

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Building Safer Communities - A full time, dedicated Coroner
Person requesting costing:	Shane Rattenbury MLA
Date of request:	12 October 2020
Summary of proposal:	As part of a broader Building Safer Communities initiative, this proposal is for establishing a full time, dedicated Coroner. A dedicated, full-time coroner and additional staff will help reduce delays in the inquiry process and allow more focus for developing and trialing therapeutic and restorative practices in the coronial process. Further information on the https://greens.org.au/act/building-safer-communities.
Issue the proposal will address:	Coronial inquiry processes are complex and time consuming. In the ACT, Magistrates are appointed as Coroners to handle a caseload of inquiries on a rotating basis as assigned by the Chief Magistrate, who is also the Chief Coroner. To ensure equality before the law, the justice system must be responsive to those experiencing disadvantage and prejudice.

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

Note: The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

This proposal will see the appointment of a full-time Magistrate and additional staffing (1 SOGB and 2 ASO6 positions). It is assumed that existing Coroner's staffing and administration resources within JACSD will be transitioned into the new dedicated Court.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)					
Expenses^(a)		-806	-824	-842	-2,472
Capital					
Depreciation					

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?
Yes. The Magistrates remuneration https://www.remunerationtribunal.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1623968/Determination-8-of-2020-ACT-Mag-Court.pdf
Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?
NA
Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?
No
Will funding/the cost require indexation?
Remuneration of the Coroner in the out years has been increased by a standard 2.5% rate that was the last rate used by the Remuneration Tribunal in 2019.
Who will administer the proposal?
The Coroner's Court will be administered by Courts and Tribunals Administration.
How will the proposal be administered?
The items in the proposal will be managed in line with existing appointment and judicial administration practices.
Is the proposal part of a broader package?
Yes: Building Safer Communities https://greens.org.au/act/building-safer-communities . Other elements will be costed separately.
Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal? – If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal? – If yes, please specify the key assumptions.
Some staffing costs are included. Additional staffing is expected to be transferred from other areas of the Directorate.
Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?
No
Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? Will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?
No
What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?
A dedicated, full-time coroner will help reduce delays in the inquiry process and allow more focus for developing and trialing therapeutic and restorative practices in the coronial process. It may also assist in ensuring that findings and recommendations relating to community safety are more consistent and allow for more systemic consideration of

accumulated recommendations over time.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?
Staff who currently support the functions of the Coroner's Court will be transitioned to support the dedicated and expanded full time Coroner. This transition will be managed by normal business unit movement practices of ACT Courts and Tribunals administration within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.
What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
It is intended that all aspects of the proposal will be formally commenced by July 2021.
When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.
It is intended that all aspects of the proposal will be formally commenced by July 2021 and continue for the term of the next Assembly.
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
Funding for the Coroner and associated staffing is anticipated to be ongoing.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
The broader Building Safer Communities package builds on the existing work and funded programs of Justice and Community Safety Directorate, such as "Restorative City", "Reducing Recidivism by 25% by 2025", "Justice Reinvestment", and "Building Communities, Not Prisons".