



**Hon Mike Nahan MLA
Treasurer; Minister for Energy;
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Our ref: 48-19019

Mr John Seal-Pollard
Advisory Officer (Procedure)
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000
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Dear Mr Seal-Pollard

**REPORT 67 – STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL
OPERATIONS – BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS 2016-17**

Thank you for your email of 16 September 2016, which attached a copy of Report 67 – Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations – Budget Estimates Hearings 2016-17 (the Report) tabled in the Legislative Council on 15 September 2016.

In accordance with Standing Order 191(1) of the Legislative Council, I provide to the Legislative Council the Government's response to the two recommendations contained in the Report (**Attachment A**).

Yours sincerely

**DR MIKE NAHAN MLA
TREASURER
15 NOV 2016**

REPORT 67 – STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS – BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS 2016-17

Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that, should there not be a complete list of all Commonwealth grants, whether through national partnership agreements or other mechanism, in Budget Paper No.3, the Department of Treasury should provide a complete list.

Not supported.

A complete list of all Commonwealth National Partnership agreements is provided in Appendix 13 of Budget Paper No. 3. In addition, all Commonwealth general purpose grants (GST and North West Shelf grants) and most other Commonwealth tied grants (grants that pass through the State and National Specific Purpose Payments, National Health Reform and Students First grants) are detailed in Appendix 2 of Budget Paper No. 3. Together, these grants comprise an estimated \$8,318 million (98.2%) of the \$8,467 million of total Commonwealth grants in 2016-17.

The only grants not detailed in Budget Paper No. 3 are an estimated \$149 million in Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenditures (COPEs). Compiling a complete list of the large number of small value COPEs would cost considerable time across many agencies for minimal value from a disclosure perspective.

Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that the Premier advise all Ministers, when tabling notices pursuant to section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, to make clear when the notice is intended to cover multiple refusals to provide information to the Parliament.

Supported.

The Government refers to its response to Report 62 – Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations – Provision of Information to the Parliament tabled on 23 August 2016 (p. 4403) and in particular to its response to Recommendation 1. The Government will address this issue in the revised *Guideline to Ministers withholding information or documents when asked a parliamentary question* which will provide a comprehensive outline of the section 82 process.