

2019

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
REPORT NO 5**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2017-2018

**Presented by
Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister**

Introduction

On Thursday, 25 October 2018, the 2017-18 Annual and Financial reports of all ACT Government agencies were referred to the relevant Standing Committees of the Assembly for inquiry and reporting.

The following annual reports, or sections of annual reports, were referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism (the Committee):

- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; and
- Cultural Facilities Corporation.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

3.9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with the NSW and Commonwealth governments on improvements to the Sydney to Canberra rail link and that the Chief Minister update the Assembly on progress by the last sitting date in August 2018.

Government Response – Agreed

The Chief Minister will update the Assembly on progress to improve the Sydney to Canberra rail link by the last sitting day in August 2019.

Recommendation 2

3.19 The Committee recommends that annual expenditure on the Creative Services Panel be reported on in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate annual report.

Government Response – Agreed

The Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate's annual expenditure on the Creative Services Panel will be reported in its annual report in future years. Directorates will report their own expenditure on the Creative Services Panel in their annual reports.

Recommendation 3

3.28 The Committee recommends that Access Canberra seek to improve their communication around the expected timeframe for action on logged jobs and provide the public with updates on occasions when those timeframes will not be met.

Government Response – Agreed

TCCS and Access Canberra are already working together to investigate opportunities to improve communication with the public in relation to job completion and time management expectations. The redevelopment of the Fix My Street platform has identified a number of service areas where we believe we can provide better feedback to the public; however, developing solutions to achieve this requires technical improvements to core TCCS systems. A program is underway to achieve this, and we expect to implement major improvements iteratively throughout the 2019/2020 operational year.

Recommendation 4

3.32 The Committee recommends that Access Canberra consider introducing a cooldown period between Class C builder's licence applications, to increase that chance that failed applicants take time to improve their skills.

Government Response – Agreed

The qualifications to be eligible for a licence are declared by the Minister for Building Quality Improvement. The Minister made a new qualifications declaration for builder licences, which came into effect on 22 February 2019. The declaration expanded the requirement to undertake and pass an examination to all class A and class B licence applicants in addition to Class C licence applicants. For applicants that have previously been refused a licence for failing to pass an examination, the qualifications declaration requires 6 months to have passed before an applicant is eligible for a licence and can undertake an examination again. If an applicant's second application is refused, they are not eligible for 12 months, and if a third or subsequent application is refused, the applicant is not eligible for 2 years. Applicants will continue to be given two attempts to pass an examination for each application.

Recommendation 5

3.37 The Committee recommends that ACT Property Group compile and publish a list of all community facilities available for event hire, including details of how to contact the relevant group managing bookings.

Government Response – Agreed

ACT Property Group has finalised the information for the list of community facilities available for event hire. This information will include details of how to contact the relevant group managing bookings. The information will be published on the new ACT Property Group website in the near future.