

Other issues

- 4.1 The Committee received evidence in relation to a number of other issues relevant to the Standards. These were paper (which includes the format and quality of paper) and other environmental issues. These matters are dealt with briefly in this chapter.

Paper

Format

- 4.2 The Committee notes that the vast majority of documents presented to Parliament are currently in A4 format. These documents generally consist of delegated legislation and other documents not included in the PPS.
- 4.3 In contrast, documents included in the PPS are required to be printed on B5 paper to allow for binding and storage. A small number of PPS documents (one or two each year, accounting for less than one per cent of PPS documents) are printed on A4 paper. These are required to be reprinted in B5 size and the author agency bears the cost of reprinting.
- 4.4 Documents printed in A4 format tend to be more expensive than those printed in B5. Indeed, A4 printing increases the cost by up to

50 per cent, and this is due mainly to increased paper costs and printing time.¹

- 4.5 The Committee notes that treaties are printed in A4, and corporate plans and other documents are sometimes presented in non-B5 size. These documents, however, are not included in the PPS and are therefore not required to be reprinted.
- 4.6 It has come to the Committee's attention that there have been instances of documents being printed in 'Canberra B5' format. This unofficial, non-standard size is actually an undersized B5 and is therefore not compliant with the Standards.² The Standards stipulate B5 paper size in order to allow the PPS to be bound, and this is not possible for documents printed on 'Canberra B5' paper.
- 4.7 The ease of in-house production of A4 documents was weighed against the better readability of B5 documents and higher costs of producing A4 documents by printers.³ Evidence received by the Committee consistently supports the continued production of the PPS in B5 format.⁴ Any move away from B5 for the PPS would require further consideration by the Committee and comprehensive consultation with industry.
- 4.8 With the exception of delegated legislation, the Standards will continue to stipulate that documents presented to Parliament be produced in B5 format.

Archival quality paper

- 4.9 Generally, the National Archives of Australia (NAA) recommends the use of archival quality paper:

... ensuring that Commonwealth records of enduring value are created using materials that will support their long-term preservation and accessibility.⁵

In meeting the requirement for archival quality paper, Government agencies should seek further information from the NAA if necessary.

1 Mr Kieran May, *op.cit.*, p. 11.

2 Mr David Daniel, *op.cit.*, p. 8.

3 Department of the House of Representatives, *op.cit.*; Ms Robyn McClelland, *op.cit.*, p. 12; Mr Kieran May, *op.cit.*; Mr David Daniel *op.cit.*, p. 11.

4 Printing Industries Association of Australia, *op.cit.*

5 National Archives of Australia, *Archives Advice 32 – Archival quality trademark*, July 1999; <http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/rkpubs/advices/advice32.html>, accessed 12 August 2007.

- 4.10 There is no evidence of non-compliance with the Standards with respect to failure to use archival quality paper. This is perhaps not surprising, given that changes in paper production technologies and practices have resulted in archival quality papers being more readily available in a wide range of grades.⁶
- 4.11 The revised Standards will continue to stipulate the use of archival quality paper.

Recycled paper

- 4.12 The current Standards are silent as to the use of recycled paper. The Committee explored suggestions that recycled paper may be a more environmentally friendly alternative to the current paper stocks used.
- 4.13 In considering whether recycled paper should be used, it is important to ensure that paper stock is still of archival quality.⁷ The point was made that very little recycled paper is produced in Australia and most is of "dubious origin and quality."⁸ Furthermore, very little recycled paper meets archival standards.⁹
- 4.14 The use of recycled paper in annual reports has been rejected due to it not meeting archival standards, and also for cost considerations:
- ... I have not used recycled paper for the very reason that it is classified as non-archival. The other thing is that it generally tends to be more expensive because it falls into the category of a specialty paper ... When you do an annual report the size that we do, it would be incredibly cost prohibitive.¹⁰
- 4.15 The majority of recycled paper made in Australia is uncoated, whereas most reports use coated paper. Although coated paper provides a more aesthetically pleasing result, it is not suitable for further recycling.¹¹
- 4.16 The point was made by a number of witnesses that using recycled paper may not necessarily be the most environmentally friendly

6 Mr David Daniel, *op.cit.*, p. 17.

7 Australian Public Service Commission, *op.cit.*, p. 3.

8 Mr Kieran May, *op.cit.*, p. 3.

9 *ibid.*; Mr David Daniel, *op.cit.*, p. 9.

10 Mr Russell Wilson, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, *Transcript of Evidence*, 18 June 2007, p. 17.

11 Mr David Daniel, *op.cit.*, pp 9 and 14.

option.¹² This was mainly attributed to unsustainable manufacturing processes used in creating some recycled papers.

- 4.17 Given the complexity of this issue, the revised Standards will not offer an opinion on the use of recycled or recyclable paper.

Environmental issues

- 4.18 The Committee was interested to hear about developments in relation to the environmental impacts of the printing industry. The Committee heard that the printing industry is improving its environmental credentials by utilising better inks, varnishes and paper stock, as well as having in place industry-wide guidelines.¹³
- 4.19 There are also in place international standards on environmental soundness, with an emphasis on a lifecycle perspective, including in relation to the manufacture of paper.¹⁴
- 4.20 The PIAA has offered assistance in educating print procurement officers on the environmental use of paper.¹⁵ The Committee would welcome the information on environmental considerations being included in any information sessions run in future, as discussed in Chapter 3.

Recommendation 7

- 4.21 **The Committee recommends that government agencies be mindful of environmental factors when procuring printing services, and seek advice from printers and industry bodies in this regard prior to finalising the procurement of printing services.**

12 Mr Russell Wilson, *op.cit.*, p. 18; Printing Industries Association of Australia, *op.cit.*, p. 5.

13 Mr David Daniel, *op.cit.*, p. 22; Mr Kieran May, *op.cit.*, pp 22-23.

14 Mr Kieran May, *op.cit.*, p. 18.

15 Mr Barry Neame, *op.cit.*, p. 33.