

Hawker Britton

Government Relations Strategy

2016 ACT election

October 2016

With the election results officially declared, the Barr Labor Government has been returned following the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT) 15 October election having formed a minority government with the support of the Australian Greens.

This Hawker Britton Occasional Paper will outline the election results, and detail policies that the Barr Government took to the election.

Election results.....	1
Leadership.....	2
Parliamentary Agreement.....	2
Policies	3
<i>Jobs and the economy</i>	3
<i>Transport</i>	3
<i>Environment</i>	3
<i>Tourism</i>	3
<i>Housing</i>	3
<i>Education</i>	3
<i>Health</i>	3
Further information	4

Election results

The ACT Parliament is a unicameral Legislative Assembly with multi member electorates. This election saw the number of seats increase from 17 to 25 – five Members elected from each of the five electorates.

A summary of results from the election are as follows:

- The Labor Party won 12 seats;
- The Liberal Party won 11 seats; and
- The Greens won two seats.

A breakdown of the Members elected in each of the five seats are listed below:

Brindabella	
Candidate	Party
Joy Burch	Labor
Mick Gentleman	Labor
Nicole Lawder	Liberal
Mark Parton	Liberal
Andrew Wall	Liberal

Ginninderra	
Candidate	Party
Yvette Berry	Labor
Tara Cheyne	Labor
Vicki Dunne	Liberal
Elizabeth Kikkert	Liberal
Gordon Ramsay	Labor

Kurrajong	
Candidate	Party
Andrew Barr	Labor
Steve Doszpot	Liberal
Elizabeth Lee	Liberal
Shane Rattenbury	Greens
Rachel Stephen-Smith	Labor

Murrumbidgee	
Candidate	Party
Bec Cody	Labor
Jeremy Hanson	Liberal
Giulia Jones	Liberal
Caroline Le Couteur	Greens
Chris Steel	Labor

Yerrabi	
Candidate	Party
Alistair Coe	Liberal
Meegan Fitzharris	Labor
James Milligan	Liberal
Suzanne Orr	Labor
Michael Pettersson	Labor

Leadership

On Monday 24 October 2016 Andrew Barr was unanimously elected Leader of the ACT Labor's Parliamentary Party, and Yvette Berry Yvette Berry was unanimously elected as Deputy Leader of ACT Labor's Parliamentary Party. They will therefore serve as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister (of the ACT) respectively.

Parliamentary Agreement

A Parliamentary Agreement negotiated by Andrew Barr and Labor with the Australian Greens for minority government was finalised on 30 October 2016. Mr. Shane Rattenbury MLA was given a ministry as part of the agreement. Rattenbury will vote for cabinet decisions which he supported (in cabinet), but reserves the right to amend or disagree with Cabinet decisions which he has not supported - in which case he would take no further part in them (the decisions). This is similar to the 2012 agreement.

Under the agreement the Greens will not support motions of no-confidence in the government other than in matters of *"proven corruption, gross negligence, or significant non-adherence to this agreement or the ministerial code of conduct"*.



Policies

An overview of ACT Labor's election commitments is outlined by portfolio areas.

Jobs and the economy

ACT Labor is committed to diversifying the ACT economy, and making it easier to do business locally. It intends to make Canberra a major hub for growth industries such as technology and research, higher education, defence and the space sector.

Transport

Central to the Barr Government's election platform was building Stage 2 of the Canberra light rail. Stage 2 is expected to join the North and South of Canberra with the final route is subject to ongoing analysis. Work is expected to immediately commence on a business case (for Stage 2) and other essential preliminary steps.

Environment

ACT Labor has committed to a 100 per cent renewable energy target by 2020. This is expected to be achieved through the attraction of investment for local start-ups and collaborative opportunities.

Tourism

The Barr Government remains committed to boosting tourism in the ACT through increased direct international flights and the securing of major events such as major theatre productions, international cricket matches, Asian Cup and A-League football (soccer) matches and international Rugby League Tests.

Housing

The Barr Government has committed to build on the ACT's biggest public housing renewal housing program. This includes engagement with industry and homelessness services to determine a best practice model and service approach. Partnerships between industry, community and government are to be considered. The Barr Government has committed \$16 million to this affordable and social housing program.

Education

Throughout the campaign ACT Labor committed \$85 million to capital works upgrades to ACT schools between 2017-18 and 2020-21. This includes upgrades and extensions to existing classrooms, energy efficiency improvements and upgrades to school utilities. The Barr Government will also open up a \$15 million infrastructure grants fund for non-government schools.

Health

The re-elected Barr Government is committed to:

- The construction of a new Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency centre;
- Building a new teaching hospital at the University of Canberra; and
- Expanding the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department.

Taxation system

The Barr Government remains committed to Phase 2 of its significant overall of the ACT taxation system,



as announced in the 2016-17 Budget. These changes include an increase in general rates of approximately 4.5 per cent, a seven per cent increase in property/land tax and a six per cent in commercial property rates.

Further information

Further information on ACT Labor's policies is available [here](#).

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