

Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum Implementing the *CRTLTF Strategic Plan 2024 – 28*

Activities Report July 2025 – June 2026

This document sets out the *Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum six 2024 – 2028 Strategic Goals matched against activities undertaken during the 2025 – 26 financial year*. The activities outlined below demonstrate CRTLTF's Charter in action:

- Convening leaders
- Advocating for policy outcomes
- Providing strategic advice
- Connecting government, industry and community

Executive Summary

During 2025–26, the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum continued to strengthen its role as the region's peak visitor economy leadership body, bringing together industry, government and community leaders to advocate for policies, investment and partnerships that support a thriving visitor economy. Working closely with Federal and ACT Governments, Directorates and industry associations, the Forum focused on strategic influence rather than program delivery.

Business Environment

- Advocated on business and city amenity issues, including graffiti, roadside maintenance and antisocial behaviour.
- Successfully secured a deferral of Portable Long Service Leave legislation for tourism and hospitality.
- Supported businesses affected by light rail construction and assisted operators to resolve government-related barriers.
- Submitted seven policy papers, appeared at Assembly hearings and saw several recommendations adopted.

Attractions, Accommodation & Visitor Experiences

- Delivered 11 Tourism Advisory Forums, attracting an average of 150 attendees.
- Advocated for increased Federal support for National Attractions and Canberra's role as the National Capital.
- Maintained strong engagement with National Attractions and Federal tourism stakeholders.

Transport & Access

- Supported the return of Qatar Airways, new Fiji Airways services and efforts to attract additional international airlines.
- Advocated on lowering domestic airfares and improvements to the Sydney–Canberra rail link.

Marketing & Sales

- Successfully lobbied for additional event funding to stimulate winter visitation during the fuel crisis.
- Continued to advocate for increased Visit Canberra marketing investment.
- Strengthened partnerships with regional tourism organisations and delivered more than 40 media interviews on visitor economy issues.

Infrastructure

- Maintained advocacy for priority tourism infrastructure, including a new Convention Centre, improved community sporting facilities and a new sports stadium.

Governance, Leadership & Partnerships

- The Forum comprises 24 industry leaders representing key tourism organisations and businesses across the Canberra Region. Its work is made possible through the ongoing support of its Supporting Partners.

What we do

Our Vision

- To have the Canberra Region recognised as one of the great national capital destinations in the world

Our Mission

- To ensure Canberra and the Region has a vibrant and growing visitor economy

Our Statement of Purpose

- The key objective of the CRTLFF is to positively influence the growth and sustainability of the visitor economy across the Canberra Region

Activities: July 2025 – June 2026	Key outcomes and activities supporting these outcomes
1. Strategic Objective: Business Environment Strategic Goal: Industry leadership, shaping the Federal and ACT Government's thinking and policies on issues impacting the business community, to improve operating conditions for tourism, hospitality and allied sectors businesses • Participated in the ACT Government Business and Economic Development Stakeholder Consultative Forum held on 19 September, 3 March and 16 June • Participated in the Business Chamber's Head of Associations meetings examining ways of stimulating the economy through the activities of our membership • Participated in regular meetings with the Canberra Business Chamber's CEO on business related issues and their active promotion of ACT businesses and attendance at the Business Chamber's Business after Business events on 24 July, 25 September, 26 November, 26 February, 22 April and May 25 • Participated in the Canberra Business Chamber's Business Leaders Roundtable with ATO Deputy Commissioner Will Day on 23 Sept, Senator Katy Gallagher on 14 October, Andrew Leigh MP on 28 April, Senator David Pocock on 19 May, David Smith MP 20 May and Angus Taylor on 30 June • Participated as a member of the Australian Chamber - Tourism Committee with meetings every quarter or when required. Meeting were held on 3 July, 30 October, 4 February and 14 May • Attended the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) annual dinner on 29 October at Parliament House with Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers	Represented the visitor economy through the ACT Government Business and Economic Development Stakeholder Consultative Forum, the CBC's heads of Association forums and the CEOs' meetings ensuring tourism, hospitality and events priorities were considered in whole-of-government economic policy discussions." Collaboration with like minded associations to set the stimulus agenda through liaison with Federal Minister's on ACT issues Working closely with the key ACT business associations including ACCI to stimulate the visitor economy

- Also ACCI's 2025 General Council Dinner celebrating 125 years of national business leadership and advocacy on 3 December - Continuing strong engagement with the University of Canberra though close ties with the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Business School. Also meeting with the UNSW Canberra Rector Emma Sparks - Meetings with ACT Liberal MLA's and executive on Liberal policy platforms and their focus on tourism and hospitality - Liaison with Federal politicians and industry leaders at Parliament House by attending the Tourism and Transport Federal Friends of Tourism functions on 23 July & 30 June. Also The Parliamentary Friends of Tourism launch event with Federal MP's, Senators and Prime Minister Albanese on 3 November. Also Parliamentary Friends of Tourism networking event on 11 February at Parliament House with new Tourism Australia CEO Robin Mack, Senator Mulholland and MP Kevin Hogan	Having an input into national issues impacting the tourism and hospitality sectors through ACCI forums Supporting the education sector in developing tourism leaders of the future Encouraging ACT MLAs to support business stimulus initiatives Building relationship with Federal politicians and promoting the significance of the National Capital to all Australians
Specific Monthly Activities	
July	
- Inputting into the discussions on the Greens recommendations on business stimulus by members attending the Budget Business Roundtable with Shane Rattenbury on 14 July. Also on 6 November providing an update to Green MLA's on our tourism related statistics and the state of the industry - Shaping the Government's ACT Budget 2025 – 2026 by participating in the ACT Budget Roundtable & producing an election manifesto distributed to all MLA's. This document formed the basis of discussion through 2025 - Portable Long Service Leave (PLSL) proposed changes to the ACT legislation is being monitored by the Tourism Leaders Forum. This includes discussions with Business Minister Pettersson - The AHA ACT held an industry Policy Briefing on 23 July discussing, among other things:	The Forum briefed the ACT Greens on Tourism, hospitality and related sectors issues and challenges The Leaders Forum played a key role in setting the ACT Government's financial objectives The Forum spoke to MLA's and ACT Government Directorates and supported the AHA ACT submission

○ Portable Long Service Leave ○ RBA Ban on surcharges ○ Liquor and red tape reduction ○ Insurance costs ○ Short term rental accommodation ○ The impact of light rail on the hospitality industry ● The inquiry into insurance costs was also monitored by the Leaders Forum	The Forum has concerns about the cost of insurance impacting our sectors
August ● Participated in the ACT Economic Reform Roundtable on Wednesday 13 August to seek business associations, industry groups, NGO's, education and union views ahead of the National Economic Reform Roundtable hosted by Treasurer Jim Chalmers on 19-21 October ● Assisting the Canberra District Vignerons Association to source a facilitator to assist their membership examine their marketing and approach to promoting the Canberra District wine industry ● Participated in the Canberra Business Chamber's meeting with heads of key ACT 'Association Groups' on 25 August and to discuss homelessness and anti-social issues in the city, business inhibitors in Civic, and how to more effectively lobby Government Ministers ● The Forum completed the 'City Centre Entertainment Precinct' survey in early November	The Leaders Forum given the opportunity to influence thinking on improving productivity in the ACT and across the Nation Assisting the Canberra Wine industry to maximise their marketing efforts Taking a stance on addressing antisocial behaviour and homelessness in the city The Forum continued to support the activation of the city centre
September ● Meetings held in September with ACT MLA's Tom Emerson, Peter Cain and Shane Rattenbury ● Meeting with David Smith MP, Federal Member for Bean ● Alicia Payne MP, Federal Member for Canberra, holding a Community Forum on 'the future of our National Capital' on 15 September ● Meeting with Tourism Leaders Forum member and Secretary of the Federal Dept of Parliamentary Services Jaala Hinchliffe and her managers of 'visitor services'	Engaging with ACT MLA's and ACT Federal MP's on the Leaders Forum tourism agenda and ACT based issues Maintaining contact with Leaders Forum members and their contribution to the visitor economy

- Meeting with Canberra Hotel Managers with Canberra Convention Bureau CEO Michael Matthews on 24 September - Meeting with the President of the new Indian Club of Canberra Phli Thomson on 24 September on establishing a new chapter in the ACT	Soliciting feedback from hotel industry leaders Supporting the ACT multicultural community
October	
- Participated in the Institute of Company Directors 'Canberra Fellows' Roundtable on 16 October with entrepreneur Brand Hoff AM FAICD - Participation in the Chamber's 'Mental Health at Work' Forum on 22 October - Members participated in the 'Future of the ACT Clubs Industry' Independent Inquiry roundtable on 28 October	Update on the state of the Territory investment appeal Importance of workers welfare in 2025-2026 The Forum submitted a response to this important inquiry
November	
The Forum promoted the Local Jobs Programs survey across the ACT and Region focussed on transport-related barriers and opportunities across Southern NSW	Focussing on eliminating barriers to Regional employment
December	
Participated in the 'Future of the ACT Clubs Industry' Inquiry roundtable on 8 December to discuss Club's diversification ideas and leveraging non-income generating assets	The Forum continues to input into the future of this important industry sector
January	
- On 14 January discussion with Sam Engele on the City and Environment Directorates initiatives in the areas of graffiti removal, roadside rubbish, signage deterioration across the city and enhancing the nighttime economy - Brief from the City Renewal Authority's activities across the city centre and Braddon on 14 January - Participated in the Clubs ACT Forum as part of the review of Clubs in the ACT on 20 January - Met with Matt Mison and Chris Bartram from the Chief Minister's office on 21 January to discuss support for light rail impacted businesses, lifting budgets for Visit	Lobbying the CED Directorate on the look of the city Supporting CRA's city wide development Taking an active interest in the ACT Clubs inquiry Regular meetings with the Chief Minister's Office many issues

Canberra and Events ACT, rail services Sydney to Canberra and new airlines servicing the ACT, among many other matters Meeting on 29 January with the Head of the University of Canberra Business School Brent Jackson on student numbers, the importance of tourism related course development and the relationship with CIT	Actively engaged with UC tourism and hospitality related course content
February - Met on 4 February with University of Canberra Vice Chancellor Bill Shorten on the lack of tourism focused courses, their CIT relationship and serving on the Business Faculty Advisory Committee - Met with Richard Snow, Chair Canberra Business Chamber, on 12 February - Met with Federal Politicians: David Smith MP (27 January) and Senator Katy Gallagher (17 February) and Senator David Pocock (19 February). Discussed new Convention Centre funding and business case, Civic Pool relocation, Sydney-Canberra train service, new sports stadium, Light Rail commitment, aviation support, NCA funding, student and holiday maker visas, passenger movement charges - Met with ACT MLA's Mark Parton (29 January), Elizabeth Lee (10 February), Shane Rattenbury (17 February) and Debra Morris (2 March) - Participated in the Canberra Business Chamber Roundtable with Liberal Leader Mark Parton (17 Feb). Canvassed Liberal-Greens discussions, priorities on budget repair, social housing, ministerial responsibilities, look of the city and enforcing regulations often ignored by business - The Forum developed a submission on the 2026 – 2027 Territory Budget. The Forum appeared before Treasury officials on 13 February as part of their budget consultation process	Expressing the Forums views on education related issues to the UC Vice Chancellor Ensuring the Chamber and Forum are aware of each other's issues Meeting with ACT based Federal representatives on many issue impacting the ACT ACT MLA's were updated on the latest tourism related matters including the priority of a new convention centre The Forum played an important role in shaping the budget impacting the sectors we represent

• Meeting with Secretary of Parliamentary Services Jaala Hinchcliffe on 17 February • Lunch on 20 February with Hyatt General Manager Shane Jolly on the state of the ACT market and anticipated trends • Meeting with Australian War Memorial Director Matt Anderson on the progress of the new War Memorial developments	Discussed Leaders Forum matters with senior ACT and Commonwealth Government executives
March	
• Contributed to the City Renewal Authority's stakeholders workshop to help finalise the updated Central Design Manual on 23 March	The Forum's input into the CRA's thinking on city-wide development
• Leaders Forum members participated in a City and Environment 'Development and Planning Industry Focus Group Session' on 31 March to review planning processes in the ACT	The Leaders Forum shaped the conversation on ACT planning processes
• In late March and April ACCI issued daily updates and held webinars on the emerging fuel crisis hitting Australia. Tourism businesses across the country were impacted in varying degrees by fuel shortages and travellers reluctance to travel far from home.	The Forum was actively contributing to the discussion on the impact fuel shortages had across the Regions' tourism sector
• In March Brian Weir proposed the establishment of a 'Tourism Policy Network' to association heads to better streamline approach to Government where policy interests overlap	The Leaders Forum considers policy development a core responsibility
April	
• The Leaders Forum met with the Chief Minister for an hour on 10 April to discuss an array of matters relating to the sectors we represent including Portable Long Service Leave, assistance for business impacted by light rail, and Government fees and charges	Engaging with the ACT Chief Minister is an important role to highlight issues concerning our sectors
• Participated in the Business Chamber's Networking Breakfast : 'Canberra's City Centre – Insights and Opportunities for Retail, Hospitality and Service Providers' on 22 April at East Row Café	The Forum supported this initiative by attending and meeting businesses impacted

Participated in the Canberra Business Chamber and RSM Business Growth Services breakfast on 'questioning assumptions' on 30 April	The Forum encouraged ACT businesses to broaden their expertise
May	
Leaders Forum members attended Shane Rattenbury MLA's Valedictory speech in the Assembly on 7 May	The Forum thanked Shane for his support of tourism and hospitality
UC Vice Chancellor Bill Shorten hosted a dinner for ACT business leaders on 13 May	The industry contributed to the VC's understanding of the ACT visitor economy
Met with The Personnel Group promoting the creation of more inclusive workplaces in tourism on 26 May	The Forum expressed its support for more inclusive workplaces
June	
The Leaders Forum was represented at a Business Chamber meeting on 5 June with a group promoting the adoption of a common National Procurement Framework which embeds a properly integrated Social Value Policy	The Forum supported the Business Chamber in adopting this framework
On 9 June met with Thom Holmes, Senator Pocock's new Community Engagement Manager	Discussed many issues relating to the sectors we represent
A number of Leaders Forum members attended the 2026-2027 ACT Budget Day Stakeholder Briefing on 10 June	Examining the ACT Budget impact on our industry sectors
Attended a business roundtable with UC's VC Bill Shorten on how UC can best support Canberra's future workforce needs	Engaging with UC on our sectors workforce needs across the region
ACCI's Australian Chamber – Tourism released a comprehensive report: 'From Thrive 2030 to the Next Strategy', critical of the 2030 Government's 'Thrive 2030' report	The Leaders Forum is a member of ACCI's National Tourism Board

2. Strategic Objective: Attractions, Accommodation and Visitor Experiences	Key outcomes and activities supporting these outcomes
Strategic Goal: Encourage the enrichment of the overall visitor experience and enhance the appeal of attractions and tourism activities to boost the reputation of the Region as a top destination to visit. The Leaders Forum focuses on ensuring the Canberra Region meets and exceeds the expectations of our visitors and adds substantially to the visitor economy. • Regular meetings with the CEO of the National Capital Authority discussing matters impacting the National Triangle and the capital investment in the national capital's key infrastructure • Monthly meetings with the Director of Visit Canberra on their activities, trade missions, events and aviation initiatives • Attending ACT Policing Canberra Community Working Group's monthly meeting and providing feedback on the issues of anti-social behaviour, graffiti, safety and homelessness. Meetings held on 30 July, 27 August, 24 September, 31 October, 18 December Ongoing meetings and correspondence with hotel owners and managers and businesses in Canberra city on stamping out antisocial behaviour and homelessness in the vicinity of their premises. Also involved were the ACT AHA and Accommodation Australia's CEO • The Chair and other members individually met during the year with Garry Watson, The National Capital Educational Tourism Project (NCETP) Manager	Meetings with the CEO of the NCA to discuss issues of mutual interest Providing input into strategic tourism issues impacting the ACT and Region visitor economy Active involvement with ACT Government agencies on finding solutions to the social issue impacting the city centre and Dickson Issues raised with ACT Policing and ACT Government Ministers and staff resulting in a decline in these incidents Providing support to the excellent visiting schools market activity

• The Leaders Forum provided a letter of support to Stepping Stone Social Enterprise's grant application to support the employment of migrant women and enhance their skills in the hospitality sector	Supporting inclusion across the tourism and hospitality sectors
• The Forum also provided support to Skai Canberra to host the 2026 Skai International Australia National Assembly, and to the ACT Racing Club on their proposed master plan development	Supporting ACT organisations growing the ACT visitor economy
• Met with Leaders Forum member Emma Shaw on the state of the Canberra District Wine industry	Ensuring the district's wine industry is supported
• Met with Tourism Leaders Forum member and Questacon Director Jo White on 14 October on National Attractions activities	Soliciting feedback from industry leaders on Canberra's biggest tourism attractors
• Meeting with the Sri Lanka High Commissioner Her Excellency Ms Yasoja Gunasekera in November on tourism related issues	Forging closer ties with the diplomatic community
• Met on 26 November with Michaela Watts Executive Branch Manager ACT Parks and Conservation Service and Brian Weir on plans for a new Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre and new enhanced visitor experiences	The focus on enhancing the nature-based tourism product in the ACT
• Attended a very successful Canberra Region Tourism Awards, coordinated by the Canberra Region Tourism Industry Council and the NCAA on 21 November which recognised leading tourism and hospitality operators in Canberra and the immediate Region	Recognising outstanding tourism operators and encouraging excellence in the delivery of visitor experiences in the ACT
• Participated in the 'Future of the ACT Clubs Industry' Independent Inquiry roundtable on 28 October and 20 January	The Forum played a leading role in these meetings
• Inspected Highclere Farm Yass with Jonathan Kobus on 15 January. This 1895 Victorian Italianate mansion has been restored to a new 5-star event venue	Meeting operators in the region developing first class facilities

