

INQUIRY INTO BUDGET PROCESS FOR INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT BODIES AND THE PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Law Enforcement Conduct Commission

Date Received: 30 September 2020

Office of the Chief Commissioner

52145/316

30 September 2020

Public Accountability Committee
Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Public Accountability Committee,

Submission by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to the Inquiry into the Budget process for independent oversight bodies and the Parliament of New South Wales

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Committee in response to the Performance Audit into the budget processes for independent oversight bodies.

I advise that I agree with the recommendations made in the Auditor-General's report for the reasons given in that report.

The Report also draws attention to the fact that LECC is not classified as a separate GSF agency under the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*. The Report indicates that gives LECC less independence from the Executive Government because "*LECC would have to comply with a Treasurer's Direction even if it believes it is not consistent with the independent exercise of its functions.*" I believe it would be appropriate to reconsider this situation.

I should also draw to your attention the difficulties small agencies such as LECC have with any requirement of government for annual fixed productivity savings. In this agency the annual budget for the year is \$23,254,749. Salaries take up \$17,586,134 of that and that represents over 75% of the budget. Rent costs \$2,133,646 and that is over 9% of the budget. You will appreciate from these figures that reductions in the budget of this agency would inevitably lead to reductions in staff levels. I don't suggest that has been a problem in the past because in every year of operation this agency has been under budget but it could well be a problem in the future.

My submission can be published in full.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon R O Blanch AM QC
Chief Commissioner