Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)

ACT Legislative Assembly

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Lee

I write in relation to comments made by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role) (the Committee) in its *Scrutiny Report 20* published on 7 August 2018, in relation to:

* DI2018-175 Domestic Animals (Fees) Determination 2018 (No 2); and
* DI2018-177 Tree Protection (Fees) Determination 2018 (No 1)*.*

The Committee drew attention to the inadequacy of reasons for the fee increases in these two determinations. I thank the Committee for its comments.

I apologise that the explanation for the fee increase was not sufficient to meet the standard in these determinations.

I can confirm that the reasons for the 4 per cent increase, rounded for cash handling and other purposes to the nearest cent, is consistent with the ACT Government’s policy articulated in the *Fees and Charges Policy and Guidelines* (December 2017) prepared by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. The guidelines state that all regulatory service fees should be indexed by 4 per cent.

I trust that this explanation addresses the Committee’s comments.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for City Services