



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

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

Dear Ms *Anne* Cahill Lambert

Thank you for 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. I note that the Tribunal is also reviewing remuneration for MLAs, executives and full-time holders of public office for the second time this year.

It should be noted that the Government is committed to return the Territory to budget surplus. The Government has maintained a target of returning to surplus in 2013-14 through the incorporation of substantial savings to lower the underlying expenditure trajectory. The gradual and sustained adjustment is a key feature of the Government's Plan which ensures that no sharp and unnecessary adjustments are made, and that priority services to the community are preserved or enhanced where necessary.

The 2011-12 budget incorporates savings of around \$217 million over four years:

- the efficiency dividend introduced in the 2010-11 budget which came into effect on 1 July 2011, will deliver savings of \$66.6 million over four years; and
- savings in agency expenditures, achieved through a mix of administrative and employee costs, improving efficiency of back office functions, and efficiency in land development – delivering savings of \$150.7 million over four years.

While the Government has a plan for making savings, any decisions relating to salary increases need to be made in the context of the impact on the budget.

Any adjustments to the remuneration, allowances and entitlements granted by the Tribunal ought to be consistent with community expectations and community standards. This is perhaps more important than ever in view of the current economic climate and the continuing pressures upon the budget.

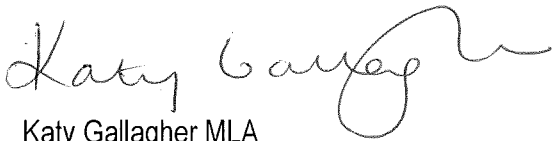
I do not consider it is appropriate to award MLAs another increase within 12 months and the Tribunal might also, given recent global economic uncertainties, adopt a similar approach for executives and other officials. Any further increases for MLAs or officials should be phased in only after July 2012 and be in line with budget capacity and ACT public sector outcomes.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Judiciary

The Government acknowledges that it would be appropriate, as a general long-term position, to compare the remuneration of members of the judiciary with their Territory, State and Federal counterparts. Nevertheless, it is the Government's view at this time that any increase in remuneration for members of the judiciary (and for other officials) should be broadly consistent with the increases for staff in the public service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Gallagher".

Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister

30 AUG 2011