innovation (business advocacy and development, small business functions)

- Ms Kareena Arthy – Deputy Director-General, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Kate Starick – Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Jenny Priest – Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Anita Perkins – Executive Group Manager, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Guy Bromley – A/g Senior Director, Business and Innovation / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Sean Kelly – A/g Senior Director, Business and Innovation / Economic Development – CMTEDD

Business and Better Regulation

Output Class 1: Government Strategy

1.1 Government Policy and Reform

- Mr Sam Engele – Co-ordinator-General, Climate Action and Head of the Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy and Cabinet – CMTEDD
- Mr David Clapham – Executive Branch Manager, Economic and Regional Policy, Policy and Cabinet – CMTEDD
- Mr Ken Marshall – EGM – City Services – TCCS

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Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)

- Mr Stephen Miners – A/g Under Treasurer – Treasury – CMTEDD
- Ms Sue Vroombout – A/g Deputy Under Treasurer – Treasury – CMTEDD
- Ms Bettina Konti – Deputy Director-General and Chief Digital Officer, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions – CMTEDD
- Mr Antony Stinziani – Executive Group Manager, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions – CMTEDD
- Ms Penny Shields – General Manager, ACT Insurance Authority – CMTEDD
- Mr Kim Salisbury – A/g MAI Commissioner, A/g LTCS Commissioner – CMTEDD
- Ms Nicola Clark – A/g Executive Branch Manager, Insurance Branch (MAI Commission, LTCS Commission) – CMTEDD
- Mr Graham Tanton – Executive Group Manager, Shared Services and Property – CMTEDD
- Mr John Nakkan – Executive Branch Manager, ACT Property Group – CMTEDD
- Mr Calvin Robinson – Executive Branch Manager, Finance Services, Shared Services – CMTEDD
- Mr Ben Naughton – Executive Branch Manager, Government Accommodation Projects – CMTEDD
- Mr Ross Burton – Executive Branch Manager, Finance, Budgets, and Assurance – CMTEDD
- Mr Glenn Bain – Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT – CMTEDD
- Ms Sanaz Merzibegian – Executive Branch Manager, Procurement Policy and Capability Branch, Procurement ACT – CMTEDD
- Mr Dave Purser – Executive Branch Manager, Goods and Services Procurement Branch, Procurement ACT – CMTEDD
- Ms Dani Wickman – Executive Branch Manager and Director, Territory Records Office – CMTEDD
- Ms Kareena Arthy – Deputy Director-General, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Daniel Bailey – Executive Group Manager, Operations / Economic Development – CMTEDD

- Mr Matthew Elkins – Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Scott Saddler – Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park / Economic Development – CMTEDD

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Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)

- Ms Kathy Leigh – Head of Service, Director-General, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – CMTEDD
- Mr Brendan Smyth – Commissioner for International Engagement and COVID-19 Local Business Commissioner, Office of International Engagement – CMTEDD
- Ms Leesa Croke – Coordinator-General, Whole-of-Government (Non-Health) COVID-19 Response, Policy and Cabinet – CMTEDD
- Ms Stacey Matthews – Executive Branch Manager – Office of the Coordinator-General, Whole-of-Government (Non-Health) COVID-19 Response – Policy and Cabinet – CMTEDD

CMTEDD / Output Class 3: Economic Development

Business Innovation

Tourism and Events (including Event attraction and Special Events Fund)

Sport and Recreation (Elite sporting performance and venue agreements)

Venues (venues Canberra infrastructure upgrades only; remainder of this output sits with Minister Steel)

- Ms Kareena Arthy – Deputy Director-General, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Daniel Bailey – Executive Group Manager, Operations / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Kate Starick – Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Anita Perkins – Executive Group Manager, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Jenny Priest – Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Jonathan Kobus – Executive Branch Manager, VisitCanberra / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Rebecca Kelley – Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Matthew Elkins – Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Scott Saddler – Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park / Economic Development – CMTEDD

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CMTEDD / Output Class 3: Economic Development

3.1 Business Innovation (aviation industry development)

3.2 Tourism and Events (including Major Events, Floriade, Enlighten, Innovation Festival)

- Ms Kareena Arthy – Deputy Director-General, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Daniel Bailey – Executive Group Manager, Operations / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Jonathan Kobus – Executive Branch Manager, VisitCanberra / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Ross Triffitt – Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT / Economic Development – CMTEDD

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)

(15:00 – 15:45 session)

