



Inner South Canberra Community Council

The Hon Chris Steel MLA
Treasurer
ACT Government
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Treasurer

I provide this budget submission on behalf of the Inner South Canberra Community Council (the ISCCC).

The ISCCC's budget priorities include those presented to the Government ahead of the 2024 budget, which can be found at the link below.

Our top priority for the budget, this year as last, is that the Government should urgently implement a thorough programme of improvements to its financial management processes, including as a high priority a systematic project management policy which incorporates a risk management process meeting national and international standards. We are glad to see that the Government has made a start in this direction by separating the Chief Minister and Treasurer functions. Indeed it has gone one better by creating a Finance Minister role.

What has changed since last year has been the revelation that the Territory's financial situation is even worse than suspected a year ago. We note that the new Finance Minister has already done the Territory a good service by impressing on her colleagues the need for financial stringency across the budget.

With the recent revelation that the health service came close to running out of funds, the need for rapid action is abundantly clear. In addition to the measures we recommended in last year's submission, we therefore urge the Government to pause all spending on inessential major projects outside the

health and education portfolios at the end of current contracts, until the Government can demonstrate a significant improvement in the Territory's financial position. This pause will give the Government the opportunity to make small adjustments to priorities along the lines we have suggested. It will also give the Government breathing space to carry out a full risk and cost benefit analysis on major projects such as the tram extension, West Basin redevelopment and the projected new sports stadium. No new projects should be planned or commenced until the current account deficit is reduced significantly.

I have copied this submission to MLAs for Kurrajong and Murrumbidgee electorates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Walters', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Colin Walters
Chair ISCCC
25 February 2025

<https://www.isccc.org.au/isccc/wp-content/uploads/ISCCC-Budget-letter-2024.pdf>

Authorised by Colin Walters on behalf of Inner South Canberra Community Council Inc.