

2016

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**REVIEW OF SELECTED AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT
NO 33, 34, 35 and 36 of 2016**

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister**

Government Response

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report No 36, 34, 35 and 36 – Review of Selected Auditor-General Reports was completed on 8 September 2016.

Introduction

The Committee resolved to conclude its consideration of the following audit reports with a consolidated summary report:

- Report No. 3 of 2016: ACT Policing Arrangement;
- Report No. 4 of 2016: The Management of the Financial Arrangements for the Delivery of the Loose-fill Asbestos (Mr Fluffy) Insulation Eradication Scheme;
- Report No. 5 of 2016: Initiation of the Light Rail Project; and
- Report No. 6 of 2016: Management and administration of credit cards by ACT Government entities.

The Committee made nine recommendations, The Government has agreed to all nine.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government Guidelines for responding to performance audit reports by the Auditor-General be amended to provide that during years in which an ACT General Election is to be held that, wherever possible, the Government present its response to performance audit reports prior to the commencement of the Caretaker period.

Government Response – Agreed - ACT Government Guidelines for responding to performance audit reports by the Auditor-General will be amended.

Recommendation 2 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make available, by March 2017, its response to Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2016: ACT Policing Arrangement.

Government Response – Agreed - The Government Response to the ACT Auditor General's Report No 3/2016: ACT Policing Arrangement was provided to the Speaker on Thursday 8 September 2016 and will be tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on the second sitting day after the 2016 election.

Recommendation 3 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in August 2017, on the progress of its implementation of the recommendations made in Auditor-General's Report No. 3 of 2016: *ACT Policing Arrangement*, that have been accepted either in-whole or in-part. This should include: (i) a summary of action to date, either completed or in progress (including milestones completed); and (ii) the proposed action (including timetable), for implementing recommendations (or parts thereof), where action has not yet commenced.

Government Response – Agreed - The Government response to the ACT Auditor-General's Report: ACT Policing Arrangement Report No 3 of 2016 and the Whole of Government Action Plan requires the recommendations to be implemented before July 2017.

Recommendation 4 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in August 2017, on the progress of its implementation of the recommendations made in Auditor-General's Report No. 4 of 2016: *The Management of the Financial Arrangements for the delivery of the Loose-fill Asbestos (Mr Fluffy) Insulation Eradication Scheme*, that have been accepted either in-whole or in-part. This should include: (i) a summary of action to date, either completed or in progress (including milestones completed); and (ii) the proposed action (including timetable), for implementing recommendations (or parts thereof), where action has not yet commenced.

Government Response – Agreed - The Government will continue to publish the costs associated with the Scheme through established budget processes and Annual Budget Papers. It will continue to ensure future financial statements provide appropriate disclosures regarding the impact of the Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme.

Recommendation 5 - The Committee recommends that the responsible Minister report to the ACT Legislative Assembly during the first full sitting week of the 9th Assembly in 2016 on the status of the migration of relevant Asbestos Response Taskforce records to the Objective system.

Government Response – Agreed

Recommendation 6 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make available, by March 2017, its response to Auditor-General's Report No. 5 of 2016: Initiation of the Light Rail Project.

Government Response – Agreed

Recommendation 7 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in August 2017, on the progress of its implementation of the recommendations made in Auditor-General's Report No. 5 of 2016: *Initiation of the Light Rail Project*, that have been accepted either in-whole or in-part. This should include: (i) a summary of action to date, either completed or in progress (including milestones completed); and (ii) the proposed action (including timetable), for implementing recommendations (or parts thereof), where action has not yet commenced.

Government Response – Agreed

Recommendation 8 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make available, by March 2017, its response to Auditor-General's Report No. 6 of 2016: *Management and administration of credit cards by ACT Government entities*.

Government Response – Agreed - The Government Response to the Auditor-General's Report was provided to the Speaker out of session in September 2016 (prior to the commencement of the caretaker period), for distribution to each member of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the *Auditor-General Act 1996*. The Government Response will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the second sitting day after the 2016 elections.

Recommendation 9 - The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the last sitting day in August 2017, on the progress of its implementation of the recommendations made in Auditor-General's Report No. 6 of 2016: *Management and administration of credit cards by ACT Government entities*, that have been accepted either in-whole or in-part. This should include: (i) a summary of action to date, either completed or in progress (including milestones completed); and (ii) the proposed action (including timetable), for implementing recommendations (or parts thereof), where action has not yet commenced.

Government Response – Agreed