

2025

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE INTERGRITY COMMISSION AND STATUTORY OFFICE
HOLDERS –**

REPORT 1 - INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2023-24

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
September 2025**

Introduction

On Tuesday, 3 December 2024, the Legislative Assembly passed (with amendments) a motion to establish standing committees and stated calendar and financial year annual and financial reports stand referred to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 12 May of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004.

The 2023-2024 Annual and Financial Reports were reviewed by the relevant Standing Committees, and each Committee held hearings and reported separately. The below Government Response addresses the recommendations within the report from the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders.

During its inquiry the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2023–24:

- ACT Audit Office;
- ACT Electoral Commission;
- ACT Integrity Commission;
- Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- ACT Ombudsman (including Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission and Principal Officer of the Judicial Council); and
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate in relation to electoral policy.

Standing Committee on Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders – Report 1 - Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
Recommendation 1 The Committee recommends that the Auditor-General provide to all Members of the Legislative Assembly its annual Performance Audit Recommendations Observations prior to the commencement of Annual Report hearings.	Noted This is a recommendation to the Auditor-General, an independent Office of the Legislative Assembly.
Recommendation 2 The Committee recommends that the ACT Electoral Commission review the financial relationships between political parties and associated entities, including mechanisms for transparency and compliance with the <i>Electoral Act 1992</i>, to ensure public confidence in political donations and funding disclosures.	Noted This is a recommendation to the ACT Electoral Commission, an independent Office of the Legislative Assembly.
Recommendation 3 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the application of the Public Unleased Land (Movable Signs) Code of Practice 2023 (No 1) to federal elections in the ACT.	Agreed The application of the Public Unleased Land (Movable Signs) Code of Practice 2023 (No 1) to federal elections in the ACT will be considered as part of the review of the <i>Public Unleased Land Act 2013</i> that is currently underway.

RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
Recommendation 4 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government proceed with implementation of the outstanding Govey Review recommendations and provide advice on which recommendations it intends to action.	Existing Government Policy The Government has committed to resolve the outstanding Govey Review recommendations during the 11th Legislative Assembly.
Recommendation 5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government move legislative amendments to the <i>Integrity Commission Act 2018</i> to expedite the timeframes for consideration of draft reports.	Existing Government Policy The Government has committed to resolve the outstanding Govey Review recommendations during the 11th Legislative Assembly.
Recommendation 6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Integrity Commission make the final report on Operation Kingfisher available at the earliest opportunity following the conclusion of the procedural fairness stage.	Noted This is a recommendation to the ACT Integrity Commission (the Commission), an independent Office of the Legislative Assembly.
Recommendation 7 The Committee recommends that the Office of the Legislative Assembly explore means of improving public	Noted This is a recommendation to Office of the Legislative Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
accessibility to the Legislative Assembly's art collection through an online portal or website.	
Recommendation 8 The Committee recommends that the Assembly examine how staffing levels for non-executive staff could be determined in accordance with Latimer House principles.	Noted This is a matter for the Assembly to consider.
Recommendation 9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide funding to the Office of the Legislative Assembly to support security enhancements to ensure safety of all members, staff and visitors.	Noted The <i>Financial Management Act 1996</i> and the Assembly Budget Protocols 2020 provide for the Speaker to recommended appropriation after consulting with the appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Government considers budget proposals the Speaker has included as part of the recommended appropriation.