



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Reference: Access Canberra – Night-Time Economy

Hearing: 19 November 2025

In relation to: Night-Time Economy

Question received: 27 November 2025

Answer Due: 4 December 2025

1. What considerations and analysis has the ACT Government undertaken in regards to costs and benefits for night-time public transport between midnight and 6am, particularly on the weekends or for shift works?
2. What considerations has the ACT Government undertaken to support businesses, (outside of pubs, clubs, and restaurants) to be open later, year-round?

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Question one:

- This is not currently being considered by Government.

Question two:

- The Government is delivering initiatives that support a diverse range of businesses to open later year-round, including:
 - Delivering major events like Enlighten Festival and Floriade NightFest which attract significant evening crowds, encouraging retail, cultural, and service businesses to extend their trading hours. In addition to these major events:
 - The Floriade About Town extends Floriade into local precincts, driving foot traffic and supporting businesses to trial later hours and themed activations.
 - The Enlighten Beyond initiative which provides opportunities for local businesses to run programming content, to leverage the Enlighten marketing campaign and bring the festival audience to their venue.
 - These events also explore and deliver options for connecting town centres to the festival precincts, through partnerships with the City Renewal Authority, shopping centres and transport options.

OFFICIAL

- The Major Event Fund and ACT Event Fund provide support for precinct-based activations and events such as Summernats and Belco Bowl Jam, helping businesses build capability to drive the night-time economy.
- Events ACT provides marketing support to event organisers delivering activity in the ACT, including for businesses whose events activate the night-time economy.
- Through marketing and activation support including the InTheCity.com.au platform and targeted marketing campaigns, promoting a wide range of businesses, integrating them into city events and activations to boost visibility and foot traffic.
- Through providing Improved lighting in City Walk, Petrie Plaza, Garema Place and the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, decluttered sightlines, and ongoing support from the CBR Night Crew, the City Centre has been made safer for evening trade.
- In late 2025, 22 grants (up to \$5,000 each) have funded events and activations - including at night - to boost visitation and support businesses impacted by construction.
- As part of our work to provide better access to the city-centre at night-time, the Government is setting up a Pick-Up and Drop-Off Zone on Genge Street which will operate from 6pm to 6am, all days of the week. The new Pick-Up and Drop-Off zone will offer easy access to shops and businesses in Bunda Street, the southern end of Lonsdale Street and the Canberra Centre. This is in addition to new late-night Pick-Up and Drop-Off zones catering to patrons of the night-time economy.
- Canberra businesses benefit from unrestricted trading hours. This was reflected in the Business Council of Australia's Regulation Rumble Rankings 2025 report which ranked the ACT first for retail trading hours regulation.
- These efforts are reflected in the Vibing the Night – Visa Australia Night-Time Economy Index report which stated that Canberra leads the nation in growth of retail merchants trading consistently at night, up 8 per cent in 2024–25.

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

Signature:

By the Minister for the Night-Time Economy, Ms Tara Cheyne

Date:

15/12/25