



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 ON NOTICE

Asked by LEANNE CASTLEY MLA:

Ref: Communication and Community Engagement, CMTEDD 1.3, Community engagement and support page 145

In relation to: Night-time economy and entertainment sector

In April 2021 the directorate held a workshop “to uncover regulatory barriers facing the night-time economy and entertainment sectors.”

The Annual Report identifies the “core issues” as licensing, noise management and development applications which it states “were identified through previous consultation processes and have been well known for several years.”

Questions:

1. Given these core issues have been “well known for several years”, why haven’t they been dealt with?
2. What is the point of a yet another workshop to “uncover regulatory barriers” facing the sector, when they are barriers that the Annual Report revealed to have been identified “through previous consultation processes” and “have been well-known for several years?”
3. How much did this workshop cost and how many FTE staff were employed on the workshop?
4. How much did the previous consultations cost and why was a workshop set up after the results of the consultation process?
5. How many recommendations has your government implemented from both the consultation process and workshop to improve the core issues of the nighttime economy? Provide a breakdown of actions taken and when they were implemented.

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

1. The core issues facing this industry are continually being addressed and dealt with across ACT Government. Through a range of government commitments and action including through the *Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly* (PAGA) the ACT Government has outlined a commitment to a vibrant Canberra with a strong creative industry.
2. The night-time economy workshop held on 30 April 2021 by the Better Regulation Taskforce with businesses representing the night-time economy/entertainment sector.

The focus of the Taskforce's discovery phase workshop was to look at the whole system, not just the component parts. The workshop provided an opportunity to have all the stakeholders in a room, each with their own experiences, interests, and perspectives, to think about an ideal future state for the entire sector. While the issues have been known to us, the workshop provided for competing stakeholder interests to be articulated and discussed. Previous consultation in this area and consideration of issues were conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID not only exacerbated existing issues, but raised new ones, particularly in this industry which was hard hit. Conducting this workshop enabled a better understanding of the ongoing impacts and opportunities for Government and regulators to utilise innovative approaches to best support business compliance.

3. The Better Regulation Taskforce procured specialist capabilities from Nous Group for engagement planning, facilitation of three workshops and the provision of insights reports for each workshop at a total cost of \$61,105 (GST inclusive).

The workshop was planned and facilitated by Nous Group. ACT Government officials with responsibility for policy and regulation of this sector also attended with members of the Better Regulation Taskforce.

The ACT Government provided catering for external attendees at the workshop at a cost of \$435 (GST inclusive).

4. The Taskforce was established in February 2021 in response to COVID-19. The Taskforce did not hold or attend previous consultations about the night-time and entertainment economy. This facilitated workshop was focused on the night-time economy and entertainment sector as this was identified as a sector that had been particularly hard hit by COVID.
5. As outlined in response one, the ACT Government continues to respond to core issues. The ACT Government established the Taskforce to support economic recovery and long term growth. The insights from the workshop have been captured and analysed by the Taskforce. The Discovery Phase Report will detail the ACT Government's forward work program taking into account and responding to the findings throughout the Discovery Phase.

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

Signature: 

Date: 17. 3. 22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA