

**OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**

Joy Burch  
Speaker  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
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Dear Madam Speaker

I refer to the Motion considered by the Legislative Assembly on 7 June 2022 that refers to a number of contracts and related procurement issues undertaken by Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). Section (3) of the Motion submitted information to me and invited my review and further advice. Section (4) requested me to advise you on whether I intend to pursue an Inquiry into these contracts, with this information to be provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The matters raised in the Motion have also been brought to the attention of the ACT Integrity Commissioner and I have written to the Commissioner seeking his advice on the Commission's intentions in relation to these matters.

The Commissioner has confirmed that he has decided to investigate the procurement matters that have been brought to both my attention and the attention of the Commission. I am advised that summonses both for documents and to attend for private hearings will be issued shortly.

In my view, these matters are also of interest to me, having regard to procurement best practice, related value for money issues and the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

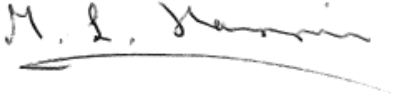
The Commissioner and I are both of the view that the appropriate course of action initially is for the Commission to conduct its investigation prior to my Office commencing an audit review in relation to these matters. This will avoid any complications or duplication of efforts that might result from parallel inquiries. The Commissioner has advised me that I will have access to relevant information collected by the Commission and this will allow me to best consider the nature and scope of any audit that I undertake and will allow the Audit Office and the Integrity Commission to coordinate our investigations.

I will also ensure that the Public Accounts Committee is advised of all actions that I intend to take under relevant provisions of the *Auditor-General Act 1996*.

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I would be pleased if you could provide this advice to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. L. Harris", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michael Harris  
ACT Auditor-General  
20 June 2022