

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Inquiry into Commonwealth Financial Statements 2019-20

Written Question on Notice 1 (Ms Wicks) Annual report tabling dates

The *Independent Review of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act and Rule* recommended amending the tabling date for Commonwealth entities (*Recommendation 30*) after the JCPAA requested that it examine this issue in *Report 463: Commonwealth Financial Statements* (August 2017, p. 13, Recommendation 6). According to the Independent Review (and agreed by Finance), Recommendation 30 would be implemented contingent on the establishment of the Online Tabled Documents Project.

- Can you provide an update to the Committee of the establishment of the Online Tabled Documents Project?
- Can you provide an update on progress towards the amendment of the annual report tabling date?
 - Can you provide an indication of when the tabling date will change?
- If Recommendation 30 has not been accepted by the Australian Government, can you provide an explanation as to why this Recommendation has been rejected?

Response

The Online Tabled Documents Project is being undertaken by the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS). Questions on the status of the Project should be directed to DPS.

Amendments to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and Rule to enact the change of date for the tabling of annual reports in the Parliament are best made after DPS has completed its work on receiving and publishing tabled documents online.

As per the former Minister for Finance's statement of 2 April 2019, the Government agreed in principle to the 48 recommendations of the *Independent Review of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act and Rule*, within its area of responsibility, including Recommendation 30.