• Forum members toured the new CIT Woden campus, featuring the latest in teaching technology on 30 January	Supporting the impressive CIT facility
• Members attended the launch of the National Capital Authority's CA's Drone Sky Show Preview on 23 January on Lake Burley Griffin	Supporting national events in the ACT
• Members attended the Canberra Region Showcase held at Parliament House featuring produce and attractions across the ACT and Region coordinated by the NCAA, Visit Canberra, Senator Pocock and David Smith MP	Mixing with Federal MP's and staffers at this annual event showcasing the National Capital
• The National Tourism Awards in Freemantle on 6 March saw the ACT win 2 Gold (Questacon and Floriade) and 2 Bronze Awards (Alivio Tourism Park and Shaw's Winery)	The Forum promoting the National Tourism Award winners
• The Forum met with the new Director-General of the National Library Alison Dellit, who commenced on 8 April	Maintaining relations with Institution Directors
• The University of Canberra convened a special meeting of industry leaders to discuss the planning and analysis of the viability of hospitality courses at UC on 23 April	Discussing the training and development of future tourism leaders
• On 24 April Visit Canberra and the Forum met with the Embassy of El Salvador on mutually promoting tourism	Seeking promotion of Canberra overseas
• On 20 May the Leaders Forum provided a support letter to the Chief Minister urging financial support for the Woodlands & Wetlands Trust to continue their work at Mulligans Flat and Jerrabomberra Wetlands	Ensuring the excellent environmental work of the Trust be allowed to continue
• On 11 May meeting with Natasha Kaiser Leaders Forum Member, on lifting indigenous tourism offerings	Discussed opportunities including retail product
• On 17 June meeting with Community Sports Alliance Nicole Bowles (Chair and also Tourism Leaders Forum member) and Mick Brady (Executive Officer) on conditions of sports facilities across the ACT	Discussed strategies to approach Government on enhancing ACT's sports infrastructure

3. Strategic Objective: Transport / Access Strategic Goal: Activities supporting Increased aviation services to the ACT and improve road and rail access to Canberra and the Region • Qatar Airways return engagement • Fiji Airways support • Canberra Airport collaboration • Sydney–Canberra rail advocacy • Qatar returned to Canberra on 2 December and hosted a special dinner at the Hyatt for key Government officials including the Chief Minister and Jonathan Kobus, Leaders Forum members and private sector executives on 2 December to mark this occasion. Marketing Manager Ken Lau addressed the Tourism Advisory Forum on 10 December • Fiji Airways support for additional services to Nadi • Regular contact with the Canberra Airport and supporting their continual efforts to attract more international carriers. Address to the Tourism Advisory Forum by Michael Thomson Director of Aviation Canberra Airport and the new Qantas ACT Regional Manager Candace Efstratiou • The Leaders Forum supported the call by Chief Minister Andrew Barr for NSW to upgrade the rail network from Sydney to Canberra • Meeting held with Love Boat creator Charles Chatain on the establishment of a trial ferry service at peak times from Kingston Foreshore to the city on 28 August • Met with Qantas Regional Manager Candace Efstratiou on 14 October to discuss the reduction of Qantas Canberra staff and the cost of airline tickets. Candace addressed the Tourism Advisory Forum on 4 September	Key outcomes and activities supporting these outcomes The Leaders Forum publicly supported the efforts by the ACT Government, Visit Canberra, the Canberra Airport and the Commissioner for International Engagement on their ongoing efforts to attract international carriers to service Canberra The Leaders Forum publicly supported the Chief Minister’s initiative on improving rail services to Canberra The Leaders Forum encouraged operators to establish a regular ferry service across the Lake to Civic The Forum kept abreast of the Qantas decision to reduce Canberra staff and lower airfares
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The Leaders Forum made a submission to the ACT standing Committee on Transport and Municipal Services into the provision of municipal services in the Territory	The submission recommended the Government prioritise the look and feel of the city as it impacts on the National Capital image
On April 18 The Canberra Airport held their open day (held every two years) attracting almost 40,000 people. Head of Aviation Michael announced two new services: Links Airways direct flights to Launceston commencing on 6 May, and Virgin's 3 weekly flights to Bali from 22 June.	The tireless work of the Canberra Airport and Visit Canberra, encouraged by the Tourism Leaders Forum, is another boost for the visitor economy

4. Strategic Objective: Marketing and Sales Strategic Goal: support destination marketing, events, sales activity and partnership building with the industry sectors the Leaders Forum represents Events - Ongoing engagement with Events ACT with direct support for the expansion of current major flagship events and the securing or creation of new festivals and visitor drawcards Better Regulation - The Leaders Forum responded to the Better Regulation Taskforce's draft list of events for a special events declaration under the liquor act to allow venues to extend their trading period from Spring 2025 to the end of Winter 2026. - The policy, supported by the Tourism Leaders Forum, was approved in August 2025 Tourism Australia (TA) ACT Forum - The Leaders Forum actively participated in this Forum on 4 September to discuss TA's new 2035 long-term strategy to enable a sustainable Australian tourism industry'.	Key outcomes and activities supporting these outcomes The Forum lobbied the ACT Government to increase event funding The Leaders Forum was consulted on this legislation and supported this special events declaration The Leaders Forum provided input to TA's 2035 Strategy
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Brian Weir attended the Australian Regional Tourism Convention from 14-17 October in Adelaide representing the Leaders Forum	The Forum actively participates in regional dialogue
RDA Tourism Roundtable Assisted Regional Development Australia (RDA) - Southern NSW & ACT arrange a Regional Tourism Roundtable on 19 November in Canberra. The key outcomes are detailed at: https://www.rdasna.org.au/news/trtoutcomesreport.	The Forum participated in the planning of the RDA's Roundtable
Outdoors NSW & ACT The Forum met with CEO of Outdoors NSW & ACT Lori Modde on 4 February and again on 30 June to discuss insurance matters impacting industry members, facilities for outdoor adventurers, Government support overall and the 2026 sector growth predictions	Discussed matters impacting the outdoor industry
Clubs ACT The Chair and the CBC CEO addressed the Clubs ACT Mini Conference on the ACT business and tourism environment on 22 April	Encouraging ACT Clubs to embrace the tourism sector as an important player
Media Exposure: It's a key objective of the Leaders Forum to raise the profile of our sectors as important drivers of the ACT and Region visitor economy - The Chair met with John-Paul Maloney, Editor Canberra Times on 11 Feb on securing more coverage on tourism issues - Supporting Partner AmplifyCBR provided the Tourism Leaders Forum with a series of '5 second Blink commercials' during the year promoting the free monthly Tourism Advisory Forums - The Chair undertook 40 media interviews over this financial year in the Canberra Times, WIN TV, on 2CC, and on ABC television and radio on the reduction in liquor licence fees and outdoor dining in Sydney and the supposed tourist boom in Canberra, the Government's trade mission to India among many other topics. Also the impact of the fuel crisis in Australia	One of the Leaders Forum's most critical roles is raising the profile of the tourism and hospitality industries in the local media. The Leaders Forum is often the ACT media's 'first point of call' for commentary.

