



Public hearing on disaster relief arrangements and Safer Streets program

The administration of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the award of funding under the Safer Streets program will be the focus of a public hearing tomorrow by Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee.

The Committee will hear from representatives of the ANAO and the Attorney-General's Department, including Emergency Management Australia.

The Commonwealth provides financial assistance to the States and Territories for urgent assistance to disaster affected communities, under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the good administration of these arrangements is important to both the Parliament and the wider community, particularly given the significant amount of funding involved.

"The ANAO concluded that there were deficiencies in the NDRRA guidance available to States and Territories, and that a more disciplined approach by Emergency Management Australia is required."

The Committee will also examine the award of funding under the first round of the Safer Streets program, administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

"While the program guidelines provided a reasonable basis for the first funding round, the ANAO concluded that there were shortcomings in the eligibility checking, application assessment and provision of funding recommendations to the Minister", Dr Southcott said.

The ANAO's findings and recommendations are set out in Report No. 34 (2014-15), *Administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement by Emergency Management Australia* and Report No. 41 (2014-15), *Award of Funding under the Safer Streets Program*.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Thursday, 17 September 2015—10.45am to 12.15pm
Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Further information about the Committee's reviews is available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, on 0402 579 674 (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>.