

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL  
2024-25 - DEPARTURES FROM RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS**

**STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**Presented by  
Mr Andrew Barr MLA  
Treasurer**

Madam Speaker, earlier today I presented the *Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2024-2025* (the Bill) to the Assembly.

The Bill contains appropriations of \$23.213 million to the Office of the Legislative Assembly, \$8.051 million to the Integrity Commissioner, \$13.494 million to the Electoral Commissioner and \$4.220 million to the Auditor-General.

As the amount proposed in the Bill to be appropriated to the Office of the Legislative Assembly is a departure from the amount requested by the Speaker, I provide the following statement of reasons regarding this departure, as required under section 20AA of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

As the amounts proposed in the Bill to be appropriated to the Electoral Commissioner is also a departure from what was requested by the Speaker, a further statement of reasons is provided regarding these departures, as required under section 20AC of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

In relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker requested construction funding to upgrade the Assembly public entrance. Government asks this proposal to be re-presented in the 2024-25 Budget Review, following further consideration of heritage issues and the impact of other impending construction projects associated with the Legislative Assembly and Canberra Theatre precinct.

The Speaker also requested funding for upgrading the Parliamentary Information Portal and for Professional Development Activities. The Government agreed a lower amount of funding for these activities,

noting the availability of existing resources that could support delivery of these initiatives.

The Speaker had requested funding for the Electoral Commissioner to administer the real time reporting of gifts on an ongoing basis and to monitor the new prohibited donor category of 'foreign entities' as part of the ACT Electoral Commission's compliance and enforcement. The Government considers the additional demand for these activities is yet to be determined and suggests that the Commission monitor any changes in activities and come back in a future budget to seek additional resources, if required.

I commend this Statement of Reasons to the Assembly.