STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2006-2007

JULY 2008

Report 14

Committee Membership

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Resolution of Appointment

The Legislative Assembly appointed the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on 7 December 2004 to:

(i) examine:

(A) the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Australian Capital Territory and its authorities; and

(B) all reports of the Auditor-General which have been presented to the Assembly;

(ii) report to the Assembly any items or matters in those accounts, statements and reports, or any circumstances connected with them, to which the Committee is of the opinion that the attention of the Assembly should be directed;

(iii) inquire into any question in connection with the public accounts which is referred to it by the Assembly and to report to the Assembly on that question; and

(iv) examine matters relating to economic and business development, small business, tourism, market and regulatory reform, public sector management, taxation and revenue and sustainability.

Terms of Reference

Inquire into the 2006-07 annual and financial reports of government departments and agencies as listed at Appendix A according to the schedule determined by the ACT Legislative Assembly.

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RECOMMENDATION 3

3.20 The Committee recommends that the Government instruct agencies to respond to all recommendations contained in the final drafts of performance audit reports and remind agencies that this is a process separate from the government response to the final report.

RECOMMENDATION 4

3.26 The Committee recommends that the Government move to a process whereby all regulatory impact statements are publicly released following cabinet consideration.

RECOMMENDATION 5

3.30 The Committee recommends that the framework for implementation of triple-bottom-line rules and assessments be submitted to the ACT Government, and made public, before the 2008 ACT Election.

RECOMMENDATION 6

3.31 The Committee recommends that triple-bottom-line reporting be included in Annual Reports beginning in 2009-10

RECOMMENDATION 7

3.33 The Committee recommends that the Treasurer report to the Assembly before the 2008 ACT Election on progress in implementing the recommendations of the review into socially responsible investment.

RECOMMENDATION 8

3.34 The Committee recommends that reporting on socially responsible investment is included in subsequent Annual Reports.

RECOMMENDATION 9

3.71 The Committee recommends that all details of the Griffin Legacy arrangements between the ACT Government and the Commonwealth be provided to the Committee as soon as is possible.

RECOMMENDATION 10

3.84 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct exit surveys of all staff leaving the ACT public service.

RECOMMENDATION 11

3.100 The Committee recommends that the provisions in the ACT Code of Ethics for public servants relating to conflict of interest be strictly implemented.

RECOMMENDATION 12

3.101 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release a full analysis of the cost of conducting the 2008 Balloon Spectacular.

1 INTRODUCTION AND CONDUCT OF INQUIRY

Referral of the inquiry

1.1 On 25 September 2007 the annual and financial reports for the calendar year 2007 and the financial year 2006-07 for all Government agencies were referred to the relevant Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly.[1]

1.2 The following annual and financial reports were referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- ACT Auditor-General
- ACT Cleaning Industry Long Service Leave Board
- ACT Construction Industry Long Service Leave Board
- ACT Gambling and Racing Commission
- ACT Government Procurement Board
- ACT Insurance Authority (ACTIA)
- ACT Legislative Assembly Secretariat
- ACTEW Corporation
- ACTTAB Limited
- Australian Capital Tourism
- Chief Minister's Department[2]
- Commissioner for Public Administration
- Cultural Facilities Corporation
- Department of Treasury
- Exhibition Park Corporation
- Nominal Defendant

[1] Legislative Assembly for the ACT, *Minutes of Proceedings* No 112, 25 September 2007, p 1210

[2] Those sections of the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report concerning the Land Development Agency were referred to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment.

- Rhodium Asset Solutions Limited

Conduct of the inquiry

1.3 The Committee held public hearings on 29 November, 11 December and 13 December 2007 and on 28 February 2008. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee at public hearings are listed at **Appendix A**. The full transcript of public hearings is available on the Assembly website at http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2005/comms/default.htm#public

1.4 The Committee met on 19 June and 30 June 2008 to discuss the Chair's draft report, which was adopted on 30 June 2008.

Acknowledgements

1.5 The Committee thanks relevant ACT Government Ministers and accompanying departmental and agency officers for providing their time and expertise as witnesses at its annual reports hearings.

1.6 The Committee also acknowledges the contribution of departmental and agency officers who provided supplementary information to the Committee which assisted its understanding of the many issues being considered.

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2 ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW

2.1 Accountability of the Executive to the Legislative Assembly (and to the public) is a key principle of responsible government. For that to be achieved executive agencies must be fully committed to both accountability and disclosure of information in a meaningful straightforward way that can be easily understood without financial or accounting training.

2.2 The provision of meaningful operational and financial information by government to parliament and the public is a fundamental component of the accountability process.[3]

2.3 Annual reports are the principal and most authoritative way in which Chief Executives and Chairpersons account to the Legislative Assembly and other stakeholders, including the public, for the ways in which they have discharged their statutory and other responsibilities and utilised public funds over the preceding twelve months.[4]

2.4 As key accountability documents, annual reports are:

- the principal way in which agencies account for management performance through Ministers to the Legislative Assembly and the wider community;
- tabled in the Assembly and form a key part of the historic record of government and public administration decisions, actions and outcomes;
- a source of information and reference about the performance of agencies and service providers for other stakeholders, educational and research institutions, the media and the public; and
- key reference documents and documents for internal management.[5]

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[3] Public Accounts Committee, Legislative Assembly of Queensland, December 2001, Report No. 59, *Annual Reporting in the Queensland Public Sector*, p. 1.

[4] Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2003*: Effectiveness of Annual Reporting*, p. 1.

[5] *Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2006-07*, p. 3.

2.5 The Committee notes that annual reports co-exist with other annual whole-of-government reporting to present an aggregated view of the performance of the ACT public sector as a whole.[6]

Reporting framework

2.6 Annual and financial reports are prepared by all reporting entities in accordance with the:

- *Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2006-07*;
- *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*; and
- *Financial Management Act 1996*.

2.7 The Chief Minister told the ACT Legislative Assembly:

> 'The government seeks to ensure that the directions and the acts are continually updated to reflect best practice and full accountability in accordance with government policy'.[7]

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004

2.8 The *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* (the Act) sets the framework for annual reporting across the ACT public sector. This framework identifies which public bodies provide annual reports and outlines the timeframe for provision of reports.[8]

Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2006-07

2.9 The Chief Minister's *Annual Report Directions 2006-07* (the Directions)[9], which are issued under the Act,[10] play a crucial and central role in setting minimum standards for the preparation, form and content of annual reports by departmental Chief Executives and the Chairpersons of public authorities.[11]

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[6] *Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2005-06*, p. 5.

[7] ACT Legislative Assembly: 2006 Week 9 Hansard, 21 September 2006, p. 3055.

[8] *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

[9] Accessible at http://www.psm.act.gov.au/publications/annualreportdirections06_07.pdf

[10] Part 2, Section 9, *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*

[11] *Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2005-06* pp. 5-6.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts plays a consultative role in the process.[12]

2.10 The Directions prescribe a framework for annual reports that seeks to apply consistency in public accountability and statutory reporting requirements across the public sector.[13] This is so that accountability is enhanced through the presentation of timely and performance-oriented information.[14]

Financial Management Act 1996

2.11 The Financial Management Act provides for the financial management of the Government of the Territory, for the scrutiny of that management by the ACT Legislative Assembly; and specifies financial reporting requirements for the Government of the Territory.[15]

Financial Statements

2.12 The Committee notes with concern that only 63% of financial reports were rated good or satisfactory in 2006-07 compared with 75% in 2004-05.[16] The poor performance of agencies in creating their financial statements, and the reliance of smaller agencies upon the Audit office to bring their statements up to standard,[17] raises questions about the accountability and oversight of agencies' financial management. While it is reassuring to hear that the Auditor-General considers that the statements are significantly improved as part of the audit process, the Committee does not believe that Audit office expertise is an appropriate substitute for in house control and understanding of financial reporting requirements. With the Shared Services Centre bedded down the Committee believes that now is an appropriate time for the Government to focus on improving financial statements.

