



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Homelessness, Public Transport, Burglaries & Government Advertising**

The Chair of the Public Account Committee, Mr Paul McLeay MP, today tabled the Committee's report on responses to the Auditor-General's performance audits on:

- Homelessness,
- Connecting to Public Transport,
- Dealing with Household Burglaries, and
- Government Advertising.

"The Auditor-General's report on public transport interchanges revealed a number of significant shortcomings," Mr McLeay said. "The Ministry of Transport has made a number of positive changes in response, and I am hopeful that the Committee's follow-up report will bring about even more. The new power to enter into performance contracts with Sydney's rail and ferry authorities provides the Ministry with a good opportunity to better coordinate the management of interchanges across the entire transport network."

The Committee was impressed with departmental responses to homelessness, household burglaries, and government advertising.

"Homelessness is a complex condition that requires ongoing collaboration with a range of government agencies, services providers and homeless people, and I applaud the Government's commitment to such collaboration throughout the development of its Homelessness Strategic Framework. The release of the final version, which will occur shortly, was delayed while NSW participated in the national conversation on homelessness in 2008." Mr McLeay noted, "The timing of the Auditor-General's report into homelessness was fortuitous as it allowed NSW to engage in that conversation with the insights it had obtained from the Audit-General."

"The overwhelming impression we obtained during our inquiry into police responses to household burglaries was that the police had made significant improvements in reducing break and enters over the past 10 years. The Auditor-General made a number of recommendations on the need to improve data collection, clarify procedure and set performance targets. The NSW Police Force accepted nearly all of the recommendations and has moved towards their implementation," Mr McLeay observed.

"In line with the Auditor-General's recommendations, the Department of Commerce developed new Government Advertising Guidelines that provided further guidance on the prohibition of party-political advertising. It has also agreed to publish a range of information that will improve the transparency of spending on government advertising."

This Report is the second under the Committee's new performance audit examination arrangement, under which the Committee examines agency responses to every performance audit.

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