



EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT [No. 506] *Inquiry into Commonwealth Financial Statements 2022-23*

Response to Recommendation 3.

The Committee recommends that the following entities 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.

- High Court of Australia
- Australian Strategy Policy Institute Ltd
- Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust Fund
- RAAF Welfare Recreational Company
- Royal Australian Navy Central Canteens Board
- Bundanon Trust
- Anindilyakwa Land Council
- Central Land Council
- Northern Land Council
- Outback Stores Pty Ltd
- Tiwi Land Council
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

Summary of response:

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA) requires Annual Reports of a Commonwealth Entity be provided by the accountable authority to the responsible Minister by 15th October each year.

Ministerial approval of the annual report is also required before it can be tabled in Parliament. Printed copies of the annual report are required for tabling.

The typically short timeframe between the date required by the PGPA and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Tabling Guidelines which expect that annual reports be tabled prior to Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings each year, does not always allow for the latter expectation to be met.

For the 2020/21 and 2022/23 annual reports, the CLC provided a print-ready annual report to the responsible Minister before 15th October (4 October 2021 and 27 September 2023 respectively).

For the 2021/22 year the CLC initially provided a print-ready annual report to the Minister on 6 October 2022. However, subsequently an error was identified requiring correction in



two tables, and a revised print-ready report was provided to the Minister on 9 November 2022.

A further factor affecting the timing of the CLC's annual report being tabled in Parliament in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 was the print and delivery timeframe. In the wake of the COVID pandemic the CLC worked with local printers in the Northern Territory, which typically resulted in a three to four week print and courier delivery timeframe.

The CLC has taken the following administrative actions to improve annual report time frames:

1. Since 2021-2022 the CLC has worked with an internal designer and a dedicated annual report coordinator to manage the annual report production process. This has increasingly enhanced capacity to manage production challenges particular to coordinating input from remote locations.
2. For the 2023-2024 annual report, the CLC reverted to using printing services closer to Canberra, significantly reducing print and delivery timeframes.

Signed by

21.03.2025

Lesley Turner

Chief Executive Officer

21.03.2025

Warren Williams

Chair

As the Accountable Authority of Central Land Council