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[12] Part 2, Section 8, Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004

[13] ACT Legislative Assembly, Response to Question on Notice No. 64 to the ACT Auditor-General, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Inquiry on Annual and Financial Reports 2004-05, QON PAC 64.

[14] *Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2005-06*, p. 5.

[15] *Financial Management Act 1996*

[16] Auditor-General's Report No 8 of 2007: *2006-07 Financial Audits*, p 18

[17] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 26.

RECOMMENDATION 1

2.13 **The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a whole of government approach to improving departmental financial statements with a particular focus on assisting smaller agencies to meet the required standard.**

3 ISSUES DISCUSSED AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

Legislative Assembly for the ACT Secretariat

3.1 The Committee was interested in feedback received by the Secretariat in relation to webcasting the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The Secretariat explained that its monitoring software showed that there were around 200 unique visitors viewing the feed on a sitting day with a lot of interest coming from within the ACT Government.[18]

Governance Issues

3.2 The Speaker outlined the Latimer House principles for the Committee. These principles were endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 2003:

> 'The principles were directed towards articulating an effective framework to particularly apply the separation of powers doctrine for parliament, the judiciary and the executive. These principles state that, in relation to budgets for a legislature, an all-party committee of members of parliament should review and administer parliament's budget, which should not be subject to amendment by the executive.'[19]

3.3 The Speaker explained that discussions between Treasury and the Secretariat were continuing with the aim of moving Assembly funding towards the Latimer House principles. It was important that a balance was struck so that the legislature could accommodate the circumstances that the Treasury might find itself in but at the same time ensure that government policy does not interfere with the funding of the legislature.

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[18] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 2.

[19] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 3.

RECOMMENDATION 2

3.4 **The Committee recommends that the Government and the Legislative Assembly Secretariat finalise their discussions on creating an appropriate framework within which to apply the Latimer House principles to the ACT and report to the Legislative Assembly before the last sitting day of the Sixth Assembly.**

3.5 The Committee inquired about the one suspected instance of fraud reported in the Annual Report and was informed that the individual alleged to have been involved left employment before further investigations could be undertaken.[20]

3.6 An internal audit committee was established by the Secretariat in this financial year. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the internal audit committee's first report concerned the payment of accounts within the corporate office and found that, while there was no suggestion of incorrect or inappropriate payments, there were process issues around ensuring that there was proper documentation of expenditure approval prior to accounts being paid.[21]

3.7 The Committee sought more information about the major security issue relating to access control rights identified in the Annual Report regarding the Hansard and Communications Office. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Assembly's IT systems were established as a separate organisational unit on the ACTGOV network in 2005-06. It was intended that only the InTACT on-site support officer, and a limited number of support officers acting as back-up, would have the rights to undertake system administration and user account management. The independent security review conducted in 2006 found that this was not the case. Steps were taken and access control rights were properly restricted by December 2006.[22]

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[20] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 5

[21] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 6

[22] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 7 and letter from Mr Wayne Berry, Speaker to Dr Foskey MLA dated 22 January 2008.

Building issues

3.8 The Committee inquired about the cost of remodelling the public entrance to the Legislative Assembly. The Secretariat explained that the upgrade of the public entrance and the upgrade of security Assembly-wide were run in tandem. The cost of the public entrance upgrade was approximately $407,000 and the security upgrade totalled $267,000 for a total of $674,000. Procurement Solutions in Treasury acted as procurement coordinators for the Assembly. The initial budget for the public entrance was $300,000 but the security review necessitated the need for a revised design. The final cost was about 32 per cent above the original budget.[23]

3.9 The Secretariat explained that the original toughened glass at the entrance had been replaced with new toughened glass with an opening at face height to improve communication. A further opening would be added when the x-ray machine, expected to cost between $50,000 to $60,000, arrived.[24]

3.10 The Committee inquired about the poor state of the Assembly building roof. The Secretariat noted that following the February 2007 hailstorm a comprehensive assessment of the roof was commissioned. This assessment identified significant deterioration and concluded that a full replacement is likely to be needed sooner than the previous target of 2020. Replacement is being looked at as part of an audit of the entire building. Salvage of the existing cooper roofing for resale will partially offset replacement costs.

3.11 The Secretariat is engaging a local consultancy to undertake detailed energy, water and waste measurements to assist in the development of a policy statement and action plan for sustainability.

ACT Auditor-General

3.12 The Auditor-General noted that the Shared Services Centre had placed some pressure on the office because the audit teams had to be realigned to match those of the Shared Services Centre. It took a little time to ensure that everyone

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[23] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, pp 7-9.

[24] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, p 9.

was aware of protocols, communication lines were clear and audit terms were correct. A good relationship with Shared Services staff was established and the process is expected to be easier next time. A performance audit of Shared Services is planned for 2008.

3.13 The Auditor-General explained that her office was still experiencing a high level of staff turnover. Despite high levels of staff satisfaction, staff contemplate leaving for reasons of career opportunity and variety of work, money and new challenges. The office has taken steps to improve career opportunities, lift remuneration and broaden recruitment. It may take a few years for these strategies to have full effect.[25]

3.14 The Committee asked how the Auditor-General's office established the cost of financial audits and was informed that agencies are informed, before the start of the audit, of the estimated costs of the audit based on last years' costs taking into account any major developments. Examples of reasons for increased fees included agency acquisition of subsidiaries, additional auditing required due to identified breakdowns in financial controls and the need to employ external expertise (eg actuaries) to correctly audit an agency. The aim is to cover costs. Thirty per cent of work is outsourced through a procurement process and market rates are paid for this work.

Performance audits

3.15 The Auditor-General explained that the key factors in considering whether or not to conduct a performance audit were:

- The significance of the audit topic;
- The material impact on government activities;
- The capacity of the audit to improve the activity in the audited area;
- Whether or not the audit would promote accountability;
- The capacity and expertise of the audit office in the proposed area;
- Community interest in the proposed audit topic; and
- Cost.

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[25] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, pp 17-18

3.16 The Committee inquired about the timeliness and cost of performance audits. The Auditor-General said that her office had a target to improve timeliness. The target, an ambitious one, is six months per performance audit. Recent indicators are that factors such as high staff turnover make this target difficult to achieve. This will vary from audit to audit with large audits having bigger timeframes.

3.17 The costs of a performance audit vary from around $40,000 to $200,000 depending on the complexity and time taken. Efforts to increase timeliness are unlikely to reduce costs as more staff will be required for each audit.

