

2023

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

**APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL
2023-24 - DEPARTURES FROM RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

**Presented by
Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer
27 June 2023**

Madam Speaker, earlier today I presented the *Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024* (the Bill) to the Assembly.

The Bill contains appropriations of \$21.545 million to the Office of the Legislative Assembly, \$8.610 million to the Integrity Commission and \$6.686 million to the Electoral Commissioner.

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 Integrity Commission and the Electoral Commissioner are also departures 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 Government has agreed to provide funding for the detailed design and costing of an upgrade to the Legislative Assembly's entrance. While construction funding was also requested by the Speaker, the Government asks that this be sought after the detailed design is completed, so that costs can be accurately assessed.

The Speaker had also requested funding for the construction of end of trip facilities at the Assembly building. However, the Government considers that with staff access provided to the facilities in 220 London Circuit, demand in the Assembly building has been reduced.

In relation to the Integrity Commission, the Government has provided funding for additional investigative and legal resources. While this was less than the full funding sought by the Speaker, the Government considers that this is sufficient to address immediate staffing pressures, including a backlog of investigations.

In relation to the Electoral Commissioner, the Government has provided funding for resources to support the delivery of the 2024 Legislative Assembly Election, enact the truth in political advertising legislation, and establish a permanent position dedicated to cyber-security. This was less than the full funding sought by the Speaker; however, the Government considers that this is sufficient to successfully deliver and safeguard the integrity of the 2024 Election.

I commend this Statement of Reasons to the Assembly.