Legislative Assembly for the **Australian Capital Territory**

Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Extract of minutes of proceedings

Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2)

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 5* – Wednesday 12 February 2025.

Members present: Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.24 pm.

3. Proposed new inquiry—Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2)

3.1 The Committee **resolved** [CARRICK] that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, reply to the Speaker stating that the Committee has decided to inquire into the Bill.

3.2 The Committee **resolved** [CARRICK] to adopt the Terms of Reference for the inquiry.

3.3 The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] that submissions for the inquiry close on 24 February 2025, and that a private hearing be scheduled for 7 March 2025.

3.4 The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to endorse the media release, as amended.

3.5 The Committee agreed to invite the Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Health, and Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services to make a submission to the inquiry and invite to 7 March 2025 private hearing, and to agree to the hearing schedule and invitation letters out of session.

7. Close

3.6 The Chair closed the meeting at 3.41 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 8* – Friday 7 March 2025.

Members present: Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

Visiting Members (present at public hearing): Ms Chiaka Barry MLA, Mr Ed Cocks MLA, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 10.01 am.

2. Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24 – public hearing

Time	Witnesses
10.02 am – 11:01 am (1 hour and 1 minute)	**Minister for Health** Ms Rachel Stephen- Smith MLA ACT Health Directorate Ms Rebecca Cross, Director-General Canberra Health Services Mr Dave Peffer, Chief Executive Officer Ms Janet Zagari, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Ms Rosalie Hughes, Chief Finance Officer
	1 hour and 14 minute break (11:01am to 12:15pm)
12.15 pm – 12:44 pm (29 minutes)	**Chief Minister** Mr Andrew Barr MLA
	1 hour and 16 minute break (12:44pm – 2:00pm)
2.00 pm – 2.54 pm (54 minutes)	**Treasurer** Mr Chris Steel MLA CMTEDD Mr Russ Campbell, A/g Under Treasurer Mr Scott Austin, A/g Deputy Under Treasurer, Budget, Procurement, Investments & Finance Mr Mitchell Pirie, A/g Deputy Under Treasurer, Economic, Revenue and Insurance & Coordinator-General, Housing
	1 hour and 23 minute break (2:54pm to 4:16pm)
4.16 pm – 4:44 pm (28 minutes)	**Minister for Youth and Families** Mr Michael Pettersson MLA Community Services Directorate Ms Catherine Rule, Director-General Ms Anne Maree Sabellico, Acting Deputy Director General, Children, Families & Strategic Reform

The witnesses withdrew at 4.44 pm and the Chair opened a private meeting.

3. Proposed new inquiry—Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2)

The Committee deliberated on issues and recommendations arising from the hearing.

6. Close

6.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 4.53pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 9* – Tuesday, 11 March 2025.

Members present: Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 4.00 pm.

3. Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2) – consideration of recommendations

3.1. The committee considered the draft recommendations. The committee agreed to the following recommendations to be included in the report:

3.1.1. Recommendation 1 – The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly pass the Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2).

3.1.2. Recommendation 2 – The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve financial transparency and forecasts for each Directorate by providing a greater level of detail for each output class in the budget papers using techniques such as activity-based management.

3.1.3. Recommendation 3 – The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adopt a balanced budget objective over the forward estimates and beyond, with the aim of reducing interest on borrowings.

6. Close

6.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 4.59pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting No. 10* – Wednesday, 12 March 2025

Members present: Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Ms Fiona Carrick MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA.

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1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 4.40 pm.

4. Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 (No 2)—report consideration

4.1. The Committee noted that the Chair’s draft report was circulated on 12 March 2025.

4.2. No Member submitted an alternative draft report.

4.3. The Committee agreed to consider the report by pages together.

4.4. The Committee deliberated on the report as follows:

Title page – Acronyms page – agreed
Executive summary – amended
Recommendations – amended
Pages 1 – 5 – agreed
Page 6 – amended
Pages 7 – 9 – agreed
Page 10 – amended
Pages 11 – 12 – agreed
Appendices - agreed

4.5. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to adopt the Chair's draft report, as amended.

4.6. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to adopt Appendices A, B and C.

4.7. The Committee **resolved** [CARRICK] that the Secretary be authorised to make minor formatting and typographical changes to the report to prepare it for printing, after its adoption by the Committee but prior to its presentation.

4.8. Noting that the order of the Assembly of 6 February 2025 requires the inquiry to be concluded by 13 March 2025, the Committee agreed to circulate the report through the Speaker when the Assembly is not sitting on Thursday, 12 March 2025.

4.9. The Committee noted that dissenting reports, if any, are to be provided to the Secretariat at least a day before circulation through the Speaker. Dissenting reports are not circulated to Members prior to this.

4.10. The Committee noted that the Chair must table the report in the Assembly on the next sitting day, which occurs on Tuesday, 18 March 2025.

4.11. The Committee deliberated on speaking time for the report in the Assembly.

4.12. The Committee agreed that the Chair would move that the report be noted.

4.13. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to adopt the media release.

9. Close

9.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 5.23 pm.

All minutes are signed by the Chair, except for Meeting 10, which is certified correct by the secretary.

[CERTIFIED CORRECT]

Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Ms Sophie Milne
Committee Secretary
12 March 2025