



MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

19 November 2015

SCRUTINY ON BEHALF OF TERRITORIANS

The Public Accounts Committee has announced its plans for Government scrutiny over the coming months.

“The PAC has a vital role of making sure the people of the Territory get real value for money when the Government spends their taxes,” Mrs Robyn Lambley MLA, the Chair of the Committee said.

“The PAC is one of the oldest committees of Parliament, because checking that Governments are not wasting money is one of the Parliament’s main jobs.”

“In determining priorities for 2016, the Committee has decided to look at:

- the relationship between Correctional Industries and local business;
- agreed funding milestones for the Palmerston Regional Hospital; and
- the effectiveness of the government’s Homelands Policy.

“The Committee will be holding public briefings with Government Departments on these issues on 4 February 2016. After those briefings, the Committee may decide to conduct a formal inquiry or simply keep a watching brief on the matter,” Mrs Lambley said.

The Committee is also concerned that the Northern Territory Auditor-General does not have a performance audit function, unlike their interstate counterparts. This limits the role of the Northern Territory Auditor-General.

“Financial management has moved on from checking that the books are right to checking what outcomes we are getting for our money. Most Auditors-General look at the performance of Government Agencies. This remains a gap in the Territory’s Auditor-General’s powers.”

The Committee has agreed to produce a discussion paper on this issue in the New Year to start a process of change.

“The PAC wants to make sure we are getting real value for money on all these issues. A good idea with poor implementation is a waste of money. The PAC is examining the work of Departments to see that we get the outcomes after the announcements,” Mrs Lambley said.

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