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SENATE

RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

**REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF
ANNUAL REPORTS**

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REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Senate Standing Orders

1.1 In accordance with Senate Standing Order 25 (21), annual reports of departments and agencies shall stand referred to the legislation committees in accordance with an allocation of departments and agencies in a resolution of the Senate. Each committee shall:

- (a) Examine each annual report referred to it and report to the Senate whether the report is apparently satisfactory.
- (b) Consider in more detail, and report to the Senate on, each annual report which is not apparently satisfactory, and on the other annual reports which it selects for more detailed consideration.
- (c) Investigate and report to the Senate on any lateness in the presentation of annual reports.
- (d) In considering an annual report, take into account any relevant remarks about the report made in debate in the Senate.
- (e) If the committee so determines, consider annual reports of departments and budget-related agencies in conjunction with examination of estimates.
- (f) Report on annual reports tabled by 31 October each year by the tenth sitting day of the following year, and on annual reports tabled by 30 April each year by the tenth sitting day after 30 June of that year.
- (g) Draw to the attention of the Senate any significant matters relating to the operations and performance of the bodies furnishing the annual reports.
- (h) Report to the Senate each year whether there are any bodies which do not present annual reports to the Senate and which should present such reports.¹

1 *Standing orders and other orders of the Senate*, February 2002, pp 27-28. (This Standing Order was amended 24 August 1994, 13 February 1997, 11 November 1998, 3 December 1998 and 13 February 2002).

Requirements and purpose of annual reports

1.2 Annual reports are required to adhere to the *Requirements for Annual Reports* (updated June 2001), issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The requirements were approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, under subsections 63(2) and 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

1.3 The primary purpose of the annual reports of departments is accountability, in particular to the Parliament. Further, annual reports serve to inform the Parliament (through the responsible Minister), other stakeholders, educational and research institutions, the media and the general public about the performance of departments in relation to services provided. They are a key reference document, a document for internal management and form part of the historical record.²

1.4 Requirements for non-statutory authorities are outlined in the *Reporting requirements for the annual reports of non-statutory bodies*, dated 8 December 1987. Statutory authorities whose operations are not similar to departments are to comply with the *Guidelines for the Content, Preparation and Presentation of Annual Reports by Statutory Authorities (1982)*.

Reports dealing with Government Companies

1.5 In its report entitled *Government companies and their reporting requirements* published in November 1989, the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration noted that ‘reporting requirements under companies legislation are less than the requirements faced by Departments and statutory authorities’.³ Notwithstanding this view, the Committee examined these reports in order to establish that comprehensive and useful information has been presented.

1.6 The Committee considers that accountability to Parliament should be the central objective of annual reports and therefore the need for Government companies to comply with the *Reporting requirements for the annual reports of non statutory bodies*.⁴

Timing of presentation of reports

1.7 As stated in Standing Order 25(21)(f), legislation committees are required to report on annual reports tabled by 31 October each year by the tenth sitting day of the following year. Committees are also required to report on annual reports tabled by 30 April each year by the tenth sitting day after 30 June of that year.

1.8 The Committee notes that many of the reports referred were received during the 2001 General Election period when parliament was not in session. Therefore, the date referred is the date of receipt by the Senate. Reports not tabled prior to the commencement of the General Election period were tabled out of session. This is indicated in the Committee’s comments on each report.

2 *Requirements for Annual Reports*, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, May 2000, p.2.

3 Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Government Companies and their reporting requirements*, November 1989, p. 2.

4 Senate. *Hansard*, Vol S.124, 8 December 1987, pp. 2643-5.

Reports referred to the Committee

1.9 This report examines the annual reports referred to the Committee between 1 May 2001 and 19 November 2001.

1.10 During this period 41 reports were referred to the Committee. These reports included:

- 2 departments of state;
- 29 statutory authorities;
- 1 non-statutory authority;
- 6 companies and
- 3 other reports not requiring review.

A complete list of the reports referred to the Committee appears at Appendix 1.

