



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

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*Report tabled: Public sector governance*

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Issue date: Thursday, 16 February 2017

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit today tabled its first inquiry report of the 45<sup>th</sup> parliament.

The inquiry examined the governance arrangements for the government's Deregulation Agenda and was based on the [Auditor-General's report no. 29 \(2015-16\) \*Implementing the Deregulation Agenda: Cutting Red Tape\*](#).

Initiated in late 2013, the Deregulation Agenda aims to reduce the cost of unnecessary or inefficient regulation on individuals, business and community organisations. Whole-of-government coordination of the policy is overseen by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

The Committee found that the Deregulation Agenda was implemented according to good public governance principles. The Auditor-General's report concluded that PM&C moved quickly to put in place governance frameworks to support implementation and that audited departments established internal Deregulation Units with clearly articulated roles, responsibilities and consultative mechanisms.

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

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit is one the Parliament's oldest and most significant institutions, with a long history of enhancing accountability and improving efficiency in public administration. It is the Parliament's joint public administration committee and aims to scrutinise the governance, performance and accountability of Commonwealth entities and companies.

For more information about the work of the Committee—including its latest or previous annual reports, details about new inquiries or a historic look at one of the Parliament's oldest ongoing committees—please visit the Committee's [website](#).

#### **Media inquiries:**

Chair, Senator Dean Smith, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, on (08) 9481 0349 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 3707 (Parliament House)



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