

# Assembly Budget Protocols

Agreement between the Speaker and the Chief Minister on budget and funding arrangements for the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly

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## **1. P**REAMBLE

- 1.1 These Assembly Budget Protocols (the Agreement) establish and reflect: the principles to which the parties commit; the responsibilities of the participants in the budgetary process; and the protocols to be observed in developing and considering budget appropriations and/or funding levels for:
  - a) the Office of the Legislative Assembly; and
  - b) Officers of the Assembly,<sup>1</sup> that is:
    - i. the Auditor-General;
    - ii. the Electoral Commissioner;
    - iii. the ACT Integrity Commissioner; and
    - iv. the Ombudsman (who is also the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission).<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2 The agreement gives further effect to the 'separation of powers doctrine', acknowledging and supporting the exclusive right of the Executive to develop and frame appropriations for consideration by the Legislature<sup>3</sup> and preserving the independence of the Legislature, and Officers of the Assembly,<sup>4</sup> to hold the Executive to account.

## **2. PARTIES**

- 2.1 The following parties endorse and commit to this Agreement:
  - The ACT Legislature (The Legislative Assembly) Represented by Joy Burch MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT
  - The ACT Executive<sup>5</sup> Represented by Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister for the ACT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 'Officer of the Assembly' is defined at Dictionary, Part 1 of the *Legislation Act 2001*. See page 228.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the time being, pursuant to s 28 of the *A.C.T. Self-Government (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988* (Cth), the Commonwealth Ombudsman is taken to be the ACT Ombudsman. The ACT Ombudsman is also the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission pursuant to the s 229 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2018*. As a Commonwealth Officer, the Ombudsman does not receive direct appropriation from the Legislative Assembly. Instead, the Ombudsman receives funding on the basis of the functions that are performed pursuant to relevant legislation and in accordance with a service level agreement between the Territory and the Commonwealth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See s 65 of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 (Cth).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> While Officers of the Assembly are not directly part of the legislative arm of government or its administration, they nonetheless have independent statutory roles and functions in relation to the integrity of the ACT system of government, including in relation to the scrutiny of government actions and decisions. In order to perform these roles and functions effectively, there is an acknowledgement that Officers of the Assembly must operate at arms-length from the ACT Executive.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The ACT Executive refers to the Australian Capital Territory Executive pursuant to s 36 of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government Act) 1988 (Cth).

## **3. TERM OF EFFECT**

- 3.1 This Agreement will have effect upon signing by each party and will be tabled by the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly.
- 3.2 This Agreement will remain in effect in the form tabled unless otherwise discontinued or amended by the mutual written agreement of the parties.
- 3.3 Where the Agreement is discontinued, the Legislative Assembly will be notified on the first sitting day following its discontinuation.
- 3.4 Where the Agreement is amended, a copy of this Agreement, as amended, will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first sitting day following the amended Agreement having been agreed and signed by the parties.
- 3.5 The parties agree that a review will be conducted before the conclusion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly unless the parties agree to a later review.

## 4. SCOPE OF EFFECT

- 4.1 Nothing in this Agreement purports to take precedence over, or to limit any rights or obligations arising from: the standing orders; legislation; or resolutions of the Legislative Assembly. Where a conflict with this Agreement arises, it will be resolved in favour of the relevant legislation, standing order, or resolution of the Legislative Assembly.
- 4.2 This Agreement should be read in conjunction with the:
  - A.C.T. Self-Government (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (Cth)
  - Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988 (Cth)
  - Auditor-General Act 1996
  - Electoral Act 1992
  - Integrity Commission Act 2018
  - Financial Management Act 1996 (FMA)
  - Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012
  - Ombudsman Act 1989
  - Public Sector Management Act 1994
  - Standing Orders and Continuing Resolutions of the Assembly.

