



## Review affirms confidence in robust tax system

The report into the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's latest hearing with the Tax Commissioner has found Australia's tax system provides a trusted foundation for people, businesses and governments.

However, areas for improvement exist. The report's recommendations include that:

- ATO notifications to Government flagging potential tax policy or legislative problems be made public within 12 months of being submitted, along with the Government's response;
- reviews by the Inspector-General of Taxation be made available to the public within a reasonable time;
- external review agencies investigate ways to better collaborate and hence build upon their already valuable scrutiny of the ATO; and
- the ATO provide the Committee with a detailed status report of key areas of tax administration before to next year's hearing.

The ninth biannual hearing was held with a new format allowing the ATO's external scrutiny bodies to participate, including the Ombudsman, the Australian National Audit Office and the Inspector-General of Taxation. Professional body representatives were also able to attend.

Due to this expanded format the committee has decided to move to annual, rather than biannual hearings.

Committee chair Rob Oakeshott said the committee was pleased to find that recommendations arising from the previous hearing were agreed to and completed.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the ATO to achieve positive outcomes for Australia's tax system," Mr Oakeshott said.

Copies of the report can be located at the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/taxationbiannual0911/index.htm>

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on telephone (02) 6584 2911

**For more information:** for information about the hearing, please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615, e-mail [jcpaa@aph.gov.au](mailto:jcpaa@aph.gov.au), or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcpaa/index.htm>