



Shane Rattenbury MLA

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

Dr John Boersig PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Legal Aid ACT

john.boersig@legalaidact.org.au

Our ref: REC21/44603

Dear Dr Boersig 

Thank you for your letter of 9 September 2021 regarding the procurement of premises for the Legal Aid Commission (the Commission) and the process undertaken by the Commission to test the market to ensure value for money (VFM) is achieved. I apologise for the delay in my response.

I note the thorough analysis that the Commission has undertaken, using external experts CIVIUM, to consider future accommodation options, and I agree that based on the information provided, remaining at 2 Allsop Street (2AS) represents the best value for money.

However, I am concerned that natural gas-powered heating and hot water units are in use at 2AS. As you know, the ACT Government's Parliamentary and Governing Agreement commits it to ensuring that all new leases for ACT Government buildings are in buildings which are fossil fuel gas-free premises.

In the circumstances, I require that you seek to include in LAACT's new 2AS lease a provision obliging the lessor to replace fossil fuel gas-powered units as they reach their end of life with units that are not powered by fossil fuels.

Subject to that provision being included in the contract, in accordance with section 44 of the Legal Aid Act 1977, I provide my approval for the Commission to enter into a contract to lease the space currently occupied at 2AS, Canberra City for a further ten years.

I note that the total value of this expenditure is estimated at \$8 million over 10 years once incentives and fit-out costs associated with the building are accounted for.

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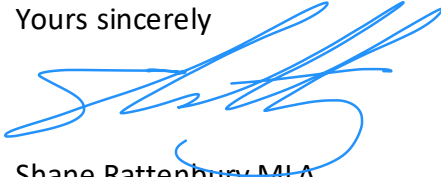
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Should you have any questions about this matter I encourage you to contact the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. The action officers within JACS for this matter are Kelly Lokan and Nadia Marjan who can be contacted via kelly.lokan@act.gov.au and nadia.marjan@act.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Shane Rattenbury MLA
Attorney-General

18/11/21