



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Bec Cody MLA,
Alistair Coe MLA

**Public Hearing: Inquiry into Review of Auditor-General's Report No 7 of 2016: Certain Land
Development Agency Acquisitions**

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

Asked by Mr Coe:

In relation to: Board Agendas and Minutes

MR COE: Were you, and by saying "you" I also include your office, sent board agendas or minutes?

MR BARR: I do not believe so.

MR COE: Are you able to check that?

MR BARR: I can check that.

MR BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Neither me, nor my Office, received LDA Board agendas and minutes.

My office received briefings, through formal minutes and weekly updates, in relation to LDA business activities. This included advice about upcoming land releases, the result of land sales and project updates. Briefings were also provided in the lead up to Assembly Sitings, Committee Hearings and through Budget and annual reporting.



Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 28.11.17

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA



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**Public Hearing: Inquiry into Review of Auditor-General's Report No 7 of 2016: Certain Land
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ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Wednesday, 27 September 2017**



Asked by Mrs Dunne:

In relation to: Why lease for land at Glebe Park was not simply resumed by the ACT Government

THE CHAIR: I was not actually talking about compulsory acquisition; I was talking about reacquisition of leases because of failure to comply with the lease conditions, which is somewhat different.

MR BARR: It is still a legal process.

THE CHAIR: It is still a legal process, but it is not the same. It does not have the same public good tests as compulsory acquisition. Was reacquisition of the lease considered because of the failure to comply with the lease conditions?

MR BARR: I will need to check the record on that.

MR BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

I am advised that the planning and land authority did not consider resuming the land.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
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Asked by Mrs Dunne:

In relation to: Casino taking over the convention centre

THE CHAIR: For the record, chapter 2 of the report is "Purchase of block 24 section 65 city, land adjacent to Glebe Park".

Mr Barr: But I can assure the committee that the government has taken no decisions in relation to giving the casino rights to block 24 section 65.

MR COE: But at the time you were aware that the casino was interested in this block?

Mr Barr: I understand that when they released their initial proposal they were interested in taking over the convention centre, together with land adjacent to it, yes. But the government determined not to support that particular element of their proposal.

THE CHAIR: When?

Mr Barr: Again, I would need to check the time on that. Cabinet has had a number of discussions in relation to the unsolicited proposal. We made public our position in relation to that, particularly in relation to the land surrounding the convention centre, so the land that is owned by the government surrounding their lease.

Chief Minister: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In May 2016 the Director-General Economic Development advised Aquis Entertainment that consideration of its unsolicited proposal would not include the National Convention Centre.

For clarity, the ACT Government has not allocated any rights to Block 24 Section 65.

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