The Senate

# Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2005)

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TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

## CHAPTER ONE

## **REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **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.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *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).

### Purpose and requirements of annual reports

1.2 Annual reports provide information on the success (or otherwise) of departments and agencies in meeting targets outlined in the portfolio budget statements, their primary function being to assist in ensuring the public accountability of government departments and their agencies. This is undertaken through the tabling of annual reports in the Parliament; and their scrutiny by Senate Committees in accordance with Senate Standing Order 25(21). This process thus allows Parliament to make informed judgments on the executive's performance in administering government programs.

1.3 Departments of State and Executive Agencies present their annual reports pursuant to sections 63(2) and 70(2) of the Public Service Act, respectively. These are required to comply with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's *Requirements for Annual Reports* (updated June 2004), approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on 23 June 2004.

1.4 Statutory authorities and government companies present their annual reports pursuant to their own enabling legislation and/or sections 9 and 36 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act), respectively. These reports must be produced in accordance with the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Report of Operations) Orders 2002, the Finance Minister's Orders made under s48 of the CAC Act, stipulating the requirements for annual reports presented pursuant to the Act. Annual reports of government companies limited by shares are required to comply with Corporations Law requirements.

### Timing and presentation of reports on annual reports

1.5 Under 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. In this instance, that date is 16 March 2005. Committees are also required to report on annual reports tabled by 30 April each year by the tenth sitting after 30 June of that year.

1.6 The Committee examines the annual reports of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Transport and Regional Services, in addition to the annual reports of those agencies reporting through those two ministerial portfolios.

1.7 This report considers those annual reports tabled between 30 April 2004 and 31 October 2004. Due to the impact of the 2004 federal election, this report will also include those reports provided to the Senate before 31 October, but tabled early in the  $41^{st}$  parliament.

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

#### **Reports not examined**

1.9 The Committee is not obliged to report on Acts, statements of corporate intent, surveys, corporate plans or errata. The following documents were referred to the Committee and not examined:

- CASA Corporate Plan 2004-05 to 2006-07
- Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Innovating rural Australia: Research and development corporation outcomes report 2003
- Report on Movement Cap for Sydney Airport 1 January to 31 March 2004
- Report on Movement Cap for Sydney Airport 1 April to 30 June 2004

### Timeliness

1.10 Standing Order 25(21)(c) requires the Committee to report to the Senate on the late presentation of annual reports.

1.11 Section 4 of the *Requirements for Annual Reports* states that annual reports are to be laid before the parliament on or before 31 October in the year the report is given. Section 9 of the CAC Act stipulates that the deadline for furnishing the Minister with relevant annual reports is the  $15^{th}$  day of the  $4^{th}$  month after the end of the financial year, that is, 15 October where the end of the financial year is 30 June.

1.12 The Committee notes that government agencies reporting in accordance with their own legislation are often required to prepare for the relevant Minister their annual report 'as soon as is practicable' after a particular date. The Committee draws attention to sections 34C(2) and (3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, which stipulate that: where no date for providing a report to a Minister is specified, the report needs to be presented no more than six months after the reporting period, and the Minister must provide the report to the Parliament within 15 sitting days after he receives it.

1.13 A number of annual reports were tabled in the Senate after the relevant deadlines, and beyond the date they may be considered within this report. In most cases, this was due to delays in Ministers providing the reports for tabling, rather than the agencies themselves failing to meet the deadline for publishing their annual report. The agencies whose reports were tabled late and will be examined in the next report on annual reports are:

- Airservices Australia Annual Report 2003-04;
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority Annual Report 2003-04;
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Annual Report 2003-04;

- Civil Aviation Safety Authority Annual Report 2003-04;
- Dairy Adjustment Authority Annual Report 2003-04;
- Dairy Australia Annual Report 2003-04;
- Department of Transport and Regional Services Annual Report 2003-04;
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04;
- Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04;
- Grains Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04;
- Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04;
- Land and Water Australia Annual Report 2003-04;
- National Capital Authority Annual Report 2003-04;
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04;
- Sugar Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04.

