**Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development**

**18/223 ACT Government Submission to the Inquiry into Canberra’s National Institutions**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| Providing an ACT Government submission to the Commonwealth Government’s Inquiry into Canberra’s national institutions creates a valuable opportunity for the ACT Government to advocate in favour of:* the significance of the national institutions’ arts and cultural contributions to the ACT and wider Australian society, including the preservation of historically important artefacts;
* the need for continued and increased Commonwealth funding of Canberra’s national institutions, including a review of the Commonwealth’s efficiency dividend policy and implementation;
* the national institutions’ role in Canberra as a valuable source of economic development and employment for residents of the ACT and Canberra Region;
* the importance of the national institutions to the ACT’s economy - in particular to the tourism and arts industries;
* the associated benefits of ongoing urban renewal and revitalisation projects in and around the Parliamentary Triangle and national institutions, developed in collaboration with the National Capital Authority, in creating a vibrant and liveable capital city; and
* the potential expansion of existing institutions and the addition of new institutions to further develop a ‘Smithsonian’ cultural precinct in the Parliamentary Triangle and surrounds.

There is no implementation plan required as the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories will provide its inquiry findings to the Commonwealth Government. |

*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.*

**Social**

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| **Access to services** | * Canberra’s national institutions currently provide a range of services to the ACT community primarily at low cost or free of charge – for example, most institutions have free admission.
* Continued budget pressures due to reduced Commonwealth funding may impede the ability of the national institutions to continue to provide these services at low cost and result in reduced community access.
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| **Access to**  **social networks and community activities** | * The national institutions provide a platform for national discussion and development of Australian arts. It is important that the national institutions receive adequate funding to continue to support a range of community activities.
* The national cultural institutions are also important in terms of their ongoing relationships with local arts organisations and artists in Canberra, facilitating crucial economic, cultural and social benefits to artists, arts organisations and the institutions.
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**Economic**

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| **Employment** | * Potential decline in Australian Public Sector employment amongst the national institutions would have a negative effect on Canberra’s communities and economy.
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| **Investment and Economic Growth** | * Canberra’s arts and tourism are strongly linked. Continued economic growth in these industries drives employment and contributes to the expansion and diversification of the ACT economy.
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**Environmental**

Not applicable.