3.18 The Auditor-General was asked about agencies' reactions to performance audits. The Auditor-General said there had been concern in some cases about the auditor's understanding of agency operations and acknowledged that some of that criticism was valid with staff turnover resulting in staff new to the operations of some agencies. This was distinct from the concern by some agencies about the timeframe of the audits. Some agencies were concerned about timeframes for responding to the draft report, believing that they needed more time to seek government approval. The Auditor-General believes that there should be a distinction between the agency response to audit recommendations and the later, government, response.[26]

3.19 The Committee agrees with the Auditor-General on this point. The Chief Executive of an agency is responsible for audit findings about that agency. Each agency is capable of responding to audit recommendations based on its view of the advisability of recommendations and the resources required to implement them. If an agency supports a recommendation that depends upon budgetary decisions to be made by the government the agency could agree to the recommendation in principle. The Government response, which is not due until three months after the report is tabled in the Assembly, may differ in some cases from an agency response due to whole-of-government matters but this is not a reason for agencies to decline to respond to recommendations.

[26] Transcript of Evidence, 29 November 2007, pp 19-20

RECOMMENDATION 3

3.20 **The Committee recommends that the Government instruct agencies to respond to all recommendations contained in the final drafts of performance audit reports and remind agencies that this is a process separate from the government response to the final report.**

Treasury

Utilities tax

3.21 The Committee expressed interest in the utilities network facilities tax and its impact on low income consumers. Treasury officials noted that government provides concessions for a number of items in relation to utilities but has not been advised of any significant increase in application for concessions because of the tax. Treasury did acknowledge that it was receiving a number of pieces of correspondence on the tax.[27]

3.22 The Committee inquired about the methodology used to calculate the rate of the tax. Treasury officials explained that the methodology cannot be exact due to differences in the way networks are measured. They acknowledged that they had not sought legal advice on each methodology, just on the operation of the Act that provided for a mechanism to be used to establish the tax rate.

Regulatory impact statements

3.23 The Committee asked why responsibility for regulatory impact statements (RIS) was transferred from the Attorney-General to the Treasurer and whether the government was considering making RIS public. The transfer of responsibility was to align better with administration as Treasury advises departments on producing RIS and involved in RIS issues in COAG. Treasury officials noted that they were currently benchmarking the ACT's RIS with best practice.

[27] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 33

3.24 Treasury officials explained that some RIS are made public on a case-by-case basis as decided by the government. Each proposal to vary legislation is accompanied by an RIS. The RIS are essentially cabinet documents which makes them difficult to release each time.[28]

3.25 The Committee does not accept that the mere fact that RIS are submitted to Cabinet causes any difficulty in making RIS public. Other jurisdictions, eg Queensland, release all RIS as a matter of course, although cabinet submissions to which RIS are attached may remain confidential. The public availability of RIS is a useful measure of transparency to assist in ensuring that regulations are properly considered. The Committee believes that, at the least, public release of RIS should be the norm, with RIS only being withheld on exceptional occasions.

RECOMMENDATION 4

3.26 **The Committee recommends that the Government move to a process whereby all regulatory impact statements are publicly released following cabinet consideration.**

Triple-bottom-line reporting

3.27 In response to a question officials explained that the rules for triple-bottom-line assessments are effectively in place but they are still working on a framework on how to implement those rules and conduct assessments. This framework is almost ready to be submitted to government. Once agreed to by government it will be made public. Government has not yet made a decision on how it will be implemented, for example through the annual report instructions, although it is intended that decisions will be taken by the end of the 2008 financial year.

3.28 The Committee questioned the Treasurer and officials about the way that guidance would be made available to officials. The Treasurer assured the Committee that the document and process would be public.[29]

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[28] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 35
[29] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 36

3.29 The Committee notes the lack of progress on this issue and looks forward to a resolution.

RECOMMENDATION 5

3.30 **The Committee recommends that the framework for implementation of triple-bottom-line rules and assessments be submitted to the ACT Government, and made public, before the 2008 ACT Election.**

RECOMMENDATION 6

3.31 **The Committee recommends that triple-bottom-line reporting be included in Annual Reports beginning in 2009-10**

Socially responsible investment

3.32 The Committee inquired about the Government's response to the review into the potential for socially responsible investment. The Treasurer explained that the Government had undertaken to implement all the recommendations of the review and that implementation was underway. Officials explained that they were talking with other governments and investors to determine how to implement this as there is no one agreed method and everyone was trying to come to grips with the issue. The aim was to be able to start updating investment policies in early 2008. The government intends to maintain good returns from its risk-based approach while achieving "values-based" investment outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION 7

3.33 **The Committee recommends that the Treasurer report to the Assembly before the 2008 ACT Election on progress in implementing the recommendations of the review into socially responsible investment.**

RECOMMENDATION 8

3.34 **The Committee recommends that reporting on socially responsible investment is included in subsequent Annual Reports.**

Revenue forecasting

3.35 The Committee asked about revenue forecasting. The Treasurer acknowledged that there was a lively debate about forecasting methods but said that the ACT Treasury's forecasting record matched that of any other treasury in Australia. Officials noted that different forecasting methods are used for different revenue streams. For instance commercial property development contributions to conveyancing duty would be subject to general statistical methods, trends analysis and probability analysis. ACT Treasury has the lowest mean percentage error of all states and territories for revenue forecasting. As new data becomes available Treasury's forecasting models will be improved.

Wage price index

3.36 The Committee asked what measure of the Wage Price Index (WPI) the government used. The Committee was informed that the ACT Government used the ACT total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses. The Consumer Price Index has averaged 0.9 of a percentage point lower than the WPI over the last six years. On the average 2007-08 rates bill, the additional cost of WPI over CPI indexation would be around $11 for the full year.[30] The Committee notes that the ACT Government's decision to be the sole Australian jurisdiction to use WPI makes comparison with other jurisdictions more difficult.

Home Loan portfolio

3.37 The Committee noted the 85% increase over two years in administration costs per home loan for the home loan portfolio and sought further information. The Chief Minister informed the Committee that the number and quality of loans in the portfolio is decreasing so fixed administration costs are being spread across a smaller number of loans. When buyers were sought for the portfolio in 1998 there was no interest and, as impaired loans now form a larger and

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[30] Treasurer, answer to question taken on notice, 11 December 2007

increasing proportion of the portfolio, the portfolio is now even less attractive to the private sector.[31]

ACTEW Corporation Limited

3.38 The Managing Director of ACTEW Corporation, Mr Michael Costello briefed the Committee on significant developments that had occurred outside ACTEW's annual report timeframe. In July 2007 ACTEW submitted its recommendations and extensive analysis to the government for securing the ACT's water supply.

3.39 In October 2007 the government announced that it would enlarge the Cotter dam from 4 gigalitres to 78 gigalitres, was likely to install infrastructure to increase the volume of water transferred from the Murrumbidgee River to the Googong dam and pursue the possibility of purchasing water which could be stored and released from the Snowy Mountains scheme. The Government also asked ACTEW to proceed with the design of a demonstration water purification plant and decided to offset additional greenhouse gas emissions associated with all new water security projects. In addition to this ACTEW has before the regulator $300 million in capital works proposed for the next five years.

3.40 The key factor in these recommendations was a change in analysis related to climate change and variability. Predictions had been for a 30 per cent reduction in the long term average inflow into dams by 2030. That decline has already occurred and ACTEW is now working on the basis of a 50 per cent decline and longer and more frequent droughts. These projects are intend to address the medium to long term outlook. To address droughts ACTEW needs water supply capacity additional to that which is needed in years of average inflow. For water it is less costly to take the risk of creating unused capacity than to take the risk of under-investing and suffering a capacity shortage.

