

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Inquiry into Governance in the Stewardship of Public Resources, based on Auditor-General Report 31 (2019-20), Management of Defence Housing Australia

Hearing of 14 April 2021

Question on Notice 1

Ms Hall: There's a requirement in the governance and oversight guidelines for Commonwealth government business enterprises that the boards prepare an annual board plan and provide that to shareholder ministers for consideration.

Mr HILL: A board plan, not a self-assessment?

Ms Hall: It can and sometimes does include a self-assessment.

Mr HILL: Should it?

Mr Jackson: To assist, every second year it's done by an external organisation—

Ms Hall: That's right.

Mr Jackson: and the alternate year is a self-assessment process.

Mr HILL: Given the audit report goes back over a number of years, could we receive the self-assessments and all of the detail for each of the last eight years?

Ms Hall: We will take that on notice, Senator.

Response

The annual board plan is prepared for the purpose of providing advice to the Board, Shareholder Ministers and in turn to inform the consideration of Cabinet on Board appointments and performance. Release of this information would reveal the information considered by the Cabinet in its deliberations.