PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE



Chair: Dr Tony Buti, MLA

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Audit report follow-up hearings continue

Tomorrow, the Public Accounts Committee will continue its program of public hearings examining agency responses to recommendations from a series of performance audit reports tabled by the Auditor General in 2016.

At 9.30 am, the committee will meet with the Waste Authority and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to discuss the October 2016 report Western Australian Waste Strategy: Re-thinking Waste. The report [p. 3] concluded that, while 'management of waste in Western Australia has improved since implementation of the Waste Strategy in 2012 [n] one of the four Waste Strategy targets to divert waste from landfill were met in 2015'. The failure to achieve the 2015 targets was attributed, in part, to 'delays to long-term state and local infrastructure planning' and also to a 'lack of clarity' in the respective roles of the department and the Waste Authority. This had 'affected the cooperation between the agencies and impacted on the planning of projects, the promotion of key messages, the prioritising of effort and the monitoring of outcomes'.

At 10.30 am, the committee will hear from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the September 2016 report <u>Ord-East Kimberley</u> <u>Development</u>. From this audit, the Auditor General concluded¹ that '[w]hile the infrastructure is now in place and land is being farmed, not all expected benefits have been realised. The audit found that 'inadequate planning and costings at the initial stages of the project resulted in time delays and budget overruns'. At the time this report was tabled, the Auditor General noted there were 'a number of lessons the government can learn from this project and apply to any future development of the Ord and other projects like this'.

The hearings will take place in the **Legislative Assembly Meeting Room (Room 1.49)**, on **Level 1, Parliament House** (next to the southern entrance), and will be **streamed live on the internet**.

Click <u>here</u> for the committee's full schedule of June hearings and for the link to the internet streaming service.

Office of the Auditor General, 'Mixed results for the \$500 million, Ord-East Kimberley Development', Media Release, 7 Sept 2016.