

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment Bill 2014

Portfolio: Finance

Introduced: House of Representatives, 29 May 2014

1.212 The Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment Bill 2014 seeks to amend the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) to:

- provide certainty over the use and management of public resources and the capacity of an accountable authority to issue instructions on resource management and governance matters within entities;
- include a requirement that Commonwealth entities must provide annual reports to their Minister by the 15th day of the fourth month after the end of the reporting period;
- clarify the nature of various legislative instruments, including the introduction of a new Part to the PGPA Act (Part 4-1A) to deal with other instruments that are not subject to disallowance, but are subject to appropriate scrutiny as they relate to procurement and grant activities and arrangements covering intelligence or security agencies and listed law enforcement agencies; and
- make technical amendments to clarify the operation of the PGPA Act.

1.213 The bill is accompanied by a statement of compatibility which states that the bill is 'compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in subsection 3(1) of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*'.¹

1.214 The committee considers that the bill does not appear to give rise to human rights concerns.

1.215 However, the committee notes that the statement of compatibility does not fully meet the committee's expectations as it does not include sufficient information about the purpose and effect of the proposed bill. The committee therefore draws to the attention of the Minister for Finance the committee's usual expectations in relation to the content of statements of compatibility, as outlined in the committee's *Practice Note 1* (see Appendix 3).

1 Explanatory memorandum (EM), p. 2.