5. Strategic Objective: Infrastructure Strategic Goal: Encouraging new high quality major tourism and hospitality infrastructure development across the Canberra Region • Met with TP Dynamics Managing Director Tony Pan on 25 July with Jonathan Kobus and Brendan Smyth to discuss his major development at Yowani Country Club Canberra and the new Garema Place Crystalbrook Hotel • Meetings facilitated in August and September with Tony Pan and the new City and Environment Directorate leadership, Infrastructure CBR, Economic Development Directorate executives and the NCA • Met with Infrastructure ACT on the new National Convention Centre Canberra (NCCC) • Met with John Gasson, developer of the Red Shed at Black Mountain Peninsular, on their inaugural 'Golden Oar' rowing event on 1-2 November attracting international, national and local participants • Received an update by Infrastructure Canberra to the Leaders Forum on the Canberra Theatre development • Participated in a briefing convened by the CED Directorate with Leaders Forum members and developers on a variety of legislative initiatives on 24 October • The Leaders Forum met with the UNSW Canberra Rector Emma Sparks on 28 October to be briefed on the University's Reid campus development • Participation in the planning and design concept session for the new Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre by ACT Parks and Conservation on 30 October • Facilitated a meeting with the ACT CED Directorate on a planned tourist accommodation redevelopment in Forrester in February • On 12 February discussed with Gillian Gerharty, CEO Infrastructure Canberra, the Convention Centre, the Civic Pool relocation and Light Rail construction	Key outcomes and activities supporting these outcomes The Leaders Forum acts as a facilitator introducing key investors and developers to ACT Government executives. The Leaders Forum has also been instrumental in promoting the new NCCC as a top business priority. It has also advised the Government on many proposed infrastructure projects. The Leaders Forum is considered a great Government sounding board with expertise in all areas relating to the development of tourism related infrastructure projects across the Territory. Assisting business navigate Government legislation Update from the agency responsible for major ACT infrastructure development
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6. Strategic Objective: Governance, Leadership and Partnerships Strategic Goal: to ensure the administration of the Tourism Leaders Forum is exemplary in its administration and operation, and through partnerships, serves the industry sectors it represents with distinction. Supporting Partners The backbone of the Tourism Leaders Forum is the generosity of our Supporting Partners. The Forum could not operate without their commitment. The Partners support also contributed to the the eleven Tourism Advisory Forum's held this past 12 months. - All Supporting Partners extended their partnerships for the 2026 – 2027 year (the list of Partners at Appendix 2) Destination Southern NSW - The Leaders Forum is grateful to DSNSW for their administration of the Leaders Forum website and the summaries of our Tourism Advisory Forums Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum Membership 24 of the most senior leaders in driving the visitor economy in Canberra and the Region provide their time freely to serve as members, the list of members is at Appendix 4. - We thank those members who have moved from their positions on the Forum over the past 12 months: Olivia Thornton, Ritchie Allan and Gary Stewart. We welcomed Craig Shannon, Nicole Bowles, Peter Barclay and Tash Kaiser as members of the Leaders Forum - The Chair of the Leaders Forum officially joined the Canberra Convention Bureau Board on 28 April Statutory Responsibilities - The Leaders Forum submits annual reports to Access Canberra, has appropriate insurance cover as a not-for-profit organisation, and SPA Accounting provides a review of our annual report and financial administration Contractual responsibilities - The Leaders Forum has written agreements and confirmations with all our Supporting Partners and other contractual arrangements we enter into.	Key outcomes and activities supporting these outcomes The Leaders Forum members keep in close contact with Supporting Partners and greatly value their contribution Assistance through our close partners is very much appreciated We are grateful for the time and commitment of the key leaders in the sectors we represent The Forum supporting Business Tourism Meeting of our legal responsibilities is pivotal to our reputation as a leading representative body All agreements are documented according to our statutory obligations.
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Appendix 1:

Canberra Region Tourism Advisory Forum Speakers

Eleven Tourism Advisory Forums have been delivered over the 2025 – 2026 financial year, attracting up to 270 participants and connecting industry directly with senior government, aviation, infrastructure and tourism leaders. Speakers have included:

July Thursday 3:

- Dr Paul Grimes PSM CEO Austrade
- Gillian Geraghty ACT Chief Architect and Director- General Infrastructure Canberra
- Richard Snow Group Head Property Capital Property Group

August Tuesday 5:

- Andy Lopez Co-Owner Summernats
- Matt Anderson PSM Director Australian War Memorial
- Dash Rubble/Ross McQuinn Co-owners Such & Such and Pilot Restaurants

September Thursday 4:

- Candace Efstratiou Regional Manager Qantas Airlines
- Craig Gillman CEO Canberra's City Renewal Authority
- Genevieve Jacobs AM CEO Hands Across Canberra

October Friday 10:

- Chris Steel MLA ACT Treasurer, Transport and Planning Minister
- Scott Lee APM ACT Chief Police Officer
- Adam Drinkwell CEO Australian Masters Games

November Thursday 6:

- Tara Cheyne MLA ACT Attorney-General, Minister for City and Government Services, Human Rights and the Night-Time Economy
- Margot McNeill Chief Executive CIT
- Michael Thomson Head of Aviation Canberra Airport

