



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

Application Details	
Ref. No.	CMTEDDFOI 2026-084
Date of Application	9 April 2026
Date of Decision	15 June 2026
Processing time (in working days)	44
Fees	Waived
Decision on Access	Partial Release
Information Requested (summary)	Information on the tender for the old transport depot, including Question Time Briefs (QTBs).
Publication Details	
Original application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Decision notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Documents and schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
Decision made by ACAT	N/A
Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

From: CMTEDD FOI <CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2026 12:33 PM

To: [REDACTED] CMTEDD FOI <CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: CMTEDDFOI 2026-084: FOI application regarding tender for old Transport Depot

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

This email is to let you know we have received your below FOI request. Please note that we operate under the ACT *Freedom of Information Act 2016* and your request will be processed in line with our Act. I have referred your request onto the relevant business unit and will be in touch should we need to clarify the scope with you.

Kind regards

Emma

Emma Hotham (she/her) | Director, CMTEDD FOI

Phone: 02 6207 0811 | emma.hotham@act.gov.au

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | **ACT Government**

Level 1, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2026 8:41 AM

To: CMTEDD FOI <CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au>

Subject: CMTEDDFOI 2026-084: FOI application regarding tender for old Transport Depot

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi FOI team,

I am seeking access to information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and I request the following documents:

- Any documents, emails, or other communication between Arts ACT and the current licensee for the old Transport Depot, Iconic Market and Events Pty Ltd, and managing director [REDACTED], relating to the lease of the transport depot, particularly about the licence/lease being put out to tender
- Any documents, emails, records or other communication pertaining to organisations/individuals applying to for a license/lease of the old Transport Depot, including communication from government to these applicants that their application had been denied/approved.
- Any communication, particularly to the Minister for Arts, discussing delays to the tender process for the licence for the old Transport Depot and delays to an announcement of a successful applicant.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] or at [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [REDACTED] if you need more information or if any barriers prevent you from processing my request quickly.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 9 April 2026.

Specifically, you sought access to the following information:

- *Any documents, emails, or other communication between Arts ACT and the current licensee for the old Transport Depot, Iconic Market and Events Pty Ltd, and managing director [REDACTED] relating to the lease of the transport depot, particularly about the licence/lease being put out to tender*
- *Any documents, emails, records or other communication pertaining to organisations/individuals applying to for a license/lease of the old Transport Depot, including communication from government to these applicants that their application had been denied/approved.*
- *Any communication, particularly to the Minister for Arts, discussing delays to the tender process for the licence for the old Transport Depot and delays to an announcement of a successful applicant.*

On 14 April 2026, you were emailed as follows:

In relation to point 2, the advice I have is that there are commercial negotiations underway and releasing this information could affect the commercial interest of the Territory. ArtsACT expect to resolve the negotiations within the next few months as such this is a timing issue. I am advised that if you are happy to wait, ArtsACT should be able to release this information at a later date.

Alternatively, at this stage, we can provide all public documentation such as the Approach to Market documentation and addenda.

Here is a link that has a published QTB on our disclosure log from last year – the relevant page is pdf page 21. [2025-423-.pdf](#)

Can you please advise how you would like to proceed on point 2?

On 14 April 2026, you replied by email to confirm as follows:

I would like to proceed with the FOI excluding point 2 for the present.

Accordingly, on 15 April 2026, you were sent an email to confirm that the *revised scope* is as follows for your requested information:

- *Any documents, emails, or other communication in the last 18 months between Arts ACT and the current licensee for the old Transport Depot, Iconic Market and Events Pty Ltd, and managing director [REDACTED], relating to the lease of the transport depot, particularly about the licence/lease being put out to tender.*
- *QTBs and correspondence to the Minister for the Arts/artsACT/CMTEDD from constituents re delays to the tender process for the licence for the old Transport Depot and delays to an announcement of a successful applicant.*

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the CMTEDD Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 days.

As this matter required third party consultation, the decision due date was extended by 15 working days, in accordance with section 40(2) of the Act.

Therefore, a decision is due by **16 June 2026**.

Decision on access

This decision is for information held by CMTEDD.

Inquiries were made with Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR), however iCBR does not hold information within scope of your request.

Searches of CMTEDD records have identified 35 documents within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant **full access** to 19 documents.

I have decided to grant **partial access** to 16 documents.

The records identified as relevant to your application are listed in the schedule enclosed at **Attachment A**. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

Release of documents

The information being released to you is provided at **Attachment B**.

Statement of Reasons

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below. In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your request
- third party views
- *Human Rights Act 2004*
- ACT Ombudsman Freedom of Information (FOI) Guidelines

As a decision maker, I am required to determine whether the information within scope is in the public interest to release. To make this decision, I am required to:

- assess whether the information would be contrary to public interest to disclose as per **Schedule 1** of the Act.
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring nondisclosure in **Schedule 2** of the Act.

Copies

Copies, or duplicates, of information have been excluded from your request, such as duplicates of Question Time Briefs (QTBS). This is in accordance with ACT Ombudsman Freedom of Information Guidelines. Where copies of documents have been provided with track changes, they have been included as they are not exact duplicates.

Outside Scope

Where only out-of-scope information has been removed from a document, the document is considered to have been released in full. This is in accordance with *Ombudsman FOI Guidelines – Dealing with access applications (2020)*.

Exemptions claimed

Schedule 1: Information taken to be contrary to the public interest

No relevant sections were identified.

Public Interest Test

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interest lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and nondisclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when ‘used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from “the subject matter and the scope and purpose” of the enactment in which it appears’. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Schedule 2: Factors to be considered when deciding the public interest.

Taking into consideration the information within scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the ‘public interest’.

Factors favouring disclosure (Section 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(i) - promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(ii) - contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(iii) - inform the community of the government’s operations, including policies, guidelines and codes of conduct followed by the government in its dealings with members of the community.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(viii) - reveal the reason for a government decision and any*

background or contextual information that informed the decision.

Information within scope of your request relates to the lease of the Former Transport Depot. This is an issue that has been in the media and a topic of public debate. The popularity and community interest in the site carries significant weight in favour of disclosure.

Some of the documents located within scope of your request include QTBs. These documents, prepared for Members of the Legislative Assembly for sittings of the Legislative Assembly, provide insight into the process and contextual information informing decisions about the depot. Therefore, I am satisfied that disclosure of the information would enhance the government's accountability, contribute to informed debate on matters of public interest, inform the community of the government's operations when dealing with the community, and reveal background and contextual information. I have given the above factors moderate weight.

I am satisfied that these factors favouring disclosure carry some weight. However, these factors are to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Section 2.2)

- *Section 2.2(a)(ii) - prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.*
- *Section 2.2(a)(xi) - prejudice trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person.*

When considering this information against the factors favouring nondisclosure, I am satisfied that the protection of an individual's right to privacy is a significant factor. Not all parties involved in the in-scope information provided their consent to release their personal information which include names, signature and contact information. These individuals are entitled to expect that the personal information they have supplied as part of this process will be dealt with in a manner that protects their privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Release of information concerning individuals working within the ACT Public Service is generally not considered to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy. However, where mobile phone numbers may be used for home and work purposes, this information is redacted, as it could or would reasonably be expected to prejudice an individual's right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

I have also considered the impact of disclosing information which relates to business affairs. In the case of *Re Mangan and The Treasury* [2005] AATA 898 the term 'business affairs' was interpreted as meaning 'the totality of the money-making affairs of an organisation or undertaking as distinct from its private or internal affairs'. Schedule 2 section 2.2(a)(xi) allows for government information to be withheld from release if disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to prejudice the trade secrets, business affairs or research of an agency or person.

Businesses that provide information to government, whether via commercial interest or other, do so with the knowledge that government held information is subject to Freedom of Information legislation. Those who do business with government must also recognise that government must balance the commercial interests of businesses with the principles of openness and transparency, and that the weight of the public interest in protecting business information will depend on a variety of factors, including how commercially

sensitive the information is, its age, its current relevance and the extent to which it has entered the public domain. Information concerning the Old Bus Depot Markets and the lease terms of the current owner has often been in the public domain. I have given this factor for nondisclosure moderate weight and applied redactions sparingly when weighed against factors for disclosure.

Having applied the test outlined in section 17 of the Act and deciding that release of some information contained in the documents is not in the public interest to release, I have chosen to redact this specific information in accordance with section 50(2). Noting the pro-disclosure intent of the Act, I am satisfied that redacting only the information that I believe is not in the public interest to release will ensure that the intent of the Act is met and will provide you with access to the majority of the information held by CMTEDD within the scope of your request.

Additional information

Information on the tender process is published here:

[Display PICM0007187](#)

<https://www.tenders.act.gov.au/tender/view?id=284194>

Charges

Processing charges are applicable for this request because the total number of pages to be released to you exceeds the charging threshold of 50 pages. However, the charges have been waived.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a [disclosure log](#).

Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CMTEDD disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact the CMTEDD FOI Team by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Katharine Stuart
Information Officer
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

15 June 2026



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST

Reference No.

Revised scope:

- Any documents, emails, or other communication in the last 18 months between Arts ACT and the current licensee for the old Transport Depot, Iconic Market and Events Pty Ltd, and managing director [REDACTED], relating to the lease of the transport depot, particularly about the licence/lease being put out to tender.
- QTBs and correspondence to the Minister for the Arts/artsACT/CMTEDD from constituents re delays to the tender process for the licence for the old Transport Depot and delays to an announcement of a successful applicant.