### **5. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

5.1 The parties commit to advance the 'separation of powers doctrine' as it relates to the mutually independent status of the legislative and executive branches of government in the ACT's form of parliamentary democracy. The parties recognise that each branch has distinct roles and responsibilities that will not be encroached by one another.

- 5.2 The parties agree that the doctrine will be given due recognition at all stages of the development and consideration of the annual budget and appropriation bill for the Office of the Legislative Assembly and any supplementary appropriation. The parties also recognise and support the independent status of Officers of the Assembly.
- 5.3 The parties acknowledge and support the principle of the exclusive right of the executive arm of government to develop and frame appropriation bills for consideration by the legislative arm of government.
- 5.4 The parties acknowledge that, while the executive government is entitled to frame a budget appropriation bill as it sees fit, the 'recommended appropriation' for the Office of the Legislative Assembly will, as a matter of fundamental principle, be regarded as a statement of the Legislature's resource requirements and priorities. The Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Legislative Assembly will be guided by the budget process, particularly when it relates to acquiring additional funds.
- 5.5 The parties acknowledge that there will be occasions where the demands of government policy have the potential to conflict with the roles and functions of an effective legislature. Where a conflict arises, the parties agree to ensure that the Legislature is funded to be able to perform its accountability, representative and legislative roles fully and effectively. The parties will also ensure that Officers of the Assembly are funded to be able to perform their statutory functions fully and effectively.
- 5.6 The parties acknowledge that the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly are not subject to the direction of the Executive, and are not, therefore, bound by policies, procedures and other governance arrangements promulgated by the Executive or its officers in the ACT public service, unless otherwise provided for by law.

## 6. BUDGET PROTOCOLS—OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AUDITOR-GENERAL, ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

6.1 The parties commit to the following protocols in relation to the development and consideration of the budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the Auditor-General, the Electoral Commissioner, and the Integrity Commissioner (Office/Officers).

#### **STATUTORY BASIS**—OVERVIEW

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6.2 Under s 20(a) of the FMA, before the end of a financial year, the Speaker is required to advise the Treasurer of the appropriation that the Speaker considers should be made for the Office of the Legislative Assembly (i.e. the *'recommended appropriation'*) after consulting with the appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly.<sup>6</sup> It is the practice that the Office is also consulted by the Speaker in relation to the recommended appropriation.

- 6.3 Under s 20(b) of the FMA, the Speaker is required, before the end of a financial year, to give the Treasurer a draft budget for the Office for the following financial year.
- 6.4 Under s 20AA of the FMA, where the amount in the appropriation bill for the Office of the Legislative Assembly departs from the recommended appropriation for the Office, the Treasurer must present a statement of reasons to the Assembly.

#### OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- 6.5 Under s 20AB(a) of the FMA, before the end of a financial year, the Speaker is required to advise the Treasurer of the appropriation that the Speaker considers should be made for the relevant officer (i.e. the 'recommended appropriation') after consulting with the relevant officer and the appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly.<sup>7</sup>
- 6.6 Under s 20AB(b), the Speaker is also required, before the end of a financial year, to present the recommended appropriation to the Assembly and, under s 20AB(c) to give the Treasurer a draft budget for the relevant officer for the financial year.
- 6.7 Under s 20AC of the FMA, where the amount in the appropriation bill for the Officer of the Assembly departs from the recommended appropriation for the Officer, the Treasurer must present a statement of reasons to the Assembly.

