



Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

Redirected to:

In relation to: ACT public service and Incoming Government Brief letter

Hearing: 2/10/2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 5

Transcript provided: 8/10/2025

Answer Due: 15/10/2025

ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

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MS CASTLEY: Yes, I just have a question about that. I do not believe Ms Lee—I think she acknowledged that, you know, we obviously had not gotten the numbers, but at that point the Brindabella electorate had not been decided. I am just wondering how the head of service was in a position to judge the outcome of the election or to possibly even judge the outcome of whether there were any conversations between the Greens and the liberals and yet, you have got the documents.

Mr Barr: Sure. Well, look, I—yes, look, I cannot answer for the head of service in that regard. Perhaps in her absence we will take that on notice, and she can provide an answer as to her understanding. I mean, I imagine documents would have been prepared in advance. There were really only going to be three options, I guess. I am not sure that there was an incoming chief ministerial brief for the leader of the Greens.

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

The letter from the Head of Service to me was signed on 19 October 2024 after public 'concession' and 'victory' speeches were broadcast on media channels. This information included the concession speech made by the Leader of the ACT Liberals broadcast widely on media at 9:30pm. Media reporting also included statements from the ABC's chief election analyst Antony Green that there was 'no viable path for the Canberra Liberals... to form government'.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-19/act-election-vote-labor-wins/104493488>.

The letter along with the Chief Minister Incoming Government Brief was received by the Chief Minister's Office staff on 21 October 2024.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

Signature: 

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA

Date: 15.10.25