



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Chief Minister

Reference: iCBR

Hearing: 18/11/2025

In relation to: Lyric Theatre and Funding

Question received: 21/11/2025

Answer Due: 03/12/2025

1. How much funding did the ACT Government ask the Commonwealth Government to contribute to the Lyric Theatre Development?
2. What reasons did the Commonwealth Government provide when they rejected the ACT's joint funding request?

Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government included the Canberra Theatre redevelopment as a project for 2024-25 Federal Budget consideration under the National Capital Investment Framework. The ACT proposed a Commonwealth contribution of \$150 million. A formal response was not provided. However, since then work has continued on the National Capital Investment Framework, including to develop a forthcoming Federation Funding Agreement to support the Commonwealth's investment in the Canberra Convention Centre and new aquatic centre.

The ACT Government has also engaged with Infrastructure Australia (IA) to propose the inclusion of the new Canberra Lyric Theatre and the Canberra Civic and Cultural District on the Infrastructure Priority List. In early 2025, IA advised the ACT Government that "the proposal is not eligible for evaluation at this time, as it does not fall within IA's remit".

In order to be eligible, the project must "*form part of a broader infrastructure development proposal that includes integrated investments in other infrastructure (such as land transport)*", noting that the primary precinct investment must align with IA's nationally significant infrastructure investment streams (transport, energy, communications and water).

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Whilst the ACT Government engaged with IA on this submission, no formal funding request for Commonwealth funding was made in connection with the submission.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation

Signature: 

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr

Date: **4.12.25**