



# Parliamentary Standing Account of Public Accounts

## Media Advisory

Wednesday, 1 June 2022

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### Final Report

### Follow-Up review of Public Works Committee Recommended Projects

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The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts tabled the Final Report of its review of the works recommended by the Public Works Committee in the 2015 Reports for the following works:

- 27 of 2015: Midland Highway, Mangalore to Bagdad Stage 1 and Midland Highway, Kempton to Melton Mowbray Stage 1; and
- 28 of 2015: Midland Highway, Perth to Breadalbane Duplication.

The Committee focused on inquiring into the timeliness, outcomes achieved, budget compliance and contract variations.

The Committee found two of the three projects considered were completed within budget, the Mangalore to Bagdad Stage 1 was within budget and the Perth to Breadalbane Duplication was completed significantly under budget. The Kempton to Melton Mowbray Stage 1, was completed over budget, however funds not expended on the Perth to Breadalbane Duplication were reallocated to other projects related to the Midland Highway Strategic 10 Year Action Plan.

The Committee was also informed that all three projects under review were subject to contract variations. The Minister and Departmental officers provided explanations for each which are referred to within the body of the Report.

Overall the Committee found that all three projects under review:

- had completed all work elements of the proposed works in accordance with the respective submissions to the Public Works Committee;
- satisfied the intended stated purpose in accordance with the respective submissions to the Public Works Committee;
- delivered the stated intended benefits; and
- utilised local contractors and suppliers.

The Committee also found that an above average rainfall over winter during the planned construction phase was the predominant reason for construction delays. This is, of course, unavoidable in the circumstances. The Committee sought clarification regarding stakeholder consultation noting that more effective and a longer period of consultation may have avoided some additional costs associated with managing expectations of neighbouring property owners. The Committee was informed the Department had improved the consultation processes since these works were planned and completed.

The Committee also sought further detail from the Minister and Departmental Officers regarding the AusRAP Star Rating process and application to Tasmanian roads and the use of wire rope barriers. The Committee found there could be a benefit, in terms of cost and consistency of application through a standardised procurement process for these barriers. The Committee made one recommendation to the Government to consider the potential benefits of standardised procurement.

Members of the Committee at the time of the Report completion were:

**Legislative Council**

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)  
Hon Meg Webb MLC  
Hon Josh Willie MLC

**House of Assembly**

Dr Shane Broad MP  
Mr Felix Ellis MP  
Mr John Tucker MP

Further information about the Committee is available on the [Committee website](#).

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