

Public Accounts and Audit

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Division/Agency: Assurance Taskforce

Inquiry: JCPAA Inquiry into Governance in the Stewardship of Public Resources—based on Auditor-General Report 9 (2020-21), Purchase of the ‘Leppington Triangle’ Land for the Future Development of Western Sydney Airport

Topic: Bolstering existing processes and guidance for demonstrating value for money

Proof Hansard Page: Written (28 April 2021)

Senator Lucy Wicks asked:

Infrastructure notes that it is ‘bolstering existing processes and guidance for demonstrating value for money’ (Submission 4.1, p. 2). How is the department monitoring implementation of these revised processes, guidance and training to ensure their effectiveness?

Answer:

The Department has updated existing guidance on requirements to spend money under the *Public Governance, performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) to highlight the need for additional consideration to be given to large and complex transactions, including valuations and land acquisitions.

The Department’s Accountable Authority Instructions have been updated to increase controls and oversight of land acquisitions and disposals by the Department’s senior governance committee, prior to the exercise of applicable delegations under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1989* and the PGPA Act.

As part of a broader work program, the Department is reviewing all financial management guidance and rolling-out training which includes a case study incorporating lessons from the Leppington Triangle transaction.

The Department monitors compliance with its policies and processes on an ongoing basis to assess their effectiveness. Reporting on compliance is provided to the Department’s Audit and Risk Committee.