CMTEDDFOI 2026-084

Ref No	Page No	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
Binder 1 -Part 1						
1	1-2	Letter from third party	undated	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
2	3-4	Letter response to third party-CMTEDD2025/574	4/03/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
3	5-6	Letter of 18/07/2025	31/7/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
4	7-8	File note of 5/11/2025 – record of conversation	undated	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
5	9-10	Letter of 18/12/2025	2/12/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
6	11	File note of 9/2/2025	undated	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
7	12	Letter	25/03/2026	Full		Yes
8	13-14	Email chain, subject: Re: FTD licence arrangement	23/03/2026- 1/04/2026	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
9	15-19	Email chain, subject: RE: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome	15/05/2025- 23/05/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes

10	20-22	Email chain, subject: RE: Response Required: Former Transport Depot Licence	18/12/2025-23/01/2026	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
11	23-26	Email chain, subject: RE: Former Transport Depot_Request for Proposal	30/01/2025-05/02/20025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
12	27-32	Question Time Brief (QTB)-'CM2026/8074' [track changed] - 11/03/2026	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
13	33-38	QTB-CM2026/74 - 11/03/2026	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
14	39-44	QTB-CM2026/69 – 21/01/2026	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
15	45-50	QTB-CM2026/63 – 21/01/2026	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
16	51-55	QTB-CM2024/38577 – 07/11/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
Binder 1 -Part 2						
17	1-5	QTB-CM2025/6029-track changed copy – 07/11/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
18	6-10	QTB-CM2024/38572 – 11/10/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
19	11-17	QTB-CM2024/38567 – track changed copy – ' 10/10/2025 '	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
20	18-22	QTB-CM2024/38562 – 12/09/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
21	23-27	QTB-CM2024/38557 – 12/09/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
22	28-32	QTB-CM2024/38552 – 21/08/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
23	33-37	QTB-CM2025/3276 – 10/07/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
24	38-40	QTB-CM2025/577 – 06/02/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
25	41-42	Email chain, subject: FW: Urgent concerns from XXX lack of communication on Old BusDepot tender	20/05/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
26	43-45	QTB-CM2024/38547 – 10/06/2025	10/06/2025	Full	Outside scope	Yes
27	46-48	QTB-CM2024/38542 – 09/05/2025	09/05/2025	Full	Outside scope	Yes
28	49-51	QTB-CM2024/38522 – 18/02/2025	18/02/2025	Full	Outside scope	Yes

Part 3						
29	1-6	Email chain, subject: FW: Former Transport Depot Tender Outcome	20/05/2025-29/05/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
30	7-8	Email chain, subject: RE: Old Transport Depot Tender	19/05/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
31	9	Email chain, FW: Old Bus Depot Markets article response	7/09/2025-08/10/2025	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
32	10-16	Copies of photographs [within email attachment 31]	undated	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
33	17-19	Letter	undated	Partial	Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2, s 2.2(a)(xi)	Yes
34	20	Document – Media input request – requested 29/09/2025	undated	Full	Outside scope	Yes
35	21	Email chain	10/03/2026-11/03/2026	Full		Yes
Total						
No of						
Docs						
35						



Old Bus Depot Markets
PO Box 4183 Kingston ACT 2604
Phone 02 6295 3331 (Tues-Thurs)
Fax 02 6295 7979

Att: Michael Pettersson MLA
ACT Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

Dear Mr Pettersson,

I am writing to you today in relation to the ACT Government's announcement to conduct a competitive **tender process for the future operation of the Former Transport Depot, home to our Old Bus Depot Markets for the past 30 years.**

During the past 30 years the Markets have:

- Supported thousands of local, small and artisan businesses, with many making their living by coming to market each Sunday (we currently have over 1000 businesses registered, supporting between 100-200 businesses at each Sunday market)
- Remained an iconic part of the Kingston Foreshore area, operating most Sundays of the year.
- Achieved tourism award Hall of Fame status and remain on Canberra's 'must-do' list for tourists.
- Provided an income and jobs for our stallholders, their families and markets staff.
- Created a vibrant community of makers, artisans and members of the general public who come to Market each week to support each other and the Canberra economy.
- Maintained a strong and supportive online community – Facebook 20,000 followers; Instagram 6,000 followers

We are, of course, most grateful for the support of the ACT Government over the years in leasing the former transport depot. And we understand your need to create a fair and equitable process regarding future use of the former transport depot, one in which will we participate.

I must communicate however my disappointment in your department that when we were informed back in October 2024 that this was going to market, we weren't actually asked if we were interested in reapplying to keep running our own business in the space. Secondly, when the notification was made in late January, we were given only a few hours' notice that a media release was being distributed and were told to send a letter to our stallholders that we had no involvement or consultation in drafting, informing them of the news. 24hrs would have been a tight turnaround, but considering we received a call from the media only 3-4hrs after this initial notification we then scrambled to inform stallholders before they heard from the media. Being treated like this within the first few hours of a process has shaken our confidence about the outcome of the process over the longer term.

So you are accurately informed our on position, what we are in fact doing:

- We will be re-applying for this tender in the hopes that the Old Bus Depot Markets can continue to operate.
- We are innovating our plans to be a better version of the current Markets' offerings
- We will input into ways the site can be utilised for the other 6 days per week.
- We will encourage community and arts focused commercial groups to find ways to activate the site, and we believe these uses should be kept local and in-keeping with the art precinct master



plan.

We do seek your assistance on a matter that we believe will improve the process for everyone. On review of the tender documents, we note that this is essentially a RFP for a building being treated as vacant possession. There is no mention made of any application being made that may focus use the facility on a weekday basis and allowing the viability of a Sunday market to continue to operate. Even a consideration of applicants who may also want to see the markets continue in place as a sub-tenant of a new leaseholder.

As such, we are seeking your consideration that the option of the Old Bus Depot Markets existing in place is included in the current tender documents that have gone out to Market. We'd like to see mere consideration of the inclusion of Old Bus Depot Markets as a viable in-place business that has operated out of the Former Transport Depot for 30 years.

We call on you to direct ArtsACT to request a modification of the current tender documents so that they include mention of the current tender holder to better frame consideration for the 100-200 businesses that currently have their livelihood at risk. This could be simply included as a question to applicants framed 'does your application allow or seek to incorporate the operations of the current leaseholders the Old Bus Depot markets via a Sunday hire agreement of the building within your plan. This could be included as a non weighted question and provide very valuable insight to allow ArtsACT and TendersACT to consider the viability of a multi-tenancy agreement without the need for additional costly and time-consuming consultation. The inclusion of such a question would not compromise the commercial aims and terms of the tendering process, but would give insights and consideration to hundreds of families of traders who are anxiously awaiting the completion of this process.

Lastly, we trust that the you as the Minister for Business and the Arts in our ACT Government, will take 30 years of business success into mind, along with the support of our many and valued stallholders and customers, and that this doesn't become an administrative process that discounts the social and business value that the markets has provided to the Canberra community since 1994. We want to help Canberrans keep jobs, and keep creating and supporting the long-term aspiration of the Kingston Arts precinct plan.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

**Michael Pettersson MLA**

Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Member for Yerrabi

Our ref: CMTEDD2025/574

Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2 s 2.2(a)(xi)

4 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter about the tender process for the future operation for the Former Transport Depot and for confirming your intention to submit a response.

I acknowledge the contribution of the Old Bus Depot Markets have made over the last 30 years in supporting many small businesses and I know Canberrans have greatly valued the weekly market.

The processes and rules for undertaking procurement are set out in the *Government Procurement ACT 2001*, *Government Procurement Regulation 2007* and *Government Procurement Rules 2024*. The legislation provides that a Territory entity must ensure procurement processes are undertaken in a fair, transparent and equitable way that achieves value for money in alignment with community standards. Testing the market, through a competitive Request for Proposal process, is required to ensure we are achieving the greatest overall benefit for the Territory and giving others the opportunity to submit their ideas.

I understand that in October 2023 Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd were informed that the licence for use of the Former Transport Depot would not be extended beyond the current term.

I appreciate the uncertainty around the future operation of the building and the challenges this has created communicating with your stallholders.

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

+61 2 6205 1436

Pettersson@act.gov.au

@PetterssonMLA

michael.pettersson

petterssonmla

The ACT Government is committed to supporting small Canberra businesses. I understand artsACT, as much as they were able to within the procurements rules, provided assistance to help communicate with stakeholders about the need for the Request for Proposal process and their eligibility to access the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service to support them during this period.

The current tender process does not limit respondents from including the Old Bus Depot Markets in their proposals. The ACT Government welcomes ideas from joint suppliers and the licence may be awarded to multiple parties who may operate from the Former Transport Depot on different days or using different sections of the space.

I wish you all the best with your endeavors.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MP', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Michael Pettersson MLA

**ACT**
GovernmentChief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Dear Sch 2.2(a)(ii),

Re: Continuation of Licence of Part Block 14 Section 49 Kingston

I refer to the Licence Agreement (Licence) from the Australian Capital Territory (Territory) to Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd (Iconic) dated 22 August 2024 of part of Block 14 Section 49 Kingston (Premises).

As you would be aware, Iconic are currently occupying and using the Premises on a monthly holding over arrangement pursuant to clause 2.2 of the Licence and this arrangement can be ended by either the Territory or Iconic upon the provision of three months written notice to the other party (clause 2.2.2 as varied by Item 2 Schedule 7).

The Territory undertakes not to give notice to terminate the holding over arrangement currently in place pursuant to clause 2.2 of the Licence where such termination would take effect before Monday, 5 January 2026 subject to:

- Iconic providing an undertaking that it will not give notice to terminate the holding over arrangement where such notice would take effect on or before Monday, 5 January 2026; and
- Iconic complying with all terms and conditions of the Licence while the holding over arrangement remains on foot.

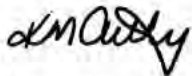
For clarity, I confirm that the Licence is otherwise unaffected by this undertaking, and other than limiting the provision of notice under clause 2.2.2, it will not limit either party from taking any action or enforcing any rights under the Licence or the holding over arrangement.

If this offer is acceptable to Iconic, please arrange for an authorised officer of Iconic to sign this letter where indicated below and return a signed copy to the Territory.

Where the Territory does not receive a copy of this letter signed on behalf of Iconic within 10 business days of the date of this letter, the undertaking by the Territory set out in this letter is automatically withdrawn and will have no effect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Georgia Hobbs, Senior Director, artsACT at the following email address georgia.hobbs@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Kareena Arthy
Deputy Director-General
Economic Development

18 July 2025

To: Australian Capital Territory

Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd undertakes:

1. not give notice to terminate the holding over arrangement currently in place pursuant to clause 2.2 of the Licence Agreement from the Australian Capital Territory to Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd dated 22 August 2024 of part of Block 14 Section 49 Kingston (**Licence**) where such termination would take effect before **Monday, 5 January 2026**; and
2. to comply with all terms and conditions of the Licence while the holding over arrangement remains on foot.

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signed by an authorised officer of Iconic: _____

Name and position: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Date: 31.07.2025



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

*** All information provided should be factual.
Electronic approval at Executive Branch Manager level is required.**

Conversation time:
4pm, Wednesday 5

November 2025

Conversation with: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Contact phone: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Subject discussed: Former Transport Depot tender

Advice provided:

artsACT thanked the constituent for their interest in the tender and advised the following:

- The Old Bus Depot Markets is a private business owned and managed by Iconic Markets & Events Ptd Ltd (Iconic).
- Stallholder's concerns on the running of this business should be addressed to Iconic.
- On 30 January 2025, the Territory commenced a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the future use of the Former Transport Depot.
- Following an evaluation process, negotiations are now underway with the Preferred Supplier for the next multi-year licence agreement.
- The outcome of this process will be publicly announced once a contract has been finalised.
- In the meantime, the ACT Government and Iconic have agreed that the current licence arrangement will not end before 5 January 2026.
- This provides certainty for Iconic and the stallholders of the Old Bus Depot Markets to continue trading up to and through the Christmas period while negotiations progress with the Preferred Supplier.
- Negotiating long-term contractual arrangements takes time, and this mutual agreement ensures continuity of the Old Bus Depot Markets' operations while allowing for a thorough and transparent process that upholds probity requirements for the future use of the Former Transport Depot.

