
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report 460

Public Sector Governance

Inquiry based on Auditor-General's report 29 (2015-16)

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

February 2017
Canberra

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Foreword

On 13 October 2016, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) resolved to review Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No. 29 (2015-16) *Implementing the Deregulation Agenda: Cutting Red Tape*, under the theme of public sector governance.


The Committee found that the government's Deregulation Agenda was implemented according to good public governance principles. Central coordination from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ensured that a consistent, whole-of-government approach was taken. Guidelines for reporting and information-sharing were established and reviews in 2015 shaped the ongoing implementation of the policy.

Within individual portfolios, identified Deregulation Units were established, with responsibility for implementing the agenda within that portfolio and coordinating reporting measures, along with Regulation Impacts Statements to accompany policy proposals. Portfolios also undertook stakeholder consultation in assessing areas for deregulatory action.

To support future deregulatory action and to emphasise the economic and productivity benefits of the Deregulation Agenda, the Committee supports the Australian Government's December 2013 decision that an economic impact assessment should be undertaken. The Committee has therefore recommended that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet report back on progress implementing this decision.

I thank Committee members for their deliberation on these matters.

Senator Dean Smith
Chair



Membership of the Committee

Chair Senator Dean Smith

Deputy Chair Mr Julian Hill MP

Members Senator Cory Bernardi

Ms Nicole Flint MP

Mr Ross Hart MP

Mr Steven Irons MP

Ms Madeleine King MP

Senator Jenny McAllister

Dr John McVeigh MP

Ms Gai Brodtmann MP

Mr Andrew Gee MP

Mr Kevin Hogan MP

Senator Chris Ketter

Mr Andrew Laming MP

Senator Bridget McKenzie

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Mr David Brunoro

Inquiry Secretary Dr Joel Bateman

Administrative Officer Ms Tamara Palmer



Terms of reference

Any items, matters or circumstances connected with Auditor-General report No. 29 (2015-16) *Implementing the Deregulation Agenda: Cutting Red Tape*.

Background

Having considered Auditor-General Reports 11-37 (2015-16) and 1-19 (2016-17) on 13 October 2016, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit resolved to conduct an inquiry based on the above Auditor-General report.

Under section 8(1) of the legislation establishing the JCPAA, the *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951*, one of the duties of the Committee is to 'examine all reports of the Auditor-General (including reports of the results of performance audits) that are tabled in each House of the Parliament' and 'report to both Houses of the Parliament, with any comment it thinks fit, on any items or matters in those ... reports, or any circumstances connected with them, that the Committee thinks should be drawn to the attention of the Parliament'.



List of abbreviations

ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
MAC	Ministerial Advisory Council
OBPR	Office of Best Practice Regulation
PIR	Post-Implementation Review
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement



List of recommendations

Recommendation 1

That the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet report back to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on progress implementing the Australian Government's December 2013 decision to review the economic impacts of the Deregulation Agenda.

