



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Economy and
Gender and Economic Equality

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022–23

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Approved for publication

Report 10
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About the committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality on 2 December 2020.

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- Chief Minister's responsibilities
- Economic development and diversification
- Tourism
- Industrial relations and workplace safety
- Social impacts and outcomes of economic policies including gender considerations (excluding Office for Women)
- Minister of State responsibilities (excluding Justice and Community Safety Directorate reporting areas)
- Business and better regulation
- Arts

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

Committee members

Leanne Castley MLA, Chair (until 13 December 2023)

James Milligan MLA, Chair (member from 13 December 2023, Chair from 23 January 2024)

Susanne Orr MLA, Deputy Chair

Johnathan Davis MLA (until 12 November 2023)

Laura Nuttall MLA (from 30 November 2023)

Secretariat

Sophie Milne, Committee Secretary

Kate Mickelson, Assistant Secretary

Batool Abbas, Administrative Officer

Contact us

Mail Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0435

Email LACommitteeEGEE@parliament.act.gov.au

Website parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees

About this inquiry

The 2022–23 Annual Reports were presented in the Assembly on 24 October 2023. Clause 3 of the establishing resolution refers all calendar and financial year annual and financial reports to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 9 April of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Long form
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
AIS	Australian Institute of Sport
CBRIN	Canberra Innovation Network
CMAG	Canberra Museum and Gallery
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
EPIC	Exhibition Park in Canberra
HRIMS	Human Resources Information Management System
ICT	Information and communications technology
MAI	Motor Accident Injuries
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MPC	Major Projects Canberra
QON	Question on Notice
QTON	Question Taken on Notice

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that updates to the Wellbeing Dashboard are timed to capture newly available data.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update the Annual Reports Directions to ensure that annual reports address recommendations by the Auditor-General in specific, clear and consistent terms, including where there has been no progress.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a support service for migrant workers.

1. Introduction

Presentation of 2022–23 annual and financial reports

- 1.1. All annual and financial reports for the territory were tabled on 24 October 2023¹ in the Legislative Assembly. A collated list of annual and financial reports is available online.²
- 1.2. During its inquiry the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2022–23:
 - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate;
 - Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner;
 - ACT Long Service Leave Authority;
 - ACT Insurance Authority;
 - Cultural Facilities Corporation;
 - Access Canberra; and
 - the Gambling and Racing Commission.

Public Hearings

- 1.3. The Committee held public hearings on Wednesday, 15 November 2023, Monday, 20 November 2023, Tuesday, 21 November 2023, Wednesday, 22 November 2023, Thursday, 23 November 2023, and Friday, 24 November 2023. At the hearings the Committee heard from ACT Government ministers and their accompanying directorate officials.
- 1.4. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at [Appendix A](#). Transcripts of the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Assembly website.
- 1.5. Committees began collecting information on the gender of witnesses in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs of, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses. A table showing the distribution of witness gender is at [Appendix C](#).

¹ Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No 101, 24 October 2023, pp 1466–67.

² Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, Annual Reports, [Annual Reports - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate \(act.gov.au\)](#) (accessed 3 November 2023).

Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice

- 1.6. A total of 37 questions were lodged during the inquiry: 27 questions were taken on notice (QTONs) by Ministers during the hearings and 10 questions on notice (QONs) were submitted by Committee members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.7. The answers to questions, and a list of questions (by subject and recipient) are available at [Appendix B](#), and on the inquiry webpage.

Acknowledgements

- 1.8. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted with, this inquiry. This includes the ACT Government ministers, Directorate officials, and statutory officers. The Committee extends particular thanks to the Hansard and Broadcasting staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

2. Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- 2.1. The Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) is the ACT Government's central agency and provides advice to the Chief Minister, the Directorate's Ministers and the Cabinet, provides support and direction on policy and strategy across the ACT Public Service (ACTPS), delivers service support to government agencies, and administers the ACT's tax laws.³

Chief Minister - Administrative arrangements

- 2.2. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Chief Minister and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:
- ACT Public Service (ACTPS);
 - Chief Minister's Charitable Fund and philanthropy encouragement;
 - Commissioner for International Engagement (including sister city agreements, local diplomatic and consular liaison, inbound and outbound trade mission delivery, trade and export growth);
 - communication and community engagement;
 - diversity and equal opportunity;
 - enterprise bargaining;
 - government strategy and policy;
 - integrity policy;
 - intergovernmental relations and engagement with capital cities and the Canberra Region;
 - National Cabinet, the Council for the Australian Federation and the National Federation Reform Council;
 - national security;
 - neighbourhood democracy projects;
 - social inclusion and equality policy;
 - support to Cabinet; and
 - wellbeing framework.

³ Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Annual Report 2022–23*, [CMTEDD Annual Report 2022-23 \(act.gov.au\)](#), p 9.

Matters considered

- 2.3. During the Chief Minister's appearance before the Committee on 24 November 2023 the following matters were considered:
- Wellbeing Data Dashboard, age of data and updates;⁴
 - Wellbeing Framework;⁵
 - Hybrid work in the ACTPS;⁶
 - workers compensation and liability for public servants working outside of the normal work environment;⁷
 - management of conflicts of interest in the ACTPS;⁸
 - management of alleged conflict of interest in office of the Commissioner for Fair Trading;⁹ and
 - ACT Government responses to Auditor-General recommendations.¹⁰

Key Issues

Wellbeing Data Dashboard

- 2.4. The Committee noted that an accountability indicator requiring an update to the Wellbeing Data Dashboard had not been met,¹¹ due to a delay in receiving data from the University of Canberra's *Living Well in the ACT Region* survey.¹²
- 2.5. In response to a question about sources and age of the data used for the dashboard, CMTEDD indicated that data came from a combination of administrative sources within ACT Government directorates, University of Canberra sources, and external sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics. While some census-sourced data on the dashboard was still derived from 2016 sources, an update to the dashboard was to be released in late 2023 which would use 2021 census data.¹³
- 2.6. The Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet, CMTEDD, later advised the Committee that 'The update of the wellbeing dashboard has centred around analysing and incorporating new data'.¹⁴

⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 168–171.

⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 171–173.

⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 173–175.

⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 175–176.

⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 176–181.

⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 181–190; pp 192–193.

¹⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 190–192.

¹¹ Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Annual Report 2022–23*, p 32.

¹² Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 168.

¹³ Ms Leesa Croke, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 169; Mr Peter Robinson, Executive Branch Manager, Wellbeing, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 169.

¹⁴ Ms Croke, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Exhibit 1*, 24 January 2024, p 1.

- 2.7. During the hearing, the Committee heard that, while CMTEEDD hoped to ‘get to a point’ where real-time updating of data measures was possible, this was unlikely in the immediate future:

If a measure is annual, we might be able to update annually through an automated process with data providers. But there is a bit of work to be done there to be able to do that. We have committed to every two years, in terms of looking at progress over time.¹⁵

Committee comment

- 2.8. The Committee is concerned that two-yearly updates to the dashboard, when combined with five-yearly datasets, leads to the possibility that data shown on the dashboard is up to seven years old.
- 2.9. The Committee considers that it is important to have the most recently available data available on the dashboard to demonstrate to ACT residents the outcomes and effectiveness of the Wellbeing Framework.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that updates to the Wellbeing Dashboard are timed to capture newly available data.

Auditor-General recommendations

- 2.10. In a recent report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Auditor-General observed that ACT government agencies were non-specific, unclear, inconsistent or did not report at all on their progress in implementing ACT Audit Office recommendations in annual reports:

Four issues have emerged from the analysis of agencies’ reporting on the implementation of performance audit report recommendations. These are listed below and then discussed in more detail:

1. lack of specificity in the Government response to the recommendation;
2. non-reporting by agencies of progress implementing recommendations;
3. lack of clarity with respect to the status of recommendations; and
4. inconsistent and unclear reporting on the implementation of recommendations.¹⁶

- 2.11. In response to a question from the Committee about these comments, Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director General, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy,

¹⁵ Mr Peter Robinson, Executive Branch Manager, Wellbeing, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 171.

¹⁶ ACT Audit Office, *Performance Audit Recommendations Observations - 2023*, November 2023, p 4.

