



New draft rules for public sector governance

The Australian National Audit Office and the Australian Public Service Commission, amongst other organisations, will appear before Parliament's Public Accounts Committee as part of its investigation into the new draft public sector governance rules.

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and its associated rules will establish a new resource management framework for all Commonwealth bodies.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the Commonwealth's resource management framework is central to an efficient, effective and accountable public sector.

"The new framework seeks to promote a coherent approach to public sector governance, while allowing individual entities to have an appropriate level of operational independence within that framework."

"The draft PGPA rules retain a number of important existing controls and, in some instances, strengthen them. Other existing requirements have been streamlined", Dr Southcott said.

"We want to ensure that the new framework continues to provide assurance to the public that a high standard of accountability is in place and resources are being well managed. We therefore want to know that stakeholders have been properly consulted during development of the draft rules and their concerns have been adequately addressed", he said.

The PGPA Act comes into effect on 1 July 2014, but the rules (which are similar to regulations) are yet to be finalised and tabled in Parliament.

Public hearing: Monday, 7 April 2014

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

12.30pm Department of Finance
1.00pm Australian National Audit Office, and Australian Public Service Commission
2.00pm Roundtable
 Australian War Memorial
 Cotton, Fisheries, Grains, Grape and Wine, Rural R&D Corporations
 Indigenous Business Australia
 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
3.00pm UnitingCare Australia

The hearing will be broadcast live at: www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP (Marion Themeliotis 0413747351).

For information about the inquiry and public hearing: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.