



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

OVERSIGHT BODIES AND NSW PARLIAMENT DESERVE A TRANSPARENT AND INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 February 2021

The NSW Upper House Public Accountability Committee has today tabled a second report of its inquiry into the budget process for the following independent oversight bodies, and the Parliament of New South Wales (Legislative Council and the Department of Parliamentary Services):

- Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
- Audit Office of New South Wales
- NSW Electoral Commission
- NSW Ombudsman.

In the report the committee revisits the budget process for the bodies examined in the first report in light of recent developments. These include the publication of the Auditor-General's report concerning funding arrangements for ICAC, LECC, the Electoral Commission and the Ombudsman, the tabling of two special reports to Parliament by ICAC concerning ICAC's funding, and receipt of a supplementary submission concerning the Parliament's budget process from the Clerk. The committee also examines the budget process for the Audit Office for the first time. In summary the report:

- reiterates the committee's recommendations relating to the oversight bodies that were directed to the government in the first report
- asks the government to implement the committee's recommendations in relation to the Parliament from the first report and
- makes separate recommendations in relation to the budget process for the Audit Office.

As with the First Report, all members of the committee from across the political spectrum support the conclusions and recommendations of the report. This shows a widely accepted need to create a more robust and independent funding model for the critical oversight bodies in NSW.

Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, said: 'Independent oversight bodies in this state play a very important role in our democratic system. It is important that these bodies receive funding that is set fairly, transparently and independently.'

Further information about the inquiry, please go to our [website](#).

For further information please contact Committee Chairman, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, on 9230 3030.

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