



EPBC Act, cyber security, defence and ABR reports under scrutiny

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee is conducting public hearings as part of its role of examining Australian National Audit Office reports.

On 23 October, the Department of the Environment will appear before the Committee to discuss ANAO Report No. 43, which found that, nearly 14 years after the enactment of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the department is 'yet to establish mature administrative arrangements to effectively discharge its regulatory responsibilities in relation to approved controlled actions'.

The Committee will also hear from a range of agencies on ANAO Report No. 48, which found that that, some 14 years after establishing the Australian Business Register, 'little real progress' has been made by these agencies in making it easier for business to deal with government through reducing entry points to government and business reporting.

On 24 October, the Department of Defence will appear before the Committee to discuss ANAO Report No. 52, which examined the Multi-Role Helicopter Program (MRH90). The report found that the MRH90 Program was running some four years behind schedule, with the first Operational Capability milestones for the Army and the Navy yet to be achieved.

Several agencies will also appear to discuss ANAO Report No. 50 on cyber security, which found that 'agency processes and practices have not been sufficiently responsive to the ever-present and ever-changing risks that government systems are exposed to'.

"The findings of these reports are of concern to both the Committee and the community", Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said. "These are significant areas of public administration where the public and the Parliament want to see improved outcomes. The Committee will be interested to hear how agencies are addressing these matters".

Further information about the inquiry, including the public hearing programs, can be found on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa. **The hearings will be broadcast live at:** www.aph.gov.au/live.

Details for the hearings are as follows:

Date and time Thursday, 23 October 2014, 10.45am-12.45pm
Venue: Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Date and time: Friday, 24 October 2014, 9.00am-11.30am
Venue: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, on 0402579674 (Matthew Hee).

For information about the inquiry and public hearing: please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.