December Wednesday 10:

- Andrew Barr MLA ACT Chief Minister and Tourism Minister
- Jonathan Kobus PSM Director Visit Canberra
- Ken Lau Marketing and Loyalty Director Qatar Airways
- Then a special 45 minute presentation by Visit Canberra executives

February Thursday 5

- His Excellency Andrew Needs, New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia
- John Hart OAM Executive Chair Australian Chamber – Tourism
- Olivia West, CEO Regional Development Australia – Southern NSW & ACT

March: Tuesday 3

- Prof Emma Sparks Rector University of New South Wales Canberra Campus
- Richard Everson CEO Destination Southern NSW, Mic Longhurst owner and founder of Dynamic Motivation and Martin Wisata, Managing Director Rocky Train Entertainment
- James Goodwin CEO Accommodation Australia

April Thursday 2

- Geoff York Chief Executive Officer Crystalbrook Collection of Hotels &
- Peter Kent Chair Outdoors NSW ACT
- Garrett Tyler-Parker Director Analysis and Insights and Visitor Economy Sustainability Austrade

May Wednesday 6

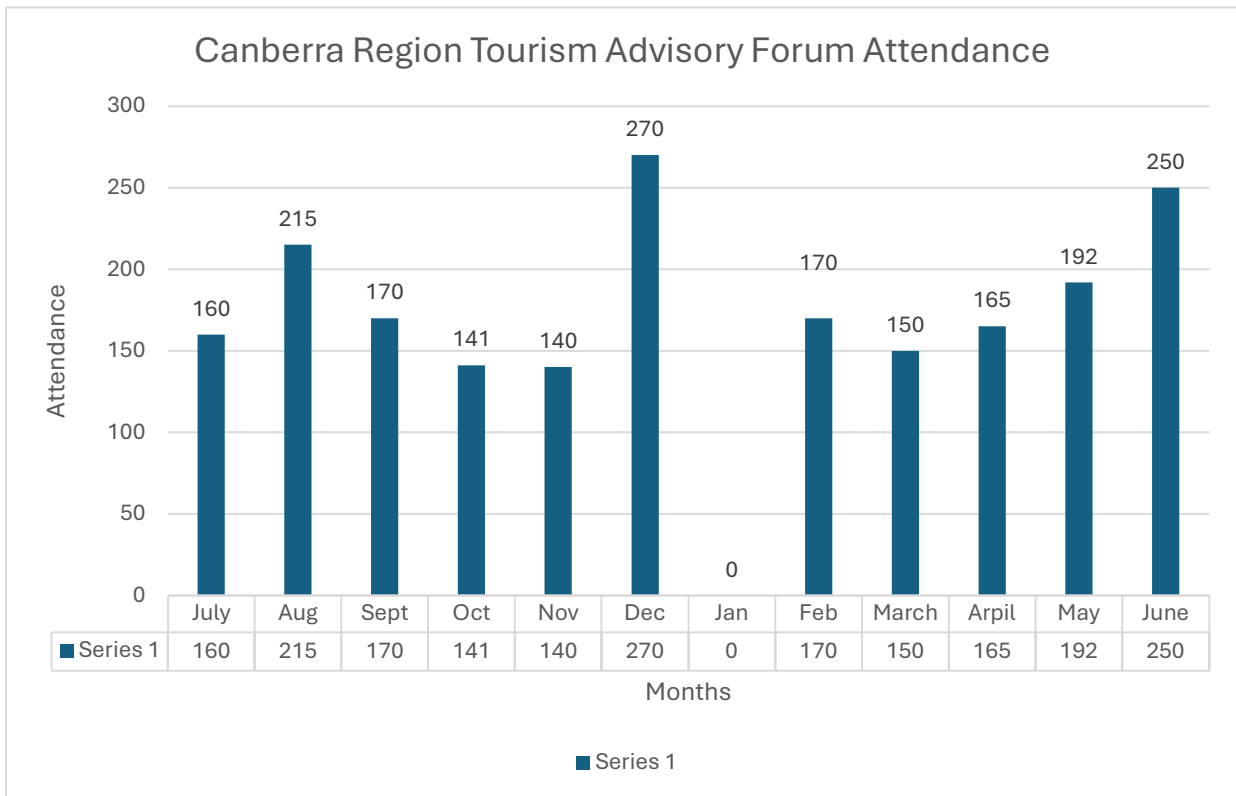
- Alicia Payne MP Federal Member for Canberra
- Karen Jones CEO Destination NSW
- Lucio Ribeiro Chief AI and Innovation Officer at TBWA, The Disruption Company

June Tuesday 9

- Andrew Barr MLA ACT Chief Minister and Tourism Minister
- Georgia Hendy Executive Director Canberra Theatre
- Justin Garrett Director, Strategy, Insight & Industry Development Visit Canberra

Appendix 2:

2025 Canberra Region Tourism Advisor Forum Attendance



Our Supporting Partners

The activities of the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum and the hosting of the Canberra Region Tourism Advisory Forums are made possible by our Supporting Partners over the year 2025 – 2026, we are very grateful for their generosity:

Visit Canberra	Nexus
University of Canberra	Hyatt Hotel
Host Plus	Cricket ACT
Canberra Centre	Canberra Convention Bureau
Canberra Racing Club	Canberra Business Chamber
Dept of Parliamentary Services	SPA Accounting
Gow Gates	Amplify FM
Canberra Airport	Art Atelier Photography
Parbery	National Convention Centre
ACT Property Council	Encore-ANZAC
Clubs ACT	

Appendix 3:

Canberra Region Tourism Advisor Forum Functions Supported

Functions held across the industry sectors we represent are attended by Leaders Forum members and have included the following:

July

- Canberra Glassworks Fulcrum Exhibition opening 3 July
- Mr Squiggle and Friends exhibition at the National Museum of Australia 3 July
- SKAL Canberra Networking lunch 9 July
- Canberra Convention Bureau Networking night 9 July
- Rugby Australia Brumbies vs British & Irish Lions Clash 9 July
- Regional Development Aust Manager Northern and Southern meeting 24 July
- Canberra Glassworks VIP Glass Making Demo 24 July
- Canberra Business Chamber Business After Business at University of CBR 24 July
- 'eeger' website launch promoting careers and training in tourism and travel 28 July
- Canberra Region Top Tourism Town Awards event 31 July
- Launch of the Festival of Speed 2026 at Shaw's winery 31 July

