



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: FIONA CARRICK MLA

Addressed to: CHIEF MINISTER

In relation to: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Hearing: 12 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 12, 13

Transcript provided: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

Andrew Barr MLA took on notice the following question(s):

Ms Carrick: Okay. It is about integrity. There is a code of conduct that talks about the conflict of interest, but where does it say in the legislative framework that the government should consider the best interest of all Canberrans when they are making a decision as opposed to a small part or developer or some other interest group? Is there anything in the framework that says the government should consider the best interest of all Canberrans?

Mr Barr: Sure. I will take that on notice and provide that, unless you have got—

Ms Leigh: Well, I was simply going to say the public service is there to implement the priorities set by the government of the day, and the government of the day is of course elected by the community. And we will therefore be seeking to implement whatever commitments it made during that election campaign. So the public service will follow the commitments that the government of the day has made.

Ms Carrick: Fair enough, but as decisions are made, perhaps there is something that could be looked at when the government is in and when they are making decisions that they look at the interests of all Canberrans. Like for example, there was a change to the Territory Plan for the Phillip Pool that the community feels was not in their best interest, but in the developer's interest. So my question is, is there anything in the Legislative Assembly's or the government's framework that says the government should look at the best interests of the community when making decisions?

Mr Barr: Sure. I will take that on notice for you.

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ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and its subordinate legislation provides the behavioural framework for ACT public servants and is focussed on ensuring the service operates in the interests of all Canberrans. Specifically, it establishes the functions of the service, the core values that guide how those functions are delivered and the code of conduct and other infrastructure to ensure those values are adhered to.

The objects of that Act are set out in section 5. They are to:

- establish and maintain an apolitical public sector with clear values, clear standards of conduct and a best practice focus; and
- establish and maintain a public service that assists the Executive to meet the needs of the community and serves the community on behalf of the Executive; and
- promote and uphold the public sector values, standards of conduct and best practice focus.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature: 

Date: **25.2.25**

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA