



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Economic Development

Reference: CMTEDD EcoDev

Hearing: 21/11/2025

In relation to: Economic development - town centres

Question received: 25/11/2025

Answer Due: 08/12/2025

Chief Minister

What are the governance arrangements for the economic development of the town centres, including commercial areas, jobs, innovation, events, the arts, sports and recreation and active public spaces.

- Who is responsible for fostering the economic development of the town centres?
- Who is responsible for the public facilities that attract people to the town centres to support local businesses?
- Who is responsible for ensuring events and activation activities take place in the town centres?
- Who is responsible for community development in the town centres?

Thank you

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The *Administrative Arrangements 2025 (No 1)* set out the responsibilities of each ministerial portfolio.

The City and Environment Directorate (CED) is responsible for town centre planning and development, which is guided by the ACT's planning system, including the *Planning Act 2023*, the *Territory Plan 2023*, the *ACT Planning Strategy 2018* and the *District Strategies 2023*.

These instruments establish the long-term vision for growth and land use across Canberra's districts and inform decisions on housing, transport, employment, and community facilities, ensuring town centres evolve as commercial and social hubs that meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Strategic land use planning decisions also influence activation activities such as street activation, public art, and the use of unleased Territory land for temporary purposes like events and outdoor dining.

CED also manages public infrastructure and spaces including town squares, parks, libraries, cultural venues, and recreational facilities. As part of this role, CED ensures town centre public spaces are maintained and enhanced to attract people, support local businesses and encourage community use.

The Health and Community Services Directorate supports the community development of town centres by working on social inclusion, community engagement, and social programs that strengthen local communities.

Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) supports the development of town centres through the delivery of major infrastructure projects ranging from community, recreation, and TAFE facilities to transport initiatives such as public transport interchanges.

Economic Development, within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) oversees economic development initiatives across the Territory that span investment attraction, events, venues, tourism, arts, sport and recreation and business development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature: 

Date: **8.12.25**

By the Minister for Economic Development, Andrew Barr MLA