

Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister



Member for Kurrajong
Treasurer
Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Ms Anne Cahill Lambert AM
Chair
ACT Remuneration Tribunal
PO Box 964
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Dear Ms Cahill Lambert AM

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2016 about the ACT Remuneration Tribunal's Autumn Review scheduled for February 2017. I am pleased to take this opportunity to make a submission for the Tribunal's consideration.

I note that at its Autumn Review, the Tribunal is due to inquire into and determine the remuneration and other entitlements of:

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (including the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and other Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly holding particular offices);
- The Head of Service, Directors-General and ACT Public Service Executives;
- Full-time Holders of Public Office, referred to in Section 10(1) of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995*, including the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly; and
- Any other positions that have been referred to the Tribunal for consideration.

The Government recognises the importance of competitive remuneration for leaders of the Public Service to attract and retain the best people to lead and drive change across the Service. This said; the Government is committed to fiscal responsibility. In making determinations for the above offices for 2017-18, I ask that the Tribunal consider the Government's election commitment to ensure ACT Public Servants continue to see their wages increase at a rate equivalent to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Government is committed to growing the ACT economy through an investment in services and jobs without compromising the Territory's fiscal recovery in light of the Commonwealth Government spending and payment cuts of recent years.

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The ACT 2016-17 Budget forecasts a return to surplus from 2018-19 onwards. To achieve this, the Territory must ensure that spending remains targeted and appropriate.

The ACT Public Service Enterprise Agreement negotiations commenced in December 2016. I respectfully request the Tribunal to be cognisant of these negotiations and the upward pressure any significant increases awarded by the Tribunal may have on non-executive salary negotiations at this time.

As noted in Determination 3 of 2016, the Government understands that the Tribunal is planning to undertake a major review after the upcoming Autumn Review, to consider the current employment arrangements in regard to Head of Service, Directors-General and ACTPS Executives which will consider the attraction and retention of highly skilled and qualified executives into the future.

The Government recognises that Canberra is, in many ways, a uniquely competitive employment environment for executive public servants, with attractive employment packages on offer within the Commonwealth Government.

I would like to thank the Tribunal for clarifying the payment of MLAs Communication Allowance by incorporating the payment into MLAs base salary as detailed in Determination 7 of 2016. Recently, I have received representations about the intent of the Communications Allowance under the determination, specifically how I can provide support to Executive MLAs to allow communications with constituents as originally intended. I hope to be able to discuss this with you at the review.

In making this submission I wish to acknowledge the continuing hard work of MLAs, ACTPS Executives and Holders of Public Office for the ACT Community.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

07 FEB 2017