



JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Review of Auditor-General's Reports

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 4 July 2011

Chair: Robert Oakeshott MP
Deputy Chair: Yvette D'Ath MP

Green programs suffered from lack of executive oversight

Tight timeframes do not excuse poor governance arrangements or the provision of poor quality advice to ministers according to a report released today by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

In its review of the Auditor-General's audits of the Green Loans Program (Audit Report No. 09 2010-11) and the Home Insulation Program (Audit Report No. 12 2010-11), the JCPAA was critical of the lack of executive oversight of both programs and the underestimation of key program risks. The Committee found that the failure to advise ministers of resourcing and capacity constraints was particularly serious.

In its report, the Committee reiterated the need for government departments to provide ministers with accurate, timely advice that realistically reflects circumstances, including a department's resource needs and capacity to meet deadlines.

The Committee expressed concern at the ongoing impact of the failure of both programs on industry, individuals and the community. While acknowledging the steps that have been taken by departments to rectify some of the issues, the Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said, "We recognise the residual emotional and financial impact and the ongoing uncertainty and frustration existing in the community as a result of both of these programs. The programs have undergone a number of reviews so what we want to emphasise is the importance of applying the lessons learnt from their implementation and delivery across the Australian Public Service, and making sure mistakes are not repeated."

Mr Oakeshott urged all departments to take a structured approach to implement change and facilitate ongoing effective service delivery across the APS. The Minister is required to respond in writing to any JCPAA recommendations within the coming six months.

For media comment: please contact **Mr Robert Oakeshott MP**, on telephone **02 6277 4052 (Parliament House)**, **02 6584 2911 (electorate office)**.

All Auditor-General's reports can be found on the ANAO website at <http://www.anao.gov.au>

For more information, contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or for a copy of the latest report visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/reports.htm>