



New South Wales

Government Sector Finance Amendment (Integrity Agencies) Bill 2024

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

This Bill amends the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* to—

- (a) require the Treasurer to write to the head of an integrity agency confirming the amount to be appropriated in the annual Appropriation Act for the services of the integrity agency, and
- (b) require the Treasurer to consider certain factors when considering an application for funding to an integrity agency from a sum appropriated to the Treasurer for contingencies in relation to integrity agencies.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 **Amendment of Government Sector Finance Act 2018 No 55**

Schedule 1[3] inserts proposed Division 4.2A, which provides for appropriations for integrity agencies.

Proposed section 4.14A provides that an integrity agency means the following—

- (a) the Audit office,
- (b) the Independent Commission Against Corruption,

- (c) the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission,
- (d) the New South Wales Electoral Commission,
- (e) the Ombudsman's Office.

The proposed section also sets out the *relevant parliamentary oversight committee* for each integrity agency.

Proposed section 4.14B provides that the Treasurer must give written notice to the head of an integrity agency of the amount proposed to be appropriated for the services of the agency in the next annual Appropriation Act within 7 days after the Act is introduced into the Legislative Assembly. Notice must also be given to the relevant parliamentary oversight committee who must, within 3 months after receiving the notice, examine and report on the appropriation to the Treasurer and Parliament. The Treasurer must respond to the relevant parliamentary oversight committee within 3 months after receiving the report.

Proposed section 4.14C provides that the Treasurer must consider certain factors when deciding an application for funding to an integrity agency from a sum appropriated to the Treasurer for contingencies in relation to integrity agencies.

Schedule 1[2] provides that the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is a separate Government Sector Finance agency. **Schedule 1[1]** makes a consequential amendment.

Schedule 2 Consequential amendments to other Acts

Schedule 2.1 makes a consequential amendment to the *Appropriation Act 2024*.

Schedule 2.2–2.6 set out the additional functions of the relevant parliamentary oversight committee by making consequential amendments to the following Acts—

- (a) the *Electoral Act 2017*,
- (b) the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983*,
- (c) the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*,
- (d) the *Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016*,
- (e) the *Ombudsman Act 1974*.