



JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Public Accounts Committee Unanimously Approves Ian McPhee's Appointment as Auditor-General

Under the *Public Accounts and Audit Committee Act 1951*, the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit is required to approve or reject a proposed recommendation for an appointment to the office of Auditor-General.

In announcing the Committee's unanimous approval of **Mr Ian McPhee's** appointment as Auditor-General, Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, Mr Bob Baldwin MP, said "the Auditor-General is an independent officer of the Parliament and so it is important that the Committee has the power to scrutinise and, if it deems necessary, reject a nomination to this position".

"Mr Ian McPhee is a dedicated and highly competent person who brings a wealth of experience to the position. He was formerly a long serving employee of the Australian National Audit Office, gaining experience at the highest levels of the organisation as Deputy Auditor-General from 1998 to 2003. He left the Audit Office to become a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Finance and Administration."

"The primary responsibility of the Audit Office is to ensure that government agencies and departments operate efficiently and effectively while meeting all the compliance standards that are required of publicly funded agencies. In this the Auditor-General and his staff must operate without fear or favour and Mr McPhee's record is a testament to his abilities in this regard. "Mr Baldwin said.

"Mr McPhee's appointment, through this process, demonstrates that he has the support of the Committee, the Government and the Opposition. On behalf of the Committee I congratulate Mr McPhee and express our complete confidence in his abilities to ensure that the Australian public gets value for its money".

Mr Baldwin paid tribute to outgoing Auditor-General, Mr Pat Barrett AO: "During his time the Audit Office has proven to be a vital instrument through which government agencies and departments have been held accountable to the Parliament."

For media comment: contact Bob Baldwin MP on telephone 0419 694 620.

For **more information**, contact the Committee Secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or visit the Committee's website at

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm

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