



Speaker

Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mrs Dunne

Please see attached response to Recommendations 11 and 12 of the Committee's Report 5 entitled *Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018*. I propose to table this response in the Assembly on Tuesday, 14 May 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Burch".

Joy Burch MLA
Speaker

6 May 2019



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2017-2018

Speaker's Response

Recommendations 11 and 12

Recommendation 11:

The Committee recommends that the after-hours door at the Legislative Assembly's public entrance be used as an automatic door during business hours, ahead of any future reconfiguration of the entrance.

Speaker's Response:

I note that a similar recommendation was made by the Assembly's Select Committee on Estimates 2018-2019 and, on 13 August 2018, I responded to that committee's recommendations as follows:

"The Office of the Legislative Assembly currently has an expert consultant engaged to undertake a review of the design and layout of the entrances to the Assembly Building and, in discussion with the Clerk and senior officials from the Office, we agreed that this recommendation should be relayed to that expert consultant to be considered as part of the review."

I can now report that the expert consultant has considered the issue and his advice is as follows:

"It has been suggested that the after hours staff door should be freely accessible during operating hours. Our opinion is that this would further degrade the effectiveness of access controls at the public entrance as it would remove some of the ability security attendants have to differentiate between staff and visitors, and also offer persons with nefarious intent another more covert entry route."

On the advice of the OLA officials who have responsibility for protective security, I intend to accept the expert advice and, accordingly, I will not be accepting this recommendation.

Recommendation 12:

The Committee recommends that any future reconfiguration of the Legislative Assembly's public entrance ensure the entrance is more streamlined for people entering and exiting the building and more clearly promotes the purpose of the building.

Speaker's Response:

I agree with and accept that recommendation. Initial design work for the Assembly's public and members' entrances has been completed but requires further refinement. With the endorsement of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure in connection with a budget funding business case for those works, it has been agreed that the initial focus should be on the members' entrance redesign so that those works can be completed to coincide with the occupancy of the new ACT Government Office Block and adjacent Legislative Plaza. On that basis, I expect the timeframe for a redesign of the public entrance to be for the next Assembly term.



Joy Burch, MLA
Speaker

6 May 2019