General Comments

1.11 In accordance with the Senate Standing Orders, the Committee is required to report to the Senate on whether the reports are ‘apparently satisfactory’. In making this assessment, the Committee considers aspects such as the timeliness of presentation and compliance with relevant reporting guidelines.

1.12 The Committee is pleased to note that most of the annual reports examined adhere to the reporting requirements satisfactorily and have maintained a high standard of presentation. Where relevant, the majority of reports detail programs and activities with a focus on performance measurement against outcomes and goals in relation to forecasts listed in Portfolio Budget Statements.

1.13 The Committee has made individual comments in this report on most of the annual reports examined. Subject to these assessments, the Committee considers that all annual reports examined in this report are ‘apparently satisfactory’.

Reports not examined

1.14 The Committee is not obliged to report on corporate plans, surveys or movement compliance statements. One corporate plan, one survey and one movement compliance statement were referred to the Committee as follows:

- Airservices Australia – Movement compliance statement for Sydney Airport for the period 1 April to 30 June 2001;
- Australian National Residue Survey – Report 2000-2001 and
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority Corporate Plan for 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Senator Winston Crane

Chairman

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

March 2002

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 1999-2000

2.1 The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA) Annual Report Volumes 1 and 2 was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared in accordance with the guidelines referred to in Section 63 of the *Public Service Act 1999* and in accordance with the requirements in subsection 63(1)

2.2 Volume 1 of the report provides an overview of the Department, organisational structure and operations. It outlines the Department's achievements and highlights during 2000-2001 and details the Department's performance relating to its ten output objectives, management and accountability and discretionary grants responsibilities. It provides information on all aspects relating to the specific requirements as outlined in *Requirements for Annual Reports, May 2000*. Volume 2 reports on AFFA's performance progress against the performance indicators contained in the 2000-2001 Portfolio Budget Statements.

Departmental Overview

2.3 The Department defines its role as contributing to more sustainable, competitive and profitable agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry industries. AFFA's responsibilities are broad, encompassing a range of services to industry and government. These include working with rural and regional communities and governments, research, policy advice, programs and quarantine/export services.¹ This is reflected in AFFA's departmental outcome.

2.4 In the Committee's Report on the Examination of Annual Reports No 1 of 2001, it was noted that in 2000-2001, AFFA would adopt a new outcome/output framework. The 2000-2001 Annual Report comprehensively outlines the new framework. The report states that the aim of the changes is to allow more transparency in reporting to Government against budget outcomes, to introduce best practice management, provide service delivery reflecting value for money and more responsiveness to Government objectives.² These changes are reflected in the 2000-2001 portfolio outcome.

2.5 The 2000-2001 departmental Outcome was achieved through its activities in ten outputs. These outputs describe the work, which contributed to the outcome and broader departmental responsibilities. The Committee notes that the names of two outputs were amended during 2000-2001. Quarantine was renamed *Quarantine and Export Services* and Market Access and Trade was changed to *Market Access and Biosecurity*. These name changes have been apparent to the Committee for some time, having been adopted for the 2000-2001 Estimates process.

1 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Annual Report 2000-2001, Volume 1, p. 13.

2 Ibid, p. 20.

2.6 The ten outputs are: Industry Development and Adjustment; Market Access and Biosecurity; Natural Resources Access and Management; Food Processing and Through Chain Development; Research and Development Facilitation, Innovation; Rural Industries Inputs, Services and Operating Environment; Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health; Quarantine and Export Services; Scientific Advice and Economic Research.

2.7 The Committee notes that the outcome/output framework will be further refined in 2001-2002 to reflect more clearly the market supply chain and to better link outputs to the outcome. These changes will be annotated in the 2001-2002 Portfolio Budget Statements. Other indicated changes for 2001-2002 include, a new Departmental Outcome, with the outcome for 2000-2001 becoming the AFFA mission statement; merging of some outputs into one and the transfer of responsibility for horticulture and wine to Food Processing and Through Chain Development Output.³

Report on Performance

2.8 The annual report provides detailed information on the various portfolio programs and outputs. Volume 1 details the roles and functions of each output and major groups and programs. Volume 2 of the report details performance achieved against the indicators and targets stated in the 2000-2001 Portfolio Budget Statements. It comprehensively details performance of Budget measures, performance against overall effectiveness indicators and output performance indicators. Section two provides information regarding program results within individual outputs, including performance against overall effectiveness indicators, departmental items and administered items.

2.9 In terms of financial performance, the Committee notes that the Department completed the year with a \$2.78 million surplus, comparing favourably with deficit noted in the 1999-2000 report.⁴

Management and Accountability

2.10 The report provides details on a number of internal and external audits. The Committee notes that there were 14 internal audit reports during 2000-2001. Additionally, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) issued 12 Auditor-General's reports, which made reference to AFFA. The annual report provides an overview of five ANAO reports, which were of particular significance to the Department.⁵

2.11 The Committee notes the comments by the Ombudsman regarding a Departmental investigation into allegations which were raised relating to table grape exports during 1985-1986. The Ombudsman made a number of recommendations, which resulted in the withdrawal of the Department's report in November 2000.⁶ This matter arose from consideration and report by this Committee of the circumstances surrounding the case reviewed by the Ombudsman (Integrity/Rural Products/Hewitt).

3 Ibid, p. 23.

4 Ibid, p. 93.

5 Ibid, pp. 107, 109-111.

6 Ibid, pp. 126-127.

2.12 The report states that total expenditure on consultancies during 2000-2001 was \$17,349,812.⁷ Details of all consultancies are located in Appendix 1 of the report.

Comment

2.13 The Committee considers that the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has produced a comprehensive and well presented annual report.

Department of Transport and Regional Services 2000-2001

2.14 The Department of Transport and Regional Services Annual Report was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared under the guidelines referred to in Section 63 of the *Public Service Act 1999* and in accordance with the requirements in subsection 63(1).

2.15 The report is structured in six parts. Part one provides a review of the issues and developments, which impacted on the Department during 2000-2001, achievements and outlook for 2001-2002 by the departmental Secretary. Part two reports on the Department's portfolio structure and details key results specified in the 2000-01 Corporate Plan and the outcome and output framework as outlined in the 2000-01 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS). Part three reports on the Department's performance as measured against its outputs in program groups. Additionally, part three also provides information on each program areas responsibilities, issues and highlights. Part four details operations relating to management and accountability. This includes governance, human resources, external scrutiny and competitive tendering, consultants and purchasing. Part five provides information on the Department's financial performance. Finally, part six is a list of appendices detailing information on consultancies, advertising, freedom of information and discretionary grants.

Departmental Overview

2.16 The report describes the role of DOTRS as 'serving Australia by helping the Government to achieve its policy goals in transport and regional services'.⁸ This was achieved through the provision of policy advice and services relating to grants, administration, research, regulations, investigations, safety and Territories. The Department summarised its functions through its output groups including, policy advice and ministerial services, regulatory and investigative services, program and revenue administration, services to industry and government agencies and services to communities.⁹

2.17 In terms of 2000-2001, the report notes that the year produced a number of issues and departmental contributions which continued to attract high levels of public and media interest. This was characterised by the Government's continued focus on regional Australia and transport reform and safety.

7 Ibid, p. 142.

8 Department of Transport and Regional Services Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 11.

9 Ibid, pp. 11-12.

2.18 The report states that of these issues, one of the most difficult was an audit by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) of the National Highways System Program. As a result, the Department experienced more intense scrutiny of its performance. This prompted the initiation of two major reviews; one into the administration of the roads programs and the second on the personnel and disciplinary issues raised. Subsequently, a number of wide ranging management and administrative improvements were initiated during 2000-2001.¹⁰

2.19 Other departmental performance activities included a major review of governance arrangements to ensure best practice, improvement to the quality of internal corporate services while reducing the proportion of budgetary allocations and improvement to information technology services.

2.20 The Committee notes that the Department will revise its outcome statement in 2001-2002 to reflect the results the portfolio is focussed on achieving for the community. However, for 2000-2001, the outcome *Linking Australia through transport and regional services*¹¹ reflects the Department's objectives concerning safer, more efficient and sustainable transport systems and the social, economic and environmental well-being of regions and Territories.

