

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 28 May 2015 from 9 am until 6.30 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Finance portfolio including the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- Budget measures which have gateway reviews,
- reforms under the public governance framework relating to reporting on key performance indicators,
- public sector redundancies and the size of the federal public sector,
- the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal Project,
- the new Indigenous Procurement Policy and the monitoring of targets,
- an update on Finance's planned relocation to offices at 1 Canberra Avenue,
- Project Tetris – a plan to reduce vacant public service office space,
- particular Budget measures, including reform of Defence Housing Australia, the Australian Rail Track Corporation scoping study, commercialisation of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission registry function, and the Digital Transformation Agenda,
- the contestability program – functional and efficiency reviews,
- the scoping study on the Intra Government Communications Network,
- an update on the asset recycling fund,
- Government Campaign Advertising, including appointments to the Independent Communications Committee, campaigns under the interim and new *Guidelines* and approval processes,
- the allocation of departmental liaison officers,
- the Coalition Advisory Service, including the role of the Department of Finance and staff numbers,
- the Tax White Paper Unit and allocation of staff to the Treasurer,
- the Budget expense measure – Simplifying Parliamentary Budgets,
- the Budget capital measure – IT security enhancements for parliamentarians,
- conduct requirements for ministerial staff post-employment,
- with regard to the AEC, funding allocation in a planned election year; plans for the implementation of possible changes to procedures for Senate voting; staffing, graduate program, redundancies and an update on the enterprise agreement; discrepancies between donor returns and party returns; and an update on multiple voting offences.