3.41 Since the projects were proposed, prices in the construction sector have risen significantly in both material and labour. ACTEW's preliminary indications

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[31] Treasurer, answer to question taken on notice, 4 February 2008

are that the projects' prices will rise by 25 to 30 percent over the next three years.[32]

Water use and pricing

3.42 The Committee asked about the impact of the water abstraction charge being raised from 25 cents to 55 cents and was told that the change was neutral for ACTEW which fully recovers the cost from consumers.[33] The impact on water usage was difficult to judge. While the ACT has significantly lowered its water use it is difficult to say how much this is due to pricing rather than factors such as water restrictions and education campaigns.

3.43 The Committee asked about progress towards ACTEW's water reduction targets of a reduction per capita in mains water usage of 12 per cent by 2013 and 25 per cent by 2025. ACTEW noted that the 2013 target had already been achieved as reductions are already over 20 per cent. The question is what combination of pricing, regulation and education should be used to reach the 2025 target.

3.44 The Committee asked about ACTEW's role in the Water2WATER taskforce. ACTEW explained that it was actively involved and its technical advice was necessary to form recommendations. The Chief Minister explained that as ACTEW is a statutory corporation, it is important that there is an independent source of advice to government so Treasury, Environment and Health all provide advice on aspects of water policy. The Chief Minister considered it to be a complex but successful collaboration. The government has requested that ACTEW play a lead role in demand management through administering a regulatory regime and undertaking an education program. Environment ACT is responsible for concessions, advice and audits.

3.45 The Committee sought clarification about the government's plans for a water purification plant. The Chief Minister explained that no decision had been taken yet. ACTEW has been asked to prepare a design for a plant but there has not yet been a decision to build such a plant, or even whether such a plant

[32] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 49

[33] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 50

would be a demonstration or pilot plant. Factors that may influence the decision include the success or failure of other projects, including the Tantangara transfer project, and National Water Commission decisions on funding. The design is likely to cost around $5 million.[34]

Cotter and Tennent Dams

3.46 The Committee asked about Commonwealth funding for the Cotter enlargement and the prospects for the Tennent dam. The Chief Minister indicated that, while the National Water Commission has not yet formally responded to the government’s proposals, he was not optimistic about obtaining Commonwealth funding for dam construction. ACTEW indicated that they intended to fund capital works through borrowing.

3.47 ACTEW explained that the Tennent dam would cost around $300 million compared to around $150 million for an enlarged Cotter dam. Both would supply about the same yield of water. The Tennent has historically lower inflows. The Tennent also has problems with being shallow and there are environmental problems with its construction. While the Tennent dam has not been completely discounted it faces difficulties and would not be necessary if the Cotter enlargement were to proceed.[35]

ACT Government Procurement Board

3.48 The Committee asked how the Board has adapted to changes to the Government Procurement Act. The Chair of the Board explained that it worked closely with ACT Procurement Solutions to adapt to the changes. The Board has attempted to take a more strategic focus. The largest issue they have worked on has been risk assessment and new guidelines and a circular are being produced on that issue. The Board has a circular which explains how it implements the ethical suppliers legislation and principles but to date no issues have arisen in this area.

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[34] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, pp 54-55

[35] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 57

Gambling and Racing Commission

3.49 The Committee asked about the success of the scheme whereby every $3 gaming licensees contribute to problem gambling can be claimed as $4. The Chief Executive explained that the scheme had a mixed reception initially but now has a commitment of about $900,000 over three years. Club participation has grown from 11 clubs to 23 in six months.[36]

3.50 The Committee asked about social impact assessments and was informed that these are a public consultation process. Prospective licensees must produce a report which the Commission checks for compliance with the legislation then publishes for public consultation. Public submissions must be considered in the decision to grant or extend a licence.

3.51 The Committee sought further information about 11 minor breaches of serious gaming machine procedures contained in the annual report. The Chief Executive explained that the case of the minor on the premises was an interstate guest under 18 who visited the casino restaurant with his family. Warnings were issued to the licensees and the security officer concerned. Two breaches relating to prescribed functions and seven breaches relating to failure to conduct operations within the approved control procedures resulted in warnings. The breach related to allowing an excluded person to enter the casino concerned a patron who had alcohol related behaviour issues. The breach resulted in the suspension of the general manager involved. Since this case the general manager and another senior staff member have been replaced by the parent company.

3.52 The Committee asked about the substantial increase in the net assets of the Commission beyond the budgeted level. The Chief Executive explained that the contributing factors were: no research committed with ANU that year (normally $200,000); savings through the implementation of a new IT system for lotteries permits (around $180,000 in savings); and employee savings due to understaffing.[37]

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[36] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 60

[37] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 62

3.53 The Chief Executive was asked about the broader review of the ACT racing industry. He explained that the review had stalled due to the equine influenza outbreak, some issues around intellectual property and an anticipated High Court decision about Western Australian legislation. The review will resume when these issues are resolved.

ACTTAB

3.54 The Committee asked about ACTTAB's sale of premises. The Chief Executive informed the Committee that ACTTAB's headquarters and retail facility in Dickson had been sold for $3.86 million and the retail facility at Jamison was sold for $0.23 million. Some of these funds will be held as contingency but, as ACTTAB has done little capital investment over the last five to six years, much of it will go towards a $5-$6 million technology upgrade over the next five years.[38]

3.55 Asked about turnover the Chief Executive explained that a large part of ACTTAB's turnover was from the VIP sector including corporate bookmakers and ACTTAB had lost its largest VIP customer, losing $1.73 million in revenue. Despite this and losses due to equine influenza ACTTAB expected to be in the black by the end of 2007.

3.56 Regarding the new headquarters the Chief Executive said that there had been problems with the technology during the shift in premises but these problems had been solved and staff were happy with the new Gungahlin office.

3.57 On the exclusion of problem gamblers the Chief Executive explained that a particular person was excluded because the gambling contact officer decided the welfare of the individual and/or dependents were seriously at risk. The six people excluded at their own request came forward because of problem gambling assistance material available at ACTTAB outlets.

3.58 The committee asked about ACTTAB's sponsorship arrangements. The Chief Executive explained that ACTTAB has a sponsorship policy and is currently focused on affiliations that will increase ACTTAB's presence in the sports

[38] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 64

betting market. ACTTAB's $10,000 sponsorship of the Live in Canberra campaign was because ACTTAB has had difficulty recruiting programming staff and the $2,500 spent on tickets to the Chief Minister's command performance were part of the incentive and reward program for VIP clients.[39]

ACT Insurance Authority

3.59 The Committee asked why the claims expense was $54 million compared to the budgeted claims expense of $30 million. The General Manager explained that key contributors to the claims burden were the hailstorm ($12 million), medical malpractice and public liability claims. Large malpractice claims were generally "bad birth" claims with the cost arising from future care of the child. The ACT courts tend to award larger amounts in these cases than other jurisdictions. Public liability claims were particularly driven by claims against ACTION buses, with the problem being the frequency of claims rather than the severity.[40]

3.60 On reinsurance the General Manager noted that it takes effect above $5 million for each and every claim so the authority would expect to pay all claims out of their own account apart from major incidents like a bushfire.