The constituent noted that Iconic have not shared information with stallholders about the current licence arrangement being in place until at least 5 January 2026. artsACT agreed to speak to Iconic about providing this information to stallholders.

The constituent asked what plans the Government has to rebuild the markets. artsACT noted that the RFP sought broad ideas for the use of the Former Transport Depot and prioritised activities that utilised the building over 7 days and aligned with the ambition



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Binder - Part 1, 8

DLO Request Container:
CMTEDD2025/4771

of the future Kingston Arts Precinct. While markets are considered a suitable activity, the RFP was not limited to markets. The operations of the Old Bus Depot Markets are a decision for Iconic as the business owner.

The constituent was pleased to be contacted by artsACT and no further follow up is required at this stage.

**ACT**
GovernmentChief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

18 December 2025

Dear Sch 2.2(a)(ii),

RE: Continuation of Licence of Part Block 14 Section 49 Kingston

I refer to the licence agreement (**Licence**) from the Australian Capital Territory (**Territory**) to Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd (**Iconic**) dated 22 August 2024 of part of Block 14 Section 49 Kingston (**Premises**).

As you would be aware, Iconic are currently occupying and using the Premises on a monthly holding over arrangement pursuant to clause 2.2 of the Licence and this arrangement can be ended by either the Territory or Iconic upon the provision of three months written notice to the other party (refer clause 2.2.2 as varied by Item 2 Schedule 7).

On 1 August 2025, the Territory and Iconic agreed by way of a mutual undertaking not to give notice to terminate the monthly holding over arrangement currently in place pursuant to clause 2.2 of the Licence where such termination would take effect before 5 January 2026.

The Territory wishes to extend this arrangement and undertakes to not give notice to terminate the monthly holding over arrangement where such notice would take effect on or before **Monday, 6 April 2026** subject to:

1. Iconic providing a reciprocal undertaking that it will not give notice to terminate the monthly holding over arrangement under the Licence where such notice would take effect on or before **Monday, 6 April 2026**; and
2. Iconic complying with all terms and conditions of the Licence while the holding over arrangement remains on foot.

For clarity, I confirm that the Licence is otherwise unaffected by this undertaking, and other than limiting the provision of notice under clause 2.2.2, it will not limit either party from taking any action or enforcing any rights under the Licence or the holding over arrangement.

If this offer is acceptable to Iconic, please arrange for an authorised officer of Iconic to sign this letter where indicated below and return a signed copy to the Territory.

Where the Territory does not receive a copy of this letter signed for and on behalf of Iconic within 10 business days of the date of this letter, the undertaking by the Territory set out in this letter is automatically withdrawn and will have no effect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Georgia Hobbs, Senior Director artsACT, at Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa Comacchio
A/g Executive Branch Manager
artsACT

To: Australian Capital Territory
Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd undertakes:

1. not give notice to terminate the holding over arrangement currently in place pursuant to clause 2.2 of the Licence Agreement from the Australian Capital Territory to Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd dated 22 August 2024 of part of Block 14 Section 49 Kingston (**Licence**) where such termination would take effect before **Monday, 6 April 2026**; and
2. to comply with all terms and conditions of the Licence while the holding over arrangement remains on foot.

Signed by an authorised officer of Iconic: _____

Name and position: _____

Date: 21st December 2025



RECORD OF CONTACT/CONVERSATION

*** All information provided should be factual.
Electronic approval at Executive Branch Manager level is required.**

Conversation time:
1:15 pm, Monday 9

February 2026

Conversation with: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Contact phone: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Subject discussed: Future of the Old Bus Depot Markets

Advice provided:

- Sch 2.2(a)(ii), the constituent asked for an update on the procurement process for the Former Transport Depot licence. She said the uncertainty was difficult for stakeholders and impacting visitation.
- artsACT advised that contractual negotiations are currently underway, and the outcome of the procurement process will be announced once a contract has been entered into.
- artsACT let the constituent know that the ACT Government greatly values the role markets and stallholders play in our community and is committed to working with organisers to find practical solutions when required.
- While negotiations continue, the ACT Government and the current licence holders (Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd) have agreed that the current licence arrangement will not end before 6 April 2026. This agreement is designed to provide certainty for stallholders, allowing them to trade through the Easter period while negotiations continue.
- artsACT advised that negotiating long term contractual arrangements takes time and assured the constituent that the ACT Government is focused on achieving the best possible outcome for the community and stakeholders and ensuring the long-term success of the Former Transport Depot.
- artsACT said stallholder concerns around the running of the Old Bus Depot Markets, including questions around visitation and marketing during this period should be directed to Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd.
- artsACT thanked the constituent for their enquiry. No further action is required at this time.



Michael Petterson MLA

Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Member for Yerrabi

Elizabeth Lee MLA
Member for Kurrajong
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Our ref: CMTEDD2026/894

25 March 2026

Dear Ms ~~Lee~~, *Elizabeth*,

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2026 regarding the future of the Old Bus Depot Markets.

The Old Bus Depot Markets is a private business operating from the Former Transport Depot and is owned and managed by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd (Iconic). Matters relating to the operation of the markets, including patronage levels and engagement with stallholders, should be directed to them.

When the Request for Proposal (RFP) was released, the ACT Government provided Iconic with correspondence to support its communication with stallholders. This information outlined the RFP process, potential impacts, and available support, including access to the ACT Government-funded Canberra Business Advice and Support Service.

The ACT Government is undertaking a comprehensive tender process for the Former Transport Depot licence and, as the contractual relationship is with Iconic as the licence holder, it has not been appropriate to engage directly with stallholders during this process. However, feedback has been provided to Iconic about stallholder concerns regarding engagement.

In January 2026, the ACT Government and Iconic agreed that the current licence will not end before 6 April 2026 which provides certainty for stallholders through the Easter trading period.

The ACT Government values the important role markets play in the community, and we will continue to work with organisers to provide support to stallholders and small businesses while the procurement process is ongoing, consistent with the legal requirements of the tender process.

Yours sincerely

Michael Petterson MLA
Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

act.gov.au

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: 01/04/2026 12:27 PM
To: "Hobbs, Georgia" <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)" "Comacchio, Teresa"
<Teresa.Comacchio@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FTD licence arrangement
Categories: KAP

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

Georgia,

Thank you for your email.

We acknowledge the recent media coverage and appreciate the reminder regarding stallholder communications.

Over the past week, we have been working through a number of items internally to ensure that any communications issued to stallholders are accurate, appropriately framed, and fully compliant with the current licence arrangements and procurement sensitivities.

We are in the process of preparing an update to stallholders which will include clarification around the current holding over arrangement, and will continue on a month-by-month basis.

Further, we would appreciate any guidance the Territory can provide in relation to potential assurances around additional blocks (e.g. three-month periods) during which notice would not be issued, as this would materially assist in providing greater certainty to stallholders and supporting operational continuity.

We ensure that communication has been distributed and that stallholders have been kept appropriately informed.

Regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

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On 23 Mar 2026, at 14:24, Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

You will have seen the Canberra Times and Region Media articles published on 20 March 2026 regarding the procurement process for the Former Transport Depot licence.

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you to keep stallholders informed, where appropriate, about the current licence arrangement.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to let stallholders know that we have agreed to not end the monthly 'holding over' occupancy arrangement currently in place before 6 April 2026 and that if the next licence agreement has not been finalised prior to this date, you will continue occupying the Former Transport Depot on a month-by-month basis.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Georgia

This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

From: "Hobbs, Georgia"
Sent: 23/05/2025 12:20 PM
To: 'Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Cc: 'Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
"Fulton, CarolineM" <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

Hi [REDACTED]

In planning for the Request for Proposal we have allowed one month for the potential make good and handover before the new licence commences on 1 August 2025.

However, I have reviewed the licence agreement and Schedule 7 - Variations on page 43 shows that clause 2.2.2 was deleted and replaced with the following:

2.2.2 The monthly occupancy arrangement may be ended by either party giving three months' written notice to the other and the notice may be given at any time.

As such, should the outcome not be known by 30 June 2025 clause 2.2 of the licence agreement will be enacted and, subject to the outcome of the tender, we would provide you with three months' notice of our intention to end the monthly occupancy arrangement.

Best,
Georgia

From: 'Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: Thursday, 22 May 2025 12:04 PM
To: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Cc: 'Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Fulton, CarolineM <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

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Hi

Georgia,

Thank you for your response.

I'd like to raise a concern regarding the timing of the tender outcome. If the result is only known on 28 June, we would not have sufficient time to complete the make good requirements and wind down operations in an orderly manner before the lease ends on 30 June.

Could you please advise how such a scenario would be handled, and whether we should begin preparing for a monthly occupancy arrangement under clause 2.2 as a contingency?

Your guidance would be greatly appreciated to ensure we can manage the transition effectively.

Kind regards,

'Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

From: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:40 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Cc: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) Fulton, CarolineM <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear [REDACTED]

We appreciate that uncertainty around the future operation of the building is causing concern, and we are working towards a decision.

I can confirm, as per my email below, should the outcome not be known by 30 June 2025 clause 2.2 of the licence agreement will be enacted.

Best wishes,

Georgia

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) >
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 11:35 AM
To: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Cc: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Subject: Re: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

You don't often get email from Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear
Georgia,

Thank you for your response and for outlining the current status of the tender process and the provisions under clause 2.2 of the licence agreement.

While clause 2.2 allows for a monthly occupancy agreement post-lease expiry, we respectfully request **formal written confirmation** from the ACT Government that this clause will be enacted **in the event the tender outcome is not announced before 30 June**. Without such confirmation, we are unable to make appropriate plans or communicate effectively with our stallholders, suppliers, and the public.

We are particularly concerned about a scenario where the tender outcome is announced at the very last minute — for example, on **28 or 29 June** — as this would leave us with no practical time to plan or implement a proper market closure. This would cause significant disruption, confusion, and reputational risk for all parties involved.

As such, we would greatly appreciate a **Clear direction from the ACT Government** regarding what operational steps we should be preparing for in the meantime.

This information is critical for us to manage communications with our stallholders and community and to ensure we act responsibly and in alignment with the ACT Government's expectations.

We kindly ask for a written response to the above within **five (5) business days**, given the very short window remaining before the lease expiry.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We remain committed to working collaboratively and constructively during this important transitional period.

Warm regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

From: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 16 May 2025 5:44 pm

To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) Gordon, Libby <Libby.Gordon@act.gov.au>

Cc: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) Fulton, CarolineM

<CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email regarding the timeline for awarding the Former Transport Depot licence.