Report on Performance

2.21 The annual report provides detailed information on each of the Department's outputs and divisional groupings including, an overview of performance, major issues and highlights for 2000-2001, activities, performance measures and performance achieved. These divisions are: Airports; Australian Transport Safety Bureau; Aviation; Business and Information Services Groups (formerly Corporate); Cross-Modal and Maritime Transport; Economic Research and Environment; Executive Services Group; Land Transport; Regional Services, Development and Local Government; and Territories and Regional Support.

2.22 The report also details the performance of administered programs, which provide services and funding grants to communities. These programs are contained within two groupings. Group one includes Services to Communities such as compensation, aircraft noise amelioration, Remote Air Service Subsidy Scheme, Year of the Outback, Rural Communities Program and Rural Plan and Grants to States/Territories and Local Government such as, Road Safety Black Spot Program and Regional Flood Mitigation Program.

2.23 Administered program group two provides services and funding grants to assist industry in developing and maintaining transportation infrastructure. This involves Services for Industry and Economic Development, including payments to the Maritime Industry Finance Company (MIFCo) and Supermarket to Asia and Grants to States, Territories and Local Government, including the Roads to Recovery Program and Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Link.

2.24 Each of the programs within these groupings measure performance by detailing individual programs' activities, performance targets and performance achieved.

10 Ibid, p. 4.

11 Ibid, p. 11.

2.25 In terms of financial performance, the report states that the Department finished the year with an operating surplus of \$14.7 million before allowing for the \$27.3 million capital use charge. The Committee notes that total operating revenue was \$211.3 million, an increase of \$9.3 million from 1999-2000 and \$10 million from that budgeted.¹²

Management and Accountability

2.26 The report provides details on both internal and external audits. The Committee notes that internal audit services are now provided by one consultant rather than by the previous arrangement of a panel. Total expenditure on consultancies during 2000-2001 was \$10.7 million.¹³

2.27 The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) issued eight reports, which either referred to or included recommendations on the operations of the Department. The annual report states that DOTRS has either implemented ANAO recommendations, enhanced its operations as a result or is reviewing the associated programs in light of audit recommendations.

2.28 The Committee notes that the Ombudsman received 65 complaints about Departmental actions during 2000-2001. Of these 23 were investigated, with an agency defect found in six cases.¹⁴ These statistics are an increase on 1999-2000, when, 34 complaints were received, 13 investigated and four cases found to be caused by an agency defect.¹⁵

2.29 In terms of staffing, the Committee notes that total staff employed by DOTRS during 2000-2001 decreased by 18. The ongoing employee turnover rate increased significantly from 9.1% in 1999-2000 to 15.6% in 2000-2001.¹⁶

Comment

2.30 The Committee considers that the Department of Transport and Regional Services has produced a comprehensive and well constructed annual report.

Conclusion

2.31 The annual reports of the Departments examined in this report are considered by the Committee to be apparently satisfactory.

12 Ibid, p. 197.

13 Ibid, p. 191.

14 Ibid, pp. 178-179.

15 Department of Transport and Regional Services Annual Report 1999-2000, p. 202.

16 Department of Transport and Regional Services Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 180.

CHAPTER 3

ANNUAL REPORTS OF STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Australian Dairy Corporation

3.1 The 2000-2001 annual report of the Australian Dairy Corporation (ADC) was received by the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared in accordance with the *Dairy Produce Act 1986* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act 1997*.

3.2 The Managing Director's report describes 2000-2001 as 'one of the most turbulent in the history of the Australian dairy industry'.¹ This is due to the impact that deregulation has had on each industry sector. However, despite the impact of deregulation, the ADC reported record dairy exports. The Committee notes the changes made to ADC's organisational structure as a result of a series of reviews of services and support structures.

3.3 The report provides a comprehensive overview of the Corporation's objectives and activities. The Committee notes that the Corporation's subsidiary, Austdairy Ltd (ADL) experienced reduced sales during 2000-2001, due to continuing trading difficulties with its interests in Thai Dairy Industries Co (TDI).