3.61 The Committee asked why the Authority's liabilities outstripped its assets by $22.5 million making it technically insolvent. The General Manager explained that, as the Authority was not a private insurer, it could rely on government solvency rather than its own balance sheet. The Authority is trying to restrain premiums and so is not covering liabilities. The hope is that by improving agency risk management, claims can be reduced and liabilities will decline. Treasury noted that the authority is young compared to other jurisdictions and it takes time to determine typical claim sizes and appropriate premiums. The Chief Minister noted that most liabilities are long-term and that the Authority has sufficient liquid assets to meet current liabilities as they fall due.[41]

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[39] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 67

[40] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, p 68

[41] Chief Minister, answer to question taken on notice, 21 January 2008

Exhibition Park Corporation

3.62 The Committee asked about block 751 Gungahlin being made available to the Corporation. The Chief Minister noted that Cabinet was still considering this. The future of the Farmers' Market, which has expanded considerably over the last three years, will be discussed when a decision on the block has been made.[42]

3.63 The Committee asked why the Corporation's governing board, which legislation states should have between nine and 11 members, only had six members on the board. Officials explained board members' personal circumstances led to an unexpected departure and a failure to take up a position. The board was under-sized for two months but is now back in compliance with the legislation.

Rhodium Asset Solutions

3.64 The Committee asked about the impact of the Government's direction to move to cost recovery only for fleet management services and not to use these services to cross subsidise Rhodium's other product lines. Rhodium's Chief Executive said that Rhodium moved to cost recovery only for the ACT fleet on 1 July 2006. This was unlikely to affect the sale price as cost recovery only will cease with Rhodium's sale. Over the period Rhodium made a greater net loss than the previous period and its assets declined and this will affect the sale price. Rhodium had previously predicted modest but increasing profits from private sector leases. Since that prediction decisions by manufacturers have decreased the incentive for public servants to lease vehicles which is likely to result in Rhodium having limited or declining growth in the private sector vehicle leasing market. Rhodium's entry into plant and equipment leasing was not profitable and it has withdrawn from this sector.[43]

3.65 The Committee was informed that Rhodium experienced high staff turnover in this period due to dissatisfaction with the sale decision, the buoyant Canberra job market and the high number of temporary staff employed by Rhodium.

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[42] Transcript of Evidence, 11 December 2007, pp 71-72

[43] Treasurer, answer to question taken on notice, 10 January 2008

There was a large increase in employment expenses as contracted staff, who cost more than employed staff, were required to maintain operations and support the sale of the company. Positions could not be filled by employees due to a lack of available skills in the market and because the prospective sale prevented permanent employment.[44]

3.66 The government expected the sale to be completed by 30 June 2008.

Chief Minister's Department

Centenary celebrations

3.67 The Committee asked about progress in securing funding for the Canberra centenary celebrations. The Chief Minister explained that despite frequent contact between Ministers and officials, the Commonwealth has not committed to "a structure, resourcing, staffing or process around a cooperative approach".[45] Canberra was drawing on the experience of Canadian cities that had celebrated their centenaries and has established a broad network of organisations within the ACT who are interested in the event. The event as a celebration of Canberra as a city by Canberrans is under control but the celebration of Canberra as the national capital by the people of Australia is currently "underdone".

Griffin legacy

3.68 The Committee asked about the declaration of certain roads as national land to facilitate implementation of the Griffin legacy. Departmental officials outlined a number of roads, essentially those within the Parliamentary Triangle, that had been transferred to the Commonwealth. The "return" for that was the Commonwealth spending $32.2 million duplicating Constitution Avenue and $26.6 million creating an interchange on Parkes Way. The Memorandum of

[44] Treasurer, answer to question taken on notice, 10 January 2008
[45] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, p 77

Understanding with the Commonwealth ensures that these developments cannot proceed unless the ACT agrees.[46]

3.69 The Committee notes that since the Committee held its hearing the Federal Government has announced significant budget cuts to the National Capital Authority that will prevent the Constitution Avenue upgrade from proceeding at this time.

3.70 Regarding the development of section 63 next to City Hill, the government told the Committee that it has received advice that the extension of Edinburgh Avenue to Vernon Circle, at a cost of $18-$26 million, is not a current priority based on population and traffic flow. The developer of section 63 has the right to extend Edinburgh Avenue into the section or all the way through to Vernon Circle should they desire that this work be done before the Government opts to fund it.[47]

RECOMMENDATION 9

3.71 **The Committee recommends that all details of the Griffin Legacy arrangements between the ACT Government and the Commonwealth be provided to the Committee as soon as is possible.**

Staffing

3.72 The Committee asked where the department's new staff would be deployed. The Chief Minister explained that the 2007-08 Budget and second appropriation did create positions but this was against a back drop of significant staff reductions over the last two to three years. Officials explained that new staff would be working on the review of the Canberra Plan, water policy, demographic studies, across-government staffing issues and project support.[48]

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[46] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, p 80
[47] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 81-82
[48] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 83-84

Sponsorship

3.73 The Committee asked about ACTTAB's sponsorship of the Celebrate in the Park event and more generally about Territory-owned corporation sponsorship of government events. The Chief Minister acknowledged that an argument could be made that this was pointlessly transferring funds from one area of government to another but that Territory-owned corporations are statutorily responsible and Ministers may not interfere in their decisions on these matters. If a board believes that a sponsorship gives it value in brand recognition then that is a commercial decision. These bodies are established as corporations and directors are accountable under the Corporations Law. In the case of certain Rhodium sponsorships the Chief Minister said that these were the subject of decisions by an officer without reference to the board.[49]

Business and Economic Development

3.74 The Committee asked about assistance for commercialisation of locally generated intellectual property and, in particular, assistance to the solar energy industry. Officials explained that there were two venture capital funds: ANU Connect Ventures and the joint venture Canberra Regional Development Board. Both were directed at the early to mid company building phase. Typically there was a six to 12 month period between first contact with a company and investment being made but attrition rates were high so only three of the 11 approaches over the last 12 months had led to investment. While there have been no investments from these funds into solar technology the Chief Minister pointed to other initiatives which support the industry including the feed-in tariff policy which was then under consideration, the ACT Government purchasing up to $750,000 worth of solar generating capacity within six months and the conversion of Canberra Stadium to greater energy efficiency.[50]

3.75 The Committee asked about competition between states and territories to attract businesses. The Chief Minister acknowledged that there had been a

[49] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 86-90

[50] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 101-102

history of this but there was now a memorandum of understanding around not competing for business that included all states and territories except Queensland. Officials noted that their role for new businesses was now more about offering a "one-stop shop" allowing the prospective ACT business to navigate the bureaucracy and avoid red tape.[51]

3.76 The Committee asked about trade missions and the ACT Exporters Network. The trade mission to India in February 2007 had produced a range of results for the participating companies and the Chief Minister highlighted opportunities for the ACT in export education services to both China and India. In 2008 Canada and the United States will be the focus for ACT trade missions. Responding to questions from the Committee the Chief Minister noted that he had raised human rights issues during his meetings with Chinese representatives but always within the context of the operation of the law within the ACT and its citizens' democratic rights. Human rights issues are raised during trade delegation visits.[52]

Commissioner for Public Administration

3.77 The Committee asked how the Commissioner balanced her conflicting roles. The Commissioner said that she experienced no conflict between her defined powers and functions as Commissioner and her position as Deputy Chief Executive, Governance, in the Chief Minister's Department. In some areas the positions are complementary such as in the current focus on attraction and recruitment of staff. If averaged out, the Commissioner's role would be about 1.5 to 2 days a week, but with intensive periods at times.

