



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

### Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 5 November 2018

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Asked by MR HANSON MLA:

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Well, I might kick off with a question in that area then. What has the commissioner and the Office of International Engagement been up to? Where have they been and what are the outcomes?

Mr Barr: Well, the commissioner has supported various trade missions over the annual reporting period. He has also been involved with hosting the numerous incoming delegations who come in, principally, at the behest of the Australian government but obviously many of them wish to undertake activities in Canberra or to meet with the territory government on matters pertaining to their responsibilities.

So that is a fairly extensive part of the commissioner's work is to—

THE CHAIR: So with his visits, are they directed by you or by government, or does he self-initiate where he is going?

Mr Barr: They are guided by the international engagement strategy, and the priorities contained within. All overseas travel by ACT public servants, including the commissioner, is approved by me, and that has been a long-standing practice that a chief minister signs off on overseas travel.

But a great amount of the commissioner's work is actually here in Canberra on the inbound side and with the various embassies, trade officers of other nations. He will, on occasion, accompany me or other ministers on international delegations, and on one or two occasions has either represented me when I have been unable to attend because I am in the Assembly or in annual report hearings, or the like, and that work has assisted clearly in raising the profile of Canberra as an investment destination.

It has also supported our various sister city relationships and partnerships, and so recent examples, the commissioner has hosted the delegated from Nara who were here the week before last for the 25th anniversary of the Canberra/Nara sister city relationship, so the commissioner accompanied the mayor on all of his activities for the three or four days he was here and worked closely with the Japanese Embassy in organising a program for the mayor.

Last week, the mayor of Wellington was in Canberra, and the commissioner, again, accompanied the mayor on his program in Canberra. The commissioner was also involved in liaising with Nara for

my visit a few weeks back, and has taken the lead in terms of organising the Canberra Week activities in Wellington to take place next week.

Amongst other things, but certainly I am happy to take on notice. I am sure the commissioner would delight in giving further detail on all of his activities.

THE CHAIR: No doubt he would. Maybe we could—

Mr Barr: I am happy to do it. We can provide a more fulsome summary of all that the commissioner does.

MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

For the period of annual reporting, 2017/18 the Office for International Engagement, led by the Commissioner for International Engagement, has delivered the ACT Government's International Engagement Strategy (IES), through the twelve programs specified in the IES:

A TARGETED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES TO GROW OUR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND PRESTIGE.

The OIE during 2017/18 delivered a range of activities aimed at raising the reputation and prestige of Canberra on the worlds' stage. These activities included:

- Planning and delivery of international trade missions to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, USA and New Zealand.
- Attend Australia Business Week in India.
- Hosting inbound delegations to Canberra to showcase the ACT's key capability areas. Delegations have come from, China, European Union, Germany, Korea, Japan, Czech Republic and New Zealand.
- Continued work on enhancing the ACT Government's relationship with the Diplomatic Community.
- Working with the Canberra Business Chamber to promote Canberra businesses to the world.
- Enhancing the capability and capacity of regional exporters.
- Connecting with all levels of government to promote opportunities within Canberra's key capability areas.
- Promoting and supporting the current sister city agreements a.

PROVIDING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OVER THE INTERNATIONAL INBOUND AND OUTBOUND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING OUR CITY-TO-CITY ENGAGEMENT.

The OIE assists a range of stakeholders with incoming delegations and provided them with access to field experts in areas that the delegations have expressed interest in.

In August 2017, the OIE assisted Minister Gentlemen's Office and the Director General of the Environment, Sustainability, Planning and Development Directorate (EPSDD) in organising and creating arrangements for the Minister's Delegation to Prague and Brussels.

OIE hosted a large German Chamber of Commerce industry delegation in March 2018.

Discussions have commenced with the United States Embassy's Naval Attaché regarding possible formal relationships between the ACT and to be commissioned *USS Canberra*.

#### DEFINING AND IMPLEMENTING A TARGETED PROGRAM OF ACT GOVERNMENT, MINISTERIAL AND INDUSTRY TRADE MISSIONS TO PRIORITY MARKETS.

The CIE has developed a forward program of ministerial and industry trade activities for the Chief Minister and the CIE. These programs build upon the priority target markets and key capability areas identified in the IES.

The OIE, led by the CIE, prepares and delivers a rolling program of trade missions that align with the key target markets outlined in the IES.

In August 2017, the CIE was requested by the Chief Minister and the Minister for Education to represent the ACT Government at the Commonwealth Government's *Australia Business Week in India* (ABWI) to promote the ACT higher education offerings.

In October 2017, the OIE planned and delivered a mission to the United States of America (USA) with a strong focus on cyber, defence security and space and spatial science. After the USA component of the mission, the Chief Minister's mission continued onto Germany and Spain with a focus on renewable energy and the Light Rail Project.