August

- The new Jewish Holocaust Museum briefing on Wednesday 6 August
- The 216th Anniversary of the Republic of Ecuador on 11 August
- The CIT Tourism Industry tour of the new Woden campus on 15 August
- The NPG launch of the 2025 National Photographic Portrait Prize on 15 August
- The NFSA 'Inferno' digital installation on 21 August
- The 78th Anniversary of India's Independence on 25 August
- The ACT Restaurant and Catering Awards night 25 August
- The Woden Campus CIT Restaurant hosted a 'Flavours of Italy' evening prepared by CIT's Cookery students on 28 August
- The University of Canberra's 'Can Be Lab' launch on 28 August

September

- The unveiling of the Tina Arena portrait at a dinner at the NPG on 5 September
- The opening of the 'Tracing the Sky: Celebrating the Wetlands of Chile and Australia' on 5 September
- Launch of the Indian Club Canberra on 12 September at the NGA
- UC Open Day for students and Alumni on 20 Sept
- The 2025 AHA ACT Awards for Excellence presentation ceremony at the NMA on 22 September with 123 nominations across 45 categories
- Attendance at the business breakfast for Menslink on 23 September

October

- Forum members attended the Business Chamber's Diplomatic Business Connections Gala Dinner on 17 October
- The Clubs & Community Awards Presentation Dinner on 27 October
- Cricket ACT's Launch of the 'Summer of Cricket' on 29 October celebrating the T20 international clash between Australia and India at Manuka Oval
- Attendance at the ACCI annual dinner at Parliament House with guest Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers
- NSW - ACT Distillers Association and Visit Canberra held a 'Discover Spirits CBR' launch at the Visitors Centre on 30 October
- Questacon's 'SciFright' event to celebrate Halloween on 31 October

November

- Attending the first 'Golden Oar' rowing event and festivities at the Red Shed on 1-2 November and the VIP event.
- Address by ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr at the Canberra Business Chamber's 'State of the Territory Business Address' on 3 November
- The Parliamentary Friends of Tourism launch event with Federal MP's, Senators and Prime Minister Albanese on 3 November
- The ACT Australian Institute of Company Directors Annual dinner on 5 November
- The Strategy launch of UC's Faculty of Business, Government and Law
- 'Bonsai Reshaped' program at the National Arboretum from 5-9 November
- The CRA's City Centre and Braddon business update for hospitality and retail sectors on 11 November
- The National Archives 'Real Life Innovators & Opportunists' launch on 13 November
- Clubs ACT AGM on 18 November
- The 'Meet the Makers' function with Canberra District wineries and food at Midnight Hotel on 21 November
- The Canberra Convention Bureau's networking event on 18 November
- The Regional Development Australia's Southern NSW and ACT Tourism Roundtable on 19 November at MoAD
- Canberra Racing Club's Community Chest Black Tie partners draw on 20 November
- The Canberra Community Chest and NZ Bloodstock Premiership Awards Luncheon on 23 November
- Tom Emerson MLA community BBQ in Corroboree Park on 28 November

December

- Qatar Airways Hyatt dinner celebrating its return to Canberra on 2 December
- ACCI's 2025 General Council Dinner celebrating 125 years of national business leadership and advocacy on 3 December
- Clubs ACT Christmas catch up on 4 December at the ANU

- The Canberra Hyatt Hotel's Carols and Canapes function with the Australian Girls Choir on 4 December
- Qatar's National Day celebrations reception on 4 December at Albert Hall
- ACT Property Council's Christmas lunch at the Hyatt Hotel on 5 December
- Launch of NGA's 5th National Indigenous Art Triennial 'After the Rain' on 5 December
- Cockington Green's launch of its new train on 6 December
- Summernats 38 Official Media Launch on 9 December
- ACT AHA Christmas drinks on Tuesday 9 December
- ACT SKAL Club AGM and dinner on 10 December
- The NCAA's AGM and Networking event on 11 December at the Botanic Gardens
- The opening of 'Heaven's Gate' on 11 December at the NFSA
- The DOMA Group's Christmas celebrations on 11 December at Shaw's Winery
- The National Museum of Australia's 'Hallyu! The Korean Wave' exhibition on 12 December
- Media launch of the Festival of Speed on 19 December in the city centre
- The ACT Government's New Years Eve fireworks on 31 December

January

- Meeting with the Belconnen Arts Centre executive team on their engagement with the wider tourism and hospitality industry in the ACT on 13 January
- Attendance at the NCA Drone Show on the Lake on 23 January
- Attendance at the launch of the 2026 Festival of Speed at Thoroughbred Park on 31 January

February

- Celebration of the Centenary Canberra Cup Thursday 12 February, 100 years to the day since the first running of the Canberra Cup
- SKAL Lunch 18 February at the NPG
- Canberra Raiders 2026 Season Launch at the Australian War Memorial on 18 February
- Canberra Convention Bureau's networking night on 18 Feb at Collab Brindabella
- Clubs ACT Mini Conference with ACT Treasurer Chris Steel on 19 Feb in Belconnen
- Attended the India vs Australia women's international at Manuka Oval as guest of Cricket ACT
- Senator Pocock's 'Town Hall' forum on 25 February with a focus on key issues affecting Canberrans
- Attendance at the ACT Property Council International Woman's Day Luncheon at the NGA on 25 February
- The Business Chamber's Business after Business function on 26 February, plus a University of Canberra presentation on the changes to privacy legislation and policy in Australia

