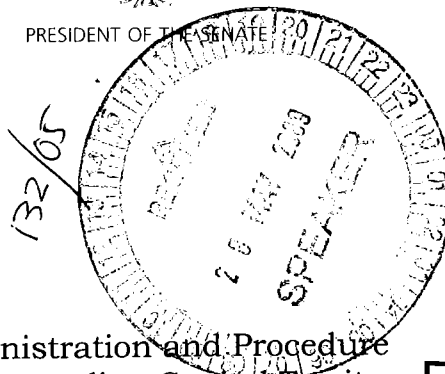




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hl.pres.16559



26 MAY 2009

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	4
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Dear Mr Rattenbury

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2009, in which you invite me to make a submission to your committee for the purpose of its inquiry into the merit of appointing a Parliamentary Budget Officer for the Legislative Assembly.

While I see merit in a legislature having its own dedicated source of advice on the budget, the public interest is best served if the budget is subjected to scrutiny and analysis by a wide range of sources and authorities, and the legislature is best served if it draws upon the widest possible range of scrutiny and analysis of the budget. The Parliamentary Budget Officer would not become the sole authority for analysis of the budget, even for the legislature itself, but would be only one source of financial analysis on which the legislature could draw.

With that comment, I will await the outcome of your committee's inquiry with interest.

Yours sincerely

John Hogg