



Ethics and Integrity Adviser

Mr Ian Govey AM
Independent Reviewer
Integrity Commission Act 2018 and Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012

By email: icactreviewsecretariat@act.gov.au

Dear Ian

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 2023 inviting me to comment on the discussion papers you have released in the course of your review of the *Integrity Commission Act 2018* and the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*.

I have read those papers with great interest. I believe they are extremely well prepared – they raise insightful questions and are informative, explanatory and thought-provoking.


Beyond that, however, after considerable thought I have concluded that it would be inappropriate for me to offer detailed comment in relation to the issues they raise.

This is because my role as Ethics and Integrity Adviser to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory means that, at any time, I may be asked by a Member to provide advice on the ethics and integrity of their actions or proposed actions, which might include their position in relation to policy issues coming before the Assembly. Those policy issues might involve a response to recommendations coming out of your review where there is a potential for a perceived conflict of interest with their position as a Member of the Assembly. The performance of my role necessitates that I bring, and am seen to bring, an open and unbiased mind to the issue raised by the Member. That capacity may be perceived to be impugned if I have already formed an opinion on the issue in question in circumstances not involving the provision of advice to Members. You may be aware that I did provide my opinion on issues of the nature raised in your papers to the Assembly Committee considering the original legislation to create the Integrity Commission. However, that was at the specific request of Members of the Assembly while your request for comment is distinguishable in that regard.

Having said that, as with our meeting of 17 March, I am of course always prepared to meet further with you to provide a more general perspective from my Adviser position if you think that might be of assistance.

I wish you all the very best with your review.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Skehill

13 May 2023