



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

Evaluation of trial of estimates being
considered by standing committees

Submission number: 003

Date authorised for publication: 16 February 2023

From: Braddock, Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 7:56:07 AM
To: Duncan, Tom [REDACTED]
Cc: Speaker [REDACTED]
Subject: Re Conduct of Budget Estimates

Dear Mr Duncan,

I write on behalf of the ACT Greens MLAs in response to the letter from the Speaker of November 2022 inviting comments relating to *'the trial of estimates being considered by the standing committees'*.

The conduct of the trial was a useful experience and demonstrated the advantages and disadvantages of both select and standing committee models. New ideas and experimentation are critical to ensuring that the oversight and scrutiny functions of the Legislative Assembly are robust, effective, and fit for purpose. The ACT Greens are open any further consultation on how this can be achieved.

The ACT Greens MLAs support the conduct of future estimates by a select committee for the following reasons:

1. Having Estimates chaired by a member of the Opposition provides scrutiny of the Government in line with the Latimer House Principles.
2. A select committee allows evaluation of the budget in its entirety, and the ability to compare priorities between different policy areas.
3. Committee members can readily pursue lines of inquiry that span different Ministers and portfolio areas.
4. Community day can be readily integrated into the estimates process.

The ACT Greens acknowledge that the select committee model provides less opportunity for the development and utilisation of deep expertise/knowledge in particular policy areas, that may be offered by using the standing committees. We feel that this, however, is balanced by the opportunity for development of all non-executive MLAs' awareness and understanding of total Government expenditure through their contribution to the select committee process.

I am happy to provide clarification on other matters relating to this topic.

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The Greens acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' relationship with the land and water, and their rights and obligations as Traditional Custodians must be respected. As sovereignty was never ceded, the Greens recognise that to become a truly reconciled nation, we must act to empower, listen to, and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities.