



## Jurisdiction Reports

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**15th Biennial Australasian Council of Public Accounts  
Committees Conference**

**Parliament House, Canberra  
6 to 8 November 2019**



## Jurisdiction Reports

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## ACPAC 2019 - Jurisdiction Report – ACT

The ACT has fixed-term elections every four years. The Legislative Assembly for the ACT is currently in its third year and the next election is scheduled, under statute, for October 2020.

In addition to inquiries into annual reports, held each year in the ACT, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts has conducted—or is conducting—a number of inquiries into matters related to land.

Land has particular significance in the ACT because it is one of the few ways governments can generate revenue beyond distributions by the Federal government. Also, the ACT government is at the same time responsible for:

- packaging and releasing land for greenfields and in-fill development; and
- making determinations on all planning matters including zoning and permitted uses.

Completed inquiries in this area have included inquiries into:

- residential rates;
- commercial rates; and
- workplace safety for a loose-fill asbestos removal program.

Inquiries yet to report in this assembly concern the actions of the former Land Development Agency regarding:

- land purchases in connection with the City to the Lake Project;
- the sale by tender of public land to the Dickson Tradies Club, an affiliate of the CFMEU; and
- purchases of rural land to the west of Canberra.

The two inquiries on aspects of the rating system—the formulation of rates for unit-titled properties, and commercial rates—were referred by the Assembly. The others were inquiries into reports conducted by the Auditor-General.

As I noted in the ACPAC meeting in Melbourne (2017), in the course of one of these inquiries there a complaint was made against the Auditor-General by a person who came within the scope of a performance audit. It transpired that there was no established mechanism for this to occur, and this obliged the Committee to undertake discussions with statutory office-holders and the complainant, all of which amounted to an extensive exercise. After much deliberation, the Committee will respond to the complaint in the body of its inquiry report on the relevant performance audit.

There has also been significant work done by the Committee of an administrative nature. This has included the Committee's involvement in the recruitment of a new Auditor-General after the seven-year term of Dr Maxine Cooper came to an end. Under the *Auditor-General Act 1996* (ACT) the Committee must 'agree' to any appointment to that position.

The Committee is also consulted by the Speaker of the Assembly in connection with budget bids put up by the Auditor-General. Although this has been the case for a couple of years, it seems we are

still getting used to this process and are yet to get to a point where everyone understands their place in the process.

A further matter is the strategic review of the Auditor-General which is provided for under the *Auditor-General Act 1996* and must be conducted once in every four-year term of the Assembly. The wheels are turning and a report by the strategic reviewer is anticipated early in 2020. Somewhat unsettlingly, the Committee found that it was required under the Act to consult the Chief Minister on terms of reference for the strategic review—which are formulated by the Committee—and this didn't seem to sit right with requirements for a process that was at arm's length to government.

It's been quite an interesting Assembly from the point of view of the Committee. The first resolution of appointment for the Committee for this Assembly took away scrutiny responsibilities for some portfolio areas, but this was restored and later formalised with an amended resolution of the Assembly.

On September 20, 2017, there was a re-shuffle of membership and structure of Assembly committees. While the PAC retained its four-Member structure, unlike the other standing committees, two Members were replaced and as I'm sure you'll appreciate, changes of membership to this extent essentially create a new committee, making it necessary for the Committee to find a new *modus operandi*.

On that day the Committee also met with the visiting Committee on Public Accounts from the Sarawak Assembly. This was a most interesting and fruitful meeting. The ACT committee later wrote to ACPAC requesting that the Sarawak committee be invited to ACPAC.

Looking ahead, among the procedural and administrative priorities for the future are:

- amending the *Auditor-General Act 1996* at s 26(1)(a)(i) so that the Public Accounts Committee is no longer required to consult the Chief Minister on Terms of Reference for a strategic review of the Auditor-General;
- defining an accepted process for instances where complaints are made against the Auditor-General; and
- referring back to my paper to this conference, creating sufficient independent administrative and procedural capacity in the office of the Speaker of the Assembly to allow fulfillment of obligations in relation to the Auditor-General and other officers of parliament.

Vicki Dunne MLA  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
Legislative Assembly for the ACT  
28/10/2019



15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference 2019  
Parliament House, Canberra

## **Jurisdiction Report – Previous 12 months ending 30 June 2019**

### **Committee Role and Powers**

The *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951* (PAAC Act) provides for the role and powers of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA). In particular section 8 of the PAAC Act lays out the duties of the JCPAA, which includes the power to self-refer any items or matters that the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Parliament. Other relevant legislation which intersects with the work of the Committee includes the: *Auditor-General Act 1997*, *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*, and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the PGPA Act).

The JCPAA, similar to the public accounts committees in other jurisdictions has oversight of various aspects of the administration, work programs and appointment of the:

- Auditor-General and the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO);
- Parliamentary Budget Officer and the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO); and
- The Department of Finance in reference to the PGPA Act.

The Committee also reviews aspects of Defence acquisition and sustainment and considers broader associated aspects of public administration through the ANAO's *Defence Major Projects Report*.

### **A Snapshot – 2018-19**

In 2018-19, the Committee presented eight reports in the Parliament, including an annual report (which it is required to table). These reports included a total of 67 recommendations.

During the financial year, the Committee also received 24 Government responses to recommendations made in five previously presented reports. Government Responses are published on the JCPAA website on receipt. There is a requirement that all Committee Reports receive a Government Response within a six month period.

The JCPAA of the 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament ceased with the prorogation of the Parliament on 11 April 2019.

### **Reports Presented**

- Report 472 *Commonwealth Procurement – Second Report*, October 2018.
- Report 473 *Defence Major Projects Report (2016-17)*, September 2018.
- Report 474 *Annual Report 2017-18*, August 2018.

- Report 475 *Defence First Principles Review, Naval Construction and Mental Health in the AFP*, February 2019.
- Report 476 *Australian Government Funding*, February 2019.
- Report 477 *Commonwealth Financial Statements – Second Report, and Foreign Investment in Real Estate*, March 2019.
- Report 478 *Issuing of a Certificate under section 37 of the Auditor-General’s Act 1997*, April 2019.
- Report 479 *Australian Government Security Arrangements*, April 2019.

### **Government Responses**

- Report 463 *Commonwealth Financial Statements*, received 16 July and 2 August 2018.
- Report 470 *Defence Sustainment Expenditure*, received 21 and 25 September 2018.
- Report 472 *Commonwealth Procurement – Second Report*, received 2 April and 19 June 2019.
- Report 473, *Defence Major Projects Report (2016-17)*, received 13 December 2018.
- Report 479, *Australian Government Security Arrangements*, received 26 June 2019.

### **Additional Activities**

- August 2018 – Met with incoming delegation from the Finance and Budget Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam.
- August 2018 – Presented the keynote address at the 21<sup>st</sup> Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions.
- September 2018 – Met with incoming delegations from the Parliament of Malaysia, and the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly, Malaysia.
- September 2018 – Considered and endorsed guidelines for the 2018-19 Defence Major Projects Report.
- April 2019 – Considered and endorsed the proposed annual budgets of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) for 2019-20.
- April 2019 – Endorsed the appointment of Ms Eileen Hoggett as Independent Auditor of the ANAO.
- April 2019 – Approved two changes to the PGPA Rule in relation to digital reporting of annual reports, and the reporting of executive remuneration in annual reports.
- April 2019 – Advised to the Auditor-General the 2019-20 audit priorities of the Parliament.
- June 2019 – Work commenced on the upcoming 15th Biennial Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference (6 to 8 November 2019).

## **New Committee**

Following the recent election, the new JCPAA was appointed and met for the first time on 31 July 2019. The Committee has since commenced an Efficiency and Effectiveness Inquiry into a number of Auditor-General's Reports. The Committee will hold its first public hearing for this inquiry in mid-November 2019.

Ms Lucy Wicks  
Chair

7 November 2019





# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## 13<sup>TH</sup> Assembly

### Public Accounts Committee

ACPAC 2019

JURISDICTION REPORT

#### Scope of Committee

Following reform of committees in August 2017, the Assembly added to the PAC's functions reviewing reports of statutory bodies and the scrutiny subordinate legislation, which had previously been done by the Subordinate Legislation and Publications Committee.

The Committee continues to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Northern Territory, and each statement and report tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Auditor-General, pursuant to the *Financial Management Act* and the *Audit Act*. The Committee may also inquire into and report on any question relating to the public accounts of the Northern Territory referred by the Legislative Assembly, the Administrator, or a Minister. In addition, the Committee is empowered to self-reference and may inquire into and report on any matters within the executive authority of Ministers of the Territory.

#### Membership

The Committee comprises three Government members including the Chair, Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Mr Tony Sievers MLA, and Mr Lawrence Costa MLA; one Opposition member Mr Gary Higgins MLA; and two Independent members, Deputy Chair Mr Terry Mills MLA, and Mr Gerry Wood MLA.

#### Program of Work since last conference

1. In November 2017 the Committee reported on its inquiry into Taxi Licensing and Subleasing, which was referred by the Legislative Assembly.
2. The PAC has continued to review Auditor-General's reports. This includes:
  - a. Briefings from the Auditor-General after tabling to identify issues and agencies for follow-up,
  - b. Hearing or letters to follow up on issues raised, and
  - c. Reporting to the Legislative Assembly on the outcome of the reviews of the Auditor-General's reports, either through standalone reports or in the Annual Report.
3. The Committee held hearings on the:
  - a. Inquiry into Taxi Licensing and Subleasing in both Darwin and Alice Springs
  - b. Development of the Palmerston Regional Hospital and management of major infrastructure projects
  - c. Warren Park Rugby League Stadium Project
  - d. "Room to Breathe" remote housing program
  - e. Berrimah Farm redevelopment
  - f. Budget Repair Strategy
  - g. Master Builders Fidelity Fund Indigenous Participation on Construction Projects
  - h. Darwin Youth Justice Centre
  - i. Darwin Turf Club Grant.
4. The Committee also corresponded with the relevant Ministers regarding the:
  - a. Northern Territory Project Development Framework,
  - b. contract management of the Darwin Correctional Centre and
  - c. Triennial Review of the Audit Office.

5. The Committee referred a complaint of an allegation of interference with an inquiry witness to the Privileges Committee. The Privileges Committee investigated the matter and recommended that the Assembly find that a contempt had been committed but did not recommend the imposition of a penalty.
6. The Committee has reviewed statutory instruments under its new role of scrutinising subordinate legislation.

#### **ACPAC**

The NT PAC secretariat continues to host a quarterly telephone conference between ACPAC secretariats to discuss current issues for PACs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Mrs Kate Worden MLA, Chair**

REPORT BY  
ETHEKWINI  
MPAC  
CHAIRPERSON

October 21

2019

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Report by eThekwini Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC)  
Chairperson to the 15th Biennial ACPAC Conference: 06-08 November 2019

Municipal Public  
Accounts  
Committee  
(MPAC)

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## **1. CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT**

It is my pleasure to present to you the Report of eThekweni's Municipal Public Accounts Committee which records the activities of the Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30 September 2019.

It has been work as usual for MPAC despite the various changes which took place in the Municipality during this quarter. I was appointed as Chairperson of MPAC by Council on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

In this quarter, the Committee has focussed on investigations undertaken by the City Integrity and Investigations Unit. Due to the sensitivity of these investigations, we have held three In-Committee meetings which have resulted in us taking resolutions which will ensure that our recommendations to Council will be implemented expeditiously.

We would be pleased if the City Manager is present in all our meetings because we believe that, together with his input and our efforts to intensify our oversight role of crucial Council matters, this will impact on the City's overall performance both financially and in terms of service delivery. As a result of the huge amount of irregular expenditure, amounting to R1.5 billion, that has been incurred during the 2018/2019 financial year, we have requested the City Manager to institute tighter internal control measures which will prevent further financial loss to the City and eradicate deviations from policies and procedures. We have further urged the City Manager to accelerate the consequence management process so that a clear message is given to officials that irregular or fraudulent activities will not be tolerated.

We welcome the establishment of the new Finance Committee which we believe will have a positive impact on the City as a whole and as we move into the next quarter, we also urge Support Committees to increase their oversight of their Clusters and Units in order for us to work cohesively to build our Municipality so that our promise to be the most caring and liveable City by 2030 is fulfilled.

Councillor Dennis Shozi  
Chairperson: Municipal Public Accounts Committee  
eThekweni Municipality

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee comprises of 11 members appointed by full Council on a proportional representation basis and one member of the Amakhosi (Traditional Leader) on an ex-officio basis. Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members may not serve on MPAC. Furthermore, Members of MPAC do not serve on any other Committees. All members of MPAC, other than the Chairperson, are part-time Councillors.

## **3. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The primary function of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee is to help Council to hold the Administration, Municipal Agencies and Entities accountable for their management of municipal funds and assets in order to ensure the efficient and effective utilisation of council resources. This includes the Council's Support Committees, Executive Committee as well as Councillors. MPAC plays a role in increasing public and Council awareness of the financial and performance issues of the Municipality and its Entities.

The Committee activities include a mix of self-initiated enquiries and referred enquiries. The Committee receives submissions and conducts briefings and hearings on such matters as and when required.

## **4. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS**

MPAC has the authority and duty to examine:

- i. Audit Reports on annual financial statements of the Municipality and its entities;
- ii. any reports on the outcome of any investigation into the financial affairs of the Municipality and its entities;
- iii. any reports issued by the Auditor-General on the affairs of the Municipality and its entities;
- iv. monthly budget statements and mid-year budget and performance assessment of the Municipality and its entities;
- v. the annual reports and information of performance of the Municipality and of any Municipal Entity under the Municipality's shared or sole control;
- vi. the mayor's quarterly reports on the implementation of the budget and the financial state of affairs of the Municipality;
- vii. any other financial statements or reports referred to MPAC by the Council;
- viii. information in respect of any disciplinary action and remedial steps taken in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act;
- ix. information in respect of transgressions in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act; and
- x. any information relating to personnel; books of account, records, assets and liabilities of the Municipality and to any other source of relevant information that may be required for the purpose of fulfilling its mandate.

## **5. MEETINGS**

MPAC develops its work programme annually and links such programme to the overall planning cycle of the Council.

The Committee meets fortnightly; with weekly meetings being held in February and March when it deliberates on the Annual Report and prepares for the compilation of the Oversight Report.

Meetings of MPAC are open to the public. This is informed by Section 160(7) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which provides that a municipal council must conduct its business in an open manner, and may close its sittings, or those of its committees, only when it is reasonable to do so having regard to the nature of the business being transacted. Meetings are only closed when MPAC deals with confidential matters such as investigations and staff matters.

## **6. DECISION MAKING**

Members of MPAC share a common goal of ensuring prudent financial management by the Executive and the Administration and consequently work as a collective; without any party political posturing. MPAC therefore takes all its decision by consensus.

## **7. REPORTING**

MPAC submits reports to Council on activities undertaken per quarter. In addition, having interrogated the Annual Report it submits an Oversight Report to Council by 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year. Additional reports are submitted to Council on an item by item basis; as matters are addressed by the Committee.

## **8. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD JULY 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2019**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number</b>
Reports Tabled	74
Deliberative Meetings	7
Hearings	Nil
Briefings	Nil
Witnesses Appearing	Nil

## 9. MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE COMMENTS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2019/2020

9.1 A number of outstanding investigation reports were provided to MPAC by the City Integrity and Investigations Unit.

INV358/05/2015	REVENUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INVESTIGATION
INV130/02/2015	COVER QUOTING: PUBLIC TENDER AWARDS MADE TO ENTITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE FORENSIC REPORT BY KPMG
INV489/02/2017	IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN FOLWENI HOUSING PROJECT
INV500/03/2017	ALLEGED PAYMENT FOR SERVICES NOT RENDERED
INV508/03/2017	ALLEGATIONS OF PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES: DURBAN SOLID WASTE
INV073/10/2017	ALLEGED IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE
INV333/04/2015	INFILL HOUSING PROJECT INVESTIGATION - DELOITTES INVESTIGATED
INV280/05/2016	ALLEGED PROCUREMENT FRAUD AND OTHER SCM IRREGULARITIES IN THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR
INV171/01/2018	ALLEGED PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES: WATER AND SANITATION: R36.1 MILLION
INV003/07/2014 (A) INV003/07/2014 (B)	ALLEGED FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE AT CITY FLEET UNIT
INV172/01/2018	ALLEGED IRREGULAR PROPERTY VALUATIONS
INV256/04/2018	AQUA TRANSPORT AND PLANT HIRE: LEGAL SETTLEMENT

9.2 As per the MPAC Workplan 2019/2020 which was approved by Council on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019, various reports are required to be provided to the Committee on a monthly and quarterly basis.

9.2.1 The following reports were received and considered by Committee during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter:

- Monthly report on awards made by the City for the month of May 2019
- Budget Statement Reports for the months ending April, May, June and July 2019
- Report of the Audit Committee for quarter ended 31 March 2019

- Irregular Expenditure Reports

9.2.2 MPAC also examines the City’s performance by interrogating the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and is currently awaiting reports from the following Plan Owners in order to address the non-achievement of targets for Quarter 4 of the 2018/2019 financial year:

<b>Plan No</b>	<b>Plan Name</b>	<b>Achievement Rate (%)</b>
Plan 2	Developing a Prosperous, Diverse Economy and Employment Creation	68.75%
Plan 3A	Creating a Quality Living Environment	73.08%
Plan 3B	Creating a Quality Living Environment	80%
Plan 4	Fostering a Socially Equitable Environment	73.33%
Plan 5	Creating a Platform for Growth, Empowerment and Skills Development	94.44%
Plan 6B	Vibrant and Creative City – The Foundation for Sustainability and Social Cohesion	50%
Plan 7A	Good Governance and Responsive Local Government	81.82%
Plan 8	Financially Accountable and Sustainable City	69.23%
Plan 22	uShaka Marine Theme Park	82.35%

9.2.3 There was no report provided to the Committee on disciplinary action instituted in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

9.2.4 Committee is also required to monitor the review of external service provider performance and is currently awaiting reports from the following Units to deal with underperformance of contractors and non-submission of assessments by the following Units for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018/2019:

- Electricity
- Engineering
- Human Settlements
- Water and Sanitation

9.3 It must be noted that the Finance Unit is in the process of revising the process for deliberating and reporting on Irregular Expenditure. As soon as the process is finalised, MPAC will revisit past irregular expenditure reports in order to make a recommendation to Council to write off or recover monies.

9.4 Committee interviewed the following Units in respect of Fruitless and Wasteful expenditure incurred in the 2017/2018 and is awaiting further reports and/or additional information from the following Units:

- Water and Sanitation
- eThekweni Transport Authority
- Engineering

## **10. WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING**

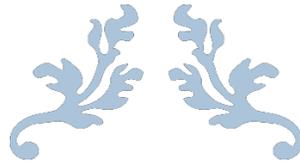
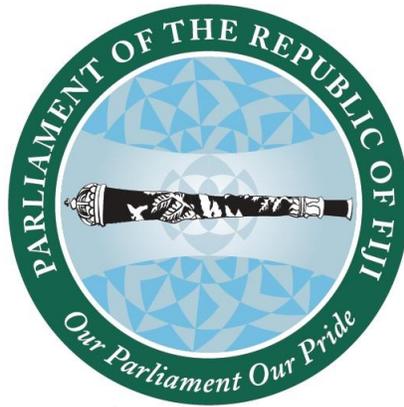
There were no workshops or training held during this period. However, two MPAC members undertook an enlightening benchmarking visit to the Danish Parliament and the City of Copenhagen from 23-27 September 2019.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

The Committee's effectiveness is hampered by the lack of resources as well as tardy reports from some Units; nonetheless with the attendance of the City Manager at its meetings and his commitment towards ensuring that consequence management is effected, we believe that the Committee will be even more diligent in exercising its oversight role.

Furthermore, the Committee has built a reputation for its insistence on proper governance within the municipality and has not faltered in its aim to achieve a clean audit outcome from the Auditor General as soon as possible, preferably by the 2020 financial year end.

Whilst progress is sometimes frustratingly slow, it is the determination of the Committee that its recommendations to Council are thoroughly researched, Departments properly interrogated and the results targeted towards a City proud of its clean administration. There is still some way to go, but the Committee is optimistic that it will achieve this aim.



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## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE – FIJI**

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# **JURISDICTION REPORT**



## Background

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Fiji Parliament is mandated under the Standing Orders to scrutinise the accounts of the Government of the Republic of Fiji.

## Authority under Standing Orders

Standing Order 109(2) (d) mandates the Committee to “...– including examining the accounts of the Government of the Republic of Fiji in respect of each financial year and reports of the Auditor-General, and for any other matter relating to the expenditures of the Government of the Republic of Fiji or any related body or activity (whether directly or indirectly) that the committee sees fit to review. The committee must only examine how public money has been dealt with and accounted for in accordance with the written law and must not examine the merits of the underlying policy that informs public spending”

## General Election

The 2019 General Elections was held on Wednesday 14 November 2018. Tabulated below is the composition of Members of Parliament by Political Parties:–

		<b>FFP</b>	<b>SODELPA</b>	<b>NFP</b>	
<b>Former MPs</b>	-	16	10	1	(52.94%)
<b>New MPs</b>	-	11	11	2	(47.05%)
<hr/>					
<b>Female MPs</b>	-	5	4	1	(19.6%)

## Committee Membership

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts comprises of five (5) Members of which three (3) are the Government Members and the remaining two (2) are Opposition Members. The period between the biennial ACPAC conferences saw a number of changes in the membership of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts.

Also, in 2016, the Standing Orders was amended which now allows for a Government Member to also be a Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The Parliament of Fiji Standing Orders has undergone a review and was adopted by the Parliament on 1<sup>st</sup> April of 2019.

The current membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts effective from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 is as follows:

- Hon. Alvick Maharaj (Chairperson)
- Hon. Joseph Nand (Deputy Chairperson)
- Hon. Vijendra Prakash (Member)
- Hon. Aseri Radrodoro (Member)
- Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu (Member)

## Focus

The Committee focuses on how public money has been dealt with and accounted for in accordance with the written law and must not examine the merits of the underlying policy that informs public spending.

## Office of the Auditor General's Reports tabled in Parliament

The Public Accounts Committee has been tasked by the Parliament to consider the reports from the Office of the Auditor General. The Office of the Auditor General has tabled sixteen (16) Audit Reports to the Parliament to date and they all have been referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for scrutiny. The *List of Reports tabled by the Office of the Auditor General* is attached herein as **Appendix 1 and 2**.

## Examination of the Auditor-General's Reports tabled in Parliament

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has completed the scrutiny and review of ten (10) out of the sixteen (16) Audit & Annual Reports. However the Committee is yet to report on some of these Audit Reports. The ten (10) Audit Reports reviewed by the Committee included the COP 23 Presidency Trust Funds Annual Reports, Audit Report on Statutory Authorities, Performance Audits, Municipal Councils and Financial Statements of Whole of Government.

Kindly note that there were some committee reports that were not tabled in the previous term and were reinstated by the Hon. Speaker in this new term of Parliament.

Currently the Committee is in the process of scrutinizing the 2016/2017 Financial Accounts of the Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Whole of Government Ministry/Department and Provincial Councils.

Tabulated below are the reports tabled back to the Parliament by the Committee to date:

Parliament Term 2018 – 2022							
No.	PP No	Committee Report Title	Date Referred	Date Tabled	Date Debated	Results of the Vote	SO 121 (6)
<b>2019</b>							
<b>1st Parliamentary Session</b>							
1.	44/2018	Report on the COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund: Second Semi Annual Report for the period 1 November 2017 – 30 April 2018	30/11/2018	4/04/2019	–		–
2.	100/2018	Review on the COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund: First Semi Annual Report for the period May 2017 – November 2017	16/05/2018	13/05/2019	–		–
3.	99/2018	Review of the Office of the Auditor-General's Annual Report 2015	17/05/2018	13/05/2019	–		–
4.	80/2018	Examination of Audit Report on State-Owned Entities & Statutory Authorities for 2015	05/03/2018	14/05/2019	–		27/08/2019 – Ministry of Economy
5.	78/2018	Examination of Audit Reports of Government Ministries and Departments for the year ended 31 July 2016 (Volumes 1 – 4) and the	11/07/2017 15/09/2017	14/05/2019	–		–

## Parliament Term 2018 – 2022

No.	PP No	Committee Report Title	Date Referred	Date Tabled	Date Debated	Results of the Vote	SO 121 (6)
		Supplementary Report to the Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement of the Republic of Fiji for the year ended 31 July 2016					
6.	66/2019	Review on Follow-Up Audit on the Management of the Land Reform Program	11/02/2019	15/05/2019	–		–
7.	67/2019	Review on the Audit of Municipal Councils for 2013	11/02/2019	15/05/2019	–		–
8.	69/2019	Review of Audit Report on the Procurement of Biomedical Equipment – Ministry of Health & Medical Services and the Audit of Rural Postal Offices Quarterly Returns	12/07/2018	16/05/2019	–		–
9.	68/2019	Review of Audit Report on the Management of Duty Concession Scheme and Management of Prisoners, Employees and Assets Management System	13/07/2018	03/09/2019			
10.	110/2019	Review of the Office of the Auditor General 2018 Annual Report	01/04/2019	05/09/2019			

The above committee reports can be accessed from the parliament website:–  
<http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-public-accounts/>

## Appendix 1

### List of Reports tabled by the Office of the Auditor General 2014 - 2018

No.	PP No.	REPORT
<b>2007</b>		
1.	<i>6 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2007
2.	<i>7 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2007
3.	<i>8 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2007
4.	<i>9 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2007
<b>2008</b>		
5.	<i>10 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2008
6.	<i>11 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2008
7.	<i>12 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2008
8.	<i>13 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2008
<b>2009</b>		
9.	<i>14 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2009
10.	<i>15 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2009
11.	<i>16 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2009
12.	<i>17 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2009

No.	PP No.	REPORT
13.	18 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 5 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2009
14.	26 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities – February 2009
15.	27 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities – Off-Budget State Entities – December 2009.
16.	28 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies and Commercial Statutory Authorities – June 2009.
17.	29 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2009.
<b>2010</b>		
18.	19 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2010
19.	20 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2010
20.	21 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2010
21.	22 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2010
22.	30 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities, Off-Budget State Entities – December 2010.
23.	31 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities and Off-Budget State Entities – June 2010.
24.	32 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – December 2010.
25.	33 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2010
<b>2011</b>		
26.	23 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2011

No.	PP No.	REPORT
27.	24 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2011
28.	25 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2011
29.	26 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2011
30.	34 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Off-Budget State Entities, Majority Owned Entities, Provincial Councils, and Special Projects – December 2011.
31.	35 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, and Off-Budget State Entities – June 2011.
32.	36 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – December 2011.
33.	37 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2011
<b>2012</b>		
34.	27 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2012
35.	28 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2012
36.	29 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2012
37.	30 of 2014	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2012
38.	38 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Off-Budget State Entities and Majority Owned Entities – December 2012.
39.	39 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Off-Budget State Entities and Majority Owned Entities – June 2012 .
40.	40 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – December 2012.
41.	41 of 2016	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2012.

No.	PP No.	REPORT
<b>2013</b>		
42.	<i>2 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2013
43.	<i>3 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2013
44.	<i>4 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2013
45.	<i>5 of 2014</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2013
46.	<i>45 of 2016</i>	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities – Off-Budget State Entities – June 2013.
47.	<i>46 of 2016</i>	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2013.
<b>2014</b>		
48.	<i>1 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor – General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Municipal Councils – December 2014
49.	<i>2 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor – General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Statutory Authorities – December 2014
50.	<i>3 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor- General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities, Off- Budget State Entities – December 2014
51.	<i>4 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Special Projects – December 2014
52.	<i>5 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor – General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Performance Audits – Volume 1 – December 2014
53.	<i>6 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor – General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on performance Audits – Volume 2 – December 2014
54.	<i>63 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2014
55.	<i>64 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2014
56.	<i>65 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2014
57.	<i>66 of 2015</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2014

No.	PP No.	REPORT
<b>2015</b>		
58.	<i>58 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 2015
59.	<i>59 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2015
60.	<i>60 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2015
61.	<i>61 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 2015
62.	<i>74 of 2016</i>	Office of the Auditor General Annual Report 2015
63.	<i>128 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – Audit Report on State Owned Entities & Statutory Authorities for 2015
<b>2016</b>		
64.	<i>99 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 1 – Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 31 July 2016
65.	<i>100 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 2 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 31 July 2016
66.	<i>101 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 3 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 31 July 2016
67.	<i>102 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands Volume 4 – Audit Report on Government Ministries and Departments 31 July 2016
68.	<i>115 of 2017</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Islands – Supplementary Audit Report on the Whole of Government Financial Statements and Annual Appropriation Statement 31 July 2016
69.	<i>125 of 2017</i>	Office of the Auditor General Annual Report 2016 – 2017

## Appendix 2

### List of Reports tabled by the Office of the Auditor General

2018 – 2022

No.	PP No.	REPORT
<b>2018</b>		
1.	<i>96 of 2018</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji. Audit Reports on:– 1. Management of Duty Concession Scheme 2. Management of Prisoners, Employees and Assets Management System
2.	<i>112 of 2018</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji Audit Reports on:– 1. Procurement of Biomedical Equipment – Ministry of Health & Medical Services 2. Audit of Rural Postal Offices Quarterly Returns
<b>2019</b>		
3.	<i>133 of 2018</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – Follow up Audit of Selected 2016 Auditor General’s Reports for various sectors
4.	<i>134 of 2018</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – Follow up Audit on Management of the Land Reform Program
5.	<i>135 of 2018</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – Audit Report on Municipal Councils for 2013
6.	<i>7 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – 2017 Audit Report on General Administration Sector
7.	<i>8 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – 2017 Audit Report on Social Services Sector
8.	<i>9 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – 2017 Audit Report on Economic Services Sector
9.	<i>10 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of the Fiji – 2017 Audit Report on Infrastructure Sector
10.	<i>62 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2016/2017 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities
11.	<i>63 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals
12.	<i>64 of 2019</i>	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Provincial Councils, Volume 1

13.	88 of 2019	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2016/2017 Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies and Commercial Statutory Authorities
14.	127 of 2019	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on 2016-2017 Financial Statements of Government and 2016-2017 Agency Financial Statements of Ministry of Economy
15.	128 of 2019	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Municipal Councils 2014-2017
16.	129 of 2019	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit on Coordination of Actions for Elimination of Violence Against Women

## Appendix 3

### Other Reports referred to the Public Accounts Committee

2018 – 2022

No.	PP No.	REPORT
<b>2018</b>		
1.		COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund: First Semi Annual Report for the period May 2017 – November 2017
2.		COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund: Second Semi Annual Report for the period 1 November 2017 – 30 April 2018
<b>2019</b>		
3.		COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund – Third Semi-Annual Report for the period 1 May 2018 to 31 October 2018



## **Jurisdiction Report - NSW Public Accounts Committee November 2019**

The NSW Public Accounts Committee comprises the following NSW Legislative Assembly Members: Mr Greg Piper MP (Chair, Independent); Mrs Tanya Davies MP (Deputy Chair, Liberal Party); Mr Adam Crouch MP (Liberal Party); Mr Lee Evans MP (Liberal Party); Mr Ryan Park MP (Labor Party); and Ms Felicity Wilson MP (Liberal Party).

The current Committee was appointed following the NSW general election held in March 2019 and has therefore only been operational in the 57<sup>th</sup> Parliament since June. In a divergence from past practice, Mr Greg Piper was elected as an Independent Member to be Chair of the Committee, reinforcing the robustness of the Committee's scrutiny of the executive.

### **History of the Committee**

In order to document its long and influential history, the Committee recently tabled a report detailing its establishment in 1902 and its continuing significant contribution to public accountability and Parliamentary scrutiny of executive government in New South Wales.

The report provides initial background to the original Committee and describes the rationale for its establishment under the Audit Act 1902. Succeeding chapters outline attempts to reform and improve State financial management, and the Committee's revitalisation under the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983.

The last chapters discuss the use of the Committee's increased powers to improve accountability and briefly examine its key areas of operations, including the impact of Committee inquiry recommendations. The report also describes the contemporary Committee and its current operations, referring to more recent developments governing its role and responsibilities. The final chapter covers the impact of Committee membership on Parliamentary careers.

### **Committee Activities**

In accordance with established practice, the Committee in the current Parliament has continued to review performance audit reports by examining and following up recommendations made by the NSW Auditor-General. In addition, the Committee has received and examined the report of the Parliamentary Budget Office and its work in costing policies of the major parties in the lead up to the 2019 election.

The Committee continues its collaborative working relationship with the Auditor-General, receiving regular briefings on recently tabled audits and other significant developments affecting the Audit Office of NSW. The mutually beneficial arrangement serves to maintain high levels of scrutiny of the executive within the audit process and to hold agencies to account.

The Committee is also apprised of new audits as they are commenced and this assists in ensuring that adequate monitoring is applied to agencies to ensure that audit recommendations are met and adhered to in a timely fashion.

### **Examination of the Auditor-General's performance audit reports**

The Committee systematically examines reports of the Auditor-General twelve months after being tabled in Parliament. All agencies subject to recommendations in the report are requested to provide a submission outlining their response, including any actions taken. Where the Committee is not satisfied with the response, the Chair writes to the relevant agencies seeking additional information. In some cases, agencies are also invited to provide further elaboration at a public hearing.

For the current Parliament, the Committee has undertaken its first examination of the Auditor-General's performance audits, comprising the following agency programs and services:

- *Medical Equipment Management in NSW Public Hospitals*
- *Sydney Region Road Maintenance Contracts*
- *Office of Strategic Lands*
- *Planning and Evaluating Palliative Care Services in NSW*
- *Sharing School and Community Facilities*
- *Mining rehabilitation security deposits*
- *ICT in schools for teaching and learning*
- *Energy rebates for low income households*
- *Managing demand for ambulance services*
- *NorthConnex*
- *Government Advertising: Campaigns for 2015-16 and 2016-17*

In its reports, the Committee makes a series of recommendations addressed to Government agencies under review, highlighting areas where further work is required to implement recommendations made by the Auditor-General.

### **Parliamentary Budget Office Post-election Report**

Another function of the Committee, set out in the *Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010*, is to monitor and review the operations of the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) appointed for a State general election, and to report to Parliament on any matters arising. The PBO is appointed for a limited period prior to and immediately following the conduct of the election.

The PBO, established six months prior to the 2019 NSW general election, provided budget impact statement policy costings in the lead up to the election and reported to the Committee on PBO operational arrangements and activities, with recommendations for suggested improvements.

The Committee has instigated a process whereby any PBO report submitted to the Public Accounts Committee after an election is now tabled as a Committee report along with additional Committee comments and recommendations. This ensures that a Government response to the recommendations is triggered within six months of tabling, ensuring greater accountability for recommendations made.

# Finance and Expenditure Committee (New Zealand)

Jurisdiction report

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees 2019 Conference (6-8 November 2019)

Canberra, Australia

## Summary of the committee's role

New Zealand's Finance and Expenditure Committee (the committee) is one of 12 subject select committees established at the commencement of each Parliament. The committee currently has 13 members, six from the Labour Party, five from the National Party, and one member each from the ACT Party, and the New Zealand First Party. The Chair is a Government member, and the committee has a Government majority.

The Standing Orders of the House of Representatives define the committee's subject area as economic and fiscal policy, taxation, revenue, banking and finance, superannuation, insurance, Government expenditure and financial performance, public audit. The organisations that administer or oversee Government policy in this area are The Treasury, the Inland Revenue Department, the Controller and Auditor-General, and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

While the committee's functions are broadly similar to those of the other 11 subject committees, it takes a leading role in the parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of proposed and actual Government expenditure, and of the annual performance of Government departments, Crown entities, public organisations, and State enterprises. It also considers proposed legislation in its area of responsibility (primarily, but not exclusively, taxation legislation). Standing Orders allow the committee, like other subject committees, to initiate inquiries and receive briefings into matters related to its subject area.

The committee co-ordinates the examination of the Budget and the annual review examination processes. Standing Orders refer all Estimates of appropriations and Annual Reviews to the committee. The committee may consider these itself, or refer them to the appropriate select committee<sup>1</sup>.

Similarly, all reports of the Controller and Auditor-General are referred to it. These can be referred to another select committee for consideration if the terms of reference include the subject of the report.<sup>2</sup>

## Summary of recent work

During the past two years the committee has considered and reported back to the House on six tax bills, seven other bills ranging from an Arms Amendment bill to changes to how the Reserve Bank sets monetary policy. The committee has also completed 25 reports relating to Reserve Bank monetary policy and financial stability; Auditor-General reports, and 3 double tax treaties.

<sup>1</sup> Standing Orders [188](#), [337](#), [345](#)

<sup>2</sup> Standing Order 396

## Legislation

### Taxation Bills

The committee has considered a number of tax bills over the last 5 years which have had the aim of introducing changes to align the tax law with requirements of Inland Revenue's business transformation programme. The programme relates to the department's major technology investment to move all tax records from a legacy programme to a more flexible system that allows taxpayers to use current computing methods to manage their own tax obligations.

These omnibus bills amended various taxation-related Acts and regulations. They set the annual rates of income tax for the tax year, and made several other policy and remedial changes.

The key changes that were made from these bills included:

- measures to improve administration of the pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) rules
- requiring offshore suppliers of low-value goods (for example, online shops) register for, collect, and return GST when their sales to New Zealand exceed \$60,000
- ring-fencing tax deductions on rental properties so that they could not be used to reduce tax on other income
- Introducing an R and D tax credit

### Arms Legislation

Following the Christchurch terror attacks in March 2019, the Government introduced the *Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines and Parts) Amendment Bill* and referred it to the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

The bill amended the Arms Act 1983, with the aim of tightening gun control in New Zealand. It removed semi-automatic firearms from circulation and use by the general population in New Zealand by prohibiting semi-automatic firearms, magazines, and parts that can be used to assemble prohibited firearms.

The bill followed the timeline below:

- Monday April 1: The bill was introduced
- Tuesday April 2 : The bill passed its first reading and the Finance and Expenditure Committee was briefed by police on the same day. Submissions on the bill were opened.
- Wednesday April 3: The Committee heard from submitters in person while written submissions were still coming in.
- Thursday April 4: Submissions closed in the evening.
- Monday April 8: The Committee's report on the bill was sent to the House
- Tuesday April 9: The bill passed its second reading
- Wednesday April 10: the bill passed through all its remaining stages
- Thursday April 11: the bill received Royal Assent

The committee has been referred a second *Arms Legislation Bill*. It is an omnibus bill that deals with improving public safety by adjusting legislative frameworks to impose tighter controls on the use and possession of arms.

## **Credit Contracts Legislation Amendment Bill**

The committee is considering this bill which amends the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act by strengthening requirements to lend responsibly, especially in relation to how affordability and suitability tests should be conducted, limiting the accumulation of interest and fees on high-cost loans, and providing new remedies and penalties for non-compliance.

## **Official Cash rate**

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand meets with the committee quarterly to discuss their Monetary Policy Statement, and biannually to present on the Financial Stability report. The most recent Monetary Policy announcement in August cut the OCR down to 1.00 percent (from 1.5 percent previously).

## **Establishing an independent fiscal institution**

The Government is currently working on a proposal to establish an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) as part of New Zealand's fiscal policy framework. The Finance and Expenditure Committee opened a briefing to stay updated on this piece of work.

## **Wellbeing Budget**

The committee has continued its review of Government spending through the examination of ministers and officials when looking at the Budget Policy Statements, Economic and Fiscal updates, and the Financial Statements of the Government.

Budget 2019 was a Wellbeing Budget. The Minister of Finance said "To set the priorities for this Budget, we used evidence and expert advice to tell us where we could make the greatest difference to the wellbeing of New Zealanders. Each bid for funding required a wellbeing analysis to make sure that funding would address those priorities. We have broken down the silos of government to support programmes that bring together agencies to solve the big challenges of our time."

## **Joint Venture eliminating Family and Sexual Violence**

The 2019 Budget included a funding package dedicated to eliminating family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa. The package sits across eight portfolios from multiple government departments. During the estimates process, the Finance and Expenditure Committee held a hearing with several Ministers from the relevant portfolios to discuss the package. This hearing was additional to the standard estimates hearings for the relevant portfolios.

## **Public accountability: A matter of trust and confidence**

One report from the Controller and Auditor-General that is currently before the committee explores the role that public accountability plays in maintaining trust and confidence in the public sector.





Parliament of  
South Australia

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**STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW  
COMMITTEE**

**JURISDICTION REPORT**

**FOR**

**AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES  
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2019**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **History of the Committee**

The Statutory Authorities Review Committee ('Committee') is a standing committee of the South Australian Parliament established pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 (SA)* ('the Act').

The Committee was established in 1994 to make the operations of statutory authorities more open to detailed scrutiny.<sup>1</sup>

### **Functions of the Committee**

The Act provides the Committee with the following statutory functions:

- (a) to inquire into, consider and report on any statutory authority referred to it under this Act, including—
  - (i) the need for the authority to continue in existence;
  - (ii) the functions of the authority and the need for the authority to continue to perform those functions;
  - (iii) the net effect of the authority and its operations on the finances of the State;
  - (iv) whether the authority and its operations provide the most effective, efficient and economical means for achieving the purposes for which the authority was established;
  - (v) whether the structure of the authority is appropriate to its functions;
  - (vi) whether the functions or operations of the statutory authority duplicate or overlap in any respect the functions or operations of another authority, body or person;
- (b) to perform such other functions as are imposed on the Committee under this or any other Act or by resolution of both Houses.<sup>2</sup>

## **COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES SINCE ACPAC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2017**

The Committee has completed inquiries into TAFE SA, the Economic Development Board and the State Procurement Board. It is currently undertaking an Inquiry into the State Courts Administration Council - Sheriff's Office.

A brief summary of each Inquiry is set out below.

<sup>1</sup> South Australia, *Parliamentary Debates*, Legislative Council, 9 March 1994, 192-193 (the Hon. K.T. Griffin MLC. Attorney-General).

<sup>2</sup> *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 (SA)*, s 15C.

## **Inquiry into TAFE SA**

TAFE SA is South Australia's public provider of vocational education and training ('VET') and is the largest provider of VET in South Australia. In recent years, TAFE SA has made various structural and operational changes to improve its efficiency and contribute to the State Government's two VET reform strategies: Skills for All and its successor, WorkReady. In May 2016 the Committee considered that in light of these changes, it was timely to inquire into TAFE SA.

Throughout the Inquiry, it was apparent that TAFE SA is a respected provider of VET. Its extensive presence in regional and rural communities is particularly valued. However, the Committee received a number of concerns regarding TAFE SA's role as the State's public provider and the quality, relevance and currency of its training for select industries. The Committee also received several concerns regarding the amalgamation of TAFE SA's trade training at metropolitan campuses and the challenges that this has posed for regional students.

The Committee tabled its 'Inquiry into TAFE SA' report in Parliament in August 2017. In the report, the Committee made a number of recommendations for TAFE SA and the State Government to consider regarding TAFE SA's role as the public provider, its campus infrastructure, engagement with industry and the WorkReady strategy. In her formal response to the Committee's report, the relevant Minister (i.e. the Minister for Higher Education and Skills) advised that a number of the report's recommendations would be carried out.

## **Inquiry into the Economic Development Board**

In May 2016 the Committee resolved to inquire into the Economic Development Board.

The *Economic Development Act 1993 (SA)* established an Economic Development Board. At the outset of the Inquiry, the Economic Development Board ('EDB') advised the Committee that since late 2003 it had operated as a non-statutory advisory board not established by this legislation. The Committee was unable to receive any explanation or gather any evidence as to why the statutory board, required to be established under the *Economic Development Act 1993 (SA)*, was disestablished in late 2003. The Committee noted that the State Government has been able to operate an EDB as an advisory board, without establishing it as a statutory board. During the Inquiry the Committee did not receive any evidence to suggest that the EDB should be re-established under the *Economic Development Act 1993 (SA)*.

The Committee tabled its 'Inquiry into the Economic Development Board' report in November 2017. In the report, the Committee recommended that the *Economic*

*Development Act 1993 (SA)* be repealed to remove the requirement for the EDB to operate as a statutory board.

Upon the election of a new State Government in 2018, the EDB was abolished in favour of a new Economic Advisory Council. The *Economic Development Act 1993 (SA)* was repealed in October 2019.

### **Inquiry into the State Procurement Board**

In September 2018 the Committee resolved to inquire into the State Procurement Board. Under its terms of reference, the Inquiry focused on the scope of the *State Procurement Act 2004 (SA)*, current State procurement processes and practices and small and medium-sized business participation in government procurement.

The Inquiry stemmed from concerns received from stakeholders that public authorities may not be in full compliance with all current State Procurement Board policies and guidelines, and with the South Australian Industry Participation Policy and Procedural Guidelines ('IPP'). The Committee was concerned that the current procurement framework in South Australia continues to fall short in achieving the required balance between securing value for money for the State, with ensuring local businesses are given sufficient opportunities to secure State Government contracts, and queried whether the Board was performing adequately in relation to its statutory functions.

Evidence received during the Inquiry demonstrated that procurement staff are either not able to follow the complex myriad of procurement policies and guidelines that make up the procurement framework or are choosing to solely rely on cost factors or rebates which enables supply contracts to be won by large interstate companies. This is despite the existence of the IPP, which the Committee heard is not being applied correctly during State Government tender processes, especially in secondary processes used by Departments to secure sole suppliers from across-Government panels.

The Committee found that the State Procurement Board is currently not in a position to adequately achieve its functions and to enable the necessary balance required for local business participation in State Government tenders and providing value for money for the State. It also found that procurement in South Australia deserved a dedicated office and position, reporting to the Treasurer.

The Committee tabled its 'Inquiry into the State Procurement Board' report in September 2019. The report made numerous recommendations, including that the State Procurement Board be abolished and that an Office of the Chief Procurement Officer be established, which would strengthen the current role of the across-Government Chief Procurement Officer. This would enable an ability for procurement policy and

framework to be advised upon by both Industry stakeholders and Heads of Procurement in public authorities. The Committee also recommended that a new, simplified procurement framework be developed that aligns with the State Government's Growth Agenda and with the South Australian Industry Participation Policy.

A formal response to the report's recommendations is due in late January 2020 from the relevant Minister (i.e. the Treasurer).

### **Inquiry into the State Courts Administration Council - Sheriff's Office**

The Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the State Courts Administration Council, with particular reference to the Sheriff's Office. Under its terms of reference, the Inquiry is focusing on the operations, effectiveness and employment practices of the Sheriff's Office. To date the Committee has received forty-six submissions and is currently receiving oral evidence to the Inquiry.

**18 October 2019**





## **Parliament of South Australia Economic and Finance Committee**

### **Activity Report 2017-19**

### **Biennial ACPAC Conference Canberra, 6-8 November 2019**

#### **Background on the Economic and Finance Committee**

Pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991* (SA), the Economic and Finance Committee (Committee) may inquire into matters referred to it under the following general terms of reference:

- any matter concerned with finance and economic development;
- any matter concerned with the structure, organisation and efficiency of any area of public sector efficiency, including how efficiency or service delivery may be enhanced;
- any matter concerned with the functions or operations of a particular public officer or State instrumentality or publicly funded body including whether it should continue to exist or changes should be made to improve efficiency or effectiveness (statutory authorities are excluded from this provision);
- any matter concerned with the regulation of business or other economic or financial activity or whether such regulation should be retained or modified.

The Committee has wide powers to investigate the Executive Branch of Government. It works in cooperation with the Auditor-General and may follow up any matters raised in the Auditor-General's reports to Parliament, as well as a broad range of issues at its own initiative.

#### **Committee Membership**

The period between biennial ACPAC conferences and the 2018 State election has involved a number of membership changes to the Economic and Finance Committee. The current membership of the Committee is as follows:

Mr Sam Duluk MP (Presiding Member)  
Mr David Basham MP  
Hon Zoe Bettison MP  
Mr Blair Boyer MP  
Mr Matthew Cowdrey OAM MP  
Hon Stephen Mullighan MP  
Mr Stephen Patterson MP

## Committee Activity

The main inquiries of note for this activity report are as follows:

### Inquiry into primary producers

In November 2016, the Committee resolved to inquire into whether South Australian primary producers were supplying competitively to retailers.

The Committee received 17 submissions and heard evidence from 36 witnesses across seven hearings, including a hearing at the Barossa Valley Council Chambers in Nuriootpa. Committee Members also attended the 2017 Farming Together National Forum in Adelaide on 6 June 2017 and the Supermarket Power Symposium in Melbourne on 27 October 2017.

The Committee tabled its final report, *From the Paddock to the Plate – A Fairer Return for Producers*, on 28 November 2017. The report made 13 recommendations aimed at improving government support for primary producers in South Australia.

### Inquiry into South Australian investment attraction policies

On 20 June 2018, the Committee resolved to inquire into investment attraction policies in South Australia. This included a review of current and former government-administered investment funds and programs.

The Committee received 27 submissions and heard from 47 witnesses across nine public hearings, including hearings in Salisbury and Murray Bridge. The Committee met with a range of businesses to discuss the impact of State Government support on its operations.

The Committee tabled its final report on 31 July 2019. The report made eight recommendations aimed ensuring that programs and funds support and encourage investment in South Australian-based industries and businesses.

### Inquiry into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia

On 1 August 2018, the Committee resolved to inquire into the economic contribution of migration to South Australia. This included reviewing programs to attract and retain migrants and support population growth.

The Committee received 40 submissions and heard from 84 witnesses across 14 public hearings. The Committee held hearings across regional South Australia in Penola, Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge and met with a range of local businesses to discuss the role of migrants in addressing workforce shortages.

The Committee plans to table its final report later in 2019.

### Inquiry into the motor vehicle insurance and repair industry in South Australia

On 3 July 2019, the Committee resolved to commence an inquiry into the motor vehicle insurance and repair industry in South Australia. This includes reviewing the voluntary *Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry Code of Conduct* and its role in regulating the relationship between insurers and repairers.

To date, the Committee has received 50 submissions. The Committee aims to report in early 2020.

### Auditor-General

The Committee met with the Auditor-General on a number of occasions in 2017, 2019 and 2019 to discuss issues arising from the Auditor-General's Annual Reports.

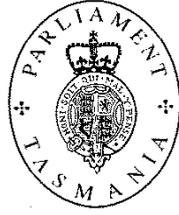
### Other activities of note

In addition to its inquiries, the Committee held hearings with a range of government agencies as part of its statutory functions, including:

- Emergency Services Levy determinations for 2017-18 and 2018-19;
- expenditure from the Sport and Recreation Fund;
- tender processes for public transport services for the Adelaide Metropolitan network; and
- changes to the charter for the Motor Accident Commission.

**Mr Sam Duluk MP**  
**Presiding Member**  
**Economic and Finance Committee**  
**Parliament of South Australia**





**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**JURISDICTION ACTIVITY REPORT**

**FOR THE**

**15TH BIENNIAL AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**COMMITTEES CONFERENCE**

**CANBERRA 6 TO 8 NOVEMBER 2019**

## THE COMMITTEE

The Public Accounts Committee (the Committee) is a Joint Standing Committee of the Tasmanian Parliament constituted under the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*.

The Committee comprises six Members of Parliament, three Members drawn from the Legislative Council and three Members from the House of Assembly.

Current Membership -

Mr Ivan Dean MLC Chair

Ms Ruth Forrest MLC Deputy Chair

Mr David O'Byrne MP Member

Mrs Joan Rylah MP Member

Mr John Tucker MP Member

Mr Josh Willie MLC Member

Under section 6 of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* the Committee:

- must inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to the management, administration or use of public sector finances; or the accounts of any public authority or other organisation controlled by the State or in which the State has an interest; and
- may inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate; and any matter referred to the Committee by the Auditor-General.

The Committee also has oversight responsibilities regarding the independence of the Auditor-General, which are derived from the *Audit Act 2008*.

An important area of focus for the Committee is following up Auditor-General's reports to Parliament under Section 6.2(b) of the Act.

In scrutinising the work of the Auditor-General, the Committee believes it can provide greater awareness within the Parliament and the community, leading to increased information and greater transparency.

## **Responsibility of the Committee**

The Committee has responsibility in key areas encompassing Public Accounts and Auditor-General independence oversight.

### **(i) Public Accounts**

The Committee has key roles in this area including undertaking general inquiries into some aspects of administration or public sector management, including inquiries into the accounts of any public authority or other organisation controlled by the State or in which the State has an interest (these inquiries can be resulting from a referral from either House or can be self-initiated); and following up matters referred by the Auditor-General to the Committee.

An important area of focus for the Committee is following up Auditor-General's reports to Parliament in accordance with section 6.2(b) of the Act. The Committee is pleased to report that it has continued its series of rolling reviews of Auditor-General's reports in 2018-19.

The Committee and the Auditor-General share a common mission "to enhance public sector accountability and performance" which is reinforced in their 2012 Memorandum of Understanding. While the work of both parties is complementary, the Memorandum of Understanding reinforces the independence of each party in the carrying out of duties under their respective legislation.

### **(ii) Auditor-General Independence Oversight**

The Committee has a statutory responsibility under the *Audit Act 2008* to:

- Section 9 - consult with the Treasurer regarding the appointment of the Auditor-General;
- Section 11 - review the Auditor-General's draft annual plan, and provide comments on it to the Auditor-General prior to its finalisation and tabling in Parliament; and
- Section 44 - review the findings of the periodic review of the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the Tasmanian Audit Office operations.

## **Committee Activities**

The Committee activities include a mix of self-initiated inquiries and referred inquiries. The Committee receives submissions and conducts briefings and hearings on such matters as required.

Results of inquiries are presented in reports that are tabled in both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. Those reports are available to the public and are posted on the Committee website:

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Joint/pacc.htm>.

The website provides background information on the Committee's roles and functions, and provides details of members, administration, current inquiries, meeting dates, recent reports and past inquiries.

The Committee also has an email address: [pac@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:pac@parliament.tas.gov.au), which is used for outside correspondence with the public and external bodies.

The Committee receives administrative and other support from its Secretariat, and timely and valuable research assistance from the Parliamentary Research Service.

## **Some highlights of Tasmanian PAC Inquiries since the ACPAC mid-term meeting in 2018.**

### **A. Completed Inquiries**

1. The Committee tabled the following report:

No. 6 of 2018: *Review of Selected Public Works Committee Reports* was tabled 30 August 2018.

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Joint/Reports/PAC/No%206%20of%202018%20Review%20of%20Selected%20Public%20Works%20Committee%20Reports.pdf>

### **B. Work in Progress**

1. A follow-up review of Auditor-General Reports:

- No. 11 of 2013-14: Compliance with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Plan 2008-13;
- No. 1 of 2013-14: Fraud control in local government;
- No. 12 of 2013-14: Quality of Metro Services; and
- No. 3 of 2014-15: Motor vehicle fleet management in government departments.

A draft report is under consideration by the Committee.

2. A follow-up review of a number of Public Works Committee approved project works including:

- Colebrook Main Road, Richmond – Heavy Vehicle Link Road;
- Construction of Dunalley Primary School; and
- George Town Hub.

A draft report is under consideration by the Committee.

3. A follow-up review of Auditor-General Reports:
  - No. 8 of 2015-16: Provision of Social Housing; and
  - No. 11 of 2015-16: Compliance with legislation.A draft report is under consideration by the Committee.
4. The Committee self-initiated an inquiry to review the Tasmanian Government Fiscal Sustainability Report 2016.
5. The Committee self-initiated an inquiry into the Office of the Ombudsman to inquire into and report upon the Office of the Ombudsman and Health Complaints Commissioner with particular reference to the:
  - functions of the Office;
  - resourcing of the Office;
  - performance of the Office; and
  - any other matters incidental thereto.A draft report is under consideration by the Committee.

### **C. Briefings**

1. The Committee received a number of briefings throughout the year to assist it in its work including:
  - The Auditor-General, Mr Rod Whitehead:
    - 2018-19 and 2019-20 Annual Plans of Work (the prorogation of Parliament had delayed the Committee's review of the 2018-19 Plan of Work); and
    - Special Care Packages for Out of Home Care.
  - The Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance, Mr Tony Ferrall:
    - Implementation of the *Financial Management Act 2016*.
  - Department of Treasury and Finance:
    - Legislation to amend the *Fee Units Act 1997*.

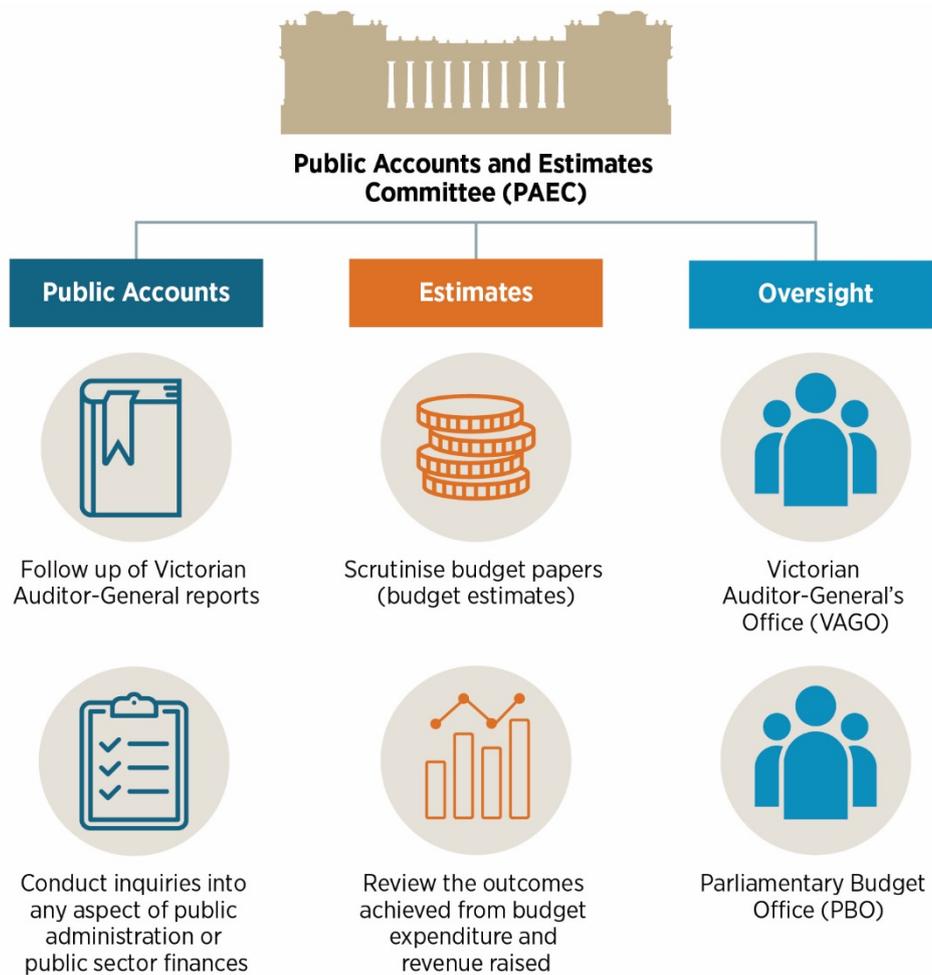


# The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee BRIEFING PAPER

## Jurisdiction report to ACPAC 2019

The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee held its first meeting of the 59<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Victoria on 25 March 2019 after the state election in November 2018.

The



Committee has continued its work on behalf of the Parliament to scrutinise public administration and finance to improve outcomes for the Victorian community. The functions of the Committee are illustrated below. The most recent activities of the Committee are discussed below and arranged by function.

## Public accounts

### Own motion inquiry into gender responsive budgeting

The Committee announced its own motion inquiry into gender responsive budgeting on 2 October 2019.

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is a tool used to ensure that public financial management contributes to gender equality. GRB analyses the impact of a budget on gender equality and provides a process for adapting budgetary decision-making and priority setting. It can reveal how apparently neutral government policies can increase gender inequality and help hold governments accountable for achieving gender equality goals.

Victoria has made some promising beginnings in relation to gender responsive budgeting. However, there is also recognition that more can be done in this area and Victoria can learn from other jurisdictions that are further advanced in this important space such as Austria, the Nordic countries and Canada for example.

### Follow up of Auditor-General reports

The Committee is currently undertaking a follow-up of two Victorian Auditor-Generals performance audits:

- *Meeting obligations to protect Ramsar wetlands* (September 2016). Victoria currently has 12 Ramsar listed wetlands scattered across the state, mainly managed by Parks Victoria;
- *Managing school infrastructure* (May 2017). The education portfolio receives the second largest slice of the State budget after health spending and the Department of Education and Training has one of the largest state-owned asset portfolios in Victoria. The government school student population is rapidly growing.

Public hearings and site visits will be held over the next six months before the Committee's findings are tabled in Parliament.

## Estimates

### Inquiries into the 2018–19 and 2019–20 Budget Estimates

The Inquiry into the 2018–19 Budget Estimates examined the 2018–19 Budget strategy and analysed the major aspects of the Budget, including the plans for revenue, output expenditure, debt and asset investment. The *Report on the 2018–19 Budget Estimates* presented the Committee's findings on the assumptions, plans and estimates set out by the Government in the 2018–19 Budget and the forward estimates period to 2021–22. The Committee made a total of 21 recommendations and the report was tabled in September 2018. Of the 20 recommendations to government, 19 were either supported or supported in principle by government.

The Victorian Government released the 2019–20 Budget on 27 May 2019 and the Committee held hearings with all ministers, Parliament's Presiding Officers and senior departmental officials in May and June 2019. The hearings ran over 55 hours and continued the timed questioning procedure introduced in the 58th Parliament. The Committee's review and analysis of the 2019–20 budget papers, hearing transcripts, and responses to questions on notice and Committee questionnaires to departments and agencies informed its report.

The Committee tabled its report on 2019–20 Budget Estimates in October 2019. A different report format was adopted than the previous year with in-depth scrutiny of each department by Ministerial

portfolio. Whole of government budget and financial management issues of significant public interest were also examined including fraud and corruption in the public sector and publicly funded advertising.

The Committee co-hosted its annual state budget briefing with the Department of Treasury and Finance at Parliament House on 29 May 2019. The function was well attended by Members of Parliament and their staff.

### **Inquiry into financial and performance outcomes of 2017-2019**

The Committee undertakes an outcomes review every year. It assists Parliament and the community to gauge what the Government actually achieved in the last financial year, compared to what the Government planned to achieve. The purpose of this review is to complement the Committee's assessment, undertaken at the start of the financial year, of the budget estimates.

The Committee's review of outcomes aims to improve the accountability of Victorian Government departments and agencies. The report contains recommendations directed at improved transparency and clarity in the reporting of public sector performance. It also provides the Parliament and community with more meaningful information about the results achieved in the last financial year.

The Committee will hold hearings with each of the eight Secretaries from Victorian Government departments to examine the outcomes from the 2017-18 and 2018-19 budgets. The hearings are scheduled for February 2020. Normally the Committee would undertake an inquiry into each financial year, but because of the State election in November 2018 the last two financial years will be the subject of this inquiry.

## **Oversight**

### **Financial audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office**

Each year the Committee oversees the financial audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). In 2016, the Parliament appointed Nexia Melbourne to conduct the financial audit of VAGO for three years, with the appointment expiring in 2018. Due to the timing of the formation of the Committee in the 59th Parliament with Members appointed on 21 March 2019, the Committee expedited the 2019 financial audit of VAGO by renewing the audit services of Nexia Melbourne for one year.

### **Review of the Auditor-General's Annual Plan and budget**

The Auditor-General's Annual Plan provides the Parliament with a comprehensive overview of the proposed financial and performance audit program for the Victorian public sector, over a forward three-year period. In accordance with section 73 of the *Audit Act 1994 (Vic)*, the Committee must consider, and may comment on, the Auditor-General's draft Annual Plan before the start of each financial year. The consultation process for the Auditor-General's 2019–20 Annual Plan occurred between April and June 2019. The Auditor-General tabled the plan in the Parliament on 27 June 2019. Consultations on the 2020-21 annual plan have commenced with the Committee putting forward a number of proposed performance audit topics.

### **Performance audit of the Victoria Auditor-General and Victorian Auditor-General's Office**

The audit legislation has recently changed in Victoria. The Committee is now required to recommend the appointment of an independent performance auditor of the Auditor-General and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office at least every four rather than three years. The last such report was produced by Deloitte and tabled in 2016.

The Committee undertook a selective tender process. It made a recommendation to both Houses of Parliament in October 2019 regarding an appointment. The independent performance audit is due to be tabled in April 2020.

### **Parliamentary Budget Officer**

The Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) presented the *Report of PBO operations for the 2018 Victorian general election* to the Committee in March 2019. This was the first such report prepared by the Parliamentary budget office. Under section 23 of the *Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2017* (Vic), the PBO is also required to prepare an operational plan in consultation with the Committee for each financial year. The consultation process for the PBO's 2019–20 Operational Plan occurred in June 2019. The PBO tabled his plan in the Parliament on 3 July 2019. The Chair recently tabled the PBO's first annual plan and annual report.

## **Other**

### **End of term report**

The Committee of the 58<sup>th</sup> Parliament tabled an end of term report in September 2018. The report sets out the highlights of that Parliament including the positive outcomes of Committee recommendations to Government.

### **Committee membership**

The first Chair of the Committee in the 59<sup>th</sup> Parliament – Hon Philip Dalidakis – resigned from the Committee and Parliament on 17 June 2019. A new Chair – Lizzie Blandthorn MP – was subsequently elected.

### **Visiting delegation**

The Committee hosted a three-day visit by the Vietnamese National Assembly's Finance and Budget Affairs Committee and the World Bank in August 2018. The primary objectives of the study visit were to:

- enhance participant knowledge and understanding of the objectives and business processes employed by effective public accounts and estimates committees
- gain some insight into the culture of accountability.

## Jurisdiction Report

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### Introduction

Since submitting our last Jurisdiction Report in 2018, our Committee has continued to provide the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Western Australia with meaningful assessments of the objectives of public expenditure, as we are required to do under the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. In particular, we have undertaken a significant inquiry into public sector contract management practices, provided a detailed budget briefing to members of parliament, and continued to follow-up on agency responses to reports by the Auditor General.

### Inquiry into public sector contract management practices

Our primary focus at present is our report into public sector contract management practices. This inquiry has its origins in concerns over the quality of public sector contract management that arose during our inquiry into the Perth Children's Hospital project. The current inquiry, which we began in November 2018, looks more generally into the effectiveness of policy frameworks governing public sector contract management, agency compliance with these policies, current public sector contract management capability, and steps that might be taken to improve contract management performance. We have taken evidence on these issues from a range of stakeholders through written submissions and public hearings. We intend to table our report at the end of November 2019.

During this inquiry we held 10 public hearings in Perth involving 33 individuals; we also received 6 informal briefings. In June 2019 the Committee and its secretariat travelled to London and Edinburgh for 12 meetings over five days with 38 members of Parliament, senior civil servants and think tanks with expertise in matters relating to our inquiry. Our initial research and early submissions showed that the United Kingdom was a leading jurisdiction in this field. We also discussed aspect of our inquiry and Committee practice with the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee in Westminster and the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee at Holyrood, and with the National Audit Office and Audit Scotland. These discussions provided information relating to the inquiry, and also into improving our processes for following up agency responses to reports from the Auditor General.

### Auditor General report follow-ups

In the last 12 months we saw the first results of our revised approach to monitoring agency responses to findings from Auditor General reports. This process replaces the omnibus approach previously employed, which required serially contacting all agencies from all Auditor General reports until we were satisfied that the appropriate response to recommendations had been put in place. This was time consuming and resource intensive for all parties, and did not necessarily focus enough attention on the most important outcomes. In its place we now employ a 'triage' system, where we select those reports where we think our input could be most effective. We then seek feedback from agencies about their response to the



Auditor General's recommendations, and where we believe it to be beneficial hold public hearings to take evidence from them.

This approach has resulted thus far in four tabled reports:

- [Where to from here? The status of the Ord-East Kimberley Development Plan \(Follow-up of agency response to Auditor General's Report No. 20 of 2016\)](#), tabled on 21 March 2019, looked at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's responses to a 2016 Auditor General report critical of the 2009 Ord-East Kimberley Development Plan's lengthy delays and cost blowouts. We made 10 findings and six recommendations, and said the Department had not fully addressed most of the Auditor General's recommendations.
- [Setting the stage for improvement; Department of Education's management of student attendance \(Follow-up of agency response to Auditor General's Report No. 16 of 2015\)](#), tabled on 29 November 2018, looks at the extent to which the Department of Education had addressed the Auditor General's recommendations to improve student attendance in public schools. We made 12 findings and six recommendations and said that more work was needed to address the Auditor General's recommendations and to improve processes for supporting schools to manage student attendance.
- [Further along the path; The development and implementation of the Western Australian Bicycle Network Plan \(Follow-up of agency responses to Auditor General's Report No. 22 of 2015\)](#), tabled on 1 November 2018, looks at the actions taken by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to implement the Auditor General's recommendations to improve the planning, funding and governance relating to Perth's cycling infrastructure. We made eight findings and eight recommendations and concluded that work remained to be done in respect of the Auditor General's recommendations.
- [No \(more\) time to waste; The ongoing implementation of Western Australia's Waste Strategy \(Follow-up of agency responses to Auditor General's Report No. 23 of 2016\)](#), tabled on 11 October 2018, focuses on the extent to which the audited agencies addressed the Auditor General's recommendation designed to address shortcomings identified in the implementation of the *Western Australian Waste Strategy*. We made 18 findings and seven recommendations and concluded the agencies failed to address all the Auditor General's recommendations in a timely manner.

Finally, on 14 May 2019, as a regular part of our role to examine the financial affairs of government, and as a service to members, we hosted a briefing from officials of the Department of Treasury on the Western Australian State Budget. As usual, on 27 June 2019 we tabled a report of this presentation: [Budget Briefing 2019-20](#).



## Economics and Governance Committee (Qld)

### Jurisdiction Report - ACPAC biennial conference

Canberra, November 2019

This jurisdiction report covers the activities of the Economics and Governance Committee during the 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament from April 2018<sup>1</sup> to September 2019.

### Jurisdiction

Portfolio committees of the Queensland Parliament examine bills and subordinate legislation to consider and report on the policy to be enacted, the application of fundamental legislative principles and the lawfulness of subordinate legislation, in relation to their areas of responsibility.

Portfolio committees also hold hearings and consider the budget estimates for government departments within their areas of responsibility.

With respect to public accounts and public works, a portfolio committee:

- assesses the public accounts of each department in regard to the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management by examining government financial documents, and considers the reports of the Auditor-General
- considers departments' public works in light of matters including, but not limited to, the:
  - suitability of the works for the purpose
  - necessity for the works
  - value for money of the works
  - revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works, or estimates of revenue and costs
  - present and prospective public value of the works
  - procurement methods used for the works, and
  - actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs, and achieving the stated purpose, of the works.

Some portfolio committees have oversight responsibilities, which involve a 'monitor and review function' in relation to the performance of the functions of the entity, and include a statutory responsibility to consider the entity's annual report.

The committee may commence self-initiated inquiries for issues within its areas of responsibility, and must inquire into any issue referred to it by the Legislative Assembly or under an Act, whether or not the issue is within the committee's areas of responsibility.

### ***Economics and Governance Committee***

The Economics and Governance Committee (EGC) of the 56th Parliament was established by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 15 February 2018 as a portfolio committee with responsibility for the following areas:

- Premier and Cabinet, and Trade
- Treasury and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and
- Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs.

Membership of the committee is as follows:

- Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan, Chair
- Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach, Deputy Chair
- Ms Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- Mr Sam O'Connor MP, Member for Bonney
- Mr Dan Purdie MP, Member for Ninderry, and
- Ms Kim Richards MP, Member for Redlands.

<sup>1</sup> The date of the last jurisdictional report prepared for the ACPAC mid-term meeting held in Melbourne in April 2018.

Since the commencement of the 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the EGC has considered and reported on bills and presented reports on subordinate legislation. During the 2018-19 financial year the committee considered a number of bills and pieces of subordinate legislation and tabled 15 reports.

## Estimates consideration

The estimates process aids the Queensland Parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994, committees of the Parliament have undertaken the estimates process, by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill.

In 2018 and 2019, examination of the Appropriation Bill<sup>2</sup> was considered by the seven portfolio committees. During the estimates process each portfolio committee held a public hearing, at which the relevant Minister (and certain senior public servants and officers) were questioned regarding the portfolio's proposed expenditures for the relevant portfolio areas. Other Members of the Legislative Assembly who were not members of the committee asked questions, with the leave of the committee.

### *Estimates examination by EGC in 2019*

On 11 June 2019, the Appropriation Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019 (the Appropriation Bills), as the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility, were referred to the committee for investigation and report.

On 23 July 2019, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about proposed expenditure from:

- Premier and Minister for Trade
- Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and
- other witnesses.

The committee examined the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing, and
- additional information given in relation to provided answers.

Following the committee's hearing, the committee members met, discussed the information gathered and compiled final reports for tabling in Parliament. The committee reported on its examination of the Appropriation Bills for the committee's areas of responsibility on 13 August 2019. The reports were debated by the Parliament as part of the Parliament's consideration of the Appropriation Bills.

## Public accounts scrutiny

As part of their public accounts work, portfolio committees consider reports of the Auditor-General. Once tabled in the Legislative Assembly, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA) refers the reports to the relevant portfolio committee pursuant to Standing Order 194B. Given portfolio committees' legislative scrutiny workloads, usually within timeframes prescribed by the House of the CLA, it is not possible for portfolio committees to undertake an inquiry into and report on every Auditor-General report.

### *EGC examination of public accounts*

During 2018-19 the EGC was referred three Auditor-General reports in accordance with Standing Order 194B. The committee also examined four Auditor-General reports referred to it before 1 July 2018. As part of its examination of these reports, the committee undertook a range of activities, including seeking, receiving and considering updates from government agencies regarding the status of their implementation of recommendations from the Auditor-General. The EGC did not commence any inquiries into these reports in the reporting period.

<sup>2</sup> The EGC was also referred the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019.

## Oversight of Queensland independent public entities

The EGC has a monitor and review function in relation to the performance of the functions of the Auditor-General and the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), the Integrity Commissioner and the Family Responsibilities Commission, including a statutory responsibility to consider the annual reports of these entities. Presented below is a summary of the committee's oversight of the Auditor-General and Queensland Audit Office.

### ***Oversight of the Queensland Auditor-General***

The EGC has statutory responsibilities with regard to oversight of the Queensland Auditor-General and QAO.

The committee's role is to:

- monitor and review the QAO's performance of its functions
- report to the Legislative Assembly on any:
  - matter concerning the QAO, its functions or the performance of its functions the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Legislative Assembly, and
  - changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the QAO or the *Auditor-General Act 2009* (Qld)
- examine the annual report of the QAO and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report, and
- deal with the five yearly strategic review reports of the QAO.<sup>3</sup>

The committee must be consulted on the QAO's strategic audit plan, the proposed budget for the QAO for each financial year, the five yearly strategic review of the QAO, including the terms of reference and the appointment of the strategic reviewer. The committee must also be consulted on the selection process for, and appointment of, the Auditor-General and any motion to remove or suspend the Auditor-General.

On 4 July 2018, the committee wrote to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Deputy Premier) regarding the need to consult the committee regarding the QAO's budget for the 2018-19 financial year. In July 2018, the Deputy Premier informed the committee that Queensland Treasury and the QAO would reinstate a formal process of consultation from 2019-20, including consultation with the committee.

To assist the committee with its oversight of the functions of the Auditor-General, the committee held a public briefing with the Auditor-General on 11 February 2019.

The committee also provided coordinated feedback from secretariats of other portfolio committees on the QAO's Draft Strategic Audit Plan 2019-2022 on 2 May 2019.

On 10 June 2019, the committee undertook a site visit of the offices of the QAO in Brisbane to view changes implemented through the QAO's Workplace One initiative.

<sup>3</sup> *Auditor-General Act 2009* (Qld); *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (Qld), s 94; Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, SO 194A, schedule 6.



**REPORT ON ACTIVITY FOR THE AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
2019 CONFERENCE**

**1 Background**

1.1 The Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations (the Committee) was first appointed on 30 June 2005. The current membership of the Committee is:

- Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC (Chair)
- Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC (Deputy Chair)
- Hon Diane Evers MLC
- Hon Colin Tincknell MLC
- Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC

1.2 The functions of the Committee are to:

- (a) consider and report on –
  - (i) the estimates of expenditure laid before the Council each year;
  - (ii) any matter relating to the financial administration of the State; and
  - (iii) any Bill or other matter relating to the foregoing functions referred by the Council;
- and
- (b) consult regularly with the Auditor General.<sup>1</sup>

**2 Summary of activity**

2.1 The Committee's activity is structured around a relevant year budget cycle, which commences with the tabling of the budget<sup>2</sup> and accompanying appropriation bills for the year and concludes with the tabling of annual reports for that financial year, approximately 16 months later.<sup>3</sup> Each component of the budget cycle – the budget estimates and the annual reports – includes multiple days of hearings with selected Ministers and agencies, and questions prior to and after those hearings. Further, each of these examinations has focussed on a particular theme or subject matter.

2.2 The Committee recently tabled its first report on the 2019-20 Budget Cycle and commenced consideration of the annual reports, which will comprise the final part of the 2018-19 Budget Cycle.

2.3 In November 2018, the Legislative Council referred to the Committee an inquiry into the Government's Local Projects Local Jobs program. This program was a series of community-based election commitments made during the 2017 State election. The inquiry is

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<sup>1</sup> Term of reference 3.3 (Parliament of Western Australia, *The standing orders of the Legislative Council*, January 2019, p 119).

<sup>2</sup> The budget is typically released in early May of each year.

<sup>3</sup> A Minister is to cause a copy of an agency's annual report to be laid before each House of Parliament within 90 days of that agency's financial year concluding (*Financial Management Act 2006* s 64).

currently underway and will include an examination of whether to establish a Parliamentary Budget Office for independent costing of election promises.

- 2.4 In addition, the Committee has met with the Auditor General on several occasions and actively participated in the appointment process for the new Auditor General.

### **3 Summary of key reports**

- 3.1 Statistics on questions in this section include questions submitted on behalf of the Committee and other Members, and questions submitted prior to hearings and after hearings.

#### **Report 73: 2017-18 Budget Cycle – Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters**

- 3.2 The Committee submitted 289 questions to agencies and met with 17 agencies.
- 3.3 The Committee considered nine matters relating to the presentation of the 2017-18 Budget Papers, including how the Department of the Premier and Cabinet includes spending on services to the Parliament in the 'Administration of Executive Government Services' service.

#### **Report 74: 2016-17 Annual Report hearings**

- 3.4 The Committee submitted 373 questions to agencies and met with 14 agencies.
- 3.5 The Committee considered two substantive matters arising from the hearings – the difficulties comparing Synergy's actual performance over the year relative to its expected performance and the lack of an annual report for the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

#### **Report 76: 2018-19 Budget Cycle – Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters**

- 3.6 The Committee submitted 444 questions to agencies and met with 17 agencies.
- 3.7 The Committee considered five matters of interest, including cost benefit analysis for capital projects, the use of credit card surcharges by agencies and the use of 'other' categories in agency financial statements.

#### **Report 77: 2017-18 Budget Cycle – Part 2: Annual Report hearings**

- 3.8 The Committee submitted 398 questions to agencies and met with eight agencies.
- 3.9 The Committee's theme was key performance indicators. In addition, it examined credit card surcharges by government trading enterprises, the impact of machinery of government changes on agencies' systems, and government trading enterprise performance.

#### **Report 78: 2019-20 Budget Cycle – Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters**

- 3.10 The Committee submitted 335 questions to agencies and met with 11 agencies.
- 3.11 The Committee's theme was agency special purpose accounts. These accounts are used to hold funds (including from appropriations or for specific purposes) received by agencies.