CMTEDD, argued that an appropriate level of directorate scrutiny was in place for directorate annual reports, noting that progress against Auditor-General recommendations was examined by executive management committees and often by directorate audit committees:

I think we do have enough guidance and I think we do have enough measures. But, given that the Auditor-General has raised this report, we will take another look at whether we can make any more specificity around those four issues that the Auditor-General has raised. But I do think that, with the level of scrutiny in place and the quality control on the implementation of audit reports being at the executive level and also the audit level within the directorate, we do have a couple lines of defence there.¹⁷

- 2.12. When asked about agencies not reporting against recommendations where no progress had been made, Mr Rutledge suggested that reporting requirements were already in place:

I think it is implied that you report on anything that is not complete—whether it is progress or limited progress. That is why I say that, with the oversight of both the directorate’s Executive Management Committee and the directorate’s Audit and Risk Committee, the onus is on the directorate to make those reports. So I think it is a cheeky reading of the directions to get to that outcome.¹⁸

Committee comment

- 2.13. The Committee considers that explicit instructions regarding Auditor-General’s recommendations may be required in the Annual Report Directions to ensure that directorates fulfil their reporting obligations, including when there has been no progress made in meeting the recommendations.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update the Annual Reports Directions to ensure that annual reports address recommendations by the Auditor-General in specific, clear and consistent terms, including where there has been no progress.

¹⁷ Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director General, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 191.

¹⁸ Mr Rutledge, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 191.

Minister for Business and Better Regulation - Administrative arrangements

2.14. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Minister for Business and Better Regulation and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development;
- Access Canberra (except in relation to planning development, land and lease regulation);
- Better Regulation Taskforce;
- Business advocacy and liaison;
- Business development;
- Construction, building and utilities regulation;
- Controlled Sports registration, inspection, notifications and regulatory services;
- Environmental protection, water regulation, and clinical waste controller;
- Electricity and natural gas, water and sewerage industry technical regulation;
- Fair trading and registration, inspection and regulatory services (including transport regulation and licensing);
- Food safety licensing and regulation;
- Improving ease of doing business with government;
- Occupational licensing;
- Public unleased land regulation (permits);
- Racing and gaming regulation;
- Registration of civil unions, domestic relationships and parentage; and
- Small business.¹⁹

Matters considered

2.15. During the Minister's appearance before the Committee on 20 November 2023 the following matters were considered:

- bookable appointments at service centres;²⁰
- business authorisations;²¹

¹⁹ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

²⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 55–56.

²¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 56–57, pp 60–61.

- online services at Access Canberra;²²
- Access Canberra customer satisfaction;²³
- impacts of delays in granting business licences;²⁴
- workers' compensation in the private sector;²⁵
- COVID-19 Business Support Grant program;²⁶
- next-day outdoor dining permits;²⁷
- Access Canberra backlogs;²⁸
- budget consultation;²⁹
- Access Canberra website refresh;³⁰
- cash payments to Access Canberra;³¹
- waiting times at service centres and for telephone calls;³²
- ANU School of Regulation pilot project evaluating regulatory burden;³³
- drivers licence medical timeframes;³⁴
- transition from gas and introduction of LPG into buildings;³⁵
- insulation requirements and impact on wiring standards;³⁶
- *Canberra Business Update* newsletter;³⁷
- public unleased land regulation permits;³⁸
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development;³⁹ and
- mobile device detection camera results and other traffic detection devices.⁴⁰

²² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 57–58.

²³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 58–60.

²⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 61–62.

²⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 54–55, p 62.

²⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 62–63.

²⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 63–65.

²⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 65–68.

²⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 68–69.

³⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 69–71.

³¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 71–73.

³² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 74.

³³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 75–78.

³⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 78–79.

³⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 79.

³⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 79–80.

³⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 80.

³⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 80–81.

³⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 81–82.

⁴⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 82–84.