#### **Comments on reports**

1.14 In accordance with Standing Order 25(21)(a) the Committee is required to examine reports and inform the Senate as to whether they are 'apparently satisfactory'. The Committee considers compliance with the reporting guidelines stipulated by the legislation under which various departments and agencies present their annual reports.

1.15 The Committee is pleased to note that the annual reports examined adhered satisfactorily to the relevant reporting requirements and were presented to a high standard. Where relevant, reports detailed programs and activities with a focus on performance measurement against outcomes and goals, in relation to forecasts listed in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

1.16 The Committee notes section 6(2) of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Report of Operations) Orders 2002, which states that the report of operations "should be free of ambiguity, jargon and excessive use of acronyms and technical terms".

1.17 Further, while not strictly required, the Committee recommends the inclusion of a compliance index in annual reports.

1.18 Unfortunately, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission's 2002-03 annual report was not only presented late (tabled 3 August 2004), but also failed to comment on corporate governance practices and whether or not the Commission's activities had been subject to judicial review. These omissions were repeated in the 2003-04 report and the Committee urges the Commission to rectify this in its next annual report.

1.19 The Committee encourages all agencies to provide a specific date with the letter of transmittal. In their 2003-04 annual report, the Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee left their transmittal undated. Likewise, the Australian Maritime College did not provide a specific date in their 2003 annual report, and are requested to do so next year.

### Senate debate on annual reports

1.20 Senate Standing Order 25 (21) (d) directs the Committee to take into account remarks made in the Senate when considering annual reports.

1.21 None of the annual reports considered in this report were remarked upon in the Senate. Remarks relating to the Department of Transport and Regional Services will be examined in the next report.

### **Comment on significant matters**

1.22 Finally, in accordance with Senate Standing Order 25 (21) (g), the Committee is required to comment on significant matters raised in annual reports. In addition to its consideration of the departmental annual reports in Chapter Two, the Committee has also considered the reports of the following agencies in Chapter Three:

- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Annual Report 2003-04;
- Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Annual Report 2003-04; and
- Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

## DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL REPORTS

### Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 2003-04

2.1 The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) 2003-04 annual report was prepared in accordance with section 63 of the *Public Service Act 1999* and tabled on 17 November 2004. The Committee notes the Senate's receipt of this report on 7 October 2004, during the federal election campaign.

2.2 The report is presented in accordance with the checklist of requirements stipulated in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments Executive Agencies and FMA Act Bodies, June 2004.* The DAFF 2003-04 annual report contains the following information:

- The Secretary's yearly review highlighting the achievements of the Department and future outlook;
- A departmental overview outlining DAFF's operations and organisational structure;
- Report on performance as measured against output objectives;
- An overview of the Department's management and accountability arrangements, including corporate governance practices, internal and external scrutiny, purchasing and tendering; and
- Appendices detailing financial statements, FOI requests, discretionary grants, occupational health and safety procedures and advertising and market research.

2.3 The Committee notes that all mandatory requirements for the report have been met.

#### Departmental overview

2.4 The Committee notes the most significant issues for DAFF during the reporting period:

- (i) Contributing to the negotiations preceding the US and Thailand free trade agreements;
- (ii) The resolution of the Cormo Express incident and the subsequent Keniry Report recommending changes to the live export industry, following Saudi Arabia's rejection of a live sheep consignment from Australia in September 2003;

- (iii) Administration of continuing assistance to drought-affected farmers;
- (iv) The announcement of the \$444 million sugar industry reform package, which extends the previous 2002 reform package; and
- (v) Participation in securing COAG agreement for the National Water Initiative in June 2003.<sup>1</sup>

2.5 In his yearly review, the Departmental Secretary placed particular emphasis on the effectiveness of the 'Agriculture – Advancing Australia' (AAA) package. This was targeted primarily at improving farmers' business capacity and risk mitigation strategies, with the intention of assisting farmers to become more self-reliant, particularly during periods of exceptional circumstances. The Department alluded to the success of the program and "... the importance of the successor package [not specified] announced in early 2004".<sup>2</sup>