The Former Transport Depot is a Canberra heritage landmark and much-loved community gathering space. Unsurprisingly, there has been a lot of interest in the Request for Proposal process. As you know the Evaluation Team requested additional information to support their review of the proposals on 31 March 2025. At your request, the deadline for this information was extended until 23 April 2025.

Given the importance of this building the Evaluation Team is carefully considering all material. Following a decision by the delegate there will be a period of negotiation with the preferred supplier before the licence is agreed and the outcome is announced. As outlined in the Request for Proposal the intent is that a new licence will commence from 1 August 2025.

Should the outcome not be known by 30 June 2025 when your licence expires, clause 2.2 of the licence agreement will apply. This allows for a monthly occupancy agreement to be in place until either party ends it by providing one month's written notice.

We will be in touch regarding the decision, or our intention to enact the monthly occupancy agreement, in due course.

Georgia

Georgia Hobbs she/her
Senior Director, artsACT
Phone: 02 6207 2186 | Mobile: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: georgia.hobbs@act.gov.au
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government
Level 3, 220 London Cct, Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

arts.act.gov.au | Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)



From: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#), [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(xi\)](#) >
Sent: Thursday, 15 May 2025 11:37 AM
To: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>; Gordon, Libby <Libby.Gordon@act.gov.au>
Cc: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#), [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(xi\)](#)
[Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Subject: Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Subject:

Urgent Request for Direction on Old Bus Depot Markets Lease and Tender Outcome

Good afternoon Georgia and Libby,

Thank you for your response and for the update regarding the timeline for the Former Transport Depot tender process.

As the current lease is set to expire on **30 June 2025**, and today being **15 May 2025**, we are now just six weeks away from the end of the lease. We urgently request clear, written instructions from the ACT Government regarding the next steps.

The Old Bus Depot Markets (OBDM) has been a Canberra institution for over 20 years, earning numerous awards and serving as a key cultural and tourism destination. With the tender outcome still pending and the lease term approaching its conclusion, we respectfully seek formal guidance on whether we should prepare to wind down operations.

Our final scheduled trading day under the current lease is **Sunday, 29 June 2025**. If closure is required, we must move quickly to notify the media and the public, considering the market's iconic status in Canberra's cultural landscape. Stallholders must also be informed in a timely manner so they can plan their commitments, and we will need to organise the removal of equipment and infrastructure — all of which require significant lead time.

Alternatively, we request an **extension of the current licence** to allow operations to continue until a decision on the tender is finalised. A six-month extension is preferred, though even a short-term extension would provide essential continuity and help prevent premature disruption. This would safeguard the market's viability and ensure a smoother transition once a successful tenderer is appointed and a new licence is executed.

Given the urgency of the matter and the limited time remaining, we kindly request a written response **within five (5) business days of 15 May 2025**.

We urge the ACT Government to treat this request as a priority. A delay in direction presents not only operational risks for us and our stallholders, but also reputational risks for the Government given the market's significance to the Canberra community.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

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From: "Hobbs, Georgia"
Sent: 21/01/2026 3:31 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii) >
Cc: "Comacchio, Teresa" <Teresa.Comacchio@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Response Required: Former Transport Depot Licence

Dear Sch 2.2(a)(ii),

Thank you for returning the signed undertaking.

While this was not received by the requested due date of 2 January 2026, we are happy to honour the offer and confirm this arrangement is now in place.

The Territory will not give notice to terminate the monthly holding over arrangement currently in place, where such termination would take effect before Monday 6 April 2026.

Best wishes,
Georgia

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: Tuesday, 20 January 2026 9:29 PM
To: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Cc: Comacchio, Teresa <Teresa.Comacchio@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response Required: Former Transport Depot Licence

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Please see

correspondence prior to going on leave.

Regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

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If you have received this email in error, please let us know by return email and delete the original.

On 21 Dec 2025, at 17:41, Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) wrote:

Please see attached

Kind regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Winners Australian Tourism Award Tourism Retailing
Australian Tourism Hall of Fame

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Only the intended recipient may access, use, distribute or copy it.
If you have received this email in error, please let us know by return email and delete the original.

On 18 Dec 2025, at 16:41, Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Anthony,

Please see attached letter from Teresa Comacchio, A/g Executive Branch Manager, artsACT, regarding the continuation of the licence of Part Block 14 Section 49 Kingston.

The Territory wishes to extend the mutual undertaking and not give notice to terminate the monthly holding over arrangement currently in place, where such termination would take effect before Monday 6 April 2026.

If this offer is acceptable to Iconic, please sign and return the attached letter by **COB Friday 2 January 2026**.

Please note I will be on leave from 25 December 2025 – 7 January 2026. I hope you have a great break of the Christmas and New Year period.

Best wishes,
Georgia

Georgia Hobbs she/her
Senior Director, artsACT

Phone: 02 6207 2186 | Mobile: [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: georgia.hobbs@act.gov.au
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government
Level 3, 220 London Cct, Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
arts.act.gov.au | Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

<image001.jpg>

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<Letter to Iconic Markets Events Pty Ltd - Mutual Undertaking.pdf>

From: "Gordon, Libby" <Libby.Gordon@act.gov.au>
Sent: 05/02/2025 10:36 AM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Cc: "Hobbs, Georgia" <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Former Transport Depot_Request for Proposal

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sch 2.2(a)(ii), appreciate your help with the walk around on 12 February -

Kind regards

Libby

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2025 3:32 PM
To: Gordon, Libby
Subject: RE: Former Transport Depot_Request for Proposal

OFFICIAL

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Hi Libby,

Thank you for sending that through and I do apologise about the delay in my reply, as you know there is a little going on.

Wednesday the 12th of February at 12pm for a site inspection shouldn't be a problem to allow access throughout the building.

Please feel free to give me a call prior to the day to discuss if needed.

Kind Regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Old Bus Depot Markets



Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

02 6295 3331 (Tue-Thu)

PO Box 4183 Kingston ACT

2604

obdm.com.au

CANBERRA'S SUNDAY BEST
EVERY SUNDAY 9.30AM - 2.30PM



The Old Bus Depot Markets works and lives on Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri Country. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of these regions and recognise any other people and communities with connections to these regions. We pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging

From: Gordon, Libby <Libby.Gordon@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 4:57 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) >
Cc: Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>; Fulton, CarolineM <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Former Transport Depot_Request for Proposal

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Media release is here:

https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/michael-pettersson-m-la-media-releases/2025/proposals-invited-for-the-future-use-of-the-former-transport-depot

Will a site inspection for interested parties on **Wednesday 12 February at 12pm** suit you? We will need access to all the areas of the building including the food court and storage areas please – thanks

Regards

Libby

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) >
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 3:45 PM
To: Gordon, Libby <Libby.Gordon@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Former Transport Depot_Request for Proposal

OFFICIAL

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Libby,

Thank you for sending that through, would it be possible to have a copy of the media release sent through.

Kind Regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)



Sch 2.2(a)(ii) Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

02 6295 3331 (Tue-Thu)

PO Box 4183 Kingston ACT
2604

obdm.com.au

CANBERRA'S SUNDAY BEST EVERY SUNDAY 9.30AM - 2.30PM



The Old Bus Depot Markets works and lives on Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri Country. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of these regions and recognise any other people and communities with connections to these regions. We pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging

From: Gordon, Libby <Libby.Gordon@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 11:39 AM

To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Cc: Fulton, CarolineM <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>; Hobbs, Georgia <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>

Subject: Former Transport Depot_Request for Proposal

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Dear Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thank you for your time on the phone this morning.

As communicated with you (email dated 11 October 2023), the term of Iconic Markets and Events Pty Ltd's current licence for the use of the Former Transport Depot would not be extended beyond 30 June 2025.

The ACT Government will be conducting a competitive market process to operate the building under a new licence. This will enable all interested parties the opportunity to put forward their ideas. It is expected that the new licence will commence on 1 August 2025. The licence may be awarded to multiple parties who may operate from the Former Transport Depot on different days or using different sections of the space.

Iconic Market and Events is eligible to submit a proposal for a new licence under this process.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is now live on [ACT Tenders](#) and will close on 13 March 2025.

We appreciate that this may create uncertainty for you and your stallholders during this time. A letter to issue to your stallholders today if possible please is attached which advises of the process and provides contact details for the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service. Stallholders may be eligible to receive up to 4 hours of free business advice to suit their circumstances. We anticipate that a media release about the Request for Proposal will be issued tomorrow.

As part of the Request for Proposal process, we would like to hold a site inspection for interested parties on Wednesday 12 February at 12pm. During this visit we will need to access parts of the building that are exclusively

used by Iconic Market and Events. If this date and time are not possible, please let us know at your earliest convenience to enable this to be rescheduled.

Any questions, please get in touch – thank you.

Kind regards

Libby Gordon *(she/her)* | Director, Arts Facilities & Public Art - artsACT
Economic Development | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development | ACT Government
Phone 02 6205 5468 m [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) | Email: libby.gordon@act.gov.au

Level 3, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



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Talking Points

outside scope

2.5 | Former Transport Depot licence

Policy Area – Key/Background Information

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 11/03/2026
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 56001
Contact Officer name: Georgia Hobbs Ext: 72186
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2026/8074

outside scope

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- This agreement provided certainty for Iconic and its stallholders to continue trading up to and through the Easter period while negotiations progress with the Preferred Supplier identified through the recent tender process.
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Background Information

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Talking Points

outside scope

2.5 Former Transport Depot licence

Policy Area – Key/Background Information

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Cleared for public release by:

Contact Officer name:

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TRIM Ref:

11/03/2026

Executive Branch Manager

Georgia Hobbs

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

CM2026/74

Ext: 56001

Ext: 72186

outside scope

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outside scope

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Policy Area – Key/Background Information

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Contact Officer name: Georgia Hobbs Ext: 72186
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2026/69

outside scope

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outside scope

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2.6 Former Transport Depot licence

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outside scope

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Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

TRIM Ref:

07/11/2025

Executive Branch Manager

Georgia Hobbs

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

CM2024/38577

Ext: 56001

Ext: 72186

outside scope

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- This provides certainty for Iconic and its stallholders to continue trading up to and through the Christmas period while negotiations progress with the Preferred Supplier identified through the recent tender process.
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Georgia Hobbs

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

CM2025/6029

Ext: 56001

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outside scope

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Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

TRIM Ref:

17/10/2025

Executive Branch Manager

Georgia Hobbs

Chief Minister, Treasury and

Economic Development

CM2024/38572

Ext:

Ext: 72186

outside scope

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Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
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Policy Area – Key/Background Information

outside scope

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Cleared as complete and accurate:

[10/10/2025](#)

