



Australia Network tender to face parliamentary scrutiny

Public hearing 27 June 2012 in Canberra

The Auditor-General and government departments involved in the contentious Australia Network tender process will give evidence at an upcoming public hearing of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

The \$223 million Australia Network tender was terminated in November 2011 on public interest grounds following repeated leaks of confidential tender information to the media.

A recent Australian National Audit Office report examined the events surrounding the tender process and identified lessons to be learned for future government procurements. These lessons included: the need for clarity around the role of formal decision makers; the critical nature of information security, including following the 'need to know' principle; and the importance of effective risk management.

"The Auditor-General's report raised a range of issues worthy of more detailed examination", said Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott MP. "The hefty administration and compensation bill for taxpayers, as well as damage to the Australia Network brand and the Australian Government's reputation, might have been avoided if the mistakes identified in the report had not been made."

The hearing will be held on **Wednesday 27 June** from **11:30 to 1.00 pm** in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will discuss the Auditor-General's findings with the Committee. During the hearing the Committee will also receive evidence from DFAT and DBCDE relating to Audit Report No. 31 (*Establishment and Use of Procurement Panels*), for which an initial hearing was held last week.

More information, including the public hearing program, can be found on the Committee's website at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jcpaa/auditgen5_12/index.htm

Live broadcast: http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on telephone (02) 6584 2911

For information about the hearing: please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615, e-mail jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>