



MEDIA RELEASE

Review of the Audit Office

Mr Paul McLeay MP, the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, has tabled the report on the Review of the Audit Office.

“The independent reviewer has given the Audit-Office a clean bill of health, and the Committee congratulates the Auditor-General and his team on their efforts to improve the quality and delivery of their services,” Mr McLeay said.

“Overall, the report indicates that the Audit Office is a responsible and responsive organisation that is complying with its legal and professional obligations, and that regularly identifies and addresses issues as they arise,” Mr McLeay said. “The Committee is impressed with the Audit-Office’s work on improving client relations. The relatively low cost of the Audit-Office’s services is also a positive.”

“It was also pleasing to see the reviewer note that the Public Accounts Committee’s new system of following up the implementation of audit reports is a significant improvement in the Audit Office’s ability to promote greater accountability.”

Mr McLeay observed that “there is always room for improvement and the independent reviewer has identified a number of changes that could be made. The Auditor-General has agreed to all but two of them, with the request to publish a 3 year plan of performance audits being one of the recommendations that the Auditor-General has declined to take up. The Auditor-General has informed the Committee that circumstances can change a lot over three years and that publishing a list of potential audits so far in advance may cause frustration when not all of the audits listed do in fact go ahead.”

The Public Accounts Committee commissions an independent reviewer every three years to examine whether the Auditor-General is complying with relevant auditing practices and standards.

In effect, the reviewer audits the work of the Auditor-General.

The report is available at <http://parliament.nsw.gov.au/publicaccounts>.

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