

# **List of Recommendations**

## **Recommendation 1**

**2.34** The committee recommends that the Department of Finance (Australian Government Procurement Coordinator) consult with Australian industry, and in particular Australian manufacturers, to develop an alternate test which can provide more meaningful information on the quantity of Australian content in goods and services procured by the Commonwealth government, and how to build this information into data collected in AusTender.

## **Recommendation 2**

**3.19** The committee recommends that the Department of Finance provide a detailed explanation of the barriers to developing a preferencing scheme, which takes into account Australia's free trade obligations.

## **Recommendation 3**

**3.56** The committee recommends that the government review the application of the non-discrimination principle to ensure that it does not inadvertently discriminate against Australian manufacturers.

## **Recommendation 4**

**3.61** The committee recommends that the government continue to fund the Australian Industry Participation policies and programs and reinstitute funding for the Enterprise Solutions Program.

## **Recommendation 5**

**3.64** The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Procurement Rules be redrafted to provide an explicit exemption for practices to benefit or preference small and medium businesses.

## **Recommendation 6**

**3.67** The committee recommends the Department of Finance provide education and training to agencies and their staff regarding the inclusion of Australian standards, or the equivalent, in tender documentation.

## **Recommendation 7**

**4.36** The committee recommends that the government develop a methodology to quantify the factors used to assess whole-of-life costs.

## **Recommendation 8**

**4.39** The committee recommends that during its next procurement-related audit, the Australian National Audit Office review the operation of the revised Commonwealth Procurement Rules, particularly the revisions relating to the assessment of financial and non-financial costs and benefits, and provide an evaluation.

## **Recommendation 9**

**5.23** The committee recommends that during the early implementation stages of the new suite of contract documents for procurements under \$200,000, the Department of Finance will address the concerns about complexity of documentation raised during the inquiry and make any necessary adjustments.

## **Recommendation 10**

**5.25** The committee recommends that, as part of its longer term process to review and reform the procurement framework, the government consider best practice examples from other jurisdictions to further simplify the tender process.

## **Recommendation 11**

**5.52** The committee recommends that, following consultation with stakeholders, the Department of Finance establish an independent and effective complaints mechanism for procurement processes.

## **Recommendation 12**

**5.54** The committee recommends that the government provide an explanation as to whether there are any reasons why the operation of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* should not apply to Commonwealth procurement.

## **Recommendation 13**

**5.73** The committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office, in the course of its next procurement-related audit, undertake an assessment of the application and implementation of relevant procurement-connected policies.

## **Recommendation 14**

**5.76** The committee recommends that the Department of Finance work with the lead agencies for procurement-connected policies and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to develop a whole of government annual reporting framework for monitoring of and compliance with these policies.

## **Recommendation 15**

**5.89** The committee recommends that the procurement-related audit by the Australian National Audit Office to assess the application and implementation of procurement-connected policies also include an assessment of the competencies of agencies' procurement officers.