



The Hon. Don Harwin MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Special Minister of State

Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts
Vice-President of the Executive Council

Ref: A5046012

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt

I refer to Report No. 7 on the Public Accountability Committee's (the **Committee**) inquiry into the *Budget process for independent oversight bodies and the Parliament of New South Wales* dated February 2021 (the **Committee's Report**).

The Government notes the Committee's recommendations and acknowledges the significant work it has undertaken in preparing its Report, as well as the recent work of the Auditor-General and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (the **ICAC**) on the integrity agencies' funding model.

By joint letter to the Premier dated 15 July 2021, the Hon Keith Mason AC QC, Chair of the NSW Electoral Commission (**NSWEC**), the Hon Peter Hall QC, Chief Commissioner of the ICAC and Ms Margaret Crawford, Auditor-General for NSW, have requested that the Government defer its response to the Auditor-General's report into *The effectiveness of the financial arrangements and management practices in four integrity agencies* (the **Auditor-General's Report**) to 29 October 2021 to allow further time for consultation with those agencies on the Government's response.

Given that the Committee's Report and Auditor-General's Report both consider the integrity agencies' funding model, it is appropriate that the Government respond to both reports at the same time.

In light of the NSW Electoral Commission, ICAC and Auditor-General's joint request, the Government will aim to provide its substantive response to the Committee's Report and Auditor-General's Report in the fourth quarter of 2021.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be tabled as the Government's response to the Committee's Report required under the Standing Orders.

Yours sincerely

Don Harwin MLC

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5 August 2021