- Ms Kathy Leigh – Head of Service, Director-General, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – CMTEDD
- Mr Ian McPhee – ACT Public Sector Standards Commissioner – CMTEDD
- Dr Damian West – Deputy Director-General, Workforce Capability and Governance – CMTEDD
- Mr Robert Wright – Executive Group Manager, Corporate – CMTEDD
- Ms Christina Thompson – Executive Branch Manager, Public Sector Standards Unit Workforce Capability and Governance – CMTEDD
- Mr David Morgan – Acting Chief Finance Officer, Strategic Finance – CMTEDD

(15:55 – 16:55 session)

- Ms Kathy Leigh – Head of Service, Director-General, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – CMTEDD
- Ms Leesa Croke – Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet – CMTEDD
- Dr Damian West – Deputy Director-General, Workforce Capability and Governance / Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations – CMTEDD
- Ms Wilhelmina Blount – Executive Group Manager, Policy and Cabinet – CMTEDD
- Mr Robert Wright – Executive Group Manager, Corporate – CMTEDD
- Mr Russell Noud – Executive Group Manager, Industrial Relations and Public Sector Management (WCAG) – CMTEDD
- Mr Michael Young – Executive Group Manager, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations (WSIR) – CMTEDD
- Ms Trish Johnston – Executive Group Manager, Communications and Engagement – CMTEDD
- Mr David Morgan – Acting Chief Finance Officer, Strategic Finance – CMTEDD

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

WorkSafe ACT

Long Service Leave Authority

- Dr Damian West – Deputy Director-General, Workforce Capability and Governance – CMTEDD
- Mr Michael Young – Executive Group Manager, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations (WSIR) – CMTEDD
- Mr Russell Noud – Executive Group Manager, WhoG Industrial Relations and Public Sector Employment – CMTEDD
- Ms Jacqueline Agius – Commissioner, Work Health and Safety – WorkSafe ACT
- Ms Amanda Grey – Deputy Commissioner, Work Health and Safety – WorkSafe ACT
- Ms Tracy Savage – Chief Executive Officer – ACT Long Service Leave Authority
- Mr Robert Wright – Executive Group Manager, Corporate – CMTEDD
- Ms Catherine Shih – Chief Financial Officer – ACT Long Service Leave Authority

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CMTEDD / Output Class 3: Economic Development

3.4 Arts

Cultural Facilities Corporation (Statement of Intent)

Output 1.1 Major Projects Canberra

- Ms Kareena Arthy – Deputy Director-General, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Kate Starick – Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Harriet Elvin – Chief Executive Office – Cultural Facilities Corporation
- Mr Morgan Campbell – A/g Executive Branch Manager, artsACT / Economic Development – CMTESS
- Mr Ian Tidy – Chief Finance Officer – Cultural Facilities Corporation
- Mr Duncan Edghill – Chief Projects Officer – Major Projects Canberra
- Ms Sophie Gray – Project Director, Canberra Theatre Redevelopment Project – Major Projects Canberra

CMTEDD / Output Class 3: Economic Development

3.1 Business Innovation (functions relating to advanced technologies, creative industries, key industry capability area sector development, science, manufacturing, science and Screen Canberra)

3.2 Tourism and Events (ACT events fund and community events)

- Ms Kareena Arthy – Deputy Director-General, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Kate Starick – Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Daniel Bailey – Executive Group Manager – Operations / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Jenny Priest – Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Anita Perkins – Executive Group Manager, Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Jonathan Kobus – Executive Branch Manager, VisitCanberra / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Ross Triffitt – Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Ms Maisi Ahuja – Senior Director, Events ACT / Economic Development – CMTEDD
- Mr Guy Bromley – Senior Director, Business and Innovation / Economic Development – CMTEDD

APPENDIX B – QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE/ QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions Taken on Notice 20 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
1	20.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD	The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses in the ACT	01.11.21
2	20.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD	The number of workshops held with business sectors	01.11.21
3	20.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD	The number of individual engagements with local business people that have taken place	04.11.21
4	20.10.21	Cain	Access Canberra	The format of the survey on page 15 of budget statements B	
5	20.10.21	Cain	Access Canberra	Breakdown of survey responses: industry and citizens	
6	20.10.21	Davis	Access Canberra	Previous cost of working with vulnerable people card	05.11.21
7	20.10.21	Parton	Access Canberra	Complaint resolution rate for complaints about building defects	
8	20.10.21	Cain	Access Canberra	Current and estimated cost of new Fix My Street system	

Questions Taken on Notice 22 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
9	22.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD	The top 20 vendors, by value of receipts, from government procurements	05.11.21
10	22.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD	Question has two parts: Media value of 70 procurements; and number of procurements that were repeat purchases	05.11.21
11	22.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD	Release of Deloitte FOI review	07.11.21