Minister for Economic Development - Administrative arrangements

- 2.16. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Minister for Economic Development and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:
- Brand Canberra;
 - elite sporting performance and venue agreements;
 - Future Jobs Fund;
 - implementation of CBR Switched On and delivery of economic objectives;
 - innovation policy and CBR Innovation Network;
 - international education (including Study Canberra);
 - investment facilitation and attraction;
 - key sector development (including defence, cybersecurity, space and quantum);
 - manufacturing;
 - science;
 - strategic infrastructure projects (including UNSW, and Venues Canberra infrastructure upgrades); and
 - university and research policy.⁴¹

Matters considered

- 2.17. During the Minister's appearance before the Committee on 20 November 2023 the following matters were considered:
- facilities and infrastructure for conventions and large events in Canberra;⁴²
 - ACT Government partnership with University of Canberra;⁴³
 - Australian Institute of Sport (AIS);⁴⁴
 - ACT Government engagement with other universities;⁴⁵
 - attendance at sporting events;⁴⁶
 - economic impact of large sporting events;⁴⁷

⁴¹ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

⁴² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 29–35, pp 36–38.

⁴³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 35–36.

⁴⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 38–41.

⁴⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 41–42.

⁴⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 42–45.

⁴⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 45–46.

- potential economic impact of a city stadium;⁴⁸
- food options at sporting venues and nearby;⁴⁹
- elite sport teams stadium preferences;⁵⁰
- ACT Infrastructure Plan update;⁵¹
- opportunities for specialised precincts;⁵² and
- Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) grants and grant recipients.⁵³

Assistant Minister for Economic Development - Administrative arrangements

2.18. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Assistant Minister for Economic Development and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:

- ACT events fund;
- community events;
- creative industries;
- night-time economy; and
- Screen Canberra.⁵⁴

Matters considered

2.19. During the Minister's appearance before the Committee on 22 November 2023 the following matters were considered:

- review of the Screen Investment Fund;⁵⁵
- night-time economy reforms and Liquor Act permits and licences;⁵⁶
- workshops on the night-time economy and resulting non-COVID-19-related actions;⁵⁷
- liquor licence expansion requirements;⁵⁸
- Symphony in the Park;⁵⁹

⁴⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 46–47.

⁴⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 47–48.

⁵⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 48.

⁵¹ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 48–49.

⁵² *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, p 50.

⁵³ *Committee Hansard*, 20 November 2023, pp 50–52.

⁵⁴ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

⁵⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 125–127.

⁵⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 127–128.

⁵⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 128–132, pp 139–140.

⁵⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 132–133.

⁵⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 133–135.

- Better Regulation Taskforce staffing;⁶⁰
- COVID-19 business relief measures and continuity;⁶¹
- business impacts and closures due to COVID-19;⁶² and
- impact of AUSTIN television series on Canberra and the local film industry.⁶³

Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety - Administrative arrangements

2.20. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:

- ACT Public Sector Workers Compensation (including self-insurance);
- private sector industrial relations and workers compensation;
- secure local jobs code;
- work health and safety policy; and
- work health and safety regulation (including the Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner).⁶⁴

Matters considered

2.21. During the Minister's appearances before the Committee on 23 November 2023 and 24 November 2023 the following matters were considered:

- private sector workers compensation schemes;⁶⁵
- silica dust and regulation reform;⁶⁶
- training providers for silica dust exposure prevention;⁶⁷
- financial impact of silica dust regulation changes on small and medium businesses;⁶⁸
- promotion of regulatory changes to workers;⁶⁹
- Young Workers Advice Service;⁷⁰
- support services for migrant workers;⁷¹

⁶⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 135–136.

⁶¹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 136–137.

⁶² *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 137–138.

⁶³ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 138–139.

⁶⁴ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

⁶⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 142–144.

⁶⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 144–147.

⁶⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 147–149.

⁶⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 149–150.

⁶⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 150–151.

⁷⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, p 151.

⁷¹ *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 151–152.