2.6 On the legislative front, the passage of final amendments to the *Dairy Produce Act 1986* concluded the statutory aspect of dairy reform. Additionally, the *Wheat Marketing Amendment Act 2003* established a charge on exports to fund the Wheat Export Authority.<sup>3</sup>

2.7 Other departmental highlights included the release of Biosecurity Australia's revised Import Risk Analysis (IRA) handbook outlining the IRA process. The Committee notes that no new IRAs were commenced during the year, though 26 animal and 9 plant IRAs were already progressing.<sup>4</sup>

### Report on performance

2.8 DAFF has reviewed its performance based on objectives established in the 2003-04 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS). The objectives of each departmental output are assessed by measuring the Department's performance against a series of departmental indicators.

2.9 The Department reported that the Commonwealth had provided in excess of \$55 million to New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. This will help planting, drainage works and water use efficiency improvements.<sup>5</sup>

2.10 In the Committee's examination of DAFF's previous annual report, the need to improve quarantine effectiveness at international mail exchanges, sea cargo containers

<sup>1</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, pp. 1-4

<sup>2</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 2

<sup>4</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, pp. 113-114

<sup>5</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 65

and higher risk items at airports was discussed.<sup>6</sup> The Committee notes that in 2003-04 the quarantine intervention at mail exchanges has improved, as has the intervention of sea containers. However, increasing passenger volumes in Sydney airport and incomplete infrastructure changes in Melbourne have caused interventions to fall below targeted levels.<sup>7</sup> It is regrettable that DAFF did not offer any insight as to whether these problems would continue, or any potential action to improve the situation.

2.11 The Department finished the year with an operating surplus of \$5.6 million, down from \$15 million in the previous year. This surplus was due to underspending on delivery costs associated with the drought and sugar industry relief packages, plus an underspend on additional funding for IRAs.<sup>8</sup> The Committee again notes that no explanation was provided for these underspends and encourages the Department to include further explanations in future reports.

#### Management and accountability

2.12 As required by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's annual reporting guidelines, the report provides information on corporate governance, internal and external scrutiny, human resource management, purchasing, assets management, consultancies, advertising and market research activities, discretionary grants, freedom of information, occupational health and safety, Commonwealth Disability Strategy and ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance.

2.13 DAFF makes note of two appeals to Biosecurity Australia's import risk analysis (IRA) process. In April 2004 IRA Appeal Panels were convened to hear appeals relating to the Thai mangosteen and generic pig meat IRAs.<sup>9</sup> All aspects of the appeals were disallowed by the panel, and policy determinations giving effect to the IRAs were consequently handed down by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.<sup>10</sup>

2.14 Expenditure on consultancies during 2003-04 was \$15.1 million, up from \$13.3 million the previous year. The largest payment was \$2.8 million to Universal McCann for placing *Quarantine Matters!* advertisements in various media. The

<sup>6</sup> Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee, *Report on Annual Reports* (*No. 1*), March 2004, p. 7

<sup>7</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 132

<sup>8</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 187

<sup>9</sup> On 13 May 2004 the Committee tabled a report on the pig meat IRA titled "Biosecurity Australia's import risk analysis for pig meat".

<sup>10</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Annual Report 2003-04, p. 208

decision to appoint that organisation was taken by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.  $^{11}$ 

2.15 The Department was listed in a recent ANAO report on special appropriations<sup>12</sup> as not disclosing their use of special appropriations under section 39 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. The Committee anticipates that the audit's findings will be noted in DAFF's 2004-05 annual report, and a disclosure made. Further, the Committee expects that a formal administrative procedure will be instituted to ensure future compliance.

#### Comment

2.16 The Committee considers DAFF's 2003-04 annual report to be well presented and in compliance with the reporting requirements of a Commonwealth department.

