



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**QON No. 23**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**  
**JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), DEEPAK-RAJ GUPTA MLA, MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA**

**Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by James Milligan MLA -

Ref: CMTEDD Annual Report, Output 3.1, Innovation, Trade and Investment

In relation to: Space Industry Sector

1. Has there been any investment in the ACT space industry sector as a result of the work being done in that space?
  - a. Was there any tangible benefit to the local space industry as a result of the Aerospace Futures conference that was held in Canberra in July 2018?
  - b. Has there been any investment in Canberra's space industry as a result of the 2019 Avalon Show?
    - i. If so, what specific investment has there been?
2. What is the expected benefit to be gained from the signing of the MoU between the ACT Government and the Australian Space Agency?

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Canberra is already home to local companies such as EOS Space Systems, Geoplex and Geospatial Intelligence, along with significant space research organisations such as GeoScience Australia, CSIRO, the Space Environment Research Centre and the Deep Space Communications Complex. In addition to this, Canberra has attracted investment from multinational companies with major space capabilities such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Airbus Defence and Space. Almost twenty-five percent of the Australian space workforce is in Canberra.

Over the last four years, the ACT Government provided national leadership in the development of the national space industry, which led to the establishment of the Australian Space Agency. With the Australian space industry expected to grow 7 per cent over the next five years, increasing from around 10,000 to 30,000 jobs, it is anticipated that Canberra will see further investments being made in the local space industry.

Investment decision making for businesses is a highly complex strategic decision that is lengthy and complicated. There are a range of factors that potential investors need to consider prior to making a final decision which can often take several years.



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Recent investments into Canberra's space industry include:

- The signing of a new NASA-Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex space tracking treaty with the USA which will run to 2043 and is worth approximately \$375 million to the Canberra economy over that period.
- In June 2018, CSIRO invested in the establishment of a Centre for Earth Observation at Black Mountain, this centre is a hub for national and international Earth Observation activities.

The ACT Government has worked closely with Canberra's Tertiary Education and Research sector to support the development of Canberra's competitiveness in Australia's space sector. In October 2018, ANU established the Institute for Space (Inspace), which has a multi-million-dollar fund to co-invest in transformative space-related projects which brings together researchers from a diverse range of disciplines and industry. ANU Inspace has a focus on spin-offs and start-ups. In 2016, UNSW Canberra announced it has made a \$10 million strategic investment to build a domestic space program, which includes over 40 space engineers and scientists.

- a) The benefit of hosting the Aerospace Futures conference in Canberra was the ability to showcase the breadth and depth of Canberra's space industry and capabilities to many young aerospace professionals from across Australia and New Zealand; and provide an opportunity for Canberra space businesses to connect, network and attract young professionals to work in Canberra.
  - b) The activities associated with events such as Pacific and the Avalon Air Show are focused on investment attraction and involve creating, enhancing and maintaining a positive awareness of Canberra and communicating relevant messages. It is difficult to attribute a causal relationship between these activities and an investment outcome.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACT Government and the Australian Space Agency is intended to be a guiding framework to encourage further cooperation and facilitation of information in areas of mutual interest, with the expected benefit to grow the size, scope and investment of the local and national space industry capability.

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

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Yvette Berry", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Date: 22/11/19

By the Acting Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment, Yvette Berry MLA