- reporting requirements and training on sexual harassment and assault in the workplace;⁷²
- evaluation of strategic documents due to expire;⁷³
- loose-fill asbestos response management;⁷⁴ and
- psychosocial hazards in the workplace.⁷⁵

Key Issues

Support service for migrant workers

- 2.22. During the hearing on 23 November 2023, the Committee heard that the contract for the Young Workers Advice Service, which expired that day, had not been re-tendered but that an extended grant was expected to be provided to UnionsACT to deliver education and awareness-raising services. This extended grant would ‘potentially’ include elements provided by the Young Workers Advice Service:

The grant will provide for an expansion of those education and advisory services, with a particular focus on mental health. I expect that that will utilise the infrastructure that was in place via that previous contract.⁷⁶

- 2.23. The Committee also heard that the grant was ‘expected’ to include services for migrant support, but that it was still under negotiation: ‘Once signed, it will become public, but all indications are that there will be additional services for migrant workers’.⁷⁷

Committee comment

- 2.24. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should provide and fund support services for migrant workers, who are vulnerable to exploitation and insecure employment.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a support service for migrant workers.

⁷² *Committee Hansard*, 23 November 2023, pp 152–153.

⁷³ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 194–195.

⁷⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 195–197.

⁷⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 197–198.

⁷⁶ Mr Michael Young, Executive Group Manager, Work Safety Group, Office of Industrial Relations, and Workforce Strategy, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 151.

⁷⁷ Mr Young, Office of Industrial Relations, and Workforce Strategy, *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 151–152.

Minister for Tourism - Administrative arrangements

2.25. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:

- aviation industry development;
- major event attraction and Major Event Fund;
- major events (Floriade, Enlighten, Winter Festival);
- tourism policy; and
- Visit Canberra.⁷⁸

Matters considered

2.26. During the Minister's appearances before the Committee on 24 November 2023 the following matters were considered:

- Floriade and Enlighten festivals, economic impact and attendance;⁷⁹
- NightFest at Floriade;⁸⁰
- advertising spend for Floriade;⁸¹
- broader tourism marketing of Canberra;⁸²
- overnight visitor numbers;⁸³
- reported 2023–24 budget boost for tourism industry;⁸⁴
- efforts to attract major events to Canberra;⁸⁵
- decline in domestic overnight business trips to Canberra;⁸⁶
- India and China as tourism markets;⁸⁷
- aviation industry and international connections;⁸⁸
- international travel by the Minister;⁸⁹
- cancellation rates of Canberra-Sydney flights;⁹⁰ and

⁷⁸ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

⁷⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 155–156.

⁸⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 156–157.

⁸¹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 157–158.

⁸² *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 158.

⁸³ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 158–159.

⁸⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 159.

⁸⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 159–161.

⁸⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 161–162.

⁸⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 163–164.

⁸⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 164–165.

⁸⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 165–166.

⁹⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, p 166.

- strategic planning for Floriade and Enlighten.⁹¹

Minister for the Arts - Administrative arrangements

2.27. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Minister for the Arts and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:

- art and cultural policy and services; and
- community arts facilities.⁹²

Matters considered

2.28. During the Minister's appearances before the Committee on 21 November 2023 the following matters were considered:

- repairs and maintenance to public artworks;⁹³
- Gorman House refurbishment and impact on tenants;⁹⁴
- audience numbers return to pre-pandemic levels;⁹⁵ and
- theatre subsidies and ability to program artistically.⁹⁶

Special Minister of State - Administrative arrangements

2.29. The Committee examined the following matters allocated to the Special Minister of State and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate:

- access to government information;
- ACT Insurance Authority;
- audit policy;
- Chief Digital Officer, Digital and Data Strategy, including Cyber security;
- community facilities charging policy;
- community facilities property services;
- government accommodation and property services (including facility management and operations for Venues Canberra);
- insurance policy (including Motor Accident Injury Insurance and lifetime care and support scheme);
- procurement; and

⁹¹ *Committee Hansard*, 24 November 2023, pp 166–167.

⁹² ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

⁹³ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 88–89.

⁹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 89–92.

⁹⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 99–100.

⁹⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 100–101.

