



ANDREW BARR MLA
CHIEF MINISTER

Treasurer
Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Urban Renewal
Minister for Tourism and Events

Member for Molonglo

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

Dear Ms Cahill ^{Anne} Lambert

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2016 and the opportunity to make a submission to the Remuneration Tribunal's annual review of remuneration, entitlements and allowances for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), the ACT Public Service Head of Service, other Public Service Executives, and full-time holders of public office.

In making its determinations this year, I ask that the Tribunal keep in mind the recent cuts in Commonwealth Government spending and payments made to the ACT. While indications suggest that the most significant cuts are behind us, the ramifications of previous budgets continue to create challenging economic circumstances for the Territory and its residents. Further pressure has been placed on the ACT economy by the implementation of the Asbestos Eradication Scheme, which is estimated to have a net cost of around \$370 million; this amount will be borne solely by the ACT Government. Over the next 10 years, the Territory will also be paying interest on the \$1 billion loan provided to the ACT by the Commonwealth.

As you would be aware, the Territory's budget remains in deficit but the Government forecast, in its 2015-16 Budget Review, a return to balance in 2018-19. This will be achieved by ensuring spending remains targeted and appropriate, creating jobs and growing the revenue base, and ensuring that our services are delivered as efficiently as possible and consistent with the expectations of our community.

In providing this submission, I do not wish to diminish or undervalue the important work that our MLAs, senior public servants and other officials undertake, often in difficult circumstances. Any adjustments to the remuneration, allowances and entitlements should be consistent with community expectations and standards, and the impact that they may have on the Territory's budget. The Tribunal should note the ACT Public Service Administrative and Related Classifications Enterprise Agreement 2013-2017 provides for two separate 1.5 per cent increases in the 2015-16 financial year.

It is the Government's view that any increase in remuneration for MLAs, senior public servants and other officials should be consistent with, and not exceed, the increases for staff in the public service over the last few years.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to put forward a submission. I look forward to further discussing relevant matters at the Tribunal's forthcoming review.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

12 FEB 2016