



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Treasurer

Reference: Budget process and financial reporting

Hearing: 27/07/2026

In relation to: Budget proposal frameworks and feedback

Question received: 27/07/2026

Answer Due: 11/08/2026

- (1) Has the Government considered providing organisations with a template to use during the pre-budget submission process so they know exactly what it is that they need to provide?
- (2) Is there a written assessment framework, scoring matrix or guidance used by officials when assessing budget proposals provided through the pre-budget submission process?
- (3) When multiple organisations submit competing pre-budget submissions, what specific criteria are used to prioritise one proposal over another?
- (4) What feedback is provided to organisations whose pre-budget proposals are unsuccessful?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The ACT Government's annual Budget consultation process is one of the ways every Canberran can have input into the delivery of accessible, quality services for the entire community. The process includes opportunities for community sector delivery organisations, peak bodies, businesses, local sporting organisations and community councils to engage in the ACT. It is one of the largest annual consultation processes the ACT Government undertakes each year and is informed by a community priorities survey.

The process is an ongoing one, which invites all interested individuals and organisations to provide submissions and engage with the development of Budgets at any point. In an effort to be as inclusive and supportive as possible, the Government has not prescribed a particular way, style or format to engage in the process or requires particular information to inform decision making. Information on the process is available on the [YourSay website](#).

Input, where possible and approved by the submitter, is published on the Treasury website at <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-consultation/input-received>.

Feedback from stakeholders in previous years has identified that a template for pre-budget submissions does not provide organisations, many of whom are volunteer-led or organised, sufficient flexibility in presenting issues and proposals relevant to their specific concerns and circumstances. Guidance is provided to the community and organisations explaining the consultation process and assistance is made available by telephone and email options.

The Government is open to further feedback from stakeholders on any improvements that can be made to the Budget process.

- (2- 4) Budget consultation submissions are provided to inform Government policy development and consistent with a non-prescriptive approach to receiving input into the Budget process, there is not a specific framework or prioritisation approach to submissions. Many submissions provide input that relate to policy implementation and development that may not require specific funding. All input received through the process is provided to relevant agencies and Ministers for their engagement through the Budget process.

It is important to note that submissions are not applications for specific proposals and do not always specify specific funding requests. As such, there is no scoring matrix, assessment or prioritisation framework and proposals are not considered successful or unsuccessful. The Government publishes a “What We Heard” report summarising key themes raised during the budget consultation process.

Budget initiatives that are funded through the 2026-27 Budget are provided in Chapter 3.2 of the 2026-27 Budget Outlook and are developed on business cases endorsed by Ministers and submitted through the Budget cycle.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



By the Treasurer, Chris Steel MLA

Date:

12/8/26