- shared services, including transactional services and ICT services.⁹⁷

Matters considered

2.30. During the Minister's appearances before the Committee on 15 November 2023 and 22 November 2023 the following matters were considered:

- HRIMS (Human Resources Information Management System) project costs;⁹⁸
- concessions management service;⁹⁹
- lessons learned from HRIMS;¹⁰⁰
- Performance Audit Reports and procurement management;¹⁰¹
- ACT Digital Account;¹⁰²
- Government Procurement Amendment Bill 2023 and the composition of the Procurement Board;¹⁰³
- handling of conflicts of interest for Procurement Board members;¹⁰⁴
- work on interim arrangements for a community facility in Gunghalin and a new community centre;¹⁰⁵
- procedural details of Procurement Board meetings and conflicts of interest;¹⁰⁶
- powers of the Procurement Board proposed under the Government Procurement Amendment Bill 2023, regarding procurement risks;¹⁰⁷
- support provided by ACT Property Group for transition from gas to electricity and progress against this goal;¹⁰⁸
- revised functions of the Procurement Board proposed under the Government Procurement Amendment Bill 2023;¹⁰⁹
- vacancies and composition of the Government Procurement Board;¹¹⁰
- ACT capability to respond to cyber incidents;¹¹¹
- MAI Commission benefits;¹¹²

⁹⁷ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

⁹⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 1–6.

⁹⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, p 6.

¹⁰⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 7–8.

¹⁰¹ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 8–12.

¹⁰² *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 12–13.

¹⁰³ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 13–15.

¹⁰⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 15–19.

¹⁰⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, p 19.

¹⁰⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 19–22.

¹⁰⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 22–25.

¹⁰⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 25–26.

¹⁰⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 15 November 2023, pp 26–27.

¹¹⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 104–106, p 121.

¹¹¹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 106–108.

¹¹² *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 108–110.

- MAI Commission and recovery plan development;¹¹³
- complaints regarding the MAI Commission;¹¹⁴
- progress on community facility upgrades and improvements to ACT Government buildings;¹¹⁵
- claims to the MAI Commission;¹¹⁶
- appeals to ACAT regarding MAI claims;¹¹⁷
- engagement with and assistance to injured people and their families in relation to the MAI scheme;¹¹⁸
- assistance to the McLuckie family regarding the MAI scheme;¹¹⁹
- facilities, events and upgrades to Stromlo Forest Park;¹²⁰
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and Integrity Commission report;¹²¹ and
- union-affiliated businesses and procurement.

¹¹³ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 110–112.

¹¹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 113.

¹¹⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 113.

¹¹⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 114–115.

¹¹⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 115.

¹¹⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 116.

¹¹⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, p 117.

¹²⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 118–120.

¹²¹ *Committee Hansard*, 22 November 2023, pp 121–122.

3. Major Projects Canberra

- 3.1. Major Projects Canberra (MPC) leads and supports the delivery of infrastructure projects across Canberra. It is directly responsible for delivery of designated major infrastructure projects, and also delivers capital works projects in partnership with other Directorates as part of the ACT's infrastructure program.¹²²

Administrative arrangements

- 3.2. The Committee examined the following matter allocated to the Minister for the Arts and Major Projects Canberra:
- delivery of the Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment project.¹²³

Matters considered

- 3.3. During the Minister's appearance before the Committee on 21 November 2023 the following matter was considered:
- Canberra Theatre timelines and parking plan.¹²⁴

¹²² Major Projects Canberra, *Annual Report 2022–23*, [MPC-Annual-Report-2022-23.pdf \(act.gov.au\)](#), pp 4, 21.

¹²³ ACT Government, *Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 2)*, <https://legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2022-697/>

¹²⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 87–88.

4. Cultural Facilities Corporation

- 4.1. The Cultural Facilities Corporation is responsible for the Canberra Theatre Centre, Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), and ACT Historic Places. Its functions include the management and development of cultural activities, and the establishment, conservation, and exhibition of collections.¹²⁵

Matters considered

- 4.2. During the Minister for the Arts' appearance before the Committee on 21 November 2023 the following matters relevant to the Cultural Facilities Corporation were considered:
- staffing and hiring practices at Cultural Facilities Corporation and Canberra Theatre;¹²⁶
 - Cultural Facilities Corporation venues visitor numbers;¹²⁷
 - strategies to increase awareness and audience numbers at Cultural Facilities Corporation venues;¹²⁸ and
 - staffing at Canberra Theatre.¹²⁹

¹²⁵ Cultural Facilities Corporation, *Annual Report 2022–23*, [CFC-Annual-Report-2022-23.pdf \(act.gov.au\)](#), p 14.

