**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: I give notice that I shall move – That this Assembly:

1. Notes That:
2. The ACT Government is currently consulting with community and industry and working to support a thriving night-time economy in the ACT, a recommendation of the [Better Regulation Report 2022.](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2014915/Better-regulation-taskforce-full-report-may-2022.pdf)
3. This strategy will complement ongoing work including the *Canberra: Australia’s Arts Capital A Statement of Ambition for the Arts 2021–2026* and *CBR Switched On ACT’s Economic Development Priorities 2022–2025.*
4. Nightlife can be one of the most important aspects of a city’s character and there are many things that contribute to the success of a night-time economy. This includes ensuring that night-time activities and areas provide a diverse, vibrant and safe night out.
5. As night-time economies develop, it is important to ensure that public safety is part of both public consultations and the overall policy framework.
6. Rates of violent and sexual assault are highest in Canberra’s night-life areas of Civic and Braddon according to crime statistics published by ACT Policing.
7. Canberra’s premier night-time and entertainment destinations like Civic and Braddon would benefit from a cohesive safety strategy that effectively ensures patrons of licenced premises are sufficiently safe as they enjoy the city’s nightlife.
8. States such as New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have effectively implemented nightlife safety strategies to create a safe and secure patron experience in the night-time economy.
9. In 2022, Sydney joined 90 global destinations by becoming accredited by the “Purple Flag Initiative”, which accredits cities who meet standards of excellence in vibrancy, diversity and safety at night.
10. To achieve Purple Flag accreditation, areas need to meet a set of criteria, including access to public transport, adequate street lighting and great food and beverage offerings.
11. The Purple Flag initiative has seen many benefits including a:
    * 1. reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in accredited cities;
      2. raised profile and an improved public image for the location;
      3. wider patronage, increased expenditure;
      4. more successful mixed use economy in the longer term.
12. Calls on the ACT Government to:
13. Ensure that public safety considerations are part of the consultation process for the ACT night-time economy.
14. Explore the potential for Purple Flag accreditation for Civic and/or other areas as part of the consultation and work on the ACT night-time economy.
15. Explore embedding a public safety plan as an initiative to strengthen and support the ACT night-time economy, especially in Civic.
16. Update the Assembly on progress following consultation on the night-time economy.

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

08 June 2023