



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Petterson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Extract of Minutes of Proceedings

Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January–June 2023

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 126 – Thursday, 16 August 2023

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.34 am.

8. Potential new inquiry – Auditor-General Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

8.1 The Committee **agreed** to undertake an *Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023*.

8.2 The Committee **agreed** that reports to be covered within the Inquiry include:

- Report No. 1/2023 – *Construction Occupations Licensing*
- Report No. 2/2023 – *Management of Operation Reboot (Outpatients)*
- Report No. 3/2023 – *Financial Management Services for Protected Persons*
- Report No. 4/2023 – *Procurement of a Hybrid Electric Fire Truck*

8.3 The Committee **resolved** [Braddock] to adopt the terms of reference.

8.4 The Committee **resolved** [Braddock] to publish the media release.

10. Adjournment

12.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 128 – Wednesday, 23 August 2023

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.33 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

4.1 The Committee noted that requests for submissions had been sent to:

- 4.1.1 Report 1/2023 – Construction Operations Licensing: Minister for Business and Better Regulation, CFMEU

- 4.1.2 Report 2/2023 – Management of Operation Reboot (Outpatient Service): Minister for Health
- 4.1.3 Report 3/2023 – Financial Management Services for Protected Persons: Public Trustee and Guardian, Attorney-General
- 4.1.4 Report 4/2023 – Procurement of a hybrid electric fire truck: Minister for Police and Emergency Services, United Firefighters Union
- 4.2 The Committee directed that submissions should also be sought from the following:
 - 4.2.1 Report 1/2023 – Master Builders Association (ACT)
 - 4.2.2 Report 2/2023 – Health Consumers Network
 - 4.2.3 Report 3/2023 – ACTCOSS or an organisation nominated by them; Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
 - 4.2.4 Report 4/2023 – Special Minister of State
- 4.3 The Committee noted that a hearing is scheduled for Wednesday 18 October 2023. As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services is unavailable on that date, another hearing will be scheduled to hear from him.

11. Adjournment

- 11.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 130 – Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.32 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 4.1 The Committee noted to reschedule the public hearing for November to allow for tabling of Government Responses to the Auditor-General's reports in the Assembly before the hearing.
- 4.2 The Committee considered the draft hearing schedule and resolved [KIKKERT] to adopt the proposed hearing schedule (as amended) for the inquiry.

8. Adjournment

- 8.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 9:38 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 131 – Wednesday, 8 November 2023

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.31 am.

2. Public hearing: Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 2.1 At 9.31 am, Mr Brett Stanton, Acting Auditor-General, and Dr Tanja Porter, Audit Principal, appeared before the Committee and answered questions.

2.2 At 10.25 am the witnesses withdrew.

10. Resumption of public hearing: Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

10.1 The Chair resumed the public hearing at 2.01 pm.

10.2 At 2.01 pm, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney-General, and officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions.

10.3 At 2.55 pm the witnesses withdrew.

10.4 At 3.00 pm, Mr Aaron Hughes, Public Trustee and Guardian, and officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions.

10.5 At 3.48 pm the witnesses withdrew.

10.6 At 4.01 pm, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, and officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions.

10.7 At 4.47 pm, the witnesses withdrew.

12. Adjournment

12.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 4.47 pm.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 132 – Thursday, 9 November 2023

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.00 am.

2. Public hearing: Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

2.1 At 9.00 am Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions.

2.2 At 9.57 am the witnesses withdrew.

2.3 At 9.57 am the Chair withdrew.

2.4 At 9.59 am Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, and officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions.

2.5 At 10.30 am the witnesses withdrew.

4. Adjournment

4.1 The Deputy Chair closed the meeting at 10.30 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 136 – Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

2. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.05 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

5.1 The Committee noted receipt of answers to QTONs 1, 3, 4 and 7-24 for the hearing on 9 November 2023.

5.2 In light of the Secretary's advice above and noting that the answer to QTON 17 makes a claim of information being commercial in confidence, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister asking for a justification of this claim.

5.3 The Committee noted correspondence received 9 November 2023 from the ACT Branch Secretary of the United Firefighters Union of Australia regarding evidence given during the public hearing on 9 November 2023, and agreed to invite them to make a late written submission to the inquiry.

10. Adjournment

10.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.19 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 137 – Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Members present: Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

3. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.39 am.

7. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

7.1 The Committee noted receipt of answers to QTONs 2 and 5 for the hearing on 9 November 2023, and that the sole outstanding answer is QTON 6, relating to the Auditor-General's report 4/2023 and feasibility study.

7.2 The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] that the Chair should send the letter regarding the answer to QTON 17, which claimed commercial confidence as justification for not providing information to the Committee, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

14. Adjournment

14.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 9.52 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 139 – Wednesday, 14 February 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 9.32 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

5.1 The Committee noted that no response had been received from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services regarding claims of commercial confidence relating to QTON 17. Secretary to follow up.

5.2 The Committee noted that the United Firefighters Union had expressed interest in making a late submission to the inquiry but had not yet done so. Secretary to follow up.