¹²⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 92–96.

¹²⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 96–97.

¹²⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 98–99.

¹²⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2023, pp 101–102.

5. Long Service Leave Authority

- 5.1. The Long Service Leave Authority was established in 2010 to administer portable long service leave benefits for the Building and Construction Industry scheme, Contract Cleaning Industry scheme, Community Sector Industry scheme, and subsequently the Security Industry scheme.¹³⁰

Matters considered

- 5.2. During the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety's appearances before the Committee on 23 November 2023 and 24 November 2023, no matters concerning the Long Service Leave Authority were considered.

¹³⁰ Long Service Leave Authority, *Annual Report 2022–23*, [annualreport2023.pdf \(act.gov.au\)](#), p 7.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Committee would like to thank the Ministers, statutory officers and directorate staff who participated in this inquiry.
- 6.2. The Committee makes three recommendations.

Mr James Milligan MLA
Chair, Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality
March 2024

Appendix A: Witnesses

Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Special Minister of State

- **Mr Chris Steel MLA**, Special Minister of State
- **Ms Bettina Konti**, Deputy Director-General/Chief Digital Officer, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Mark Whybrow**, Executive Group Manager, Finance, Procurement and Contracts, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Sanaz Mirzabegian**, Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Group Manager, Property, Insourcing and Secure Local Jobs Group, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Monday, 20 November 2023

Minister for Economic Development

- **Mr Andrew Barr MLA**, Minister for Economic Development
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Matthew Elkins**, Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Hugh MacLachlan**, Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Annie de la Rue**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Infrastructure Coordination, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Minister for Business and Better Regulation

- **Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**, Minister for Business and Better Regulation
- **Ms Emily Springett**, Executive Branch Manager, Service Delivery and Engagement, Access Canberra
- **Ms Margaret McKinnon**, A/g Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra
- **Dr Jodie Vaile**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategy, Data and Governance, Access Canberra
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registrations, Access Canberra
- **Mr Giuseppe Mangeruca**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Fair Trading and Compliance, Access Canberra
- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection

- **Mr Sam Engle**, Coordinator General, head of Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy, and Cabinet
- **Ms Fiona Chesworth**, Executive Branch Manager, Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy and Cabinet Division
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Karen Stewart-Moore**, Executive Branch Manager, Economic Development
- **Mr Hugh MacLachlan**, Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Tuesday, 21 November 2023

Minister for Arts

- **Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**, Minister for Arts
- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra
- **Ms Caroline Fulton**, Executive Branch Manager, arts ACT, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Gordon Ramsay**, Chief Executive Officer, Cultural Facilities Corporation
- **Mr Alex Budd**, Director, Canberra Theatre Centre, Cultural Facilities Corporation

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Special Minister of State

- **Mr Chris Steel MLA**, Special Minister of State
- **Ms Sanaz Mirzabegian**, Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Julian Valtas**, ACT Government Chief Information Security Officer
- **Ms Bettina Konti**, Deputy Director-General/Chief Digital Officer, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, MAI Commissioner, Insurance, Economic and Financial Group, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Branch Manager, Property Insourcing and Secure Local Jobs Group, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Daniel Bailey**, Executive Group Manager, Operations, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Minister for Economic Development

- **Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**, Assistant Minister for Economic Development

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Hugh MacLachlan**, Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Coordinator General, head of Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy, and Cabinet
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registrations, Access Canberra
- **Mr Ross Triffitt**, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT, Economic Development
- **Ms Fiona Chesworth**, Executive Branch Manager, Better Regulation Taskforce, Policy and Cabinet Division

Thursday, 23 November 2023

Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

- **Mr Mick Gentleman MLA**, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Workplace Safety
- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director General, Office of Industrial Relations, and Workforce Strategy
- **Mr Michael Young**, Executive Group Manager, Work Safety Group, Office of Industrial Relations, and Workforce Strategy

WorkSafe ACT

- **Ms Jacqui Agius**, Commissioner, WorkSafe
- **Ms Amanda Grey**, Deputy Commissioner, WorkSafe

