

**Tara Cheyne MLA**

Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

Minister for City Services

Minister for Government Services and Regulatory Reform

Minister for Human Rights

Member for Ginninderra

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 39****9 February 2024****Question No. 1575**

**ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA:** To ask the Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development

- (1) Given that the ACT Government announced that a single 15-minute fireworks show at 9 pm would replace two shorter displays at 9 pm and midnight for the 2023 New Year's Eve fireworks, and that this was due to attendance numbers showing that the 9 pm time was strongly favoured by the community, for each of the past five years, (a) how long were each of the 9 pm and midnight New Year's Eve fireworks shows, (b) what were the attendance numbers for each New Year's Eve fireworks show session, (i.e. 9 pm and midnight) and (c) what was the total cost for each New Year's Eve fireworks show session, including the most recent 2023 9 pm New Years Eve session.
- (2) What other indicators (i.e. community consultation results) showed that the 9 pm time was more favoured by the community, aside from attendance numbers.
- (3) How many complaints were received by the ACT Government for cancelling the 2023 midnight New Year's Eve fireworks show (midnight of 31 December 2023 to 1 January 2024).

**TARA CHEYNE MLA** - Noting this question relates to matters in the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy portfolio, the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The following table provides the requested information –

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021 (Moved to lake)</b>	<b>2020 – cancelled due to COVID</b>	<b>2019 – cancelled due to bushfire</b>
<b>Length of 9pm fireworks</b>	15 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes		
<b>Length of midnight fireworks</b>	NA	8 minutes	15 minutes		
<b>Attendance 9pm</b>	51,827	40,503	41,232		
<b>Attendance midnight</b>	NA	9,393	15,033		
<b>Total attendance</b>	51,827	42,500	42,951		
<b>Cost for 9pm fireworks show</b>	\$122,727.27	Total \$122,727.27 for both shows. Unable to break down into 9pm and midnight costs.	Total \$90,000 for both shows. Unable to break down into 9pm and midnight costs.		
<b>Cost for midnight fireworks show</b>	NA				

(2) Independent research reports conducted by IER on behalf of Events ACT were utilised as the indicator. These reports revealed that out of those surveyed, 95.3% self-identified as viewing the 9pm fireworks, compared to only 22.1% who self-identified viewing the midnight fireworks. Events ACT's hourly density counts, and visual inspections also corroborated the larger attendance at the 9pm show versus the midnight show in 2022.

(3) Events ACT did not receive any formal complaints regarding the cancellation of the 2023 midnight fireworks show. However, there was considerable discussion, both negative and positive, on various social media platforms regarding the decision.

Events ACT did receive formal correspondence expressing appreciation for the improved fireworks display that took place at 9pm.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA

Acting Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development

Date: 2/3/24

This response required 1hrs 39mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$183.7