



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021 ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 22 February 2022

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA on 22 February 2022: ANDREW BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 22 FEBRUARY 2022 [PAGE 15]]

In relation to: Canberra Region Economic Development Strategy

THE CHAIR: Thank you. My question is about intergovernmental relations and engagement with capital cities in the Canberra region. It is my understanding that the ACT government, Canberra region joined organisation MOU, was due to be reviewed late last year. I am just wondering if that has been done.

Mr Barr: I think there has been some delays in relation to finalising that because of the delays in the New South Wales local government elections that were delayed because of COVID. Those elections have now taken place and there are, as I understand, entirely new councils and membership and mayor associated with the Canberra region joint organisation. I understand they are meeting for the first time this week, or early next, and so I think there will be a process then to be able to finalise those agreements once those councils and the joint organisation had an opportunity to form and meet.

THE CHAIR: Since it has not met, what effect has this had on our priorities for the Canberra region?

Mr Barr: Absolutely none because the existing agreements will continue.

THE CHAIR: Has the Canberra Regional Economic Development Strategy been finalised, and if not, can you please provide that to the committee? When can we expect to see that information?

Mr Barr: Sorry, which strategy are you referring to?

THE CHAIR: The Canberra Regional Economic Development Strategy?

Mr Barr: Okay. The requirement would involve New South Wales and those ...(indistinct)... [10.10.54] would need, obviously, their agreement in relation to its finalisation. I will make it available as soon as I am ...(indistinct)... [10.11.01].

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

The Canberra Region Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) is not yet finalised. While completion was originally anticipated in 2020-21, COVID delayed progress on the CREDS, particularly as the

resources of the NSW Cross-Border Commissioner's Office were significantly involved in issues relating to border closures throughout 2020 and 2021.

The strategy will be made public after endorsement by the ACT, New South Wales, and proximate regional councils as represented by the Canberra Region Joint Organisation. Publication is expected by mid-2022.

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

Signature: 

Date: 28 .2. 22

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA