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Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands

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Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Via email: indigenous.evaluation@pc.gov.au

INDIGENOUS EVALUATION STRATEGY – ISSUES PAPER

I refer to an invitation by the Productivity Commission to provide a submission on its June 2019 Issues Paper – Indigenous Evaluation Strategy (the Strategy).

On behalf of the Government of Western Australia, I am pleased to make this submission and appreciate the Productivity Commission affording an extension to the submission deadline.

In essence, the submission emphasises the importance of:

- maximising Aboriginal engagement in evaluation by focusing on genuine partnerships, collaboration and co-design;
- promoting best practice evaluation by Australian Government agencies;
- increasing the capacity and skills of Australian Government agencies, and Aboriginal organisations and communities, to undertake high quality evaluations;
- improving the cultural capability of evaluators so that evaluation design and implementation are culturally appropriate and responsive to the priorities of Indigenous stakeholders;
- taking a strategic approach to the management of data required to undertake evaluations;
- aligning the Strategy with the evaluation requirements for the Closing the Gap Refresh, which would establish the primary criterion for determining evaluation priorities; and
- allowing for flexibility in the application of the Strategy.

I am pleased to see that steps are underway to embed an improved approach to the evaluation of policies and programs affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians at the Commonwealth level.

I trust the feedback in this submission assists the Productivity Commission in developing the Strategy.

Yours sincerely

Ben Wyatt MLA
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

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