#### **RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION**

- 6.8 To facilitate the consideration of the recommended appropriation for the Office/Officer, the Office/Officer will write to the Speaker and the appropriate standing committee<sup>8</sup> of the Assembly advising of the funding that the Office/Officer considers is necessary to effectively perform the functions for which the Office/Officer is responsible.
- 6.9 In any given year, for an Office/Officer, the recommended appropriation is taken to mean:

a) Base funding + b) Technical adjustments +

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Standing Committee on Public Accounts in relation to the recommended appropriation for the ACT Auditor-General, the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety in relation to the appropriation for the ACT Electoral Commissioner, and the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission in relation to the Integrity Commissioner.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In the case of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker is responsible for making the Clerk's correspondence available to the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

#### c) Budget proposals

#### Base Funding

#### OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- 6.10 The base funding for the Office of the Legislative Assembly refers to funding appropriated to the Office in the preceding financial year, excluding any funding that has been provided on a one-off or temporary basis. It may include:
  - Controlled Recurrent Payments (Controlled entity);
  - Payments on Behalf of the Territory (Territorial entity);<sup>9</sup>
  - Better Infrastructure Fund (Territorial); and/or
  - Capital Injection Funding (Controlled).<sup>10</sup>

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL, ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

- 6.11 The base funding for the ACT Auditor-General, the ACT Electoral Commissioner and the Integrity Commissioner refers to funding appropriated to the Officer in the preceding financial year, excluding any funding that has been provided on a one-off or temporary basis. It may include:
  - Controlled Recurrent Payments (Controlled entity); and/or
  - Capital Injection Funding (Controlled entity).

RETENTION OF CONTROLLED RECURRENT PAYMENTS APPROPRIATION

#### OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6.12 Any funds appropriated as Controlled Recurrent Payments that are not expended by the Office of the Legislative Assembly during the financial year, subject to the FMA requirements being met, will be retained by the Office of the Legislative Assembly in the Office's bank account.

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL, ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER AND INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

6.13 Ten per cent of funds appropriated as Controlled Recurrent Payments that are not expended by the Auditor-General, the Electoral Commissioner or the Integrity Commissioner during the financial year, subject to the FMA requirements being met, will be retained by the relevant officer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Office administers both a 'Controlled' entity and a 'Territorial' entity, while the Auditor-General, the Electoral Commissioner and the Integrity Commissioner each administer a 'Controlled' entity only.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> If there are future changes to the names used to refer to these sources of revenue, equivalence should be drawn between the new terms and those listed at paragraph 6.10.

#### TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BUDGET

- 6.14 Technical adjustments refer to any change to the budget estimates which result from factors outside the direct control of the Office/Officer and are not typically triggered by an explicit decision by Cabinet.
- 6.15 These include, for example, accounting and other technical adjustments such as consumer price indexation or adjustments arising from changes to applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

#### **BUDGET PROPOSALS**

- 6.16 A budget proposal is a proposal for new or additional funding (i.e. in addition to the Office's/Officer's base budget + any technical adjustment). Such proposals relate to proposed capital or recurrent expenditure for the purpose of advancing the performance of the entity's statutory and other functions.
- 6.17 As budget proposals are essentially statements of proposed policy, they are the portion of the recommended appropriation which is most likely to give rise to differences of opinion between the Office/Officer, the appropriate committee, the Speaker and the Treasurer/Executive.
- 6.18 Conversely, base funding and technical adjustments—although forming part of the appropriation—are not, in the normal course of events, controversial as they typically roll over in accordance with forward estimates (in the case of the base funding) and apply generally accepted indexation factors (in the case of technical adjustments).<sup>11</sup>
- 6.19 A budget proposal is developed by the Office/Officer firstly as a **concept brief**, which is provided by the entity to the Speaker and the appropriate standing committee of the Assembly.
- 6.20 Following consultation with the appropriate committee and the Office/Officer, where the Speaker agrees that a budget proposal is reasonable, the Speaker may advise the Treasurer that the funds that are sought in relation to the proposal form part of the Speaker's recommended appropriation that is to be considered by the Budget Committee of Cabinet.
- 6.21 The Cabinet will consider all concept briefs associated with budget proposals. Where the Speaker has one or more budget proposals to advance as part of the recommended appropriation, the parties agree that the Speaker is entitled to be heard by the Budget Committee of Cabinet. The Office/Officer may appear before the Cabinet with the Speaker.
- 6.22 The Cabinet may request further information in the form of a **business case** before deciding whether or not to include funds associated with a proposal in the appropriation bill.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> However, policy differences may arise where the Executive proposes to alter base funding through the application of efficiency or savings measures that are characterised as 'technical' in nature. Where this occurs, the consultation processes embodied in ss 20 and 20AB of the FMA can be used by the appropriate Assembly committees and the Office/Officer to raise any concerns with the Speaker. It is open to the Speaker to explicitly exclude such measures from the recommended appropriation.