Cleared for public release by:

Executive Branch Manager

Ext: 76809

Contact Officer name:

[Caroline Fulton](#)
[Georgia Hobbs](#)

Ext: 721866809

Lead Directorate:

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

TRIM Ref:

CM2024/38567



outside scope

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[10/10/2025](#)

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Talking points

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared for public release by:

Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

TRIM Ref:

12/09/2025

Executive Branch Manager

Caroline Fulton

Chief Minister, Treasury and

Economic Development

CM2024/38562

Ext: 76809

Ext: 76809

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/09/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38562	

outside scope

2.5 Former Transport Depot licence

- The current licence for the Former Transport Depot, held by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd (Iconic), who operate the Old Bus Depot Market, expired on 30 June 2025.
- The option to extend the licence on a month-to-month arrangement is now in place. The ACT Government and Iconic have agreed that these arrangements will not end before 5 January 2026.
- This provides certainty for Iconic and its stallholders to continue trading up to and through the Christmas period while negotiations progress with the Preferred Supplier identified through the recent tender process.
- A competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process was initiated in January 2025, to enable all interested parties, including the current licence holders, to put forward their ideas for this unique facility.
- Submissions closed on 13 March 2025. Following a decision by the Delegate, the next licence agreement is now being negotiated with the Preferred Supplier.
- The outcome of the RFP process will be announced once the contract with the Preferred Supplier has been entered into.
- The ACT Government greatly values the vital role markets and stallholders play in our community and is committed to working with organisers to find practical solutions when required.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/09/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38562	

outside scope

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Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
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Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38562	

Arts Facilities

Arts Facilities Sub-Index

Talking Points

outside scope

2.5 | Former Transport Depot licence

Policy Area – Key/Background Information

outside scope

Talking points

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared for public release by:

Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

TRIM Ref:

12/09/2025

Executive Branch Manager

Caroline Fulton

Chief Minister, Treasury and

Economic Development

CM2024/38557

Ext: 76809

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outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared for public release by:

Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

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12/09/2025

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Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

CM2024/38557

Ext: 76809

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outside scope

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Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/09/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
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Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38557	

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/09/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
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TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38557	

Arts Facilities

Arts Facilities Sub-Index

Talking Points

outside scope

2.5 | Former Transport Depot licence

Policy Area – Key/Background Information

outside scope

Talking points

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared for public release by:

Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

TRIM Ref:

21/08/2025

Executive Branch Manager

Caroline Fulton

Chief Minister, Treasury and

Economic Development

CM2024/38552

Ext: 76809

Ext: 76809

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/08/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38552	

outside scope

2.5 Former Transport Depot licence

- The current licence for the Former Transport Depot, held by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd (Iconic), who operate the Old Bus Depot Market, expired on 30 June 2025.
- The option to extend the licence on a month-to-month arrangement is now in place. The ACT Government and Iconic have agreed that these arrangements will not end before 5 January 2026.
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- The ACT Government greatly values the vital role markets and stallholders play in our community and is committed to working with organisers to find practical solutions when required.

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared for public release by:

Contact Officer name:

Lead Directorate:

TRIM Ref:

21/08/2025

Executive Branch Manager

Caroline Fulton

Chief Minister, Treasury and

Economic Development

CM2024/38552

Ext: 76809

Ext: 76809

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/08/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38552	

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/08/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38552	

Arts Facilities

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Talking Points

outside scope

2.5 Former Transport Depot licence

Policy Area – Key/Background Information

outside scope

Talking points

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 10/07/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name: Caroline Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2025/3276

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2025/3276	

outside scope

2.5 Former Transport Depot licence

- The current licence for the Former Transport Depot, held by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd (Iconic), who operate the Old Bus Depot Market, expired on 30 June 2025. The option to extend the licence on a month-to-month arrangement is now in place. Under this arrangement Iconic will be provided with three months' written notice for it to end.
- A competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process was initiated in January 2025, to enable all interested parties, including the current licence holders, to put forward their ideas for this unique facility.
- Submissions closed on 13 March 2025. Following a decision by the Delegate, the next licence agreement is now being negotiated with the Preferred Supplier.
- The outcome of the RFP process will be announced once the contract with the Preferred Supplier has been entered into.
- The ACT Government greatly values the vital role markets and stallholders play in our community and is committed to working with organisers to find practical solutions when required.

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2025/3276	

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2025/3276	

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76809
Contact Officer name:	Caroline Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2025/3276	

CM2025/577

Portfolio/s: Business, Arts and Creative Industries

outside scope

Former Transport Depot licence

- The ACT Government is welcoming new ideas for the future use of the Former Transport Depot through a Request for Proposal process. Submissions can be made via Tenders ACT until 13 March 2025. A number of media outlets including [The Canberra Times](#) and [Riotact](#) have reported on this.
- The current licence, held by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd, who operate the Old Bus Depot Market, expires on 30 June 2025. The market operators and stallholders have been informed.
- The competitive market process will enable all interested parties, including the current licence holders, to have the opportunity to put forward their ideas, ensuring value for money.
- Joint proposals are welcome, and the licence may be awarded to multiple suppliers to ensure high utilisation of the 5000 sqm building.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	06/02/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 75564
Contact Officer name:	Caroline M Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2025/577	

- The heritage building has recently been upgraded and is part of the future KAP, so is ideally located to host markets, arts activities and events.

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 06/02/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 75564
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2025/577

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 06/02/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 75564
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2025/577

From: "Murdoch, Max" <Max.Murdoch@act.gov.au>
Sent: 20/05/2025 9:32 AM
To: "CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO" <EcoDevDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: "PETERSSON" <PETERSSON@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Urgent concerns from market stallholders regarding lack of communication on Old Bus Depot tender

Hi Kellie

This can be added to the file re: the other OBDM corro. The below largely covers the same points that have been discussed recently, but grateful if the standard response could cover any additional points

Thanks
 Max

From: PETERSSON
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 9:30 AM
To: Murdoch, Max
Subject: FW: Urgent concerns from market stallholders regarding lack of communication on Old Bus Depot tender

Hi Max – FYI

Sch 2.2(a)(ii) >
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2025 12:09 AM
To: PETERSSON <PETERSSON@act.gov.au>
Subject: Urgent concerns from market stallholders regarding lack of communication on Old Bus Depot tender

You don't often get email from souricbr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear
 Minister,

I write to you on behalf of many stallholders and families who have built their livelihoods around the Old Bus Depot Markets, to express our deep disappointment and growing distress over the ACT Government's lack of clear communication and support regarding the market's future.

To date, we have received no direct updates, consultation, or outreach from the ACT Government, despite the critical nature of the changes now underway. As of today, website bookings for stalls are only available until Sunday 25 May 2025, leaving us in complete limbo beyond that date.

This silence is not just frustrating, it is damaging. For many of us, these markets are not a hobby or a side business. They represent our sole source of income. The uncertainty is having a devastating emotional and financial impact not only on us as small business owners but on our families and children who depend on this income to survive.

The delay in communication and lack of transparency around the tender process have left hundreds of people anxious, planning their weeks with no knowledge of whether their livelihoods will continue next month. All this is happening at a time when many families are already struggling to meet rising living costs.

What we are asking for is simple: timely, honest communication and support during this transitional period. The ACT Government has a responsibility to inform and engage with the community it serves (especially those whose lives will be directly affected by these decisions).

This situation is not just a business matter. It's a human one, and it deserves immediate attention from your office and the public.

I will be encouraging our different media outlets in Canberra to visit the market this Sunday. This story is about more than just a venue! It's about real people, financial hardship, and government transparency.

We urge you to provide us with an update this week,

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

CM2024/38547

Portfolio/s: Business, Arts and Creative Industries

outside scope

1.2	Former Transport Depot Licence
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<i>Key Information</i>

<i>Background Information</i>

Talking points:

outside scope

1.2 Former Transport Depot Licence

- The current licence for the Former Transport Depot, held by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd (Iconic), who operate the Old Bus Depot Market, expires on 30 June 2025.
- A competitive Request for Proposal process was initiated in January 2025, to enable all interested parties, including the current licence holders, to put forward their ideas, so we can make the best use of this unique facility.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/06/2025	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Caroline M Fulton	Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	
TRIM Ref:	CM2024/38547	

- Submissions closed on 13 March 2025. Following a decision by the delegate, the next licence agreement is now being negotiated with the preferred supplier.
- The outcome of the process will be able to be announced once the contract with the preferred supplier has been entered into.
- The ACT Government is working with Iconic to facilitate the option to extend the current licence on a month-to-month arrangement while the next licence agreement is being negotiated with the preferred supplier. Under this arrangement Iconic will be provided with three months' written notice for it to end.
- The ACT Government greatly values the vital role markets and stallholders play in our community and is committed to working with organisers to find practical solutions when required.

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 10/06/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38547

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 10/06/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38547

CM2024/38542

Portfolio/s: Business, Arts and Creative Industries

outside scope

Former Transport Depot licence

- The ACT Government is welcoming new ideas for the future use of the Former Transport Depot through a Request for Proposal process.
- The current licence, held by Iconic Market & Events Pty Ltd, who operate the Old Bus Depot Market, expires on 30 June 2025. The market operators and stallholders have been informed.
- Submissions closed on 13 March 2025. Evaluation is underway and the new licence will commence on 1 August 2025.
- The competitive market process enabled all interested parties, including the current licence holders, to have the opportunity to put forward their ideas, ensuring value for money.
- The heritage building has recently been upgraded and is part of the future KAP, so is ideally located to host markets, arts activities and events.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/05/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38542

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/05/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38542

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/05/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38542

CM2024/38522

Portfolio/s: Business, Arts and Creative Industries

outside scope

Former Transport Depot licence

- The ACT Government is welcoming new ideas for the future use of the Former Transport Depot through a Request for Proposal process. Submissions can be made via Tenders ACT until 13 March 2025. A number of media outlets including [The Canberra Times](#) and [Riotact](#) have reported on this.
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- The competitive market process will enable all interested parties, including the current licence holders, to have the opportunity to put forward their ideas, ensuring value for money.
- Joint proposals are welcome, and the licence may be awarded to multiple suppliers to ensure high utilisation of the 5000 sqm building.
- The heritage building has recently been upgraded and is part of the future KAP, so is ideally located to host markets, arts activities and events.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/02/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38522

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/02/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38522

outside scope

Cleared as complete and accurate: 18/02/2025
Cleared for public release by: Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name: Caroline M Fulton Ext: 76809
Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
TRIM Ref: CM2024/38522

From: "Fulton, CarolineM" <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Sent: 29/05/2025 11:03 AM
To: "CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO" <EcoDevDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Hobbs, Georgia" <Georgia.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Former Transport Depot Tender Outcome

Hi Kellie – suggested changes below in yellow

C

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thanks for the email and follow up.