### **Department of Transport and Regional Services 2003-04**

2.17 The Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) did not table its 2003-04 annual report by the 31 October deadline. In accordance with the requirements of section 34C of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, the Department provided a written statement to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services explaining why it would not be possible to comply with the deadline. As also required by section 34C of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, this statement was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 16 November 2004.

2.18 The Committee notes that the Department provided the Minister with a written statement on 2 November 2004, after the deadline had already passed. The Committee is of the view that DOTARS should have done this before the October 31 deadline.

2.19 The explanation DOTARS provided to the Minister is as follows:

The Department has experienced delays in presenting its 2003-04 Annual Report, in part due to increased workload largely associated with preparing the 2004 Incoming Government Brief.

As well, when the Federal Election was announced, a decision was taken to delay printing of the report as a courtesy to allow incoming ministers an opportunity to review and comment on the draft text. This meant we had to reschedule tasks such as indexing and printing.

We now expect to present the report to you no later than the end of November 2004. A proof version will be provided to your office shortly for information and comment.

<sup>11</sup> Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 269

<sup>12</sup> Australian National Audit Office, Financial Management of Special Appropriations, Audit Report No. 15, 2004-05

A number of departments are tabling their annual reports for 2003-04 late due to delays associated with the Election period.<sup>13</sup>

2.20 DOTARS' 2003-04 Annual Report was tabled on 8 December 2004 and will be examined in the Committee's Report on Annual Reports No. 2 of 2005.

2.21 The Committee notes that the 9 October 2004 federal election was provided as an explanation for not reporting within the deadline. However, the Committee questions the validity of this argument.

<sup>13</sup> Letter to Minister dated 2 November 2004 from Departmental Secretary Mike Taylor

## **CHAPTER THREE**

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

3.1 A list of statutory authorities' annual reports referred to the Committee is contained in Appendix 1.

3.2 The Committee notes that many annual reports that would normally be examined in this report were tabled after 31 October 2004. These will be examined in the Committee's Report on Annual Reports No. 2 2005. Of the reports received, the Committee undertook closer inspection of the following three.

#### Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation

3.3 The Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation (AWBC) is a statutory marketing authority established under the *Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980*. The bulk of AWBC's funding is derived from the levies and export charges paid by Australian wine and brandy producers. AWBC is principally responsible for ensuring continued growth in the demand for Australian wine through:

- (i) Facilitating market development for Australian wine exports;
- (ii) Providing wine makers with information and analysis to assist decision making; and
- (iii) Maintaining Australia's reputation through the administration of export licences and permits, and label integrity.<sup>1</sup>

3.4 AWBC reported that a motion to increase the wine export charge was given overwhelming support by the wine industry. This measure was taken to remove the negative effects of bracket creep and to ensure the Corporation remains adequately resourced.<sup>2</sup>

3.5 The 2003-04 annual report contained comprehensive information on Australia's export performances to the wine industry's major overseas markets. Overall, trading conditions were described as "difficult" during 2003-04.<sup>3</sup> Although a record volume of wine was exported, downward pricing pressures meant that the average price per litre for Australian exporters decreased for the third year in a row.

3.6 For 2003, AWBC reported that most areas enjoyed favourable winegrowing conditions. Total wine production in Australia for 2004 was expected to be a record 1.86 million tonnes, up 23 per cent from the previous record set in 2002. The

<sup>1</sup> Australian wine and Brandy Corporation, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 6

<sup>2</sup> Australian wine and Brandy Corporation, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 10

<sup>3</sup> Australian wine and Brandy Corporation, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 13

increased production of white wines was expected to alleviate shortages of some white varieties, however the increased production of reds was expected to compound existing supply pressures.<sup>4</sup>

3.7 AWBC also reported an operating surplus of \$692,459 for the financial year.<sup>5</sup>

3.8 The Committee considers AWBC's 2003-04 annual report meets the reporting requirements and commends it for its timeliness and clarity.

### Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee

3.9 The Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee (SIFC) was established to resolve asbestos-related illness claims inherited from the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority (ASIA). These claims relate to waterside workers' respiratory illnesses allegedly caused by exposure to asbestos dust when handling asbestos cargo prior to 1977.<sup>6</sup>

3.10 High Court test cases clarifying ASIA's liability have led to SIFC adopting a policy of negotiation to settle legitimate asbestos-related claims against it. As at 30 June 2004, the Committee had received 336 claims for damages since 1989, of which 284 had been finalised.<sup>7</sup> The report noted that while the 2004-05 Budget will not provide funds to SIFC, it has sufficient funds to meet future liabilities for the next twelve months.<sup>8</sup> SIFC also reported that it had recovered approximately 26 per cent of its payments to claimants from stevedores and manufacturers and consignees of asbestos cargo.<sup>9</sup>

3.11 The SIFC also stated that due to the potential latency period of 60 years for asbestos diseases, claims will continue for some time into the future.<sup>10</sup>

3.12 As a Commonwealth authority established under the *Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Act 1977*, the SIFC is required to report to the Parliament in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under s48 of the CAC Act. Although the report was this year provided in a timely manner (unlike the 2002-03 report), the Committee notes that for the second year running the letter of transmittal has been left undated.

3.13 The committee notes that this annual report has met it reporting requirements.

<sup>4</sup> Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 45

<sup>5</sup> Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 18

<sup>6</sup> Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 3

<sup>7</sup> Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 3

<sup>8</sup> Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 4

<sup>9</sup> Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee, *Annual Report 2003-04*, pp. 3-4

<sup>10</sup> Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee, *Annual Report 2003-04*, p. 15

#### Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation

3.14 The Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation (the Corporation) is a Commonwealth statutory authority established under the *Albury-Wodonga Development Act 1973*. As an entity soon to be wound up, a brief explanation of the Corporation's historical basis and functions may be of use.

#### Background

3.15 The Corporation was originally established as part of an agreement between the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian state governments, operating in conjunction with the two state corporations established under Victorian and NSW legislation. With the objective of developing Albury-Wodonga into a major inland city of around 300,000 people by 2000, the Corporation was responsible for the planning and development of large tracts of land purchased mainly with Commonwealth monies. The state Corporations held land title and were responsible for its acquisition, management and disposal. The activities of these statutory bodies were overseen by the Albury-Wodonga Ministerial Council, which had authority under the act to order the Corporation to comply with its directions.

3.16 Behind the scheme was a broader government policy of population decentralisation via promoting the growth of large regional centres. This objective was to be facilitated by taking control of the planning and development of these centres, as well as by shifting a proportion of Commonwealth public service employment to these targeted centres. In addition to the Albury-Wodonga scheme, a major regional centre at Orange-Bathurst was also proposed.

3.17 In 1989, the three governments agreed to abandon the original aims of the scheme. Responsibility for planning was returned to local councils, while the Corporation was required to provide a return to the Commonwealth on its original investment. Consequently, the Corporation principally became a property developer, selling land in order to provide a return to the Commonwealth.

3.18 In 1995 the Commonwealth decided to wind up the Corporation and sell all of its assets within five years. However, in 1997 the Albury-Wodonga Ministerial Council decided to allow market forces to dictate the pace and amount of return on the sale of the Corporation's assets, wishing to maximise returns and concerned that local markets could be distorted. A later date of 30 June 2007 was set for the wind-up of the Corporation.

3.19 The winding up of the operations of the Corporation began in earnest with the *Albury-Wodonga Development Winding-up Agreement* between the Commonwealth and NSW and Victorian state governments. This confirmed 30 June 2007 as the date on which the Corporation will be dissolved and contained an agreement to repeal the relevant state acts and dissolve the state corporations on 1 March 2004. Consequently, the state corporations' responsibilities were transferred to the Corporation. As a return of equity the Corporation paid \$3.7 million to the Victorian government on its withdrawal; NSW held no equity in the scheme.

