



Minister for  
Human Services

31 AUG 2015

**SENATOR THE HON MATHIAS CORMANN**  
**Minister for Finance**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| REPLY BY                             | ACTION                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minister    | <input type="checkbox"/> Response         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CoS         | <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adviser     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief |
| .....                                | <input type="checkbox"/> FYI              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Departm't   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFA   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER            |
| REF: MC15-000554                     | <input type="checkbox"/> VIP              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constituent | <input type="checkbox"/> Invite           |
|                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign         |
| Comments                             | <a href="#">links to</a>                  |
|                                      | 815/601                                   |

Dr Andrew Southcott MP  
Chair  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**COPY**

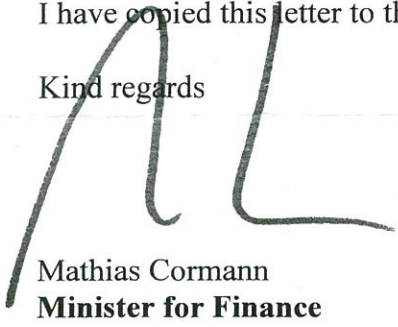
  
Dear Dr Southcott

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 March 2015 attaching a copy of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit *Report 447 EPBC Act, Cyber Security, Mail Screening, ABR and Helicopter Program: Review of Auditor-General Reports Nos 32-54 (2013-14)*.

I note that recommendation one is directed specifically at my department and the Government's formal response to this recommendation is attached.

I have copied this letter to the Minister for Human Services.

Kind regards



Mathias Cormann  
**Minister for Finance**

24 August 2015



**EXECUTIVE MINUTE**

on

**JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT**

**REPORT No. 447**

***EPBC Act, Cyber Security, Mail Screening, ABR and Helicopter Program: Review of Auditor-General Reports Nos 32-54 (2013-14)***

**General Comments**

Nil

**Response to the recommendation**

**Recommendation No. 1**

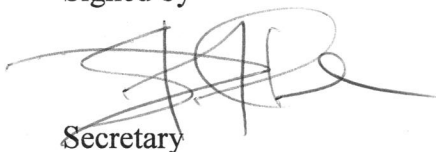
*The Committee recommends that the Department of Finance review and update its guidance regarding the application of the efficiency dividend so that:*

- *policy and guidelines regarding the efficiency dividend are clearly outlined in a single dedicated document*
- *there is clarity and consistency regarding the intention of the efficiency dividend and the measures that agencies may or should take to meet the efficiency dividend.*

**Noted.** The Department of Finance reviews and updates its guidance on the application of the efficiency dividend annually as part of the budget process. Policy and guidelines are clearly outlined in Estimates Memorandums which are issued to all entities through the Central Budget Management System (CBMS).

Under the Australian Government's devolved financial management framework, responsibility for managing entity operations and resources, including the application of the efficiency dividend is a matter for individual entities. Entities are best placed to identify where efficiencies can be achieved within their portfolios.

Signed by



Secretary

13 August 2015