I appreciate that this is a concerning time for you and the impact this process has had on your business.

The current license held by Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd expires on the 30th of June. Iconic were informed in October 2023 that the licence would not be extended and a competitive market process would be undertaken to test the market through a competitive request for proposal process.

This request for proposal process has now closed and an evaluation team is currently carefully considering all responses. In order to ensure sound probity of this process, the Minister is unable to intervene in the assessment of these proposals.

Once a decision has been made by this team, negotiations will be undertaken with the identified preferred supplier before a final announcement of the outcome is made. Subject to these negotiations, it is expected that a new licence will commence from 1 August 2025.

Presently, a decision on the future use of the site will be known by August as a result of the request for proposal process. In order to ensure sound probity of this process, the Minister is unable to intervene in the assessment of these proposals.

During this time however, the Old Bus Depot Markets can continue to operate on a month-to-month basis. This arrangement cannot end without three months' notice & the ACT Government team responsible for this are continuing to work with Iconic on the near-future arrangements.

I hope this helps clarify the current arrangements at the Old Bus Depot Markets, and appreciate the impact this would have on your business.

In navigating this period, the ACT Government also operates the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service (CBASS). It provides some free tailored business advice. If you are interested in these services, I encourage you to contact CBASS on CBASS@lighthouseinnovation.com.au or 02 6163 8301.

Kind regards,

From: Bradley, Kellie <Kellie.Bradley@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO
Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 10:47 AM
To: Fulton, CarolineM <CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Former Transport Depot Tender Outcome

Hi Caroline,

Can you please fact check the below draft response highlighted in orange.

Thank you.

Kind regards
Kellie

From: Griffin, Daniel <Daniel.Griffin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 10:11 AM
To: CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO <EcoDevDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: Murdoch, Max <Max.Murdoch@act.gov.au>; Bransgrove, Meagen <Meagen.Bransgrove@act.gov.au>;
PETERSSON <PETERSSON@act.gov.au>; Dickinson, Jasmine <Jasmine.Dickinson@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Former Transport Depot Tender Outcome

Hi Kellie,

Can the below in orange please be fact checked by the Directorate? If we could have it by tomorrow that would be really appreciated!

Many thanks,

Dan

From: PETERSSON <PETERSSON@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Griffin, Daniel <Daniel.Griffin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Murdoch, Max <Max.Murdoch@act.gov.au>; Bransgrove, Meagen <Meagen.Bransgrove@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Former Transport Depot Tender Outcome

Hi Dan,

artsACT have provided a document to use for responses to emails about the Old Bus Depot Markets. Using that information I have taken the liberty of drafting a response below. The document is flagged in the inbox and available to view from an email received 22/05/2025

Thanks for the email and follow up.

I appreciate that this is a concerning time for you and the impact this process has had on your business.

The current license held by Iconic Markets & Events Pty Ltd expires on the 30th of June. Iconic were informed in October 2023 that a competitive market process was being held to test the market through a competitive request for proposal process.

This request for proposal process has now closed and an evaluation team is currently carefully considering all responses. Once a decision has been made by this team, negotiations will be undertaken with the identified preferred supplier before a final announcement of the outcome is made.

Presently, a decision on the future use of the site will be known by August as a result of the request for proposal process. In order to ensure sound probity of this process, the Minister is unable to intervene in the assessment of these proposals.

During this time however, the Old Bus Depot Markets can continue to operate on a month-to-month basis. This arrangement cannot end without three months notice & the ACT Government team responsible for this are continuing to work with Iconic on the near-future arrangements.

I hope this helps clarify the current arrangements at the Old Bus Depot Markets, and appreciate the impact this would have on your business.

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Kind regards,

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2025 6:30 AM
To: PETERSSON <PETERSSON@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Former Transport Depot Tender Outcome

You don't often get email from Sch 2.2(a)(ii), Sch 2.2(a)(xi). [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Paul,

I hope this finds you well.

Following on from our conversation last week, we just received a communication from the Old Bus Depot Markets that seems like trade will be continuing, but we just wanted to confirm this communication is correct as we have had an overwhelming amount of miscommunication recently.

Do you have a final date for the current contract and information about what happens next?

We are less than 40 days away from the end of financial year, and our business is already behind on our 2026FY plan as we do not know the future of the markets and cannot effectively plan for what the next 12 months will look like for us.

I'm not sure if you have attended the market in recent years or months, but it is a shadow of what it used to be in its heyday, and the lack of communication and transparency is damaging the credibility and attendance numbers further.

We'd appreciate any insight you might be able to share.

Many thanks,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

On 20 May 2025, at 15:21, Sch 2.2(a)(i), Sch 2.2(a)(xi) > wrote:

Hi Paul,

Thanks so much for your time on the phone today.

As discussed, we are hoping to find some answers around the Former Transport Depot and what will happen with the space. As regular stallholders at the Old Bus Depot Markets, we are eager to learn about what the ACT Government has decided.

We appreciate there may still be some sensitivities around the contract, but we would greatly appreciate any information you or your team may have in regards to this.

Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Sch 2.2(a)(ix), Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Over the weekend, we had many customers asking when we would be back at the markets to have our in-person stall for people to purchase our range of products. We felt a bit uncomfortable not being able to provide any answers to our customers as we are unable to book any markets after 25th May. This was further confused by the fact a social media post from the Old Bus Depot Markets on Monday 19th May said that “[The Old Bus Depot Markets] look forward to seeing you all in 2026!”

We appreciate insights your office might have as and when they become available.

Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

Sch 2.2(a)(xi)

From: "Murdoch, Max" <Max.Murdoch@act.gov.au>
Sent: 19/05/2025 3:27 PM
To: "CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO" <EcoDevDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: "PETTERSSON" <PETTERSSON@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Old Transport Depot Tender

OFFICIAL

Hi Kellie

Could we please have an email response drafted to the below? Suggest this could be a standard set of words that we can use for other OBDM tender-related correo.

Thanks
Max

From: Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 1:20 PM
To: CHEYNE <CHEYNE@act.gov.au>
Subject: Old Transport Depot Tender

You don't often get email from Sch 2.2(a)(xi) . [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject:
Request
for

Clarification on the Old Transport Depot Tender Process

Dear Minister Cheyne,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to seek your assistance concerning the ongoing tender process for the Old Transport Depot, particularly in relation to the future of the Old Bus Depot Market, where we operate as a stallholder every Sunday.

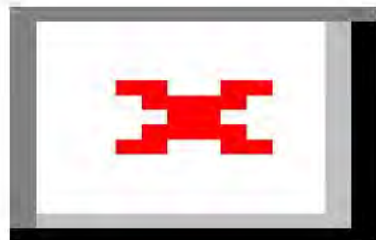
Recently, there have been growing concerns and numerous rumors circulating among the stallholders and customers regarding the potential closure of the market for one month to facilitate the transition to a new operator. This situation is particularly alarming as it directly impacts our livelihoods. Many of us depend on the market as our primary source of income, and a temporary closure could lead to significant financial hardship for both fellow stallholders and our staff who rely on the market for their employment.

We understand that no final decision has been made regarding the successful bidder for the tender, and we would appreciate any clarification or confirmation regarding the market's status during this transition period. Specifically, it would be greatly reassuring to know if you can guarantee that the Old Bus Depot Market will remain operational, irrespective of who is awarded the tender.

We truly value the community-oriented environment that the market fosters, and we believe that maintaining its continuity is essential for supporting local entrepreneurs and the surrounding community. Your attention to this matter and any support you can provide would be invaluable to us.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,
Sch 2.2(a)(ii)



From: "PETTERSSON" <PETTERSSON@act.gov.au>
Sent: 08/10/2025 12:16 PM
To: "CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO" <EcoDevDLO@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Murdoch, Max" <Max.Murdoch@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Old Bus Depot Markets article response
Attachments: Letter & article regarding the Old Bus Depot Markets-1.docx, DOT POINTS - DLO Request - Steel - Pettersson Office - Old Bus Depot Markets article response.docx
Importance: High
Categories: Pettersson

Hi Elise,

Have the updated bus depot market talking points that are with Kareena have been signed off on yet? Could they please be provided to the office.

I have received dot points on the heritage component of the building from the STEEL office (attached for reference), and with the updated artsACT OBDM talking points, I will be able to write a response.

Many thanks,
Paul

From: Sch 2.2(a)(xi)
Sent: Sunday, 7 September 2025 12:28 AM
To: PETTERSSON
Cc: Kemarre Arts ; Fulton, CarolineM ; STEEL ; CASTLEY ; Milligan, James ; CLAY ; EMERSON
Subject: Old Bus Depot Markets article response
Importance: High

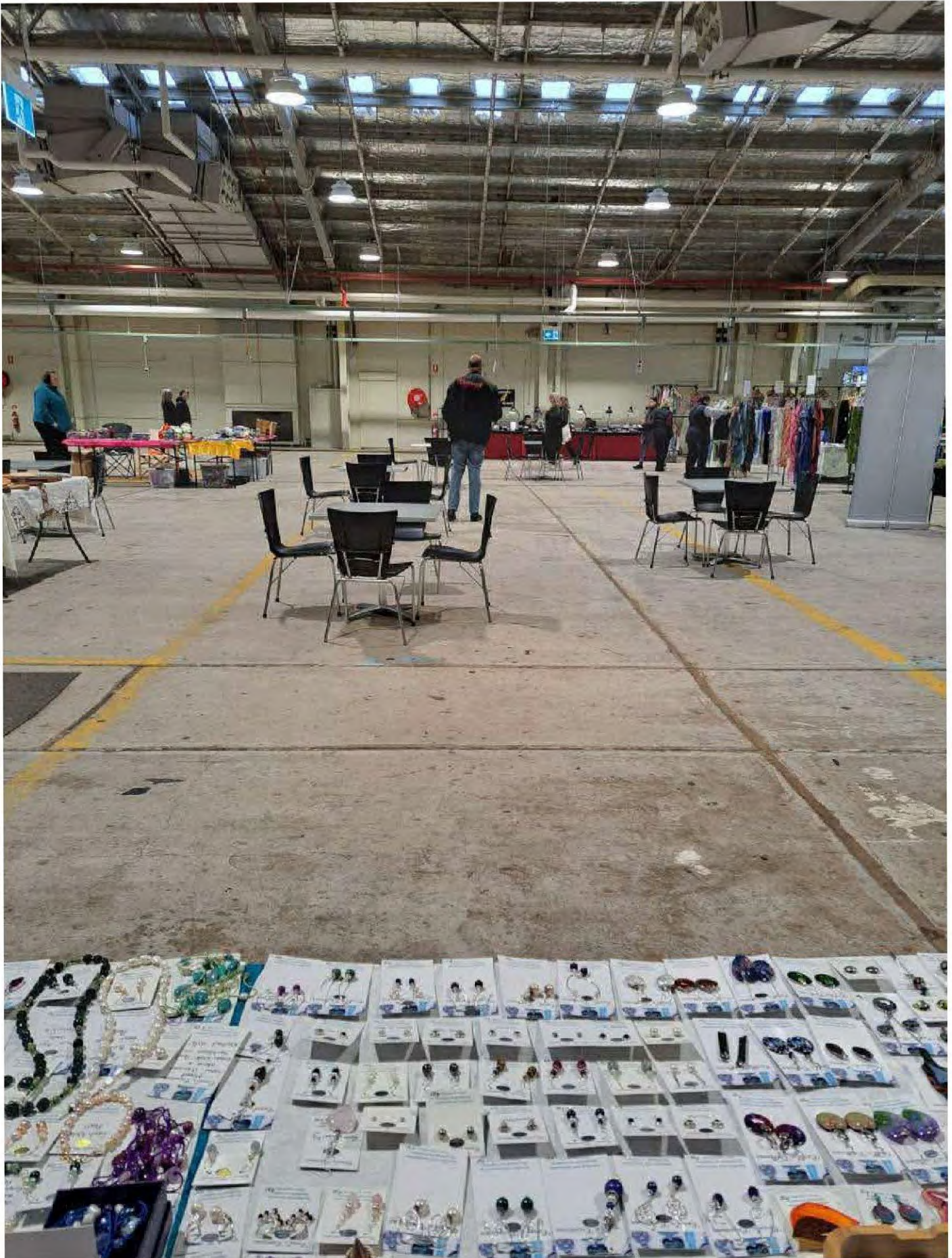
Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Minister Pettersson and MLAs,

