

Opening statement of Peter Bradbury  
to the 23 April 2026 hearing of the  
Select Committee Inquiry into Financial Management and  
Government Procurement Legislative Compliance

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to contribute to the outcomes of this important inquiry through my submission, and my attendance here today. I hope the Committee finds my contribution useful.

I come to the issue of appropriations compliance and procedures as a by-product of trying to understand why ACT Government fiscal reporting is unreliable at any point before the audited Consolidated Annual Financial Statements. These include significant revisions that occur between the estimated outcome for the year and the audited results.

Inspection of the law and practices around appropriations has led to another piece of that jigsaw falling into place. I would encourage this Committee to inform the Fiscal Sustainability Inquiry of this information as it is very relevant to them and their expert adviser Mr Saul Eslake.

The study I undertook shows a very poor level of compliance with legislation in the publicly available documents, with many breaches. From what is reported in Hansard, the Treasurer's knowledge of the legislative requirements is also very poor.

I didn't have the time or resources to study the procedural level compliance, but there are hints at the higher level of shortcomings at that lower level.

Thank you