3.4 All reporting requirements have been met.

Australian Dried Fruits Board

3.5 The annual report of the Australian Dried Fruits Board was tabled in the Senate on 6 August 2001. It was prepared under the *Australian Horticultural Corporation Act 1987* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act 1997*.

3.6 The Committee notes that this is the final report of the Board and covers the period from 1 July 2000 to 31 January 2001. The Board was abolished on 31 January 2001 when a new company, Horticulture Australia Limited was established.

3.7 All reporting requirements have been met.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

3.8 The 2000-2001 annual report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared in accordance with the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* and the *CAC Act 1997*. AFMA also operates under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

1 Australian Dairy Corporation Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 8.

3.9 AFMA has met all reporting requirements.

Australian Landcare Council

3.10 The Australian Landcare Council annual report 2000-2001 was received in the Senate on 16 November 2001 and tabled out of session. The Council operates under the provisions of the *Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992*.

3.11 In terms of financial arrangements, the Committee notes that expenses incurred by the Council are paid from the Natural Resource Management Fund administered by AFFA. The report states that the Council prepared an annual operating budget based on its meeting plans for each year. The operating budget for 2000-2001 was \$280,000, with an additional \$10,000, taking the total budget to \$290,000. Actual expenditure was 254,544.²

3.12 In the Committee's previous report on the Examination of Annual Reports No 1 of 2001, in which the Committee reviewed the Council's 1999-2000 report, comment was made on the lack of financial statements providing a breakdown on costs and allocations against the operating budget. The Committee notes that no breakdown of costs, apart from secretariat costs has been provided with this report.

Australian Pork Corporation

3.13 The 2000-2001 annual report of the Australian Pork Corporation (APC) was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Pig Industry Act 1986*, the *CAC Act 1997* and *Companies Act Orders 1998*.

3.14 The APC has met all reporting requirements. The Committee notes that this is the Corporation's final annual report. The APC ceased operations on 30 June 2001. A new industry service corporation, Australian Pork Limited (APL) commenced operations on 1 July 2001.

Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation

3.15 The Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation's 2000-2001 annual report was received in the Senate on 24 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980* and the *CAC Act 1997*.

3.16 The Corporation states that the outcome/output structure for this annual report is partially inconsistent with that stated in the 1999-2002 Corporate Plan and the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) for 2000-2001. This is due to a redefinition of the framework after the publishing of the corporate plan and PBS, based on a re-examination of the Corporation's role. The report notes that the difference between the Corporate Plan/PBS and this report concerns the number of outcomes and outputs. Since the review, the Corporation now has one outcome instead of two and one output has been omitted.³

2 Australian Landcare Council Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 31.

3 Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 12.

3.17 The Committee also notes that the operating result for 2000-2001 is a deficit of \$688,487. This is in contrast with the surplus of \$550,774 recorded for 1999-2000.⁴

3.18 All reporting requirements have been met.

Dairy Adjustment Authority

3.19 The Dairy Adjustment Authority (DAA) was established on 3 April 2000 to administer the Dairy Structural Adjustment Program. As such, 2000-2001 is the Authority's first annual report. The report was received by the Senate on 8 November 2001 and tabled out of session. The DAA operates under the provisions of the *Dairy Produce Act 1986* as amended by the *Dairy Industry Adjustment Act 2000*.

3.20 The Chairman's Review outlines the initial difficulties the Authority experienced in relation to staffing and the setting up of administrative arrangements due to the short time frame between inception and deregulation of the dairy industry on 1 July 2000. The Committee particularly notes these difficulties and the achievements of the Authority in ensuring timely payments to eligible applicants. The Committee intends to scrutinise DAA reports carefully in the future.

3.21 The Committee notes all reporting requirements have been met.

National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals

3.22 The 2000-2001 annual report was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992* and *CAC Act 1997*. The Authority also operates under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*.

3.23 All reporting requirements are met.

Fisheries Joint Authorities

3.24 The Committee reviewed the annual reports of three Fisheries Joint Authorities:

- Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) – Report for 1999-2000
- Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority (QFJA) – Report for 1999-2000 and
- Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority (WAFJA) – Report for 1998-1999.