#### CONCEPT BRIEF STAGE

- 6.23 Concept briefs are prepared by the Office/Officer for the consideration of the Speaker and the appropriate standing committee of the Assembly. They must provide adequate financial information and supporting evidence, including information in relation to:
  - the underlying policy rationale for a proposal and a proposal's capacity to support the effective performance of the roles and functions of the Office/Officer;
  - the <u>estimated</u> financial impacts of a proposal (and whether they are recurrent or capital in nature), including any out-year effects; and
  - any risk management, cost-benefit or other analyses undertaken in relation to a proposal.
- 6.24 The Office/Officer is not required to explain how a proposal accords with or supports government policy, only how the proposal will further the effective performance of the Office's/Officer's statutory and other functions while adhering to the value for money principle.
- 6.25 Where the Speaker agrees that the funding sought in a concept brief ought to form part of the recommended appropriation, the Speaker will advise the Treasurer who will circulate the proposal to members of the Budget Committee of Cabinet.
- 6.26 The Budget Committee of Cabinet will consider any budget proposals that the Speaker has included as part of the recommended appropriation and determine whether a proposal:
  - a) is agreed to on the basis of the concept brief alone; or
  - b) requires further analysis in the form of a **business case for further consideration** by the Budget Committee of Cabinet; or
  - c) is not agreed to.
- 6.27 Following the Cabinet having made its decision in relation to paragraph 6.26 above, the Treasurer will write to the Speaker advising of the Cabinet's decision.

#### BUSINESS CASE STAGE

- 6.28 Where the Cabinet agrees that a budget proposal will be further considered in the form of a business case, the Office/Officer will prepare for the Speaker a more detailed analysis of the proposal.<sup>12</sup> Where the Speaker agrees that the amounts contained in the business case ought to be included as part of the recommended appropriation, the Speaker will provide to the Treasurer who will circulate to the Budget Committee of Cabinet. The Speaker will also present the recommended appropriation for each Officer of the Assembly (except the Ombudsman) to the Assembly pursuant to s 20AB(b) of the FMA.
- 6.29 Financial information contained in a business case must be prepared on the basis of accepted public sector cost accounting methodologies. The level of detail must be sufficient for a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Business cases must include the <u>specific funding amounts</u> that are sought by the Office/Officer in respect of a proposal.

disinterested observer to have a high level of confidence that a proposal has been rigorously evaluated and represents value-for-money to the Territory.

- 6.30 The Budget Committee of Cabinet will give due and proper consideration to the additional analysis and determine whether a proposal is:
  - a) agreed to in full;
  - b) supported in a modified or reduced form; or
  - c) not agreed to.
- 6.31 Following the Cabinet having made its decision in relation to paragraph 6.30, the Treasurer will write to the Speaker advising of the Cabinet's decision and the Speaker will relay that decision to the Office/Officer.

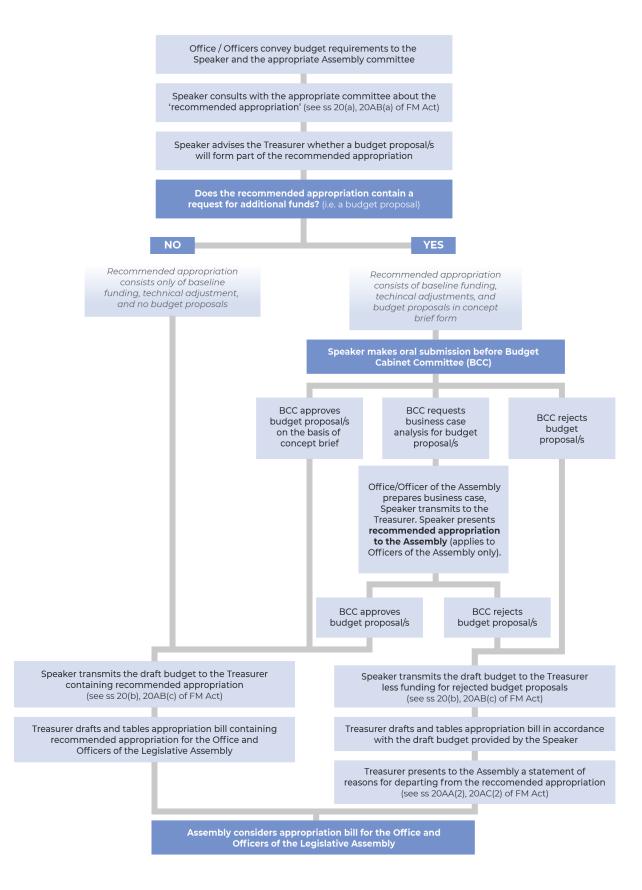
#### **DRAFT BUDGET**

6.32 The Office/Officer will prepare a draft budget (pursuant to s 20 (b) and s 20AB(c) of the FMA) for the Speaker. The Speaker will provide the Office's/Officer's draft budget to the Treasurer. A draft budget for the Office/Officer forms the basis of the amount that is to be included in the appropriation bill and reflects the appropriation to which the Budget Committee of Cabinet has agreed.

#### **S**TATEMENT OF REASONS

6.33 Where the Treasurer presents a bill for an Appropriation Act for the appropriation for the Office/Officer that seeks to appropriate less than the recommended appropriation for the financial year, the Treasurer will present to the Legislative Assembly a statement of reasons for departing from the recommended appropriation immediately after presenting the bill (see ss 20AA (1) and (2), FMA and ss 20AC (1) and (2) of the FMA).

#### **FLOW CHART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS**



## 7. BUDGET PROTOCOLS—ACT OMBUDSMAN

#### **POLICY BASIS**

- 7.1 The ACT Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) does not receive direct appropriation from the Territory. Instead, the Ombudsman receives funding disbursements from the relevant ACT Government directorate, on behalf of the Territory, in accordance with a service agreement setting out the services and functions that are to be performed by the Ombudsman for a given price.
- 7.2 The parties to this Agreement agree to adopt the following Budget Protocols for the Ombudsman, which operate in broad accordance with the spirit of ss 20AB-20AC of the *FMA* concerning budget appropriations for Officers of the Assembly.
- 7.3 All parties, however, recognise that the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, which currently performs the role of the Ombudsman, is a Commonwealth Government entity that is required to comply with the Commonwealth resource management framework, which governs how officials in the Commonwealth public sector use and manage public resources. It is not the intention of these arrangements to duplicate financial management arrangements including reporting obligations or auditing activities.
- 7.4 The scope of the service agreement is a matter for the Ombudsman and the relevant ACT Government directorate.
- 7.5 The parties to this Agreement agree to adopt the following Budget Protocols for the Ombudsman, which operate in broad accordance with the spirit of relevant provisions of the FMA concerning budget appropriations for Officers of the Assembly.

#### **RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVEL**

- 7.6 Instead of a 'recommended appropriation', there will be a 'recommended funding level' for the Ombudsman, which is the amount of funding that the Speaker considers should be provided to the Ombudsman in a given financial year.
- 7.7 The recommended funding level is taken to mean the total amount payable to the Ombudsman by the relevant ACT Government directorate in a given year in exchange for the performance of the applicable statutory and other functions by the Ombudsman in accordance with relevant laws and any service agreement that is in place with the relevant ACT Government directorate.<sup>13</sup>
- 7.8 To facilitate the consideration of the recommended funding level, the Ombudsman will develop a funding proposal in consultation with the relevant ACT Government directorate that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> It is for the ACT Government to determine which directorate/s will administer and maintain the service agreement with the Ombudsman.

has policy ownership for programs managed by the Ombudsman (for example, oversight of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016 (the FOI Act*)).

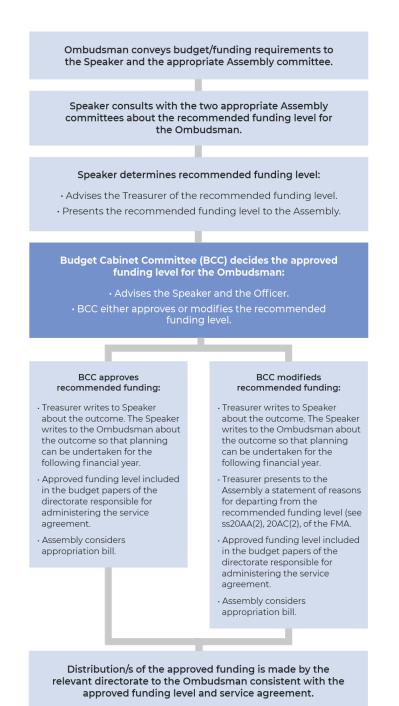
- 7.9 The Ombudsman will then write to the Speaker and the appropriate standing committees of the Assembly<sup>14</sup> advising of the funding level that the Ombudsman considers is necessary to effectively perform the functions for which the Ombudsman is responsible, including in relation to:
  - complaint handling and own motion investigations under the Ombudsman Act 1989;
  - oversight in relation to ACT Policing;
  - functions under the Reportable Conduct Scheme;
  - functions under the FOI Act;
  - functions as the Principal Officer supporting the Judicial Council;
  - functions as the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission under the Integrity Commission Act; and
  - any other functions or services that are to be provided by the Ombudsman pursuant to law or an agreement that is in place with the relevant ACT Government directorate.<sup>15</sup>
- 7.10 In advising the Speaker and the appropriate Assembly committees as to the level of funding that the Ombudsman considers necessary, the Ombudsman will outline the basis for the funding that has been sought, including a breakdown of the staffing and administrative costs borne by the Ombudsman in performing the functions and services mentioned at paragraph 7.9.
- 7.11 Before the end of a given financial year, the Speaker will, having consulted with the Ombudsman and appropriate Assembly standing committees, advise the Treasurer of the recommended funding level for the subsequent financial year. The Speaker will also advise the Assembly of the recommended funding level.
- 7.12 The Budget Committee of Cabinet will consider the recommended funding level and decide the amount of funding that is to be included in the budget papers for the directorate that is responsible for administering the service agreement and disbursing the funds to the Ombudsman.
- 7.13 The parties agree that the Speaker is entitled to be heard by the Budget Committee of Cabinet. The Ombudsman may appear before the Cabinet with the Speaker.
- 7.14 The Cabinet may request further information before deciding on the recommended funding level for the Ombudsman.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission is to be consulted in relation to the funding to be paid by the relevant ACT Government directorate to the Ombudsman in exchange for the performance of certain statutory functions as the Inspector of the Integrity Commission. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts is to be consulted in relation to funding to be paid to the Ombudsman for the performance of certain functions as the ACT Ombudsman (excluding the functions that arise in relation to the Inspector of the Integrity Commission).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Any additional functions or services will be individually specified.

- 7.15 Following the Cabinet having made its decision in relation to the recommended funding level for the Ombudsman, the Treasurer will write to the Speaker advising of the Cabinet's decision and the Speaker will relay that decision to the Ombudsman.
- 7.16 During the week in which the appropriation bills for the Territory are presented in the Assembly, the Treasurer will advise the Assembly as to the amount of funding that is to be allocated to the Ombudsman. Where the amount departs from the recommended funding level, the Treasurer will present a statement of reasons to the Assembly.

#### FLOWCHART OF THE FUNDING PROCESS



## **8. OWN SOURCE REVENUE**

- 8.1 The parties agree that any own source revenue generated by the Office of the Legislative Assembly or Officers of the Assembly may be used.
- 8.2 This arrangement is not relevant to the Ombudsman.

### **9. BUDGET PROCESS REQUIREMENTS**

- 9.1 The parties recognise that the administrative arrangements that apply to the development and consideration of budgets for executive government agencies are not always well-suited for application to the Legislature or independent Officers of the Assembly.
- 9.2 The Office of the Legislative Assembly, Officers of the Assembly and Treasury acknowledge that the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly are not subject to the budget timetable and guidance material issued by Treasury in relation to the annual budget process.
- 9.3 However, the Office of the Legislative Assembly and Officers of the Assembly will have regard to the budget timetable and guidance material issued by Treasury in relation to the annual budget process.

## **10. T**ERRITORIAL ENTITY FUNDING IN AN ELECTION YEAR

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

10.1 In determining the amount appropriated with respect to Payment for Expenses on behalf of Territory in a financial year in which a Territory election occurs, the Executive will give due consideration to the potential for abnormally high liabilities being incurred by the Office of the Legislative Assembly in meeting the costs associated with termination payments and paying out employee entitlements.

## **11.** FUNDING EMPLOYEE LIABILITIES

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AUDITOR-GENERAL, ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

11.1 Where the total amount of employee entitlements paid, or required to be paid, by the Office of the Legislative Assembly or Officers of the Assembly in a given financial year exceeds the amount appropriated for the Office of the Legislative Assembly or Officers of the Assembly in relation to employee entitlements for the financial year, the parties agree that the Office of the Legislative Assembly or Officers of the Assembly will be given the same consideration by the Executive as that given to other Territory entities with respect to appropriation for accrued employee entitlements pursuant to s 16A of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

11.2 This arrangement does not apply to the Ombudsman.

### **12. SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

12.1 The parties agree that, although the Executive has historically not applied any across-theboard savings proposals to the Assembly, it may decide to do so in the future. Should there be a proposal to apply across-the-board savings or other budget cuts in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and/or the Officers of the Assembly, the parties agree that the Executive will consult with the Speaker who, in turn, will consult with the appropriate committee.

## **13.** ONLY THE SPEAKER MAY MAKE CERTAIN REQUESTS

- 13.1 The parties agree that the following requests to the Treasurer on behalf of the Office or an Officer will only be made by the Speaker where the Speaker is satisfied that the request is a reasonable request:
  - transfer of funds between appropriations (see s 14 of the FMA);
  - transfer of funds from capital injection appropriation to other appropriations (see s 14A of the FMA);
  - transfer of funds from other appropriations to capital injection appropriation (see s 14B of the FMA Act);
  - reclassification of certain appropriations (see s 15A of the FMA);
  - appropriation for accrued employee entitlements (see s 16A of the FMA);
  - rollover of undisbursed appropriation (see s 16B of the FMA);
  - treasurer's advance (see s 18A of the FMA); and
  - amendment of capital injection conditions (see s 19C of the FMA).
- 13.2 These arrangements do not apply to the funding for the Ombudsman.

## **14. SPEAKER'S PROCEDURE**

- 14.1 The parties agree that the Office and Officers will comply with the *Speaker's procedures for compliance with the Assembly Budget Protocols*. These procedures can be made available on request.
- 14.2 The procedures may be varied by the Speaker from time to time following consultation with the relevant standing committee, the Office and Officers.

## **15.** EXECUTION

Joy Burch MLA Speaker On behalf of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT	Andrew Barr MLA Chief Minister On behalf of the ACT Executive
August 2020	August 2020