



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 Lambert

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2015, and the opportunity to make a submission to the Remuneration Tribunal's annual review of remuneration, entitlements and allowances for members of the judiciary and part-time holders of public office.

In making its determinations this year, I kindly request that the Tribunal keep in mind the significant cuts in general Commonwealth Government spending and payments made to the ACT. These cuts have, and will continue to create challenging economic circumstances for the Territory and its residents.

In our most recent budget, the Government made a strong commitment to invest in our economy and jobs rather than add to the many challenges at this difficult time. We are investing in Canberra to support the economy, to create and secure jobs and support our most vulnerable. We have created the largest ever program of capital works by an ACT Government, \$2.8 billion over four years to progress transformational projects such as Capital Metro, City to the Lake and new court facilities.

Further pressure has been placed on the ACT economy by the necessity to support residents affected by Mr Fluffy asbestos, through the Asbestos Eradication Scheme. The full net cost of the scheme, estimated to be about \$370 million, will be incurred by the ACT Government. The Territory also bears the interest costs on the \$1 billion loan provided to the ACT by the Commonwealth over a 10 year period.

The Territory's budget is in deficit, we plan to achieve a modest surplus in 2018-19, by spending appropriately to create jobs and grow the revenue base, ensuring that our services are delivered as efficiently as possible, and meeting the expectations of our community.

We do not want to undertake cuts and impose further pain on our community, and risk the growth of our economy or the standard of living of our community for a budget bottom line. We have increased funding for priority areas, notably health, education, community and justice services, suburban renewal, and roads and transport. We

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6205 0011 Fax: (02) 6205 0157 Email: barr@act.gov.au
Facebook: Andrew.Barr.MLA Twitter: @ABarrMLA



recognise that in difficult economic times, this is when local government services are sought more often by a greater number of people.

In providing this submission, I do not wish to diminish or undervalue the important work that our judiciary and other officials undertake, often in difficult circumstances. Indeed, the Remuneration Tribunal will need to carefully consider the work value of these positions. Any adjustments to the remuneration, allowances and entitlements should be consistent with community expectations and community 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% increases in the 2015-16 financial year.

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

I would also like to raise with you at our meeting, issues I have concerning the operation of the Communications Allowance under Determination 2 of 2015.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

18 SEP 2015