



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Ms Leanne Castley on Thursday 27 July 2023: Mr Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [27 July 2023] [PAGE 26-27]]

In relation to:

MS CASTLEY: Thank you, Chair. Chief Minister, I have got some questions about the wellbeing dashboard. In March 2020 in the forward to the government's Wellbeing Framework you said:

Having a set of wellbeing indicators will help us zero in on where we need to invest more of our time, energy and creativity.

You also issued a press release which said:

Our performance across the 12 domains will be measured by a range of indicators that the Canberra community told us are important measures of their wellbeing. the ACT Wellbeing Framework will inform government priorities, policies and investment decisions including through future annual budget processes.

So, I wonder if you can give me an example of one policy or initiative from the 2023-24 budget which was informed by data from the wellbeing dashboard.

Mr Barr: In the economy area most of the decisions in relation to unemployment, inflation, population, and in relation to cost of living.

MS CASTLEY: This has come from the data off the wellbeing dashboard?

Mr Barr: Well, the wellbeing—the data in relation to the economy is—there are four indicators, business conditions and economic diversity, economic performance, employment and income inequality. We obviously receive data monthly, quarterly, six-monthly and annually under various datasets through the ABS, and so that data was drawn upon for decisions in those areas.

MS CASTLEY: I know you gave me four areas but can you give me a specific policy with which this is—

Mr Barr: I will give you a list, I will take it on notice and give you a list.

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

All decisions in the 2023-24 Budget were informed by wellbeing analysis. The Government publishes Budget decisions in the Budget and Budget Review.

The Economy was identified as the primary wellbeing domain for the following new initiatives listed in the 2023-24 Budget Outlook:

- Boosting business and the economy – Canberra Small Business Advice and Support Service
- Boosting business and the economy – Continuing to strengthen our tourism and events industry
- Boosting business and the economy – Continuing to support Canberra businesses
- Boosting business and the economy – Expanding the Better Regulation Taskforce
- Boosting business and the economy – Implementing the International Engagement Strategy
- Boosting business and the economy – Small Business Expo
- Increase in the Betting Operations Tax
- Increase in the Utilities Network Facilities Tax
- Payroll tax surcharge for very large businesses
- Safeguarding the Government's concessional Investments
- Stamp duty reductions for home buyers
- Updating the Lease Variation Charge to reflect inflation in market values
- University of New South Wales (Canberra) campus site project implementation
- Investing in public services – Introducing an indemnity scheme for Out of Home Care providers
- Eastern Broadacre land for future economic prosperity
- Public Unleased Land Act – Tertiary Fee Adjustment

Key economic information for the Australian Capital Territory is published on the wellbeing dashboard, with the public and the government also able to access and use the economic data published either monthly, quarterly or annually from the ACT Government Treasury website <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/snapshot> or the ABS directly.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 14.8.23

By Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA