



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE
Speaker Ms Joy Burch MLA (Chair), Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Deputy Chair),
Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Submission Cover sheet

Review of the Standing Orders and
Continuing Resolutions of the Tenth
Assembly

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Ethics and Integrity Adviser

Mr Tom Duncan
Secretary
Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure
Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory

Dear Mr Duncan

I refer to your letter of 6 October 2022 seeking a submission in relation to the Review of Standing Orders being undertaken by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

My only ongoing interaction with the Standing Orders relates to:

- Chapter 3, which requires that the Administration and Procedure Committee review and advise the Assembly about my annual report;
- Continuing Resolution 5, which sets of the Members' Code of Conduct on which I frequently advise Members and which I have periodically been commissioned by the Committee to review;
- Continuing Resolution 6, in relation to the declaration of Members' private interests, in relation to which I provide advice to Members from time to time; and
- Continuing Resolution 6A, which provides for the appointment of the Ethics and Integrity Adviser.

There is nothing in any of the above that in my view requires any immediate amendment. However, noting the requirement for periodic review of the Members' Code of Conduct, I suggest that when it is next reviewed it would be appropriate to consider, in light of recent experience in other parliaments, whether or not the Code should more closely address the culture and safety of those who work within the context of the Assembly.

As the Committee may recall, I was involved in the development of Continuing Resolutions 8AB and 8AC in relation to the Lobbyist Register, but I have no ongoing interaction with such matters.

So far as the Companion to the Standing Orders is concerned, I note only that it was published in 2009 and is now out of date in some respects relevant to the above. Whether or not it would be a justifiable use of limited resources to prepare a revised edition is a matter on which I offer no comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. If the Committee requires anything more, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Skehill

19 October 2022