

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

**APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL
2022-23 – DEPARTURES FROM RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS**

**STATEMENT OF REASONS
(Amended)**

**Presented by
Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer**

On 2 August 2022, the Treasurer presented the *Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-23* (the Bill) to the Assembly.

The Bill contained appropriations of \$20.882 million to the Office of the Legislative Assembly, \$4.064 million to the Auditor-General, \$7.990 million to the ACT Integrity Commissioner and \$4.890 million to the Electoral Commissioner.

The *Appropriation Bill 2022-23* also contained appropriation of \$3.925 million to the ACT Ombudsman (via the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate).

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

The Speaker recommended recurrent funding of \$21.086 million for the Office of the Legislative Assembly in 2022-23. Recurrent funding includes additional \$794,000 to meet the costs associating with the restructure of committee support function and the permanent appointment of an Assistant Technical Officer.

There is \$538,000 difference between the Speaker's recommended recurrent funding and the 2022-23 appropriation. Of this difference, the \$290,000 requested for redundancy payments is to be funded from the whole of government Restructure Fund, and the \$105,000 requested for the permanent appointment of an Assistant Technical Officer is to be funded from within the Office of the Legislative Assembly's base funding. The remaining \$143,000 for a fourth new position at ASO6 level is not supported by Government at this time, as Government

considers a staged implementation of the Committee restructure is appropriate.

The Speaker also recommended a capital injection of \$651,000 for End of Trip Facilities for the Assembly Building. This is not supported as the Government is, in the alternative, expanding access to government facilities to provide active travel options for some Members and staff working in the ACT Legislative Assembly. This includes granting appropriate access to facilities in 220 London Circuit, improving access to existing Legislative Assembly facilities for non-Executive staff.

I commend this Statement of Reasons to the Assembly.