LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

REPORT NO 34

REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT NO 11, 1997 - ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1997.

The resolution of appointment of the committee requires, inter alia, that it examine all reports of the Auditor-General which have been laid before the Assembly.

Auditor-General's Report No 11, 1997 is the Auditor-General's annual report for the 1996-97 year and was formally presented to the Assembly on 4 November 1997. The report was, in fact, made available to members of the Assembly by the Auditor-General prior to the Auditor-General's examination by the Select Committee on Estimates 1997-98 on 14 October 1997 in relation to the annual and financial reports of ACT government agencies.

Nevertheless, the Public Accounts Committee is required to formally report to the Assembly on this Audit Office report.

As indicated, the Auditor-General appeared before the Estimates Committee on 14 October 1997 and responded to Committee questions based upon the annual report and on other questions germane to the accounts of the ACT.

The Public Accounts Committee notes that the Estimates Committee, in its report presented to the Assembly on 2 December 1997, commented upon the findings of Auditor-General Report No 10/1997 - Public Interest Disclosures - Lease Variation Charges - and has recommended that the Public Accounts Committee, pursuant to its statutory responsibility in relation to the development of the annual budget for the Auditor-General, consider what provision should be made in the budget to enable the Auditor-General to undertake audits in the area of lease administration.

The Public Accounts Committee supports this recommendation.

The year 1996-97 was the first full year in which the Committee exercised its statutory function in relation to the Auditor-General's budget and, in carrying out that function, the Committee had the opportunity to discuss with the Auditor-General the agency performance audit program for the forthcoming year. The Committee was satisfied with the indicative Auditor-General's audit program, which is outlined in the Auditor's annual report, and which was developed through this consultative process.

Andrew Whitecross

Andrew Whitecross MLA
Chair
December 1997