



**Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee
on
Public Accounts**

MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2012

TASMANIA'S PUBLIC ACCOUNT UNDER REVIEW

Following the Auditor-General's release of his report *Analysis of the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report 2010-11*, the Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts have resolved to conduct an inquiry into the management of the public account.

Committee Chair, Hon Jim Wilkinson, MLC, said today the Committee would examine issues concerning the unfunded superannuation liability and lack of cash backing to support net unfunded superannuation liabilities.

'The Auditor-General has raised issues around the management of the State's unfunded superannuation liabilities into the future, the funding of Government operations and the possible consequences of continuing to use the temporary debt repayment account to fund recurrent and capital expenditures.' Mr Wilkinson said.

Given the current Government budget position, it is appropriate for the Public Accounts Committee to be reviewing the implications to the State should the situation continue or be exacerbated in the future.

The inquiry is being conducted as part of the Committee's statutory responsibilities to review public sector finances. Mr Wilkinson said 'We are committed to ensuring that taxpayers' money is dealt with appropriately to provide long-term benefits and sustainability for the State.'

ends

Media Note: Inquiry Terms of Reference are attached.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Jim Wilkinson MLC on 0419 349 251



Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts has resolved of its own motion to inquire into and report upon but not limited to consideration of:

Terms of Reference

- 1. The Auditor General's Report No 3 2011-12, Analysis of the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report 2010-11 with particular regard to matters related to the widening of the gap between the unfunded liability and the net unfunded liability and the lack of cash backing of the Superannuation Provision Account used to calculate net unfunded liability.*
- 2. The use of specific purpose capital grants as temporary working capital to fund the ordinary operations of Government.*
- 3. The implications to the State should a cash deficit occur in the near future including the effect on the capacity of the State to manage possible outcomes in this event.*
- 4. Any other matters incidental thereto.*