



The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Minister for the Environment

MC14-005133

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

- 4 JUN 2014

Dear Dr Southcott

I refer to your letter of 12 February 2014 concerning a Government response to Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit Report No. 417. I regret the delay in responding.

I am aware that the report was tabled on 22nd June 2010 during the term of the 42nd Parliament. Since the tabling of the report there has been a number of machinery of government changes and changes in ministerial responsibility. The report contains recommendations to the former Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and those recommendations were addressed in the Australian National Audit Office "Public Sector Environmental Management Better Practice Guide" published in April 2012.

Recommendation 1:

That taking into account the findings of the government Leadership in sustainability Taskforce, environmental management systems be made mandatory across all agencies of the Australian Government.

Further that the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts take the lead in developing a best practice environmental management system template with minimum standards for reporting.

This recommendation is addressed in Part 1 - **Environmental Management Fundamentals for Executives** in the "Public Sector Environmental Management Better Practice Guide"

Recommendation 3:

That the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts draft and promote an explicit policy for that product stewardship clauses be the preferred option for public sector information and communication technology (ICT) in all cases where ICT assets are not to be resold or gifted at the end of their working life.

This recommendation is addressed in Part 2 - **Principles and Practices to Improve Environmental Management Across Key Operational Areas**, Chapter 2 - ICT of the "Public Sector Environmental Management Better Practice Guide"

Recommendation 4:

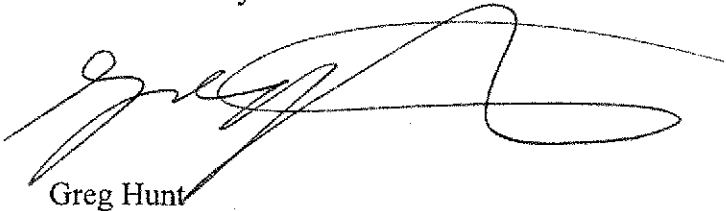
That the methodology used and results of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts desktop and server virtualisation project be disseminated to other audited agencies.

This recommendation is addressed in Part 2 – **Principles and Practices to Improve Environmental Management Across Key Operational Areas**, Chapter 2 - **ICT** of the “Public Sector Environmental Management Better Practice Guide”

The report also contained a recommendation directed at the former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency; this is now the responsibility of the Department of Industry and has been referred to them for a response.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hunt', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Greg Hunt