3.25 All Fisheries Joint Authorities are subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. Each Authority also operates under the relevant State Fisheries Act.

3.26 The reports were tabled in the Senate on 28 August 2001 for the Queensland and Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authorities and 25 September 2001 for the Northern Territory.

4 Ibid, p. 22.

3.27 The Committee notes that as joint authorities no financial statements are included with the reports, although the Queensland and Northern Territory reports outline financial arrangements, by indicating total revenue received and source of receipts. The Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority report, simply states that funding is from the Fisheries Western Australia annual budget.

3.28 Further, the Committee also notes that the WAFJA has not provided basic aids to access such as, a table of contents or page numbering within the report. Additionally, the Committee did not receive any correspondence from WAFJA indicating the reasons for a delay in tabling the 1998-1999 annual report, when the other two Authorities have tabled their 1999-2000 reports. Considering that the Committee's scrutiny of annual reports is examining reports for the 2000-2001 financial year, advice as to a delay in tabling would have been appreciated.

Research and Development Corporations/Councils

3.29 The Committee has reviewed the annual reports of the research and development corporations listed below. With the exception of the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation, these annual reports were prepared in accordance with the *Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989* and *CAC Act 1997*. The Horticultural Research and Development Corporation operates under the provisions of the *Horticultural Research and Development Corporation Act 1987* and *CAC Act 1997*. These reports were received and/or tabled in the Senate on varying dates. A list of these Corporations/Councils and their receipt or tabling date is at Appendix 1.

- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- Dairy Research and Development Corporation
- Dried Fruits Research and Development Council (Final Report)
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation
- Horticultural Research and Development Corporation (Final Report)
- Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (now Land and Water Australia)
- Pig Research and Development Corporation (Final Report)
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
- Sugar Research and Development Corporation and
- Tobacco Research and Development Corporation.

3.30 Each of the Corporations has produced comprehensive reports that meet all reporting requirements.

3.31 The Committee notes that two Corporations and one Council have produced their final report. The Dried Fruits Research and Development Council ceased operations on 1 July 2001 when its functions were transferred to a new company, Horticulture Australia Limited.⁵ Similarly, the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation merged with Australian Horticultural Corporation to become Horticulture Australia Limited on 1 February 2001.⁶ The Pig Research and Development Corporation transferred its functions to a new non-statutory company, Australian Pork Limited on 1 July 2001.⁷

3.32 The Committee also notes that the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation changed its name to Land and Water Australia in December 2000.⁸

Transport and Regional Services Portfolio

Airservices Australia

3.33 The 2000-2001 annual report of Airservices Australia was tabled in the Senate on 18 September 2001. It has been prepared in accordance with the *Air Services Act 1995* and *CAC Act 1997*.

3.34 The report provides a comprehensive overview of Airservices Australia's activities and performance during 2000-2001. The report of operations details the activities and achievements of a number of key result areas in accordance with corporate objectives and the *Corporate Plan 2000-2005*. The key result areas are safety, environment, operational excellence, customers and markets, employees and owners.⁹

3.35 A number of highlights are emphasised in the report. In particular, the Committee notes that the transition to The Australian Advanced Air Traffic System (TAAATS) was finally completed in 2000-2001. The Committee also notes that a new business structure based on three market oriented business groups; Air Traffic Management, Airport Services and Infrastructure Support Services, was adopted during the reporting year.¹⁰ All reporting requirements have been met.

Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation

3.36 The Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation Annual Report 2000-2001 was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Albury-Wodonga Development Act 1973*.

5 Dried Fruits Research and Development Council Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 7.

6 Horticultural Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 6.

7 Pig Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2000-2001, pp. 9, 17.

8 Land and Water Australia Annual Report 2000-2001, p. ix.

9 Airservices Australia Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 20.

10 Ibid, p. 3.

3.37 The report states that the Corporations most significant issue is its winding-up. The Commonwealth and NSW have passed the appropriate legislation. The Corporation awaits the introduction of winding-up legislation in the Victorian parliament. As part of the Corporations commitment to winding-up the organisation, there was a reduction of four staff during 2000-2001. This is the same staff reduction figure as 1999-2000, with the report indicating that further reductions will occur in 2001-2002. All reporting requirements have been met.

