

EXECUTIVE MINUTE

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT

[No. 506]

[Inquiry into Commonwealth Financial Statements 2022-23]

General comments

There is a misalignment between the legislative due date for annual reports under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) (31 October each year), and the expectation under the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Tabling Guidelines that annual reports are tabled prior to the start of the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings each year (end October/early November). The short timeframe between these dates each year does not allow for that to happen. Ministerial approval is also required for a government document to be tabled in Parliament.

This discrepancy between the requirement of the PGPA Act and the dates of the supplementary budget estimates would need to be addressed, if this were to be avoided in future.

Recommendation No 3:

The Committee recommends that Outback Stores provide a response within six months on why their annual report has not been tabled in time to be scrutinised at supplementary budget estimates for the past three years.

Summary of response: agreed with qualification

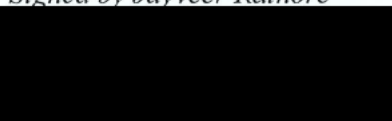
Supporting rationale:

For each of the three years in reference, Outback Stores has submitted its annual report by the due date of 31 October, as required for Commonwealth Companies under Section 97 of the PGPA Act.

For example, our most recent report was presented to Senator the Hon Malamdirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians, for consideration of approval for tabling on 31 October 2024. The Minister agreed to table the Outback Stores Annual Report 2023-24 on 26 November 2024. The report was subsequently printed for tabling in accordance with the copy requirements under the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Tabling Guidelines.

Outback Stores was notified on 20 January 2025 that the Annual Report had been tabled in Parliament, and it was published to the Outback Stores website that same day.

Signed by Jayveer Rathore



Deputy Chief Executive Officer

[Outback Stores](#) provides retail store management and support services on a transparent fee for service basis to Indigenous owned community stores. We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a holistic way to improve health, nutrition, employment, training and economic outcomes in remote communities.

outbackstores.com.au