



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Peter Cain MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)

ACT Legislative Assembly

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Cain

Thank you for the Committee's consideration of the Electoral (Fees) Determination 2022 [DI2022-71] (the Determination) in Scrutiny Report 20 of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role) (the Committee).

I acknowledge that the Committee noted that the Explanatory Statement for the Electoral (Fees) Determination 2022 explained the fee increase reflected in the Determination was according to the Wage Price Index (WPI) of 2.5%. The Committee sought my advice, as Special Minister of State, as to why a Wage Price Index increase of 2.5% (rather than the WPI of 3.25% used for other instruments discussed in this Scrutiny Report) is used for this instrument.

ACT Electoral Commission has advised me that the Determination was drafted earlier than usual in late May 2022 to allow for the instrument to be cleared by the Commissioner, Commission Chairperson, and Member Philip Moss AM, prior to Member Moss' term of appointment expiring on 6 June 2022.

The WPI rate of 2.5% was applied in the Determination based on the Treasury Budget Memo 2022/02 released on 17 February 2022. The Determination was already progressed through the clearance process when the updated Treasury Budget Memo 2022/14 was released on 31 May 2022 with the updated WPI rate of 3.25%.

The budget estimate for the ACT Electoral Commission for income from the sale of goods and services from contracts with customers, as estimated on page 4 of the *2022-23 Budget Statement A*, is \$26,000 for the 2022/23 financial year.

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Noting the independence of the Electoral Commission, and that the power to make the fee determinations sits with the Commission under the *Electoral Act 1992*, I have written to the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Damian Cantwell, inviting the Commission to give consideration to rectifying the record and updating the Fee Determination.

I trust this information is of use to the Committee and thank the Committee for its consideration of the Determination.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA
Special Minister of State

October 2022