In November 2017, the OIE delivered the annual *Canberra Week in Wellington* (CWW) to continue work on upholding the 14 clauses of the Sister City Agreement (SCA). This CWW provided the opportunity for premier screenings of *Riptide* and *Blue World Order*, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Screen Canberra and Screen Wellington and productive conversations with the Wellington City Council on how to progress the SCA.

In March 2018, the OIE delivered an additional mission to Wellington. The main focus of this mission was to meet with Wellington Council representatives and reassure our counterparts of the ACT Government's commitment to the SCA and discuss how to secure direct flights again between our Capitals. The OIE and Wellington City Council are jointly preparing a progress report on the SCA.

The CIE has commenced detailed planning for events and delegations to be delivered in the 2018/19 financial year.

#### CREATING AN INBOUND MISSION FACILITATION PROGRAM THAT QUALIFIES ENQUIRIES, PROACTIVELY TARGETS INBOUND OPPORTUNITY AND MANAGES PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY FOR INBOUND DELEGATION VISITS.

The OIE hosted a number of delegations during this reporting period.

The CIE hosted Japanese, Korean and American delegations on behalf of the Political Exchange Council and provided information to the delegations as requested about Canberra and the opportunities that are present in the ACT.

The OIE hosted a function with speakers from Innovate Canberra, the City Renewal Authority and the EPSDD, and an appearance from the Chief Minister, for the All-China Federation of Industry, a large delegation (30-40 persons) which also included a high-ranking official from Beijing. The event was a success

and created additional good faith between the ACT Government and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

On a request from the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS), the CIE held discussions with a delegation from China regarding Smart Cities and how Canberra is evolving in that field.

The CIE attended a meeting between the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco and a delegation from Morocco to discuss a variety of issues including local government, smart cities and development policies.

The CIE also met with a Councillor of the Wellington City Council and provided the Councillor with an insight of Canberra, the ACT Government and other points of interest for the Councillor.

In early October the Wellington City Council's Capital Collab event was held in New Acton to highlight Wellington as a food and beverage destination.

In mid-October the CIE hosted a Chinese delegation on behalf of the Australian Political Exchange Council and provided information to the delegates as requested about Canberra and the opportunities that are present in the ACT.

In early November the OIE assisted an external ACT stakeholder in hosting a delegation from the Czech Republic and invited Government Officials from various departments to provide information on specific areas of interest to the delegation.

Also in early November, the CIE assisted Austrade in hosting a delegation from Japan and in mid-November the CIE assisted in hosting the Mayor of Toyama, Japan.

In February the CIE presented to KAIST GCC from the Republic of Korea. KAIST has developed a global technology commercialization support system for emerging countries focusing on ICT and scientific technology fields in order to enhance technology transfer in developing countries. The delegation was focused on exploring the ACT's possibilities in Smart City initiatives, energy ICT, agriculture technologies and new materials science.

In March the CIE assisted EPSDD to host a delegation for the European Union as part of their *World Cities Project*. *World Cities* is a project of the European Union in the framework of the European Parliament's preparatory action to promote the exchange of experience and best practice between the European Union and non-European Union countries on promoting the exchange of information and good practices on regional and urban development policy issues. The program is designed for representatives of European local authorities from Hamburg, Prague, Katowice and Manchester to meet with counterparts in Australia including Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra.

In March the CIE hosted an industry delegation in collaboration with the Embassy of Germany and EPSDD. Some of the German companies represented were Bayer, Rheinmetall Defence and Siemens. Discussions have subsequently taken place that may lead to further German investment in Canberra based business and services.

#### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND LIAISING WITH CANBERRA'S DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

The CIE has been very active in liaising with the Canberra based diplomatic community on behalf of the ACT Government. These activities range from formal meetings to representation at diplomatic dinners, cultural and sporting events and national day receptions. Such activities serve to maintain ongoing positive

relationships with the Diplomatic Corps and assist in their participation and ongoing contributions to the broader ACT community.

The CIE has attended receptions, cultural functions, and dinners at various diplomatic residencies as well as hosted diplomats and their delegations.

WORKING WITH THE CANBERRA BUSINESS CHAMBER (CBC) TO CONNECT WITH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCILS AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO UTILISE THEIR NETWORKS AND MARKET KNOWLEDGE.

The OIE works with the Canberra Business Chamber (CBC) to promote international business opportunities for both Canberra based enterprises and to attract foreign investment in the ACT and region. The CBC is invited to organise complimentary programs to overseas markets alongside ACT Government activities organised by the OIE.

WORKING WITH OUR CANBERRA REGION PARTNERS TO ENHANCE EXPORT CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY.

The OIE has been working with the Canberra Airport to further the development of regular shipments of produce through the Airport. The advent of daily flights to Singapore and Qatar now gives the ability to deliver fresh produce on a daily basis into the Asian market.

