

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 16

3 March 2025

Question No. 926

MR THOMAS EMERSON MLA: To ask the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries —

1. What prompted the fire safety assessment in November 2025 that restricted occupancy to 100 people of the Kingston Fitters' Workshop, which discontinued the ability of the Canberra International Music Festival to use the facility it has been one of the most frequent users of since 2012, and has impacted other creatives and community groups who want to use the Fitters' Workshop for concerts and events.
2. Will the Government carry out fire safety upgrades to ensure the Fitters' Workshop remains a viable venue for concerts, including for events for more than 100 people.
3. Will the Government commit to ensuring the Fitters' Workshop is able to host the Canberra International Music Festival next year.
4. What are the Government's future intentions for the Fitters' Workshop given its place within the planned Kingston Arts Precinct.

MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT Government undertakes periodic fire safety assessments of government facilities as part of standard asset management and compliance practices. As part of this process, a fire safety contractor completed an Occupancy and Egress Report for the Fitters' Workshop in November 2025. The assessment identified that the exit doors did not meet current requirements under the National Construction Code for buildings accommodating more than 100 people, due to the absence of compliant panic bars (horizontal bar installed on the interior side of a door, allowing for quick, single-motion egress). As a result, the building's occupancy was temporarily limited to 100 people until the door hardware can be upgraded.
2. Yes. iCBR is currently liaising with Heritage ACT to obtain the necessary approvals before works can commence. These completed works will allow the general maximum capacity to return to 450 people.
3. One works have been completed the Fitters' Workshop will be available for hire at its original capacity limit. Work is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

4. Infrastructure Canberra is considering the use of the Fitters' Workshop as part of the Kingston Arts Precinct development.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Michael Pettersson MLA
Business, Arts and Creative Industries

Date: 23.3.26

This response required 1 hour 50mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$156.28.