



Inquiry into Caretaker Conventions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR SHANE RATTENBURY MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

In relation to: Post-election information sharing

Hearing: 11 June 2025

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Transcript provided: 17/06/2025

Answer Due: 25/06/2025

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

THE CHAIR: One last question in this thread. I guess based on your experience of recent years, Ms Leigh, do you have any views on how the conventions might be amended to accommodate the scenario of multi-party governments? Given the history of the Assembly, obviously my own particular views on this aside, we have got a long history of not majority governments, just the one.

We are going to seemingly invariably end up in circumstances where there are a range of parties or groups, individuals, trying to work it out. And invariably, one party probably has a far better access to information than the others in that context. So how might the Caretaker Conventions or the processes of information sharing out of post-election period better address that?

Ms Leigh: That is a very complex question, and I do not think it is one I should answer off the top of my head.

THE CHAIR: Do you want to take it on notice and reflect later to the committee, or

Ms Leigh: I am happy to take it on notice. I am not sure to what extent I will be able to assist you, but I am happy to reflect on that.

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The 2024 Guidance on Caretaker Conventions highlights that special operating arrangements apply in the period immediately before and after an election, known as the 'caretaker period'.

This guidance material assists ministers, their staff and the public service to adjust their working style during the caretaker period to ensure that whilst the community continues to receive uninterrupted access to services, the government avoids making major policy decisions that are likely to commit an incoming government, avoids making significant appointments and avoids entering into major contracts or undertakings.

OFFICIAL

The *Financial Management Act 1996* and the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012* both provide legislated mechanisms for candidates in a Territory election to receive information of a kind not relevant to the principles that underpin the caretaker conventions.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Caretaker Conventions

Signature: 

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA

Date: 24.6.25