



# Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

Redirected to:

In relation to: ACT public service and Incoming Government Brief email

Hearing: 2/10/2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 6-8

Transcript provided: 08/10/2025

Answer Due: 15/10/2025

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

UPT pp 6-8

**MS CASTLEY:** And again I suppose just wondering how this person emailing your office believed you were the incoming government.

**Mr Barr:** I think by that stage—I will have to check the—what degree of public commentary there was. But certainly there were some public statements made in the —most I was not commenting extensively at that time other than that negotiations were ongoing, but there may have been some public commentary that they may have relied on in that regard, but again, I will need to check with that individual as to what took—

**MS CASTLEY:** Yes, I would just like to understand what the legal basis for that decision was because we are technically in caretaker whether we have all assumed your chief minister or not—

**Mr Barr:** Sure.

**MS CASTLEY:** —there is a question about why you received those documents when you did, and was it premature to provide this brief to you, given that at this time you did not actually have the majority? We were still in a position of flux, I would say.

OFFICIAL

You had not been re-elected as Chief Minister.

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 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: 

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA

Date: **15.10.25**