

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

**APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL
2021-22 - DEPARTURES FROM RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

**Presented by
Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer**

Madam Speaker, on 6 October 2021, I presented the *Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2021-2022* (the Bill) to the Assembly.

The Bill contained appropriations of \$20.074 million to the Office of the Legislative Assembly, \$4.058 million to the Auditor-General, \$6.578 million to the ACT Integrity Commissioner and \$4.733 million to the Electoral Commissioner.

The *Appropriation Bill 2021-2022* also contained appropriation of \$2.856 million to the ACT Ombudsman (via the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate).

As the amounts in the Bills appropriated to the Auditor-General and the ACT Ombudsman are departures from the amounts requested by the Speaker, I provide the following statement of reasons regarding these departures as required under section 20AA of the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

The Speaker recommended recurrent funding of \$4.319 million for the Auditor-General in 2021-22. This amount included additional funding of \$800,000 to meet the increasing cost of performance audits and other operational cost pressures arising from establishment changes.

Following subsequent discussions with the Speaker and the Auditor-General, and given the need for all agencies to contribute to its fiscal sustainability objectives, the Government considers additional funding of \$500,000 is sufficient to meet the increasing costs and pressures, noting the Auditor-General is anticipating increased revenue through higher audit fees in 2021-22.

The Speaker recommended recurrent funding of \$3.649 million for the ACT Ombudsman in 2021-22. This amount included \$1.927 million of additional funding for corporate overheads and other administrative costs.

As there has not been a change in the condition of payments nor a reduction of funding in 2021-22 from 2020-21, the Government considers it is appropriate for some of the corporate overheads and other costs incurred by the ACT Ombudsman to continue to be met from within its funding allocation.

I commend this Statement of Reasons to the Assembly.