3.78 The Committee asked about the establishment of the Shared Services Centre. The Commissioner said that its creation had assisted discussions around employment conditions and the creation of a new template collective agreement. The Commissioner also liaises closely with the Centre on HR issues generally, grievances and occupational health and safety.

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[51] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, p 103

[52] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 106-108

3.79 The Committee asked about the review of the Commissioner's investigatory powers and delegations. The Commissioner explained that the review of investigatory powers is intended to produce guidelines that clarify when the Commissioner should become involved. The delegations review is being conducted with Chief Executives. Both are expected to be finalised by the end of the financial year.[53]

3.80 The Committee noted the annual report's point that the ACT public service's size was average compared to other states and territories, both as a proportion of population and as a proportion of workforce. The committee asked whether such comparisons were valid given the different challenges facing different states and territories. The Chief Minister acknowledged that such comparisons were difficult and it affects areas such as health and education. Despite these difficulties, benchmarking against other jurisdictions while taking variables into account is a valuable exercise.[54]

3.81 The Committee noted that the Department of Education and Training (DET) considers itself to have an extreme risk in relation to the loss of key personnel and recruitment. The Committee was informed that DET's senior executive assessed the risk of loss of key personnel as "high" and the consequences of this loss as "high" leading to a combined risk rating of "extreme". Factors contributing to this assessment included savings DET was required to make in the 2006-07 Budget, the relocation of all central office staff from offices in Tuggeranong to five different locations, the school renewal program and the new teachers' collective agreement. DET put in place strategies to reduce the risk.[55]

3.82 The Committee asked about initiatives taken to address staff recruitment and retention. The Commissioner explained that the Government was working on a new whole-of-government directions paper, redesigning a website for jobs in the ACT, providing a revised graduate program, presenting executive awards, improving Senior Executive Service networking and developing executive and senior officer coaching and mentoring. The Committee asked whether

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[53] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 95-96

[54] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, pp 98-99

[55] Chief Minister, answer to question taken on notice, 10 January 2008

reductions in superannuation contributions had any impact on retention and recruitment. The Commissioner said that there was some anecdotal evidence but that overall the ACT Government did very well on conditions of service.[56]

3.83 The Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Committee that information about why individuals leave the ACT public service is not collected.[57] The Committee believes that it would assist recruitment and retention of staff if government could establish a whole of government picture as to the reasons why people exit the ACT public service.

RECOMMENDATION 10

3.84 **The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct exit surveys of all staff leaving the ACT public service.**

Arts portfolio and Cultural Facilities Corporation

3.85 The Committee asked about the use of competitions to select public artworks. The Chief Minister acknowledged that there were objections to using competitions to select art work both from those who feel it would demean their existing status as an artist and those that feel that they cannot afford to participate, although officials noted that the first submission does not have to be costly. The ACT also purchases artwork through shows, auctions and galleries and is considering how it could commission works directly from acknowledged artists.

3.86 A breakdown of grants given in the 2006-07 year is attached as Appendix B.

3.87 The Committee asked about support for the performing arts. Officials explained that the Cultural Council, which provides advice through artsACT to the Minister, had completed statements on indigenous arts, community art and dance and were working on statements on how to develop performing arts and literature. The Chief Minister said that there was work going on about

[56] Transcript of Evidence, 13 December 2007, p 101

[57] Minister for Industrial Relations, answer to questions taken on notice, 1 April 2008

commissioning works for the centenary including a song, a play and a symphony.

3.88 The Committee noted the shortage of tuition for all instruments at the ANU School of Music and asked about its impact upon the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. The Chief Minister noted that this problem arises through the Commonwealth's funding formula for tertiary institutions while officials noted that the Act Government is working with ANU to see how additional support can be established.

Canberra Glassworks

3.89 The Committee asked about the costs of the Canberra Glassworks project and its expected revenue. The Chief Minister informed the Committee that the total ACT Government capital funding for the project was $7.685 million consisting of a $7.075 million original project budget and an additional transfer of $610,000 form savings from other CMD projects. In addition the Land Development Agency contributed $3.77 million in capital funding for a total project expenditure of $11.793 million. The additional $610,000 above budget from CMD was required to address unexpected faults in the roof structure and residual contaminants. The facility is not expected to make a profit and revenue earned will be used to offset public funding.[58]

Industrial Relations

3.90 The Committee asked about the new template agreement that covers 10,000 staff within the ACT public service. The Minister for Industrial Relations explained that the three year agreement covered core public sector staff in agencies and specialist areas, such as teachers, firefighters and nurses, had individual agreements. The agreement incorporated a 12 per cent pay rise over three years[59]. There are approximately 50 Australian Workplace Agreements

[58] Treasurer, answer to question taken on notice, 4 February 2008

[59] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, p 116

within the ACT government and they will be replaced with alternative arrangements when they expire.[60]

3.91 The Committee asked about portable long service leave schemes and the possibility of amalgamating them. The Minister said that amalgamation was not a priority, instead the government was focussing on expanding the schemes to include the Community sector and to improve the long service leave situation in the retail sector.[61] The Federal government has signalled that it intends to establish a national standard for long service leave.[62]

3.92 The Committee asked about the review of the workers compensation scheme. The Minister said that he had referred the review report to the Occupational Health and Safety Council, the peak advisory body to government in this area. It is clear that there are areas where the scheme can be improved, particularly in the area of rehabilitation.[63]

Sport and Recreation

3.93 The Committee asked about efforts to reduce the ecological footprint of sporting events. The Minister highlighted the modifications to Canberra Stadium which is expected to result in a 20-25 per cent reduction in power usage, the installation of energy efficient lighting at other venues, the drought proofing initiative and the use of 100% recycled water at Stromlo Forest Park as examples of environmental efficiency.[64]

3.94 The Committee asked about drought proofing of sport facilities. The Minister and officials outlined the extensive consultation process undertaken at the beginning of 2007 when level 4 water restrictions appeared likely. The process resulted in agreement on what grounds would receive water in normal conditions and under restrictions. All venue managers have signed declarations acknowledging that water to their grounds will be switched off in

[60] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, p 117
[61] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, p 117
[62] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, p 118
[63] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, p 119
[64] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, pp 121-122

the event of level 4 restrictions. The extensive nature of the survey and consultation has resulted in the ACT being invited at a highly subsidised rate to participate in an international sports surface study and to become involved in a United Nations climate change expo.

3.95 The Committee asked about the Government's intentions to build a dragway. The Minister replied that the Government has $8 million allocated for a dragway and should a suitable site be found that money will be allocated to it. The Federal government has indicated that there is no suitable Commonwealth land for the project, including the previous dragway site.[65] The Committee notes that the 2008-09 Budget includes the rollover of the dragway funds into the ACT Motorsports Fund.

