



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr Tony Buti, MLA

MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2018

Public Hearings – Audit report follow-ups

The Public Accounts Committee plays an important role in examining whether government policies and programs meet the objectives for which public money is allocated. One way the committee performs this role is by following-up agency responses to recommendations contained in performance audit reports tabled by the Auditor General.

As committee Chair, Dr Tony Buti, explains: ‘The Auditor General conducts vital work evaluating how effectively and efficiently agencies implement government policies and deliver public services. Audit reports often identify key areas for improvement, but there is no statutory requirement for agencies to respond to any recommendations the Auditor General makes. Therefore, the Public Accounts Committee uses its follow-up process to ensure audited agencies give these recommendations proper consideration.’

Having recently completed its inquiry into the management and oversight of the Perth Children’s Hospital project, the committee is now examining agency responses to more than 20 performance audits reports from 2015 and 2016.

Throughout June, the committee will conduct a series of public hearings where it will question agencies about their responses to six of the most critical reports from this series. These hearings start on **Wednesday, 13 June 2018**.

From 9.30 am, the committee will meet with the Department of Education regarding the response to recommendations in the August 2015 audit report [Follow-on: Managing Student Attendance in Western Australian Public Schools](#). This audit concluded that, despite several strategies employed by the Department, there had been ‘no improvement in student attendance’ since an earlier audit into the issue in 2009.

At 10.30 am, the committee will hear from the Department of Transport regarding the actions taken following the October 2015 report [Safe and Viable Cycling in the Perth Metropolitan Area](#). This audit acknowledged there had been an improvement in the cycling infrastructure throughout Perth and its surrounds, but that in the absence of informed planning and sustained funding, the cycle network ‘will remain incomplete and safety will be less than desirable’.

The hearings will take place in the **Legislative Assembly Committee Office**, at **Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace**, West Perth and will be **streamed live on the internet**.

Click [here](#) for the committee’s full schedule of June hearings and for the link to the internet streaming service.