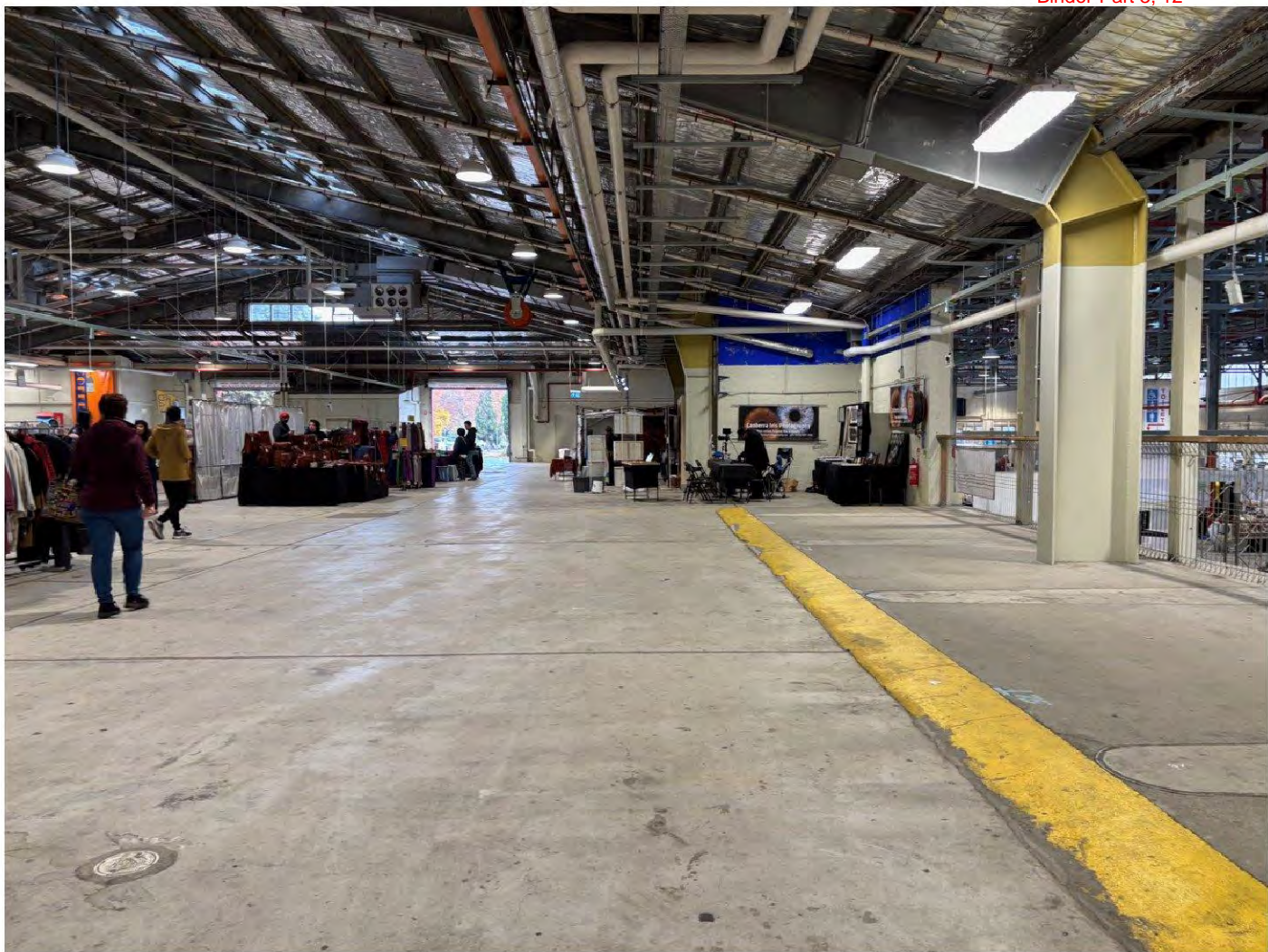
Attached is my letter to you all calling for urgent action regarding the crisis surrounding the Old Bus Depot Markets and critical concerns regarding the inadequacy of both the tender/leasing process regarding this ACT government heritage asset, and its capacity to become an activated, vibrant, arts orientated asset within the Kingston Arts Precinct. The body of the letter spelling out my concerns is a copy of the letter I have sent to the Editor of Region Canberra in response to recent articles therein. I strongly urge you to take urgent and decisive action and I have suggested one such possible action to open what I believe should become an open discussion with input from all stakeholders, including stallholders. Current images of the Old Bus Depot Markets are attached to support my points.

