



Joint Committee of Public Accounts & Audit Submission – Australian Sports Foundation (ASF)

The ASF has been invited to make a submission on this matter. The invitation requests comments on three key aspects, which are dealt with in turn below.

1. An implementation status update on the key learnings and opportunities for improvement directed at your agency

Opportunities for improvement or learnings referencing ASF, along with our comments, are summarized below.

a) Overall assessment: "The Corporate Plan has not been fully established as the entity's primary planning document"

[REDACTED] Report No.6 (2016-17) the ASF has updated its Corporate Plan to 2020, and this now [REDACTED] planning document for the organisation. The updated plan is available on our website as required under the Act.

The ASF already had in place a purposeful Strategic and Corporate Plan which set the direction of the organisation, including KPI's and performance measures, which was prepared by Management and approved by the Board early in 2014 for the 2015 and 2016 years. This document set and monitored the direction of the business.

We endeavoured to prepare the "Corporate Plan" required under the PGPA Act based on this document. However, given that our "ASF Corporate Plan" was prepared in advance of the PGPA Act's "Corporate Plan" being required, it is natural and inevitable that the earlier plan was the primary document setting the strategic direction of the organisation. That plan had successfully steered the ASF through a major transformation and 40% revenue growth and therefore we consider its effectiveness demonstrable.

b. Observation that the ASF did not provide the Minister in advance of publication the Corporate Plan pursuant to PGPA Rule 16E(5).

Since the ANAO Report No.6 (2016-17) the ASF has updated its Corporate Plan to 2020. This Plan was provided to the relevant Ministers in advance of publication, and hence this point has been actioned.

We do consider that the guidance we followed in 2016 relating to Corporate Plans (Resource Management Guide No 133), was misleading by virtue of the following provision at Part 7 (Publication requirements):

"16. From the 2015-16 financial year onwards, companies must publish their Corporate Plans on their websites by 31 August each year.

17. Company Directors are also required to provide a copy of the Corporate Plan to their responsible Minister and the Minister for Finance as soon as practicable after the plan is prepared."

We trust that the chronological requirements will be more clearly stated in future.

c) Performance measures.

The audit process also highlighted that broader performance measures – beyond the \$value of donations received and the number of registered fundraising projects – would be beneficial. The ASF



is in the process of developing additional measures for incorporation in its next updated corporate plan due for publication 31 August 2017. These measures will seek to measure impact – for example, number of participants affected by our work – as well as aligning with some of our key strategic objectives in the new plan.

2. An outline of future plans and milestones that are yet to be completed

As above, broadening of performance measures due to be implemented with effect from 31 August 2017.

3. Other matters that may be considered relevant

N/A



Patrick Walker
Chief Executive Officer
7 November 2016