



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Economics,
Industry and Recreation

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Canberra's Night-Time Economy

Submission number: 019

Submitter: Such and Such

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From: [Ross McQuinn](#)
To: [LA Committee - Economics](#)
Subject: Night Time Economy Enquiry
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2026 2:00:04 PM

Hi team,

I hope you're well. I ran into Minister Emerson today and he reminded me about to Night Time Economy Inquiry submission and said to send an email through if I had anything, even if it was after the submission date, which it unfortunately is. I'm sorry about that - I've been caught up, but I thought I'd send through a quick email highlighting some of my thoughts if that was ok.

I think one of the biggest issues is the perceived difficulty and undesirability of walking from little pocket of activity to little pocket of activity. For example, Constitution Place is a great little precinct, but to get from there to the Sydney and Melbourne building either requires walking down streets of uneven footpaths, abandoned buildings, and poor lighting, or through Civic Walk, which just isn't the most pleasant and activated area, particularly at night.

Speaking of the abandoned buildings, to me, that is the single biggest issue that is facing the night time economy. There are plenty of unused spaces that could be utilised in creative and fun ways, but rents are absurdly high for a city of Canberra's size. Currently I can find sites in Surry Hills or Brunswick for cheaper than on Lonsdale street. And if they can afford to keep it empty, landlords have no incentive to fill them, as the expected (or past) rental income provides the valuation. Which means in a situation like now, where times are tough, rather than dropping rents as a response to market forces, we deal with empty spaces. I believe I spoke about this in our meeting, however, this is something I continue to be shocked that we don't do anything about as a country.

There have definitely been other issues, but these are the biggest things that immediately come to mind when I consider the night time economy.

Thank you,

Ross

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We are operating on stolen land. We would like to acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people as the original custodians of the land on which we live and work. We wish to acknowledge their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future.