



Improving Performance Reporting and Accountability

Parliament's Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit today tabled a report into the Development of the Commonwealth Performance Framework.

The Framework informs the way government entities undertake their performance planning, tracking and reporting — improving both outcomes and accountability to Ministers, the Parliament and the public.

The Committee examined ways in which the Department of Finance could improve guidance to enable agencies to develop flexible but consistent performance reporting regimes. It also considered methods to enable a 'clear read' of performance information from planned performance information in corporate plans and Portfolio Budget Statements (PBSs) through to actual performance information detailed in annual reports.

The Committee made several recommendations to improve the advice provided to agencies, including better demonstrations of how a 'clear read' of performance information can be developed, as well as developing criteria to articulate the expected qualities that performance information should possess. Additionally, the Committee recommended that Finance monitor and publicly report on the implementation by entities of the Framework and the broader Public Management Reform Agenda.

The Committee also made several recommendations to ensure that adequate performance information is contained in PBSs to ensure the Parliament can adequately monitor entity performance when considering the Budget and examining expenditure through Senate Estimates.

Committee Chair, Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP, said that overall the Framework was robust — with many performance information requirements now elevated to legislative rules — and that the Framework was a clear improvement on the previous system.

"We have made several recommendations that seek to improve the Framework and hopefully ensure that performance is better planned, measured, and reported. Along with Finance and the Australian National Audit Office, we will continue to progress work in this vital area of public administration in 2016." Mr Macfarlane concluded.

Copies of the report and further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair's office on (07) 4632 4144 (Will Rollo).

For information about the inquiry: 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>.