5.3 The Committee discussed the inquiry.

13. Adjournment

- 13.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 9.55 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 141 – Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.02 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 5.1 The Committee noted the response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services regarding claims of commercial confidence relating to QTON 17. The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] to publish its letter to the Minister and his response.
- 5.2 The Committee noted that the United Firefighters Union has indicated that it will make a submission by the end of February 2024.
- 5.3 The Secretariat will work on drafting recommendations suggested by the evidence.
- 5.4 The Committee discussed the inquiry.

12. Adjournment

- 12.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.15 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 144 – Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.01 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 5.1 The Committee discussed the inquiry.

15. Adjournment

- 15.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.56 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 146 – Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA
Guests from the Parliament of Kiribati, Public Accounts Committee: Mr Tauanei Marea MP (Chair), Ms Teima Onorio MP (Member), Ms Kauae Been (Secretary)

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.07 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 5.1 The Committee noted the suggested recommendations provided by the Secretariat.
- 5.2 The Committee also noted that a submission from the United Firefighters Union of Australia (ACT Branch) is still expected and may generate further recommendations.

5.3 The Committee discussed the inquiry.

11. Adjournment

11.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.14 am. The Committee continued an informal discussion with the guests from Kiribati.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 148 – Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

2. Commencement of meeting

The meeting commenced at 10.07 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

5.1 The Committee noted that the answer to QTON 6, from the hearing on 9 November 2023, had been received.

5.2 The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] to receive and authorise for publication Submission 1 and appendix 1 from the United Firefighters Union of Australia (ACT Branch), with redactions as advised by the Secretariat.

5.3 The Committee agreed to further consider the contents of the submission at a later meeting.

12. Adjournment

12.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.22 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 149 – Wednesday, 3 April 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

4.1 The Committee considered Submission 1 from the United Firefighters Union of Australia (ACT Branch).

4.2 The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] to write to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services requesting a submission in response to allegations contained in Submission 1.

10. Adjournment

10.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.05 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 150 – Wednesday, 17 April 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.01 am.

5. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 5.1 The Committee noted that a submission from the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services in response to allegations contained in Submission 1 is expected by 26 April 2024.

12. Adjournment

- 12.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.16 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 151 – Wednesday, 1 May 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

The meeting commenced at 10.12 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 4.1 The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] to receive and authorise for publication Submission 2 from the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.
- 4.2 The Committee discussed the inquiry.

11. Adjournment

- 11.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.17 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 153 – Wednesday, 8 May 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.02 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 4.1 The Committee discussed recommendations for the inquiry report.

11. Adjournment

- 11.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.23 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 154 – Wednesday, 22 May 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.02 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 4.1 The Committee noted that the inquiry report is being drafted.

12. Adjournment

- 12.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 11.02 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 157 – Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

The meeting commenced at 10.02 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 4.1 The Committee noted that the inquiry report is being drafted and was expected to ready for consideration at the next private meeting.

9. Adjournment

- 9.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.10 am.

Extract from MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 159 – Wednesday, 19 June 2024

Members present: Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

1. Commencement of meeting

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 10.01 am.

4. Inquiry into Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports January – June 2023

- 4.1 No Member submitted an alternative draft report.
- 4.2 The Committee agreed to consider the report by exception.
- 4.3 The Committee deliberated on the report as follows:
- Chapter 1 – agreed
 - Chapter 2 – agreed
 - Recommendations 1 and 2 – agreed
 - Chapter 3 – agreed
 - Recommendation 3 – agreed
 - Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.18 – agreed
 - Paragraph 4.19 – amended and agreed to
 - Paragraph 4.20 – amended and agreed to
 - Paragraphs 4.21 to 4.24 – agreed
 - Recommendations 4 and 5 – agreed
 - Chapter 5 – agreed
 - Recommendation 6 – amended and agreed to
 - Recommendation 7 – agreed
 - Recommendation 8 – amended and agreed to
 - Recommendations 9 and 10 – agreed
 - Chapter 6 - agreed
- 4.4 The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] to adopt the Chair's draft report, as amended.
- 4.5 The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] that Appendices A to D be agreed.
- 4.6 The Committee **resolved** [BRADDOCK] that the Secretary be authorised to make minor formatting and typographical changes to the report to prepare it for printing, after its adoption by the Committee but prior to its presentation.
- 4.7 The Committee agreed that the Chair would table the report on Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

- 4.8 The Committee noted that dissenting reports, if any, are to be provided at least a day before tabling and they are not circulated to Members prior to tabling.
- 4.9 The Committee deliberated on speaking time for the report in the Assembly.
- 4.10 The Committee agreed that the Chair would move that the report be noted.
- 4.11 The Committee deliberated on the draft media release. The Committee **resolved** [COCKS] to adopt the media release.

8. Adjournment

- 8.1 The Chair closed the meeting at 10.18 am.

[CERTIFIED CORRECT]

Sophie Milne
Committee Secretary
20 June 2024