Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of policy proposal:	Integrity in government
Person requesting costing:	Andrew Barr, ACT Labor
Date of request:	11/10/2016
Summary of proposal:	This proposal will create an ACT Integrity Commissioner.
Issue the proposal will address:	This proposal will increase transparency, accountability and integrity in government.

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 create an ACT Integrity Commissioner to investigate, conduct hearings, and have the power to recommend criminal prosecution, for serious breaches of integrity in the public sector. The Commissioner will be assisted by a team of specialised investigators, and support staff.

The ACT Labor policy funds this proposal over four years from 2017-18 – representing the full four-year term of the next Assembly. This request for costing only includes funding out to 2019-20 as per the Treasury costing guidelines.

The Commission structure and operations will be informed by the Tasmanian Integrity Commission, and include:

- A Commissioner, a suitably eminent former jurist.
- The Commissioner will be assisted by a Board who will advise on the Commission's operations and the conduct of investigations.
- A CEO to manage the day-to-day operations of the Commission.
- A Counsel assisting the Commissioner.
- A group of specialised investigators (approximately 4 staff), who will conduct investigations, in consultation with the Commissioner and Counsel assisting.
- A team of support staff to manage the day-to-day functions of the commission (approximately 3 staff): business services co-ordinator, records manager, and general administrative support).
- General corporate/human resources /payroll services will be provided through the Justice and Community Safety directorate.

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)?

	2016-17	**2017-18**	**2018-19**	**2019-20**	**Total**
	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**
Revenue[(a)]					
Expenses[(a)]		-1,000	-2,050	-2,103	-5,152

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 – information from the Tasmanian Integrity Commission website and annual report.
Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?
Capped.
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 (for example, does an education proposal add to or redirect NERA funding).
No.
Will funding/the cost require indexation?
Yes – indexation is included.
Who will administer the proposal?
JACS will oversee the establishment of the Commission.
How will the proposal be administered?
JACS will oversee the establishment of the Commission. The Commission will then operate independently of other ACT Government agencies.
Is the proposal part of a broader package?
Yes – ACT Labor’s plan to make government more transparent and ACT elections more democratic.
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.
Expenses for the establishment of the Commission will be met through internal resources of the ACT Government. Expenses for the operation of the Commission are included.
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?
The community will benefit from having greater transparency and accountability about the government and public service.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?

No.
What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
1 January 2018.
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?
1 January 2018.
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
The Commission will be ongoing.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
No.