



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA,
MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2015–16 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE 27 February 2017

QON 23* Asked by MR COE:

In relation to: Parliamentary Agreement between the Australian Labor Party and the Greens

1. Please provide clarification on whether the Parliamentary Agreement between the Australian Labor Party and the Greens is a policy or political document.
2. Why is the public service now engaged in providing quarterly reports on the progress of the Parliamentary Agreement between the Australian Labor Party and The Greens which applies in the Ninth Legislative Assembly?
 - a. When did the public service commence working on the Agreement?
 - b. How much time has been spent working on the Agreement by the ACT public service?
 - i. How much has it cost to engage the public service on this task?
3. Did the Director-General raise any concerns about the appropriateness of the public service undertaking this task?
 - a. Have there been any assessments by the Director-General or any other entities into the appropriateness of the public service contributing resources towards the Parliamentary Agreement?

CHIEF MINISTER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. ACT Labor and the ACT Greens developed a shared policy agenda through the Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly. This agreement builds on the positive outcomes of the previous agreement and reflects the clear and optimistic future that Canberrans voted for.
2. The ACT Public Service provides an important role in implementing and delivering on the government's commitments. The ACT Public Service is appropriately responsible for tracking, reporting and providing communication options on all government commitments, including Parliamentary Agreement items. Effective tracking and reporting on these items is essential to ensuring transparency and accountability on the government's commitments to the community.

- 2a. The ACT Public Service did not provide briefing or input into the negotiation of the Parliamentary Agreement. Costings of election commitments were undertaken by Treasury in line with the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012*. These publicly available costings supported ACT Labor and the ACT Greens in their negotiations.
- 2b. The ACT Public Service implements the priorities and initiatives agreed by government. These include priorities and initiatives that were election commitments and/or listed in the Parliamentary Agreement.
- (i) The 2016-17 Budget outlines resource allocation on the delivery of government initiatives. The 2017-18 Budget will outline the government's future resource commitments.
3. Refer to the responses above. The ACT Public Service undertakes an important role in monitoring and reporting on all commitments of the government, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature: 

Date: 17.3.17

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA