

Public Finance and Audit Amendment Bill 1999

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

This Bill is cognate with the *Pay-roll Tax Amendment (Apprentices Concession and Rate Reduction) Bill 1999*.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* so as:

- (a) to standardise the reporting times for the Public Accounts and the Total State Sector Accounts, and
- (b) to remove certain provisions concerning the application of money after the financial year for which it was appropriated, and
- (c) to up-date the definition of "controlled entities".

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Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent.

Clause 3 is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* set out in Schedule 1.

Clause 4 provides for the application of certain amendments made by the proposed Act to the Public Accounts and the Total State Sector Accounts for the financial year commencing on 1 July 1998 and subsequent financial years.

Schedule 1 Amendments

Preparation, auditing and presentation of the Public Accounts and the Total State Sector Accounts

Schedule 1 [1], [7], [9] and [11] make amendments that standardise the reporting times for the Public Accounts and the Total State Sector Accounts by applying to those accounts the same timetable that applies to the financial reporting requirements of statutory bodies and Departments.

Schedule 1 [13] enables regulations to be made to shorten each stage of the timetable for the preparation, auditing and presentation of all public sector accounts.

Schedule 1 [8], [10] and [12] remove obsolete reporting provisions.

Lapsing of appropriations

Schedule 1 [2] omits section 22A concerning the Revenue Equalisation Account.

Schedule 1 [3] provides that amounts appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for a financial year and transferred to working accounts of authorities during that year do not lapse at the end of that year and may

be spent to meet payments for recurrent services of the authority in the following financial year.

Schedule 1 [4] omits section 23A concerning the crediting of expenditure to a suspense account to meet a liability incurred in the previous financial year.

Controlled entities

Schedule 1 [5] and **[6]** up-date the definition of "controlled entities" as a consequence of changes made to the *Corporations Law* by the *Company Law Review Act 1998* of the Commonwealth that took effect on 1 July 1998.