

26 May 2026

Committee Chair
C/O Committee Secretary
Legislative Assembly Inquiry into the Night-Time Economy
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Committee Chair

I wish to clarify some points made in my appearance on 12 May.

Generally:

- My comments were intended to emphasise the importance of a role to manage and activate the NTE at a sufficient level, under the appropriate minister/s. Having a Night-Time Economy Minister is a wonderful development, and my points should be read as supportive to empower that role with the right resources.
- I raised two headline datasets – a Place Audit and an Ingenium NTE Report – to demonstrate the level of the Night-Time Manager role required and wish to make clarifications around both.

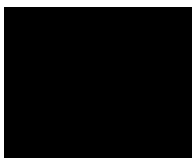
On the City Renewal Authority's place audit:

- Some comments did not accurately represent the methodology of the place audit. I have since consulted the researchers that undertook the work and I want to clarify my description of the work done by the auditor, who also happened to be a security guard:
 - Rather than 'assimilate', I should have said the place audit methodology was non-participant observation, and the auditor was at no point required to 'mingle' with groups.
 - Rather than 'undercover', I should have said the guard was wearing plain clothes because (i) he was not employed to undertake security work in this role but is trained to work in unsafe scenarios, and (ii) to mitigate risks to safety.
- I interpret the report as relevant because it shows that drinking alcohol in public places, often beside 'no public drinking' signs, is a common denominator of many anti-social experiences in the city and provides the government pathways for management towards a safer NTE.
- I assumed that the Minister of Police had been notified of the place audit, and I have since learnt that it was an erroneous assumption.

On the Ingenium report:

- This data suggests mixed lessons for the ACT – some positive but others negative – due to a reliance on LGA boundaries. The report shows the complexity of the data that currently exists on ACT's NTE and that more work is needed in this space.

Thank you for your time



David Caffery