Tourism

Balloon festival

3.96 The Committee asked about the funding for the 2008 balloon festival and the reason for the change in provider. The Minister explained that in the 2007-08 Budget funding for the event was reduced to $50,000 plus $60,000 to $70,000 of in kind assistance.[66] This funding cut led to criticism of the event being reduced from a nine day event to a four day event. To address this, the Government encouraged the 2007 provider, Canberra Balloon Fiesta (CBF) to seek other funding for the 2008 event. CBF sought $85,000 from the event assistance program and was awarded $50,000 based on the independent panel's advice. They were offered $20,000 from the ACT Festival fund administered by the Chief Minister's Department. The Minister said that CBF sought a "direct grant from the ACT Government of $145,000" and "a five-year agreement with the government for $1.25 million." Total government funding offered for the 2008 event was $70,000, greater than in 2007 but less than in

[65] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, p 125

[66] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, pp 130

2006. The Minister said that CBF had a history of seeking urgent additional funding close to the event date.[67]

3.97 The Minister said that on 22 January 2008 CBF advised that it could not confirm the 2008 event on the proposed funding and on 13 February proposed a four to five day event, rather than the nine days specified in their funding application. The Minister said that CBF expressly rejected the Territory's 3 year funding offer during a telephone conversation with him on 13 February.[68] The festival fund allocation was never taken up and so lapsed.

3.98 On 21 November 2007, the company Balloon Aloft approached the Chief Minister's Department offering to stage an alternative event to ensure that a festival proceeded. The Minister said that when "it became clear that the balloon fiesta would not be able to deliver the event from within the budget" he sought legal advice. This advised that it was possible for the Minister and the Chief Minister to reallocate the $50,000 and $20,000 respectively to a new provider for a similar event.[69] The funding was reallocated to Balloons Aloft and no tender process was undertaken. An event agreement was developed through negotiation but Balloons Aloft was not asked to submit a business case.[70] Balloons Aloft was to receive "$10,000 for the management of the balloon component of the event."[71]

3.99 The Committee asked about a possible conflict of interest between government officials and Balloons Aloft. The Minister acknowledged that a staff member of the Chief Minister's Department is married to someone with connections to Balloons Aloft. That person had declared a conflict of interest but had had some involvement in correspondence related to the event. The staff member had no role in the decision making process.[72]

[67] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, pp 131

[68] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, pp 132

[69] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, pp 133

[70] Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, answer to question taken on notice, 1 April 2008

[71] Minister for Tourism, answer to question taken on notice, 3 April 2008

[72] Transcript of Evidence, 28 February 2008, pp 134-135

RECOMMENDATION 11

3.100 **The Committee recommends that the provisions in the ACT Code of Ethics for public servants relating to conflict of interest be strictly implemented.**

RECOMMENDATION 12

3.101 **The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release a full analysis of the cost of conducting the 2008 Balloon Spectacular.**

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Committee has made 12 recommendations in relation to evidence presented to it. The Committee would like to thank Ministers and accompanying departmental and agency staff, and members of governing boards, for their time and cooperation during the course of the inquiry process.

Dr Deb Foskey MLA

Chair

30 June 2008

APPENDIX A: Witnesses who appeared before the Committee

Thursday 29 November 2007

Mr Wayne Berry MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Mr Tom Duncan, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Mr Ian Duckworth, Corporate Manager of the Legislative Assembly
Mr Max Kiermaier, Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly
Mr Russell Lutton, Manager, Hansard and Communications, Legislative Assembly

Ms Tu Pham
Auditor-General

Mr Bernie Sheville, Director, Financial Audits, ACT Audit Office
Mr Malcolm Prentice, Senior Audit Manager, ACT Audit Office
Mr Michael Lai, Senior Audit Manager, ACT Audit Office

Tuesday 11 December 2007

Mr Jon Stanhope
Treasurer

Ms Megan Smithies, Chief Executive (Under Treasurer), Department of Treasury
Mr Graeme Dowell, Commissioner for ACT Revenue, Revenue Management, Division (ACT Revenue Office)
Mr Jason McNamara, Director, Economics Branch, Investment and Economics Division, Department of Treasury
Mr Patrick McAuliffe, Manager, Central Financing Unit, Investment and Economics Division, Department of Treasury
Ms Kay Austin, Director, Strategic Coordination, Department of Treasury
Mr Roger Broughton, Executive Director, Investment and Economics Division, Department of Treasury

Mr Jim Service, Chairman, Actew Corporation Ltd
Mr Michael Costello, Managing Director, Actew Corporation Ltd
Mr Chris Webb, Deputy Project Director, Water2WATER, Actew Corporation Ltd

Ms Irene McKinnon, Chair, ACT Government Procurement Board
Ms Robyn Hardy, Acting Executive Director, ACT Government Procurement Board

Mr Greg Jones, Chief Executive, Gambling and Racing Commission

Mr Peter Matthews, General Manager, ACT Insurance Authority

Mr Tony Sadler, General Manager, Exhibition Park Corporation

Mr Tony Curtis, Chief Executive, ACTTAB Ltd

Mr Ken Moore, Chief Executive, Rhodium Assets Solutions Ltd

Thursday 13 December 2007

Mr Jon Stanhope,
Chief Minister, Minister for Business and Economic Development, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Minister for the Environment, Water and Climate Change and Minister for the Arts

Mr Jeremy Lasek, Executive Director, Chief Minister's Department
Mr George Tomlins, Executive Director, Strategic Priorities
Ms Pam Davoren, Deputy Chief Executive, Policy (CMD)
Ms Cathy Hudson, Deputy Chief Executive, Governance (CMD) and Commissioner for Public Administration
Mr Gary Williamson, Director, Public Sector Management (CMD)
Mr Ian Cox, Director, Business and Industry Development (CMD)
Mr David Dawes, Deputy Chief Executive, Business and Projects Division (CMD)

Mr David Whitney, Director, Cultural Facilities Corporation

Ms Harriet Elvin, Chief Executive Officer, ArtsACT

Thursday 28 February 2008

Mr Andrew Barr
Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Planning, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Minister for Industrial Relations

Mr Mike Zissler, Chief Executive, Department of Territory and Municipal Services
Ms Sue Marriage, Director, Sport and Recreation Services, Environment and

Recreation (TAMS)

Ms Simonne Shepherd, General Manager, Australian Capital Tourism, Enterprise Services (TAMS)

Ms Catherine Hudson, Deputy Chief Executive, Governance Division, Chief Minister's Department

Ms Liesl Centenera, Director, Office of Industrial Relations, Governance Division, Chief Minister's Department

APPENDIX B: Arts Grants

2008 ACT Arts Fund
Project Funding

Successful Applicants

APPLICANT NAME	GRANT PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Visual Arts		
ACT Indigenous Textiles and Glass Artists Group (ITAG)	to assist with costs of glass working courses for four Indigenous artists in 2008	$11,066
Art Monthly Australia	to assist with costs of writer's fees and publication in 2008	$7,500
Asialink	to assist with costs of an ACT artist's residency in Asia in 2008	$7,500
Ausglass (Org. of Australian Glass Artists, Canberra)	to assist with costs of a National Ausglass conference in Canberra in 2008	$16,080
Australian National Capital Artists (ANCA)	to assist with costs of a gallery development officer in 2008	$23,555
Foster, Tim	to assist with costs of developing a new body of furniture work for exhibition in 2008	$14,885
Haga, Akie	to assist with costs of glass making equipment purchase in 2008	$9,957
James, Christine & Hatton, Beth	to assist with costs of a catalogue for a touring exhibition in 2008	$15,029
Laffan, Julian Simon	to assist with costs of producing a colour publication of three Retroactive exhibitions that support art mentorship and collaboration in the ACT, in 2008	$7,000
Lahy, Waratah	to assist with costs of production of a catalogue to accompany a solo exhibition in 2008	$3,758
Laudenbach, Cathy	to assist with costs of making a new body of photographic work and producing a catalogue in 2008	$8,650
M16 Incorporated	to assist with costs of delivering the MI6 Artspace Open Access Gallery Program in 2008	$51,930
Ormella, Raquel	to assist with costs of development of new work for the Sydney Biennale in 2008	$14,521
Ryder, Julie	to assist with costs of research, development and exhibition of a new body of work at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in 2008	$17,816
Searle, Joanne	to assist with costs of equipment and development of new work in 2008	$2,193
Smith, Duncan	to assist with costs of professional development and production of digital photographs and ochre paintings in 2008	$12,185

