

**2017**

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO  
THE ACT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT No.9 OF 2016: COMMISSIONER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT – POSITION CREATION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

**Presented by  
Andrew Barr MLA  
Chief Minister**

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# Government Response to the ACT Auditor-General’s Report No. 9 of 2016: Commissioner for International Engagement – Position Creation and Appointment Process

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## **Introduction and Background**

On 30 November 2016 the ACT Auditor-General released a report on the *Commissioner for International Engagement – position creation and appointment process*. The report concluded that whilst the appointment of the Commissioner was consistent with the general powers attributed to the Executive under the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* there are no prescribed processes or procedures for such appointments. The report stipulates that the process used was broadly consistent with that used for appointments to ACT Government boards and committees; however due to the paucity of documentation involved there was a lack of transparency.

The single recommendation from the report is that the ACT Government should develop guidelines for significant appointments that encompass a number of requirements, including but not limited to:

- general principles to be followed in filling a vacancy;
- requirements for preparing a business case (or similar) to support the creation of significant new positions and supporting business units;
- a definition of the position in terms of role, responsibilities, accountabilities and any mandatory requirements that may apply to potential candidates;
- a means of determining remuneration;
- requirements for assessing the merit of potential candidates;
- considerations for selecting the method of appointment to be applied e.g. direct appointments or selection from a field of qualified candidates ;
- instructions on how to prepare an Instrument of Appointment (or similar) to define employment conditions, behaviours and obligations of the proposed appointee;
- requirements for performance indicators;
- reporting obligations for the appointee including public reporting; and
- requirements for documentation.

The Government response to this recommendation is as follows.

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**Government Position on Recommendation:**

**Recommendation 1**

**The ACT Government should develop guidelines for significant appointments.**

**Government Response - Agreed.**

The Government has published revised governance principles for appointments, board and committees to clarify the requirements for significant appointments in addition to a number of further amendments to the appointment process for boards and committees. The revised governance principles are available on the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development website at <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/cabinet/governance> .