

Treasury response to Questions on Notice from the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit

Inquiry into Efficiency and Effectiveness: Inquiry into Auditor-General's Reports 25, 29, 38, 42, 44, 45 and 51 (2018-19)

Performance audit (Auditor-General Report No. 51 of 2018–2019) **Farm Management Deposits Scheme**

Two questions were put to Treasury on notice by Mr Julian Hill MP, Deputy Chair. Treasury's responses are outlined under each question.

1. *Has the Treasury conducted any evaluations assessing the impact of the 2016 policy changes?*
 - a. *If so, could you advise the committee of the progress and if there has been any significant findings?*

Treasury has not undertaken any review of the 2016 changes to the Farm Management Deposits scheme.

2. *With the Nation now experiencing the worst drought on record and more citizens being affected, what measures, monitoring and evaluation plans/actions have been put into place to help deliver the FMD?*

The Department of Agriculture has advised that the "ANAO Performance Audit: *Farm Management Deposits Scheme* Implementation Plan", adopted in September 2019, outlines the Department's monitoring and evaluation framework for the Farm Management Deposits scheme. The implementation plan outlines a number of additional actions the Department of Agriculture will undertake in assessing both the FMD scheme's effectiveness in improving primary producers' financial self-reliance, and the administration of the scheme. In addition, the Australian Government Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan (Action 1.10) provides for a review on the effectiveness of the FMD Scheme to be undertaken in 2020–21.

2 December 2019