Music		
Andonovska, Lina	to assist with costs of tuition fees and travel expenses to attend international music summer schools in 2008	$4,503
Art Song Canberra Inc	to assist with costs of presenting a series of seven vocal recitals and a Festival of Song in 2008	$8,340
Australian National Eisteddfod Society Inc	to assist with costs of the Australian National Eisteddfod in 2008	$23,561
Canberra Choral Society Inc	to assist with costs of a choral program of two major concerts in 2008	$41,820
Cool Weapon	to assist with costs of an independent music release in 2008	$9,813
Doctor Stovepipe	to assist with costs of producing a half-hour musical radio show in 2008	$5,511
The Griffyn Ensemble	to assist with costs of producing a concert series called 'Explorations', in 2008	$11,649
Hancock Basement	to assist with costs of recording a six-track EP CD in 2008	$6,802
Jazz in Concert at the Gods	to assist with costs of presenting jazz concerts in 2008	$4,550
Marston, Benjamin	to assist with costs of staging four musical concerts in 2008	$7,640
Mega Fauna	to assist with costs of a one-day independent music festival in 2008	$6,000
Randall Blair and the Wedded Bliss	to assist with costs of mastering and manufacturing an album in 2008	$3,000
Salut! Baroque	to assist with costs of performing a series of baroque concerts in 2008	$15,000
Oriana Chorale Inc	to assist with costs of two concerts in 2008	$7,300
Simpson, Moya	to assist with costs of staging a performance of 'Why Sing'? in 2008	$5,300
Switched Audio Visual	to assist with costs of all ages contemporary music event, Indy Fest, in 2008	$15,000
The Variodivers	to assist with costs of producing, marketing and launching a 5 track EP of popular music in 2008	$14,759
Woden Valley Youth Choir	to assist with costs of commissioning a work for the Choir's 40th birthday celebrations in 2008	$5,952
Jonno Zilber	to assist with costs of recording and producing a CD in 2008	$10,364
Dance/Theatre		
Blunden, Camilla Laura	to assist with costs of creating a full length theatre work, 'Women and Power', in 2008	$6,800
Campbell, Justine	to assist with costs of script development of a new work, 'Bindi the Bunyip', in 2008	$9,084
Canberra Dance Theatre (CDT)	to assist with costs of artists fees for a performance at the NGA in celebration of CDT's 30th birthday, in 2008	$25,000
Carclew Youth Arts	to assist with costs of publication of six issues of	$4,500

Centre - Lowdown Magazine	'Lowdown Magazine' and one edition of 'Directions', in 2008	
Hoogendoorn, Bruce Pieter	to assist with costs of writing a play called, 'The Clever Country', in 2008	$7,000
McGregor, Alison	to assist with costs of attending an intensive physical theatre training course with Zen Zen Zo Theatre in Brisbane, in 2008	$2,862
Mirramu Dance Company	to assist with costs of creative development and staging of a new dance production, 'Tango Lament', in 2008	$42,490
PlayWriting Australia	to assist with costs of delivering Playwriting Australia's public programme of events at the National Script Workshop in Canberra in 2008	$38,407
Shaw, Christine	to assist with costs of adapting existing script, 'Lighthouse', and staging it as a new theatre production in 2008	$19,226
Shortis & Simpson	to assist with costs of staging a cabaret/theatre production, 'Three Nights at the Three Rs', in 2008	$29,600
Talbot, Hilary Ann	to assist with costs of attending the 20th Union Internationale de la Marionette (UNIMA) Congress and World Puppetry Festival in Perth 2008	$3,600
Young People and the Arts Australia	to assist with costs of creating and presenting the 'Planning Safe Projects Tool Kit' in 2008	$4,500
Literature		
Argall, Elizabeth Margaret	to assist with costs of promotional material and travel to San Diego International Comics Convention in 2008	$5,955
Beudel, Saskia Maya	to assist with costs of research and development of a book in 2008	$23,016
Dunstan, Kaylia	to assist with costs of editing and manuscript assessment services for an unpublished children's novel in 2008	$1,007
Innes, Margaret	to assist with costs of research to write a novel in 2008	$11,823
McArthur, Maxine	to assist with costs of writing a novel in 2008	$20,000
McHugh, Ian	to assist with costs of producing the first draft of a novel in 2008	$6,750
Nugent, Ann	to assist with costs of writer's fees and publishing for two issues of 'Blast', in 2008	$5,450
Stewart, Emily (ANU Writers)	to assist with costs of publishing and launching ANU Writers' journal in 2008	$1,800
Film/Digital arts		
Davie, Bruce	to assist with costs of production of a short film, 'Dearth', in 2008	$15,000
Doepel, David	to assist with costs of producing a short film in 2008	$9,908
Easteal, David	to assist with costs of production and post-production of a short suspense film entitled 'The Clock', in 2008	$20,000

EOR Media	to assist with costs of producing a short animation, 'Tegan the Vegan', in 2008	$19,900
Fortescue, Christopher	to assist with costs of developing and staging a series of sound installations in Canberra in 2008	$5,000
Holgate Brothers	to assist with costs of producing a short film entitled, 'A Holy Union', in 2008	$18,284
Kisch, Joseph	to assist with costs of filming a short script which is to be screened at film festivals in 2008	$25,633
Mobile Politics	to assist with costs of producing short animations/videos and development and maintenance of a website for these works in 2008	$8,000
Voorhoeve, Alex	to assist with costs of living expenses during production of a new digital art work in 2008	$8,000

2008 ACT Arts Fund
Community Arts Funding

Successful Applicants

APPLICANT NAME	GRANT PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Brindabella Women's Group	to assist with costs of a community group to work with an artist to create a public artwork (sculpture), in 2008	$17,796
Canberra City Band Inc	to assist with costs of running a community band in 2008	$19,500
Canberra Rape Crisis Centre	to assist with costs of a community group to work with an artist to create works for exhibition in 2008	$22,956
Inanna Inc	to assist with costs of a community group to create works of art, both visual and musical, for inclusion in a book and a CD, in 2008	$10,533
Majura Women's Group	to assist with costs of a community group to work with an artist to create a public artwork (mosaic), in 2008	$11,932
Mental Health Foundation ACT	to assist with costs of staging a theatre production in 2008	$18,950
People with Disabilities Inc	to assist with costs of employing professional artists to teach people with disabilities theatre and film-making skills in 2008	$6,750
Southside Community Service	to assist with costs of working with PhotoAccess and children from the Narrabundah Community Primary School to make a video in 2008	$10,763