



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

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27 April 2015

Ms Susan Cardell
Committee Secretary
Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit

Dear Ms Cardell

**INQUIRY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH PERFORMANCE
FRAMEWORK**

Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2015 inviting me to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the development of the Commonwealth Performance Framework.

I propose to make some brief remarks on the implications of the new performance framework for the Department of the House of Representatives (the department).

As I see it, the main changes to the performance framework under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and associated draft rule and guidance material which the department has to address appear to be:

- a requirement for a corporate plan
- the new performance framework is to be built on *purposes* and *activities* rather than on *outcomes* and *programmes*
- a more flexible approach to performance information compared to the current framework which is based on key performance indicators.

Under the draft PGPA Amendment (Corporate Plans and Annual Performance Statements) Rule 2015, the first corporate plan is required from 2015-16 and is to be published on the department's website by 31 August 2015. The first performance statements are for the 2015-16 financial year, and are to be included in annual reports for that year.

The department has engaged a consultant to facilitate a review of its performance information with a view to streamlining current planning and performance reporting and ensuring that it meets the requirements of the new performance framework. The new performance information will be reflected in the department's new corporate plan, the current plan being revised to meet the new requirements.

The department welcomes the opportunity provided by the new performance framework to review its approach to planning and performance and has found the detailed guidance material and extensive consultation process to be helpful.

The department notes that implementation of the new framework has resource implications. As a small agency, the department would welcome tiered reporting requirements for financial statements, to lessen reporting requirements, commensurate with the department's scale of activities.

Yours sincerely



DAVID ELDER
Clerk of the House