



ACT
Government

**CITY
RENEWAL
AUTHORITY**

20 May 2026

Committee Secretary
Legislative Assembly Inquiry into the Night-Time Economy
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Clarification of evidence regarding City Renewal Authority place-based audit

I write to provide clarification in relation to statements made by Mr Dave Caffery in evidence to the Inquiry concerning a place-based audit commissioned by the City Renewal Authority.

Several aspects of Mr Caffery's description of this work, undertaken by his company Dionysus under contract with the City Renewal Authority, were not accurate and require correction.

First, Mr Caffery referred to the use of an "undercover" security guard who "assimilated" with members of the public. This does not reflect what actually occurred. The audit involved trained personnel who conducted observational monitoring of public spaces to identify safety, security and operational issues. These observations were non-interventional and did not involve engagement or assimilation with members of the public.

Second, Mr Caffery indicated that reports arising from this work were provided to ACT Government ministers. This is incorrect. No briefings or reports relating to the audit were provided to ministers before he made this statement. The work was operational research intended to inform City Renewal's planning and delivery of place-based initiatives.

For completeness, I note that the audit was commissioned to better understand the impacts of anti-social behaviour on public events and city spaces, and to support improved safety. City Renewal has sought and received clarification from Dionysus staff who worked on the project as to the methodology applied, and I am confident that any methods described as "undercover" or involving integration with members of the public did not occur.

The City Renewal Authority remains committed to transparency and the protection of community trust. In line with this commitment, the report from the audit will be published to our website on Friday 22 May 2026: act.gov.au/cityrenewal/blog

I trust this clarification assists the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Gillman, CEO
City Renewal Authority

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