March

- Destination NSW Webinar on the 'NSW Visitor Experience' on 4 March
- Canberra Business Chamber and ACCI International Women's day breakfast on 5 March
- The Canberra Racing Clubs Black Opal Dinner on Friday 6 March
- Thoroughbred Park's Black Opal Stakes Race Day and 100th anniversary of the Canberra Cup on Sunday 8 March
- The UC Aitkin Lecture at the NPC on 11 March
- CRA's consultation on the City Hill Park concept masterplan on 12 March
- Austrade hosted a webinar on the situation in the Middle East for businesses impacted by the emerging conflict on aviation and fuel supplies on 12 March
- Amplify's Skyfire 2026 on Lake Burley Griffin on 14 March
- Visit Canberra's Industry Networking Evening, Regatta Point Precinct, on 19 March
- Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) hosted a tourism data and AI focussed event on 19 March
- A National Tourism Forum was held at APH on 20 March with tourism leaders hosted by Austrade and Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell
- 19th Annual Canberra and Cider Festival on 21 March at Mecure Canberra
- CRA's 'Canberra Central Design Manual review on 23 March
- The Viral Food Festival at Thoroughbred Park from 27-29 March
- The Venues Management Association hosted a tourism and events networking function at the Canberra Theatre Centre on 31 March addressed by new Theatre CEO Georgia Hendy

April

- The Portrait Gallery's launch of John Brack x Noel Mc Kenna 'a face in the mirror' exhibition on 1 April
- The Leaders Forum Chair moderated an ACT Property Council 'ACT Hotels and Tourism Outlook' forum at East Hotel on 1 April.
- Aust War Memorial screening of 'A New Anzac' on Friday 10 April in their theatre
- Gungahlin Historic Homestead open day in Crace on 11 April
- ATEC and Visit Canberra on Thursday 16 April ran a workshop on selling Australia and Canberra to Chinese travellers.
- Nominations for the Canberra Region Top Tourism Town Awards and the Canberra Region Top Tour Guide Awards presented by ATIC were announced in mid April
- Canberra Airport Open Day was held on Saturday 18 April
- The Business Chamber's 'Canberra's City Centre – Insights and Opportunities for Retail, Hospitality and Service Providers' breakfast on Wednesday 22 April
- ACT Property Council 'ACT Construction Outlook' lunch on 22 April
- The Australian Business Events Association hosted an event on 23 April. for Emerging Leaders in the business events industry and the wider tourism industry.
- Regional Development Australia Southern NSW & ACT, hosted a THRIVE 2026: Powering Regional Prosperity, Forum on 29 April at the Shine Dome

May

- NFSA 'MOSSO: Music in Motion' event on 2 May
- The Business Chambers 'NBN Connects with Microsoft' morning event on 7 May
- 2026 Canberra Region Tourism Awards launch on 7 May
- Canberra Glassworks 'Through the Window' exhibition launch on 14 May
- The AICD Roundtable on 'Governing in a fractured world... Board Decision Making' on 19 May
- Celebrate Spanish Language Day at the NFSA 20 May
- CCB's Networking night 20 May
- The ACCI Business Series with Hon Pat Controy MP Minister for Defence Industry on 27 May
- The ACCI webinar on proposed capital gains tax and trusts on 28 May

June

- The Floriade 2026 Media Launch on 2 June
- The Canberra Multicultural Community Forum's 20th anniversary Gala Dinner on 6 June
- The 'College of Adjuncts Reception' at the University of Canberra on 10 June
- The National Archives exhibition 'Rear Vision: the Holden collection' on 11 June
- Craft + Design Canberra exhibition opening on 11 June
- The National Wine Show 12 – 13 June at the Hyatt Hotel
- The National Gallery's exhibition 'Arthur Boyd: Tapestries' opened on 18 June
- The AWM's Atrium and Anzac Hall official opening on 23 June
- ATEC's Assessable and Inclusive Host training program in association with Visit Canberra commenced on 2 June through to 23 June
- Clubs ACT Mini Conference on 25 June
- NMA Antarctica Exhibition opening on 30 June

Appendix 4:

2026 Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum Members

Member	Position
1. Dot Barclay	President SKAL ACT & Proprietor Forrest Hotel & Apartments
2. Peter Barclay	Principal King O'Malleys and President AHA ACT
3. Debra Beetham	Managing Director Tourism Industry Council ACT/NCAA
4. Nicole Bowles	Chair Community Sport Alliance and CEO Basketball ACT
5. Vanessa Brettell	Proprietor Café Stepping Stone representing Social Enterprises
6. Kathryn Carling	Area General Manager Canberra Doma Hotels
7. Karen Doran	CEO National Capital Authority
8. Richard Everson	General Manager Destination Southern NSW
9. Caroline Fulton	General Manager Cultural Facilities Corporation
10. Chris Gatfield	General Manager Australian Hotels Association ACT
11. Greg Harford	CEO Canberra Business Chamber
12. Jaala Hinchcliffe	Secretary Dept of Parliamentary Services Parliament House
13. Tash Kaiser	Murrumbidgee Collection representing indigenous communities
14. Jonathan Kobus	Director Visit Canberra
15. David Marshall	Chair Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum
16. Michael Matthews	CEO Canberra Convention Bureau
17. Scott Reardon	Australian and Olympic Paralympian
18. Dash Rumble	Owner Pilot Restaurant representing the restaurant/cafe sector
19. Craig Shannon	CEO Clubs ACT
20. Emma Shaw	Canberra Cellar Door and Canberra District Wine Industry
21. Michael Thomson	Head of Aviation Canberra Airport
22. Brian Weir	Assistant Professor CBR Business School Uni of Canberra
23. Jo White	Director Questacon representing the National Attractions
24. Stephen Wood	General Manager National Convention Centre Canberra

The Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum members all donate their time in the interests of building the ACT Visitor Economy. This extraordinary commitment by those individuals who have fulltime roles and are leaders in the ACT and Region is greatly appreciated. The Leaders Forum meets four times year, directly after our Tourism Advisory Forum at 10.15am in February, May, August and November.

Please reach out to any member if you require assistance or have matters you would like the Tourism Leaders Forum to assist you with.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Leaders Forum members and also all the members of the industry sectors who attend our monthly Tourism Advisory Forums. Your support makes a huge difference to the overarching management of the tourism and hospitality industries and allied sectors across the ACT and Region.

Dr David Marshall AM

Chair Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum

Email: chair@tlforum.com.au

1 July 2026
