



Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR SHANE RATTENBURY MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

In relation to:

Hearing: 2/10/2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p. 6

Transcript provided: 8/10/2025

Answer Due: 15/10/2025

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

UPT p.6

THE CHAIR: I think I am just ruminating on why the head of service felt the need—

and clearly in her absence we are not going to be able to canvass this, why she felt the need to send such a letter on election night.

Mr Barr: Sure. We will seek an explanation in that regard.

OFFICIAL

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 was not sent to me on election night. 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: 

Date: 15.10.25

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA