



The logical sequel to procurement, probity and ethics is ... this NEW Audit Committee inquiry into Contract Management!

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) has commenced an inquiry into the contract management frameworks operated by Commonwealth entities.

The Chair of the JCPAA, [Mr Julian Hill MP](#), said that “recent major inquiries into Commonwealth Procurement and Probity and Ethics revealed serious failings. Recent audit reports have highlighted similar issues ‘downstream’ of procurement in how agencies manage contracts once executed. The Committee will examine whether the frameworks supporting contract management by various Commonwealth entities are fit for purpose to ensure project delivery.”

Mr Hill noted in this regard that “successful outcomes are very unlikely to be achieved from Government procurement activities without effective contract management. This is therefore a vital capability for public sector agencies but one that commonly goes under the radar and is often lacking for a number of reasons.”

He further commented that “we will be carefully evaluating the levels of expertise, governance arrangements, record-keeping, performance measures, and policies and guidelines of a number of recently audited agencies with respect to their external contracts. There are also ongoing probity issues which arise during the management of a contract and the Committee will consider whether current frameworks and practices are fit for purpose.”

The inquiry will have particular regard to any matters contained in or connected to the following Auditor-General Reports:

- Auditor-General Report No. 21 2023–24 [Management of the Australian War Memorial’s Development Project](#)
- Auditor-General Report No. 36 2023–24 [Procurement of My Health Record](#)
- Auditor-General Report No. 37 2023–24 [Administration of the Adult Migrant English Program contracts](#)
- Auditor-General Report No.47 [Defence's management of contracts for the supply of munitions: Part 1](#)
[This audit has been conducted in two parts and Part 2 is currently expected to be tabled in the Parliament in November 2024]
- [Defence’s procurement and implementation of the myClearance system](#) (due to table in July 2024)

Submissions to the inquiry addressing the above terms of reference are invited by **Thursday, 15 August 2024**. Details of this inquiry – including the submissions received and public hearings – will be available on the [inquiry website](#).

Media inquiries

Mr Julian Hill MP, Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on (03) 9791 7770 (Electorate Office) or via Laura Hooper 0422 85 1127.

For background information

Committee Secretariat
02 6277 4615
jcpaa@aph.gov.au

For more information about this Committee, you can visit its [website](#). On the site, you can make a submission to an inquiry, read other submissions, and get details for upcoming public hearings. You can also track the Committee and receive email updates by clicking on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right-hand corner of the page.