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

3.38 The 2000-2001 annual report of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) was received in the Senate on 8 November 2001 and tabled out of session. The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

3.39 The report provides a concise overview of the Authority's major activities for the 2000-2001 year. The Authority has measured performance by reviewing outputs against key performance measures and actual achievements.

3.40 The Committee notes that AMSA underwent a substantial organisational change during 2000-2001. These changes included, the external provision of shipping services, contracting the maintenance of aids to navigation and search and rescue equipment after competitive tender, which resulted in some service function amalgamations and the dissolution of a business unit and restructuring of corporate services.¹¹ The Authority has met all reporting requirements.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

3.41 The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Annual Report 2000-2001 was received in the Senate on 6 November 2001 and tabled out of session. The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Civil Aviation Act 1988* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (CAC)*.

3.42 The report notes that CASA finalised its organisational restructure in 2000-2001, with a focus on reorganising the Executive team. The Executive was reduced from twelve to six through the amalgamation of several divisions. Another key change was the appointment of a Deputy Director. The aim of the reorganisation is to provide a stronger outward focus for the Authority.¹²

3.43 The Committee notes the Director's comments regarding CASA's progress in rewriting aviation safety regulations through the Regulatory Reform Plan.¹³

3.44 In terms of performance, the report provides performance measurement through the internal and external accountability framework, specifically, CASAs Corporate Statement, Corporate Plan and Portfolio Budget Statements for 2000-2001. A concise overview of

11 Australian Maritime Safety Authority Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 40.

12 Civil Aviation Safety Authority Annual Report 2000-2001, pp. 21, 23.

13 Ibid, p. xvii.

CASA's performance has been detailed through the key outcome areas of safety, effectiveness and efficiency, community and staff and critical success factors.

3.45 The Committee notes that CASA completed 2000-2001 with an operating surplus of \$4.955 million.¹⁴ All reporting requirements have been met.

National Capital Authority

3.46 The 2000-2001 annual report of the National Capital Authority was received by the Senate on 30 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*.

3.47 All reporting requirements have been met.

Conclusion

3.48 The annual reports of the statutory authorities examined in this report are considered by the Committee to be apparently satisfactory.

14 Ibid, p. 102.

CHAPTER 4

ANNUAL REPORTS OF NON STATUTORY AUTHORITIES, GOVERNMENT COMPANIES AND REPORTS DEALING WITH ACTS AND OTHER BODIES

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

4.1 The Committee has not received annual reports of non-statutory authorities, Government companies or Acts to examine for this report.

Other

Australian National Residue Survey

4.2 The Australian National Residue Survey (NRS) annual report for 2000-2001 was received in the Senate on 24 October 2001 and tabled out of session. The NRS operates under the provisions of the *National Residue Survey Administration Act 1992*. The annual report was prepared in accordance with the Act.

4.3 All reporting requirements have been met.

Transport and Regional Services Portfolio

National Road Transport Commission

4.4 The 2000-2001 annual report of the National Road Transport Commission (NRTC) was received in the Senate on 1 November 2001 and tabled out of session. The NRTC is an independent body established under two inter-government agreements between Commonwealth and State/Territory governments. It was established under the *National Road Transport Commission Act 1991*.

4.5 The report notes that the 2000-2001 year continues to progress with the Third Heavy Vehicle Reform Package. The NRTC has met all reporting requirements.

Companies

Australian River Co Limited

4.6 The report for the Australian River Co was tabled in the Senate on 7 August 2001. The report notes that after the conclusion of the sales process for the group in the previous financial year, the Government has not yet announced its intention for the final structure of the Company.

4.7 All reporting requirements have been met.

Bankstown, Camden and Hoxton Park Airports Limited

4.8 The annual reports for Bankstown Airport, Camden Airport and Hoxton Park Airport were received by the Senate on 26 October 2001 and tabled out of session. 2001 marks the first annual report for these airports as independent public companies. Each airport began the 2000-2001 financial year as a subsidiary of the Sydney Airport Corporation (SACL) and separated from SACL in June 2001 as part of the Government's airport privatisation policy.

4.9 All reporting requirements have been met.

National Rail Corporation Limited

4.10 The 2000-2001 annual report for the National Rail Corporation Limited was tabled in the Senate on 25 September 2001.

4.11 All reporting requirements have been met.

Sydney Airports Corporation Limited

4.12 The Sydney Airports Corporation Limited (SACL) Annual Report 2000-2001 was received in the Senate on 31 October 2001 and tabled out of session.

4.13 In accordance with the Commonwealth Government's decision to privatise the SACL group, the Corporation disposed of its shares in its three subsidiary airport companies during 2000-2001:

- Bankstown
- Camden and
- Hoxton Park.

This process was finalised on 29 June 2001¹. As such, SACL is now responsible for the operations and management of Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport until the finalisation of the airport sale.

4.14 All reporting requirements have been met.

Conclusion

4.15 The Committee considers that the annual reports of the non-statutory authorities and companies examined in this report are apparently satisfactory.

1 Sydney Airports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2000-2001, p. 7.

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF ANNUAL REPORTS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE DURING THE PERIOD 1 MAY 2001 TO 19 NOVEMBER 2001 AND DATE OF TABLING IN THE SENATE

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY PORTFOLIO

Date Tabled or Received

Department of State

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry -
Volumes 1 and 2 Report 2000 - 01 31 October 2001

Statutory Authorities

- Australian Dairy Corporation – Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Australian Dried Fruits Board – Report 2000-2001
(Final Report) 6 August 2001
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority –
Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Australian Landcare Council – Report 2000-2001 16 November 2001
- Australian Pork Corporation – Report 2000-2001
(Final Report) 31 October 2001
- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation – Report 2000-01 24 October 2001
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation –
Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Dairy Adjustment Authority – Report 2000-2001 8 November 2001
- Dairy Research and Development Corporation -
Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Dried Fruits Research and Development Council –
Report 2000-2001 (Final Report) 15 November 2001

- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee - Reports 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation – Report 2000-2001 7 November 2001
- Grains Research and Development Corporation – Report 1999-2000 31 October 2001
- Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation – Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Horticultural Research and Development Corporation – Report 2000-2001 (Final Report) 7 August 2001
- Land and Water Australia – Report 2000-2001 (formerly Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation) 19 November 2001
- National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals – Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority – Report 1999-2000 25 September 2001
- Pig Research and Development Corporation - Report 2000-2001 (Final Report) 31 October 2001
- Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority – Report – 1999-2000 28 August 2001
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation – Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Sugar Research and Development Corporation Report 2000-2001 1 November 2001
- Tobacco Research and Development Corporation - Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority – Report 1998-1999 28 August 2001

Other

- Australian National Residue Survey – Report 2001-2001 24 October 2001

TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Department of State

- Department of Transport and Regional Services - Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001

Statutory Authorities

- Airservices Australia – Report 2000-2001 6 November 2001
- Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation – Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority – Report 2000-01 8 November 2001
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority – Report 2000-2001 6 November 2001
- National Capital Authority – Report 2000-2001 30 October 2001

Non-Statutory Authorities

- National Road Transport Commission – Report 2000-2001 1 November 2001

Companies

- Australian River Co Limited (formerly ANL Ltd) Report 1 December 1999-30 November 2000 7 August 2001
- Bankstown Airport Limited – Report 2000-2001 26 October 2001
- Camden Airport Limited – Report 2000-2001 26 October 2001
- Hoxton Park Airport Limited – Report 2000-2001 26 October 2001
- National Rail Corporation Limited – Report 2000-2001 25 September 2001
- Sydney Airports Corporation Limited - Report 2000-2001 31 October 2001

Other

- Airservices Australia – Movement compliance Statement for Sydney Airport for the period 1 April-30 June 2001 18 September 2001
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority Corporate Plan 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 18 September 2001