Questions Taken on Notice 25 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
12	25.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD (Economic Development)	The administration costs for the business hardship scheme	08.11.21
13	25.10.21	Lee	CMTEDD (Economic Development)	Question has a number of parts: information about establishment and status and expenditure for Business Events Fund	08.11.21

Questions Taken on Notice 27 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
14	27.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD (Events ACT/Economic Development)	The value of the contract with Silver Lining Strategies	08.11.21

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
15	27.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD (ACT Executive)	From 2001 until now, how much has been spent by CMTEDD on ministerial office upgrades?	
16	27.10.21	Davis	CMTEDD (ACT Executive)	Question has two parts: how many members of executive have capped out their TOIL; how is their overtime recorded?	
17	27.10.21	Lee	CMTEDD (PSSC)	Of the 98 complaints, do you have a breakdown of the outcome of those complaints?	
18	27.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD (Government Policy and Reform)	This question has numerous parts: Re CERAG, membership	08.11.21
19	27.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD (Workforce Capability and Governance)	Statistics relating to businesses that have been audited, received their certificates, and received work or won government jobs	09.11.21
20	27.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD (Coordinated Communications and Community Engagement)	This question has two parts: Breakdown of this year's budget appropriation for total communications during COVID-19 for ACT Health; CMTEDD?	

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
21	27.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD (Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety)	This question relating to COVID compliance inspections and audits has a number of parts	
22	27.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD (Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety)	ACT Work Safety Council – remuneration for the chair, including daily rate	09.11.21
23	27.10.21	Orr	CMTEDD (Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety)	Labour Hire Licencing Scheme – Sectors/industries – how the ACT differs to other jurisdictions	
24	27.10.21	Davis	CMTEDD (Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety)	Silica dust/risks – mitigating health risks related to proposed quarry over the border	08.11.21
25	27.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD (ACT Executive)	This question has a number of parts: Breakdown of this year's budget appropriation for total communications during COVID-19 for Chief Minister; and each cabinet minister?	08.11.21

Questions Taken on Notice 29 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
26	29.10.21	Lawder	CMTEDD (Arts)	This question has a number of parts: confidentiality agreements for some government funded art groups in Kingston Arts Centre Project	08.11.21
27	29.10.21	Lawder	CMTEDD (Arts)	Budget for upgrading Tuggeranong Arts Centre (health and safety issues)	05.11.21
28	29.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD (Economic Development)	Legislated targets for transition from gas to electricity	08.11.21

Questions on Notice 20 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
1	20.10.21	Cain	Business and Better Regulation	Access Canberra	04.11.21
2	20.10.21	Parton	Business and Better Regulation	Access Canberra	05.11.21
3	20.10.21	Parton	Business and Better Regulation	Gambling and Racing Commission	02.11.21
4	20.10.21	Davis	Business and Better Regulation	Wellbeing Indicators	03.11.21
5	20.10.21	Davis	TCCS	Racing Regulation	04.11.21

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
6	20.10.21	Davis	Business and Better Regulation	Gambling and Racing Commission	02.11.21
7	20.10.21	Davis	Business and Better Regulation	Central Monitoring Systems	05.11.21
8	20.10.21	Clay	Business and Better Regulation	Business and Better Regulation	

Questions on Notice 22 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
9	22.10.21	Cain	Special Minister of State	Budget Statements B 2021–22	04.11.21
10	22.10.21	Davis	Special Minister of State	Central Allocation of Project Funds	
11	22.10.21	Davis	Special Minister of State	EPIC	04.11.21

Questions on Notice 25 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
12	25.10.21	Davis	CMTEDD	Tourism and Hospitality	
13	25.10.21	Davis	CMTEDD	Arboretum Paving	04.11.21
14	25.10.21	Davis	CMTEDD	Gender Economy	09.11.21
15	25.10.21	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Home of Dragon Boat Racing (venue)	

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
16	25.10.21	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Gungahlin Tennis Centre	
17	25.10.21	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Home of Football Throsby	
18	25.10.21	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Indoor Sports Facilities	
19	25.10.21	Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Women's Elite Sport	

Questions on Notice 27 October 2021

No.	Hearing date	Asked by	Directorate/ Portfolio	Subject	Answer date
20	27.10.21	Cain	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Work Health and Safety	09.11.21
21	27.10.21	Clay	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Gender Impact	08.11.21
22	27.10.21	Cain	CMTEDD – Chief Minister	Workforce Capability and Governance	09.11.21
23	27.10.21	Clay	CMTEDD – Chief Minister	Gender Impact	08.11.21
24	27.10.21	Chair/Castley	CMTEDD – Treasurer	Monitoring program for small businesses	
25	27.10.21	Pettersson	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	WorkSafe ACT – ATSI	04.11.21

