



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 05

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY  
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Johnathan Davis  
MLA

## Inquiry into Housing and Rental Affordability

### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

16 September 2022

---

Asked by Mr Johnathan Davis MLA on 16 September 2022: The Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question:

Ref: UPT 16 September 2022, p72

In relation to: Government interventions into long term vacancies in commercial properties

**MR DAVIS:** Okay. Well, let me ask this then? Has the government done, at any point in recent history, any work to identify and consider interventions for long-term vacant commercial property?

**Mr Barr:** Well there has been a range of discussions undertaken, mostly in the planning and leasing areas around meeting lease conditions, in relation to commercial property. It is less of a taxation issue—so it is not principally in my area of responsibility. I will take on notice for you what the people at the planning authority has done. But it is not something I have personally focused on. But I have not had portfolio responsibility for it.

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

The occupation and use of buildings is governed, in part, under the relevant Crown lease for a site. Access Canberra is responsible for investigating complaints made in relation to non-compliance with Crown leases, which includes issues associated with vacant commercial properties. There is a low rate of non-compliance in this area and, there has not been a need to identify further specific interventions.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 16.10.22

By the Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA