



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF

Public Accounts Committee

No 3

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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

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15 May 2002

Ms K Struthers MP
Chair
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Q 4000

Dear Ms Struthers

Thank you for your letter of 18 April 2002 advising of your committee's inquiry into constitutional reform and drawing my attention to chapter 13 of your issues paper relating to statutory officers.

Procedures relating to the appointment and removal of the Auditor-General are provided for in the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) believes these provisions are appropriate and clearly acknowledge the independence of this statutory position.

The Financial Administration and Audit Act also confers certain responsibilities on the PAC in relation to the budget and strategic reviews of the audit office. The PAC considers this legislation an appropriate vehicle for these responsibilities.

However, if your inquiry finds there is a need for consistency in the legislative provisions dealing with the recognition, removal and resource monitoring of all statutory officers, then the Public Accounts Committee would support it, providing there is no diminution in the Auditor-General's or PAC's current statutory powers and responsibilities.

I hope these comments assist your committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Ken Hayward MP
Chair