

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS REPORT 91: 'CONSIDERATION OF THE 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORTS'

Recommendation 1: The Treasurer amend the alternate tabling provisions in the *Financial Management Act 2006* to allow annual reports to be deemed tabled on non-sitting days.

Noted

An amendment to section 83 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* is not a current legislative priority for the Government.

Section 65 of the Act, which enables a Minister to inform Parliament if an annual report cannot be laid before each House of Parliament prior to 28 September or dealt with under section 83, is a viable alternative mechanism which worked effectively for a number of agencies in terms of their 2022-23 annual reporting, and, as stated previously by the Committee, does not adversely affect the Committee's consideration of agencies' annual reports.

Recommendation 2: Ministers, other than the Attorney General, identified in Table 1 of this Report who decided not to provide certain information to the Committee, issue notices under section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

Noted

Recommendation 3: The Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development direct their respective departments to document in their next annual reports, the improvements made in managing their special purpose accounts.

Noted

It is presumed that the Committee is referring to the Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation, and the Minister for Regional Development, as the coordinating Ministers for their respective agencies.

Consistent with the requirements for accountability and transparency, financial sustainability, internal control, risk management and sound financial governance under the Treasurer's Instructions, it is expected that agencies will provide a suitable note disclosure in their 2023-24 financial statements on improvements made in managing their Special Purpose Accounts.

Recommendation 4: The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development direct the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to document in their next annual report improvements made in managing their controls over:

- receipt, expenditure and the investment of money;
- the acquisition and disposal of property; and
- the incurring of liabilities.

Noted

It is presumed that the Committee is referring to the Minister for Regional Development, as the coordinating Minister for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Consistent with the requirements for accountability and transparency, financial sustainability, internal control, risk management and sound financial governance under the Treasurer's Instructions, it is expected that the agency will provide a suitable note disclosure in its 2023-24 financial statements on improvements made in managing its controls.

Recommendation 5: All Ministers advise those agencies given an Auditor General qualified or adverse opinion, to document in their next annual reports, actions taken to address the opinions.

Noted

Recommendation 6: The Minister for Racing and Gaming provide an update on when the 2022-23 Statement of Corporate Intent for Racing and Wagering Western Australia will be tabled.

Noted