From: Victoria Jones
To: Benedicte Colin
Cc: Bruce Morgan ; Leanne Grant
Subject: RE: Treasury opening statement for Thursday"s PAC hearing
Date: Tuesday, 14 December 2021 4:47:18 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image005.png
image006.png
image008.png

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Please see our proposed rewrite of that para below – for discussion now. Many thanks.

Original

There's been a false narrative that Treasury will prepare the accounts in accordance with what the Auditor General requires. That is wrong. The truth is that we have a primary statutory duty to prepare the State accounts in accordance with the accounting standards under the *Government Sector Finance Act* – not the opinion of the Auditor General. Were we to do so, that would make the Auditor General the preparer of the State accounts and not the government, and I am sure she would agree that that is not her role either. Nevertheless we fully value the views of the Auditor General and where she raises an issue we will consider them as part of fulfilling our primary statutory duty as we have always done. Wherever possible we work towards a common understanding of matters of principle and interpretation. This is usual and proper.

Proposed New

There's been a false narrative that this is about Treasury versus the Auditor General. That is wrong. The truth is that Treasury and the Auditor General have important but different roles in ensuring that the State accounts are prepared in accordance with accounting standards. Treasury is the preparer of the accounts and does so based on its expertise with supporting evidence. The Auditor General is the reviewer of the accounts and provides her opinions based on review of the supporting evidence. Each year Treasury and the Auditor General put many hours of work into aligning our understanding. This is the normal annual process that preparers and reviewers undertake to ensure the government can have confidence that the accounts are robust. It has taken longer than usual for us to align our understanding in relation to TAHE, but I am pleased to say that we are very close and it will soon be finalised.

Victoria Jones
Chief of Staff to the Secretary

From: Victoria Jones
Sent: Tuesday, 14 December 2021 4:37 PM
To: Benedicte Colin

Cc: Bruce Morgan ; Leanne Grant

Subject: RE: Treasury opening statement for Thursday's PAC hearing

Many thanks, Bénédicte. The team this end are redrafting that para based on your feedback – hope to share soon so we can discuss in the meeting at 1645.

Victoria

Victoria Jones
Chief of Staff to the Secretary

From: Benedicte Colin
Sent: Tuesday, 14 December 2021 3:44 PM
To: Victoria Jones
Cc: Bruce Morgan Leanne Grant

Subject: Fwd: Treasury opening statement for Thursday's PAC hearing

Hi Victoria
This is Bénédicte, CEO of TAHE
I just left a voicemail to you
Bruce Morgan and I had a discussion regarding the draft opening statement that you shared.
We both feel that the paragraph regarding the preparation of the State accounts and the time of the Auditor General and Audit Office should be toned down and would be counterproductive in the current context and what we are trying to achieve.
Happy to discuss
Regards
Bénédicte

Chief Executive Officer
Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) NSW

470 Pitt Street, Haymarket NSW 2000

From: Bruce Morgan
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 3:25 pm
To: Benedicte Colin
Subject: Fwd: Treasury opening statement for Thursday's PAC hearing

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Victoria Jones
Subject: Treasury opening statement for Thursday's PAC hearing
Date: 14 December 2021 at 2:03:29 pm AEDT
To: Rob Sharp , Bruce Morgan , "Muscat, Rachel" , Leanne Grant
Cc: Michael Pratt

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - NSW Government

Dear Rob, Bruce,

Ahead of our meeting later today, we wanted to share a copy of Treasury's planned opening statement for the PAC hearing on Thursday.

We'd welcome your views in the meeting on whether you would similarly like to prepare an opening statement for TfNSW and TAHE respectively, off our statement.

We can discuss this afternoon.

Thanks,

Victoria

NSW GOVERNMENT | Treasury

Victoria Jones | Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary

52 Martin Place, Sydney (enter via 127 Phillip Street)
GPO Box 5469, Sydney NSW 2001

I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional owners of the land on which I work and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive - NSW Government

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Bruce Morgan

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