The OIE has been working with the eight jurisdictions of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) as the source of the primary produce to be exported. Discussions have also been had with Wagga region, Orana region (Dubbo), Central West region (Orange) as well as East Gippsland, as other potential regions to supply produce.

REINVIGORATING THE ACT'S FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH A VIEW TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN CANBERRA'S KEY CAPABILITY AREAS.

Since the establishment of the role, the CIE has been able to represent the ACT in a number of Commonwealth forums and meetings. Additionally, as part of the planning process of international trade missions the OIE works with DFAT and Austrade to identify suitable opportunities and facilitate in market connections and events.

In August 2017 the CIE attended the Australian Federal Governments' ABWI on behalf of the ACT Minister for Education. By following the education program, it aligned with the IES in engaging with the Indian market on their higher education strategies.

As part of the planning that went into the Chief Minister's Mission in the USA in September 2017, meetings occurred with the Austrade Landing Pad, the Australian Consul-General to New York and the President of the New York City Economic Development Corporation.

For CWW in November 2017, meetings occurred with New Zealand's Minister of Tourism, New Zealand's Minister for Finance Meetings also occurred with the Mayor of Wellington and Wellington City Council to discuss the future delivery of the SCA..

In January 2018, OIE and Investment and Enterprise Development held discussions with the newly appointed Austrade Senior Trade Commissioner to Washington DC.

In March 2018 the CIE met with Wellington City Council to discuss the progress of the SCA and discuss opportunities to re-establish direct flights.

The OIE participates in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade working groups such as the India State, Territory and Federal Agency Coordination and the China Video Teleconference.

MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACT REPRESENTATION (EITHER AT AN OFFICIAL LEVEL OR THROUGH THE CANBERRA BUSINESS AND RESEARCH COMMUNITY) AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND TRADE SHOWS RELEVANT TO CANBERRA'S KEY CAPABILITY AREAS.

The OIE continues to work with the Economic Development Division to identify key opportunities to represent Canberra at international events. Focus remains on boosting international opportunities in key capability areas in which Canberra already excels and have a potential for continued growth. Tourism, defence and Cyber Security, and Space and Spatial Sciences provide the main focus for international trade shows.

LEADING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INCLUDING AUSTRADE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE NETWORK TO PROMOTE ACT OPPORTUNITIES AND LEVERAGE THE INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT THAT ARE AVAILABLE.

THE OIE worked closely with the Commonwealth Government and Austrade based in India in preparation for the CIE's participation in ABWI, August 2017. The OIE worked again with DFAT and Austrade for various component of the Chief Minister's October 2017 Mission to the United States of America.

DFAT has been advised of each Mission via an official cable from the OIE. For the USA Mission, the Embassy assisted where possible in obtaining airport facilitation, meetings and a tour of Austrade's Landing Pad. For the European component of the Chief Minister's mission, the posts arranged for the Chief Minister to meet with the Australian Ambassadors in Germany and Spain. For CWW, post arranged for the Chief Minister to meet with the Acting High Commissioner, hosted a reception on behalf of the ACT Government and assisted in arranging meetings with New Zealand Ministers.

It is intended that the OIE will continue to work closely with DFAT and Austrade in developing overseas missions to ensure that all possible angles of trade missions are considered with subject matter experts in the local areas.

Further work with DFAT and Austrade is an essential part of supporting the ongoing program of trade missions to key markets and promoting Canberra as a preferred place to invest and do business in Australia.

In response to a request by DFAT, the CIE has commenced work with ACT Treasury and utilities providers to resolve to the ongoing issue of how rates are levied to diplomatic missions.

ENSURING THAT, AT THEIR CORE, ALL FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS SUPPORT THE GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ACT ECONOMY AND ALIGN WITH THE STRATEGIC INTENT OF THE IES.

Future City-to-City relationship requests will be considered on a case by case basis, and assessed against economic indicators, the ease of doing business, the strategic importance of the relationship to the ACT and will be measured against parameters set in the policy/guideline for future formal arrangements.

Work has been completed with the Embassy of Japan and the Canberra Nara Sister City Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canberra-Nara relationship. The Anniversary will centre around the Nara Candle Festival which was held in October 2018 and included an Official visit from the Nara Mayor.

ENSURING FUTURE CITY-TO-CITY RELATIONSHIPS ALIGN WITH THE ACT GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES, SHARE A COMMON ECONOMIC VISION AND BE PROACTIVELY RESOURCED AND MANAGED TO REALISE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL BENEFITS FOR THE CITY.

City-to-city agreements facilitate relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, to promote mutually beneficial, economic, cultural and social outcomes.

Currently, the Office of International Engagement has been providing time and resources to facilitate and grow the already established sister city relationships – Nara, Beijing and Wellington.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature: 

Date: 13.11.18

By the Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment, Andrew Barr MLA