Friday, 24 November 2023

Minister for Tourism

- **Mr Andrew Barr MLA**, Minister for Tourism
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Ross Triffitt**, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT, Economic Development
- **Mr Johnathan Kobus**, Executive Branch Manager, Visit Canberra

Chief Minister

- **Ms Kathy Leigh**, Head of Service and Director-General Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Ms Leesa Croke**, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet (PCD)

Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

- **Mr Mick Gentleman MLA**, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety
- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director General, Office of Industrial Relations and workforce Strategy, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
- **Mr Michael Young**, Executive Group Manager, Work Safety Group, Office of Industrial Relations, and Workforce Strategy

WorkSafe ACT

- **Ms Jacqui Agius**, Commissioner, WorkSafe
- **Ms Amanda Grey**, Deputy Commissioner, WorkSafe

Appendix B: Questions on Notice and Questions Taken on Notice

Questions on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	28/11/2023	BARR	EPIC Redevelopment	05/12/2023
2	28/11/2023	BARR	Economic activity from elite team home games	08/12/2023
3	28/11/2023	BARR	Elite teams – game attendance	08/12/2023
4	28/11/2023	BARR	CMTEDD Procurements	08/12/2023
5	28/11/2023	CHEYNE	Intelligent Regulator Project	04/12/2023
6	29/11/2023	CHEYNE	Cultural Facilities Corporation – Board Meetings	05/12/2023
7	29/11/2023	STEEL	Motor Accident Injuries Commission benefits and revenue collection	08/12/2023
8	01/12/2023	BARR	GWS Giants	08/12/2023
9	01/12/2023	BARR	Delegate procurement decisions	08/12/2023
10	01/12/2023	BARR	Reporting against audit recommendations	14/12/2023

Questions Taken on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	15/11/23	STEEL	Accounting advice for write-downs and impairments of HRIMS project	19/12/23
2	15/11/23	STEEL	Decommissioning cost and total cost of HRIMS project	30/11/23
3	15/11/23	STEEL	Total spending on procurement in 2022–23 Financial Year	30/11/23
4	15/11/23	STEEL	Guidelines regarding Procurement Board conflicts of interest	24/11/23
5	20/11/23	BARR	Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) capacity for large scale events	29/11/23
6	20/11/23	BARR	Canberra Convention Bureau Briefing	28/11/23
7	20/11/23	BARR	Canberra Stadium Statistics	30/11/23
8	20/11/23	BARR	Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) Grant Recipient Reporting	28/11/23
9	20/11/23	BARR	Business Authorisation Average Timeframes	01/12/23

10	22/11/23	STEEL	Motor Accident Injuries scheme - Dollar value of premiums collected in revenue	30/11/23
11	20/11/23	CHEYNE	Payments to Access Canberra via Australia Post	29/11/23
12	20/11/23	CHEYNE	Access Canberra - Intelligent Regulator	01/12/23
13	20/11/23	BARR	Civic Pool Site Viability for City Stadium	28/11/23
14	20/11/23	CHEYNE	Impacts on moving away from gas in new suburbs	30/11/23
15	20/11/23	CHEYNE	Hawker Permits	29/11/23
16	20/11/23	CHEYNE	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Development	28/11/23
17	21/11/23	CHEYNE	Theatres able to operate at a loss	30/11/23
18	21/11/23	CHEYNE	PAC Australia members seeking incentives	30/11/23
19	21/11/23	CHEYNE	Canberra Theatre staffing	29/11/23
20	21/11/23	CHEYNE	Staffing churn at Cultural Facilities Corporation	29/11/23
21	22/11/23	STEEL	Motor Accident Injury scheme treatment or care claims	07/12/23
22	22/11/23	STEEL	Contact with McLuckie family	30/11/23
23	22/11/23	STEEL	Mt Stromlo bike park visitor numbers	04/12/23
24	22/11/23	STEEL	Community facility upgrades	13/12/23
25	24/11/23	BARR	Conflict of interest legal advice	04/12/23
26	24/11/23	GENTLEMAN	Monitoring of loose-fill asbestos properties	05/12/23
27	24/11/23	GENTLEMAN	Compliance costs of asbestos monitoring	07/12/23

Appendix C: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	19
Male	19