

2013

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO  
POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW OF THE ACT LAND RENT SCHEME**

**TABLING STATEMENT**

**Presented by  
Andrew Barr MLA**

**Treasurer**

Madam Speaker, today I am tabling the Government Response to the Post Implementation Review of the ACT Land Rent Scheme as requested by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' in its report *Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2012-2013 (No. 2)*.

The Government thanks the consultants, EPIC Dot Gov, for the Review report and their insightful findings and recommendations.

Their work is an important contribution to the ongoing improvement of the ACT Land Rent Scheme and securing the objectives of that scheme for the benefit of the Canberra community.

The Government welcomes the key finding that the Scheme has been successful overall and acknowledges there are opportunities for improvement.

Madam Speaker, since the Review, the ACT Government has either implemented, or is progressing, a range of strategies in line with the recommendations in the Report, to improve the design and administration of the Scheme.

The Government is also committed to further reforms to the Scheme and will give ongoing consideration to the other recommendations in the Report in the context of the Government's broader policy settings.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the key steps the Government has taken since the Review.

The Government has made changes to its Affordable Housing Thresholds Policy aiming to increase the supply of smaller blocks of land in the Territory.

The Government will continue to provide targeted homebuyer assistance to land rent lessees. The Home Buyer Concession Scheme was expanded in the 2012-13 Budget and again in the 2013-14 Budget. In the recent budget the First Home Owner Grant was increased for purchase of new houses.

The Government has extended access to the 2 per cent discount rate to CHC Affordable Housing to achieve a greater social outcome.

The Government has introduced a security payment on block selections.

In the 2013-14 Budget, the Government has also modified the Scheme to provide improved and targeted access for low to moderate income households who are eligible for the 2 per cent discount rate.

The 4 per cent standard rate will cease to be offered to new entrants who do not meet the eligibility criteria for the discount rate.

Madam Speaker, the ACT Government is committed to supporting housing affordable for low to moderate income households and sees the Land Rent Scheme as an important element of its Housing Affordability strategy.

The Government will continue to work closely with participants of the Scheme, the industry and the community, to explore opportunities to make the Scheme work better for those who need it the most.

I commend the Government Response to the Assembly.



**SUBJECT: ACT Taxation Reform policies – 2013-14 Budget**

To: Treasurer

Critical Date for consideration: Nil.

Out of Scope

- The table below outlines all the policy changes to be announced in the 2013-14 Budget, together with details of the required legislative changes and the estimated timing of the reforms.

Tax	Legislation/system changes	Timing
Land Rent Scheme	Amendments required to the <i>Land Rent Act 2008</i>	Introduce legislation: week commencing 5 August 2013 Debate legislation: week commencing 16 September 2013 Date changes commence: 1 October 2013

Out of Scope