kind regards

Sch 2.2(a)(xi), Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

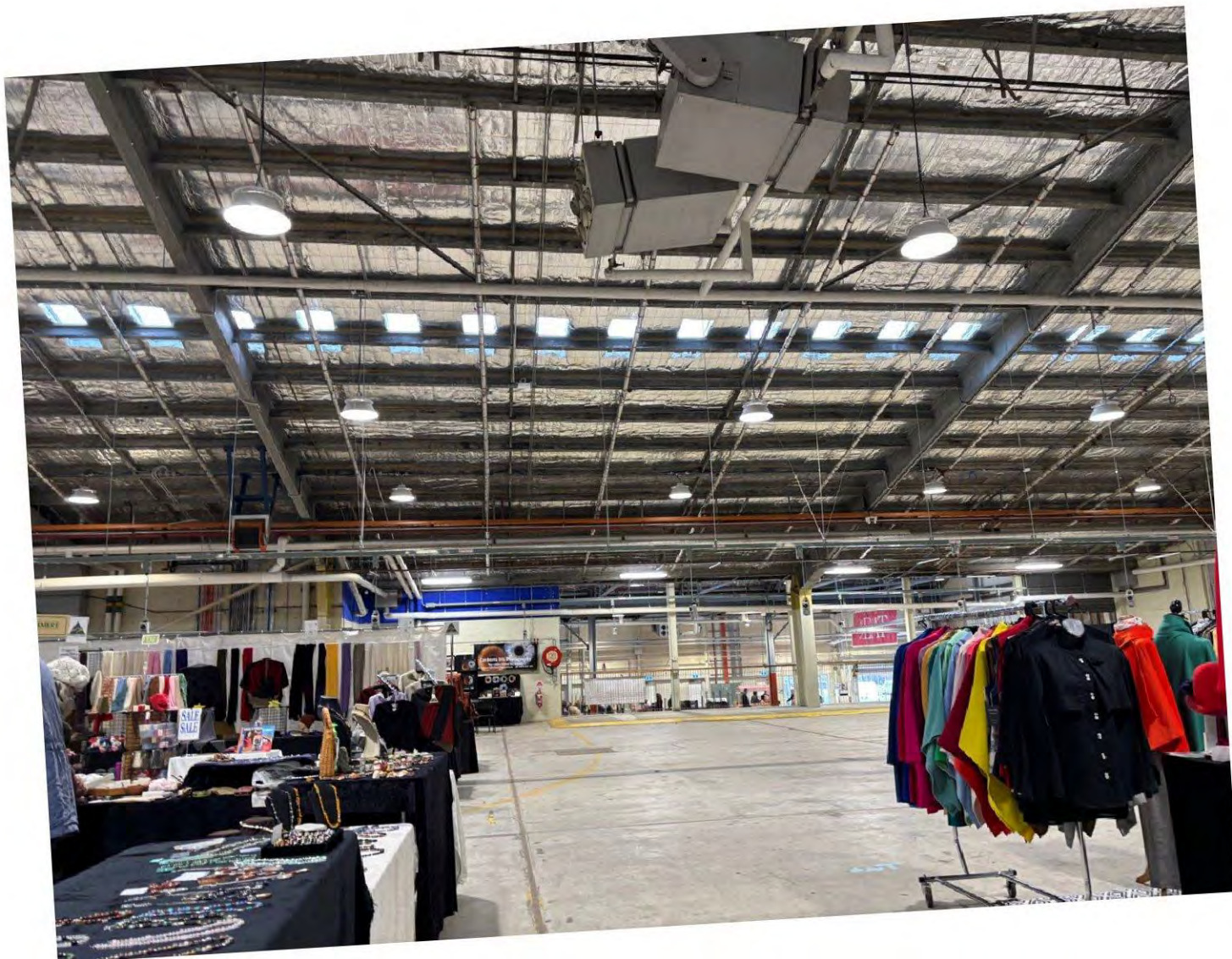


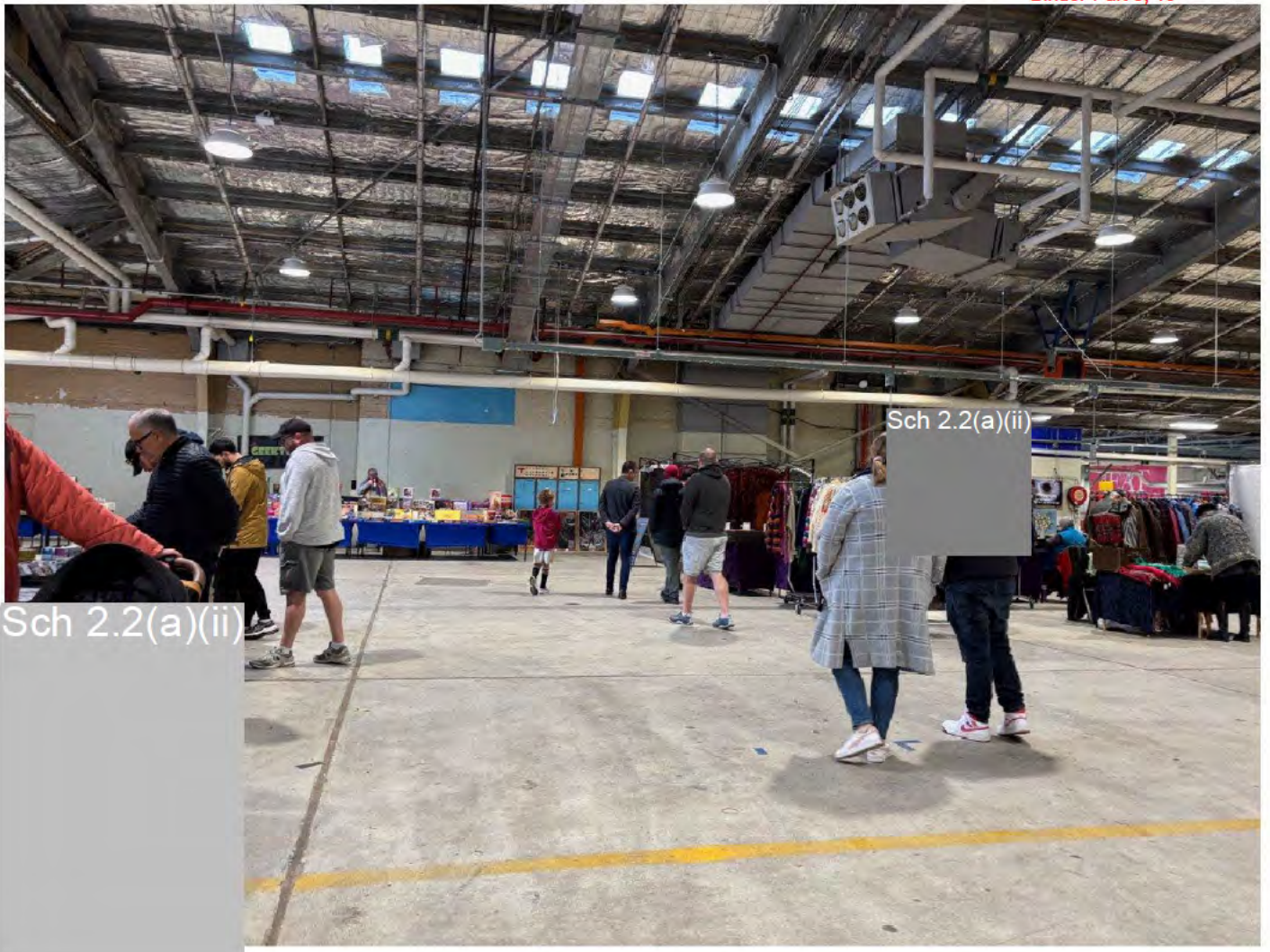












Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

To
 Minister for the Arts and Creative Industries
 MLA Mr Michael Pettersson
 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601
pettersson@act.gov.au
 6th September 2025

Dear Minister Pettersson,

Below is the response I have forwarded to the Editor of Region Canberra and journalist Mr Ian Bushnell, author of the recent articles on the Old Bus Depot Markets. It outlines my rebuttal to **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)** unsupportable assertions that the Old Bus Depot Markets are undergoing a resurgence, together with other concerns I feel need to be addressed. I cannot stress enough the imperative for appropriate and thorough oversight of leases over government assets, in particular heritage assets. In the case of the Former Transport Depot as my response below outlines, the current tender process for the lease of the building is woefully inadequate, as has been the oversight of the current lease and its monthly extensions.

To the Editor, Region Canberra and journalist Ian Bushnell, as a former stallholder at OBDM I have to respond to the most recent article published by Region Canberra. Firstly, and most glaringly, the photo you have been using is not a true or current image of the Old Bus Depot Markets as it is now. That photo is in fact one taken in the market's heyday under the management of **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)** when it was winning regular Tourism Awards and well before the current management team of **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**. I have attached photographs of how it actually looks now, as it has done for most of this year, except for the one weekend of the Wool Expo. A large number of stallholders and food vendors have left and will not be coming back. The morale of those stallholders left is very low, and it has been our collective experience that the current management has done nothing to either sustain or rejuvenate the business. In fact the opposite is true, rents have regularly increased for no demonstrable improvements or efforts to bring back customers. **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)** claim in a recent article that the markets are experiencing a resurgence is simply not the case, as can be observed by anyone dropping in to the markets on any Sunday. His assertion that there is a general industry wide downturn effecting the markets is not supported by the experiences of stallholders who also attend other markets, including myself, in fact quite the opposite. A significant contributing factor is the absence of advertising for the markets, a fact that I and many other stallholders have taken up with **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)** on numerous occasions to no avail. As stallholders we are first and foremost business people ourselves, as well as being artists and makers, so we know what it takes to build and sustain successful businesses. For many of us our businesses have suffered for our loyalty to the Old Bus Depot Markets, a loyalty built up over decades since the early award-winning days under the previous management, and sadly now one that has been betrayed and which a great many of us can no longer justify.

From a wider perspective, as a long term member of Canberra's arts community, and a member of the Steering Committee for the Kingston Arts Precinct, it is demonstrably obvious that in its current sad state, the Former Transport Depot (or FTD) which houses the Old Bus Depot Markets cannot fulfil the role expected of it as the vibrant, fully activated and arts orientated participant in the life of the Kingston Arts Precinct that will be required of it. The Kingston Arts Precinct is a project to which the ACT Government has committed significant financial and strategic investment and its construction is immanent. Destined to be home to the majority of Canberra's Key Arts Organisations, themselves participants in the Steering Committee and strategic planning, the precinct will house key arts bodies, retail, gallery, organisational, performance and artist studio spaces, as well as the ACT's first dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander multi-arts space. Concern is particularly acute given the fact that the building itself is one of the three ACT Government heritage assets central to the anticipated national and international profile of the precinct, the other two being the already internationally known Canberra Glassworks, and the adjacent Fitter and Turners Workshop which currently serves as the venue for music festivals, art events and various niche markets and expos.

Consequently, it is clear that the crisis embroiling the Old Bus Depot Markets warrants urgent attention and decisive action by the ACT Government to resolve the future potential and appropriate use issues of the Former Transport Depot. However, it must be said that credit is due to artsACT and the Minister for the Arts and Creative Industries Mr Michael Pettersson for their commitment to stallholders' wellbeing to keep the markets open through the coming Christmas trading period. However, I am firmly of the belief that the existing tender process for the lease of the building has proven to be woefully inadequate to ensure the comprehensive, efficient, professional and expansive creative vision and implementation that is absolutely essential for this facility going forward into the ensuing developmental phase of the Kingston Arts Precinct. Perhaps a more realistic solution might be to place it under the management of the Cultural Facilities Corporation which manages the functions and sustainability other ACT Government heritage assets such as Lanyon, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Calthorpe's Cottage and others.

Kind regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(xi), Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

CC: Ms Carolyn Fulton, Director artsACT, CarolineM.Fulton@act.gov.au

Minister for Heritage, Mr Chris Steel, steel@act.gov.au

MLA Ms Leeanne Castley, Shadow Minister for Heritage, castley@parliament.act.gov.au

MLA Mr James Milligan, Shadow Minister for Business, Arts, Creative Industries, and Skills
milligan@parliament.act.gov.au

MLA Ms Jo Clay, Spokesperson for the Arts and the Night-time Economy, Spokesperson for
Heritage clay@parliament.act.gov.au

MLA Mr Thomas Emerson, emerson@parliament.act.gov.au

Sch 2.2(a)(xvi), Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL



City and Environment Directorate

CED Input/DLO/CE request

Topic Old Bus Depot Markets article response

Requested by: DLO

Date Requested: 29/09/2025

Due Date: 06/10/2025

Tracking Number 25/0422296

Action Officer: ACT Heritage

Cleared by: Executive Group Manager, Environment Heritage and Parks

Response

- The Former Transport Depot is registered on the ACT Heritage Register, for its importance to the transport history of Canberra and its community.
- The ACT Government and the ACT Heritage Council support adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, which allows them to evolve with community needs while maintaining their historical character, as is the case with the Bus Depot Markets.
- A range of upgrade works have been undertaken since heritage registration, which supports the ongoing use of the building for the Old Bus Depot Markets.

outside scope

- These works will reestablish the address of the Depot to Wentworth Avenue, and improve building amenities; which will support ongoing community use.
- These works will be guided by the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in place for the building, which was approved by the ACT Heritage Council in June 2023.

From: "Eldon, Paul" <Paul.Eldon@act.gov.au>
Sent: 11/03/2026 1:22 PM
To: "CMTEDD, Economic Development DLO" <EcoDevDLO@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Future of Old Bus Depot
Categories: Pettersson

Hi Elise,
Can we get a response organised for Ms Lee please?
Thank you,
Paul

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: PETERSSON
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:12:07 PM
To: Eldon, Paul
Subject: FW: Future of Old Bus Depot

Hi Paul,
Correspondence below from Elizabeth Lee regarding the OLD Bus Depot.
Thanks,
Liz

From: LEE
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2026 2:13 PM
To: PETERSSON
Subject: Future of Old Bus Depot

Dear Minister Pettersson

I'm writing to seek an update on the future of the Old Bus Depot.

1/ Several constituents and stallholders have raised the issue of declining patronage due to neglect and lack of engagement by the current leaseholders.

2/ Stallholders have also raised concerns about the lack of consultation about the tender for new leaseholders and what the government is seeking from the potential new leaseholders

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Elizabeth

[Office of Elizabeth Lee MLA](#)

[Shadow Minister for Education; Environment and Climate; Tourism and Events](#)

[Member for Kurrajong](#)

[ACT Legislative Assembly | 196 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601](#)

[P: 02 6205 1919 | \[lee@parliament.act.gov.au\]\(mailto:lee@parliament.act.gov.au\) | \[www.elizabethlee.com.au\]\(http://www.elizabethlee.com.au\)](#)

Elizabeth LEE MLA

Liberal Member for Kurrajong

 (02) 6205 1919

 lee@parliament.act.gov.au   [ElizabethLeeMLA](#)

 elizabethlee.com.au

 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