3.20 In accordance with the winding-up agreement, the Corporation is now solely responsible for selling the remainder of the assets at market value.<sup>11</sup>

### 2003-04 Annual Report

3.21 The Corporation reported that 2003-04 saw a rapid acceleration in englobo land sales, from 16 ha in 2002-03 to 171 ha for the reported year. However, while industrial land had sold well, affordability issues that were affecting sales in most areas had left residential blocks selling below expected levels. The Corporation did point out though that while residential sales had slowed from the previous two years they were equal to the long-term average.<sup>12</sup>

3.22 The return to the Commonwealth for 2003-04 was \$18.5 million, in addition to the \$3.7 million return of equity to the Victorian Government. Total returns paid to the Commonwealth are now \$137.237 million.<sup>13</sup>

3.23 The other significant issue noted in the report was the release of a scoping study into the future of the Corporation. In submissions to the study, the Corporation supported the Corporation's replacement with a new government business enterprise to manage and develop the remaining land bank. The Government had not produced a response to the study at the end of 2003-04.<sup>14</sup>

3.24 The Committee welcomes the timely reporting of the Corporation's activities and its compliance with the FMO guidelines under which it reports.

### Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan

Chair

<sup>11</sup> Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation website, http://www.awdc.gov.au/corp/b6wam2fa.htm#L002

<sup>12</sup> Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, Annual Report 2003-04, pp. vi-vii

<sup>13</sup> Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, Annual Report 2003-04, p. vi

<sup>14</sup> Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, Annual Report 2003-04, p. vi

## **APPENDIX ONE**

## LIST OF ANNUAL REPORTS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE DURING THE PERIOD 1 MAY 2004 AND 31 OCTOBER 2004\*

### AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FORESTRY PORTFOLIO

Department of State	Legislation	Letter of transmittal date	Date received by the Senate	Tabling date
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Annual Report 2003-04	Public Service Act 1999	20/9/04	7/10/04	17/11/04
Statutory Authorities				
Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Annual Report 2003-04	Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980	30/9/04	20/10/04	16/11/04
Murray-Darling Basin Commission Annual Report 2002-03	Murray-Darling Basin Act 1993	24/2/04	3/8/04	3/8/04
Murray-Darling Basin Commission Annual Report 2003-04	Murray-Darling Basin Act 1993	23/9/04	18/11/04	18/11/04
Tobacco Research and Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04	Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989	30/4/04	18/11/04	18/11/04
Companies				
Australian River Co. Limited Annual Report 2003		n/a	15/6/04	15/6/04

Landcare Australia Limited Annual Report 2002-03		n/a	15/6/04	15/6/04
Other				
Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry – Innovating rural Australia: Research and development corporation outcomes report 2003		n/a	30/6/04	30/6/04
National Residue Survey Annual Report 2003-04	National Residue Survey Administration Act 1992	17/9/04	6/10/04	16/11/04

## TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Statutory authorities	Legislation	Letter of transmittal date	Date received by the Senate	Tabling date
Albury Wodonga Development Corporation Annual Report 2003-04	Albury-Wodonga Development Act 1973	10/9/04	8/10/04	16/11/04
Australian Maritime College Annual Report 2003	Maritime College Act 1978	March 2004	16/6/04	16/6/04
Australian Maritime Safety Authority Annual Report 2003-04	CAC Act 1997	21/9/04	10/11/04	16/11/04
CASA Corporate Plan 2004-05 to 2006-07		25/6/04	8/10/04	16/11/04
International Air Services Commission Annual Report 2003-04	International Air Services Commission Act 1992	13/10/04	5/11/04	16/11/04

Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Annual Report 2003-04	Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Act 1977	Not included	8/10/04	16/11/04
Companies				
Maritime Industry Finance Company Limited Annual Report 2003-04		28/9/04	25/10/04	16/11/04
Other				
Report on Movement Cap for Sydney Airport 1 January to 31 March 2004		2/4/04	16/6/04	16/6/04
Report on Movement Cap for Sydney Airport 1 April to 30 June 2004		14/7/04	31/8/04	16/11/04

\* Due to the interruption of the federal election the Committee is considering reports tabled up to and including the first sitting period in the 41<sup>st</sup> Parliament.