



**Speaker's Response to
Select Committee on Estimates 2009-10 Report—
Response to Recommendation Nos 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 62, 63, 72, 75
and 130**

**Shane Rattenbury MLA
Speaker
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory**

Recommendations from the Select Committee on Estimates 2009-10 report relating to the Legislative Assembly

Recommendation 6

1.40 The Committee recommends that future ACT Legislative Assembly estimates committees consider whether the deadline for questions on notice should be extended to three working days after the close of the sitting day which included the relevant portfolio area.

I will place this matter on the agenda of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, to be considered in conjunction with recommendation No 7.

Recommendation 7

1.41 The Committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure review the process and timeframes for lodging, responding to and communicating questions taken on and lodged on notice during inquiries by select committees on estimates, and make recommendations to the Assembly by the end of 2009.

I will place this matter on the agenda of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

Recommendation 8

1.42 The Committee recommends that all questions taken on notice and all written questions on notice not answered by 12 June 2009 be forwarded to the Speaker for tabling in the Assembly by the last sitting day in June 2009.

I understand that Ministers will be complying with this recommendation and I will table answers received.

Recommendation 10

2.6 The committee recommends that the electronic mail box size across the Legislative Assembly and Secretariat be unlimited.

1. The Secretariat has been aware of this issue and has explored with InTACT the available options to increase email storage capacity.

The current version of the email system is not designed to handle email storage limits above 2 Gb. Allowing unlimited access to email storage would be expected to degrade the current levels of system performance and reduce system reliability which would impact all users

2. The Assembly IT Manager has arranged for InTACT to increase the storage capacity of non-executive members' public mailboxes from 1 Gb to 2 Gb. In addition, two staff in each office will have their mailbox limits increased from 100 Mb to 500 Mb if required.
3. This is an interim strategy until such time as the current email system is upgraded to a version that can handle larger volumes of email. This is expected to occur within the next 2 years.

Recommendation 11

2.7 The Committee recommends that the file server space allocated to the Assembly be significantly increased.

This year the Secretariat increased file server space available to non-executive members by 134 per cent from 103 Gb to 241 Gb. Currently, only 37 per cent of this capacity is used; in comparison, at the end of the 6th Assembly, utilisation was above 90 per cent.

Recommendation 12

2.8 The Committee recommends that information and communications technology services for non-Executive members and their staff be equivalent to those provided for Executive members of the Legislative Assembly.

I will endeavour to ascertain what information and communications technology services are available to Executive Members and bring this to the attention of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

Recommendation 13

2.10 The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure review the staffing available to the Legislative Assembly's Committee Office.

I will place this matter on the agenda for a future meeting of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

Recommendation 62

6.92 The Committee recommends that if the Speaker agrees that the issues raised by Mr Hanson in his letter to the Committee dated 4 June 2009 concerning his interaction with the Chief Executive of ACT Health, have substance, and/or the Assembly agrees that a Select Committee on Privileges be established, that the Select Committee also investigate the broader issues of protection of communications made by Members of the Legislative Assembly in the course of their employment.

This is a matter for the Legislative Assembly to determine.

Recommendation 63

6.93 In the event that the Select Committee is not established, this Committee recommends

(a) that the *Handbook for ACT Government Officials on Participation in Assembly and Other Inquiries (2004)* be amended to provide guidelines for correspondence between staff in the ACT Public Service and Members of the Legislative Assembly, and

6.94 (b) that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure inquire into and report on the protections available to Members concerning protection of communications made by Members of the Legislative Assembly in the course of their employment.

In relation to recommendation 63(b), I will place this matter on the agenda for a future meeting of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure.

Recommendation 72

7.42 The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety consider, as part of their inquiry into freedom of information legislation, discussion of the issue of cabinet-in confidence designations for documents.

This is a matter for the Assembly or the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Services to determine. I will write to the committee accordingly.

Recommendation 75

7.64 The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts include social tendering as part of its inquiry into procurement.

This is a matter for the Assembly or the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to determine. I will write to the committee accordingly.

Recommendation 130

12.43 The Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services inquire into the impact of the global financial crisis on the non-government community services sector in the ACT and the ACT Government funding it receives.

This is a matter for the Assembly or the Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services to determine. I will write to the committee accordingly.

Shane Rattenbury, MLA
Speaker
Legislative Assembly for the ACT

June 2009

