

Elizabeth Lee MLA

Leader of the Opposition

Shadow Treasurer

Shadow Minister for Economic Development, Tourism and Major Projects

Member for Kurrajong

***Under Embargo until Saturday 7 September 2024 ***

Media Release

Saturday, 7 September 2024

Canberra Liberals will deliver new national convention centre

Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee has today announced that a Canberra Liberals Government will deliver a new National Convention Centre in the city located at the current Civic Pool site.

The proposed new convention centre will be delivered by the Canberra Liberals in a staged approach, initially at 20,000 square metres before increasing to 30,000 square metres. This will allow for a new convention centre to be up and running as quickly as possible before expanding to meet growing demand, as our city grows.

“Canberra, as the nation’s capital should have a world class convention centre and infrastructure to host major conferences, meetings and other corporate events with capacity for multiple events at a time,” Ms Lee said.

“By bringing more business events to Canberra, significant economic benefits will be distributed all across the ACT through tourism, hotel stays and hospitality which will be a game changer for local businesses.”

The first stage of the Canberra Liberals convention centre plan will cost around \$510 million and will deliver:

- Banqueting options for more than 600pax
- Exhibition and meeting space which is divisible and allows thde convention centre to accommodate multiple events at once, and,
- Theatre/auditorium space.

A new convention centre of this size could return up to \$200 million of economic benefit to the ACT annually by increasing the size, flexibility and number of events that the current convention centre is unable to accommodate.

“Additionally, a new convention centre will create thousands of jobs, increase business investment and tourism infrastructure in the city and enhance the ACT’s reputation as an international city,” Ms Lee said.

“A new convention centre located in the city has been discussed for over a decade but due to inaction by Andrew Barr and the Labor-Greens government it has not been delivered.

“With the Federal Government, a number of national peak bodies and organisations located in the ACT Canberra is in the box seat and should host more world class events that are larger and more frequent than we are at present.

“The Canberra Liberals are the only party that can be trusted to deliver a much-needed convention centre and major infrastructure that will bring significant economic boost to the ACT and local businesses,” Ms Lee concluded.

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