

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: DLO Rowland
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 2:50 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii); DLO Rowland
Subject: RE: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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All good, I've let s22(1)(a)(ii) know

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Department Liaison Officer
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From: s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 2:32 PM
To: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii)

11am is the only valid option, I'm afraid. I'll send the invite shortly if you could give s22(1)(a)(ii) the heads up please?

Thanks,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant to:
Karly Pidgeon • Assistant Secretary • Regional Mobile Infrastructure Programs Branch
Meghan Hibbert • Assistant Secretary • Regional Connectivity Branch

s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au
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From: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 1:48 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au; DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Yes, please do!

It's my last day today, so s22(1)(a)(ii) will pick this up from tomorrow. Would be a great help to him if you can sort the invite.

Kind regards

s22(1)(a)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Department Liaison Officer
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From: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 1:36 PM
To: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi s22(1)(a)

Thanks for the quick response. I've just reached out to Lachlan Wood's EA as he will be part of the meeting too, and will get back to you ASAP regarding what time.

Are you happy if I send the invitation?

Cheers,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant to:
Karly Pidgeon • Assistant Secretary • Regional Mobile Infrastructure Programs Branch
Meghan Hibbert • Assistant Secretary • Regional Connectivity Branch

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From: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 1:29 PM
To: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>; s22(1)(a)(ii) <[redacted]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s22(1)(a)(ii) will also try and attend, noting she is also attending the national Labor conference so will try her best. You can send the meeting invite on to her too

Let me know what time you land on

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 1:03 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>; DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks s22(1)(a)(ii)

I checked with s22(1)(a) and he can do 10am or 12.30pm on Friday 18 August, do either of those times suits?

If not, he said he can shift things around, as he understands this is high priority.

Cheers

s22(1)(a)

s22(1)(a)(ii)
Department Liaison Officer
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From: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 17 August 2023 12:07 PM
To: DLO Rowland <dlo.rowland@MO.communications.gov.au>
Cc: s22(1)(a)(ii) <[s22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:s22(1)(a)(ii)@infrastructure.gov.au)>
Subject: FW: MO Brief - ANAO Audit process Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Good morning,

Could I please ask the availability of s22(1)(a)(ii)? It is in relation to MO to brief on the ANAO audit of the Mobile Black Spot Program. It would be with Karly Pidgeon, s22(1)(a)(ii) and s22(1)(a)(ii) from Communications Services and Consumer Division.

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We are hoping tomorrow, Friday 18 August, at 11am would suit? The one thing to note is Meghan Hibbert will be a/g in the role so it definitely needs to be with s22(1)(a)(ii) as to not have a conflict of interest.

- Fri 18 August – 11am (PREFERENCE)
- Thurs 24 August – 2:30pm / 3pm

Kind regards,

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Assistant to:

Karly Pidgeon • Assistant Secretary • Regional Mobile Infrastructure Programs • Communications Services and Consumer Division
Meghan Hibbert • Assistant Secretary • Regional Connectivity Branch • Communications Services and Consumer Division

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*I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.
I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.
I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.*

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s22(1)(a)(ii)



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s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: WOOD2, Lachlan s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au >
Sent: Monday, 28 August 2023 12:06 PM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Pidgeon, Karly; Audit and Risk; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: ANAO Performance Audit Information [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: DITRDCA Guide to working with the ANAO - Performance Audits.pdf

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Hi s22(1)(a)

In our recent meeting to discuss the MBSP ANAO performance audit briefing for the Minister's Office, I undertook to provide you with a list of ANAO linked references, see below, and attached is the department's Guide to working with the ANAO. Please let me know if you'd like any further information.

ANAO general information

- ANAO Factsheet – What to expect from a performance audit www.anao.gov.au/work/about/what-to-expect-during-performance-audit
- ANAO Audit Work Plan www.anao.gov.au/work-program
- ANAO's Guide to conducting performance audits www.anao.gov.au/work/corporate/guide-to-conducting-performance-audits

MBSP audit related links

- In progress audit Award of Funding under the Mobile Black Spot Programme for Round 6 www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/award-funding-under-the-mobile-black-spot-program
- Auditor-General report no.10 of 2016-17 Award of Funding under the Mobile Black Spot Programme Round 1 www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/award-funding-under-the-mobile-black-spot-programme
- Correspondence - the Auditor-General's response on 26 April 2023 to Hon David Coleman MP's request for a full investigation into the design and administration of Round 6 of the Mobile Black Spot Program, letters dated 29 March 2023 and 12 April 2023 www.anao.gov.au/work/request/round-6-the-mobile-black-spot-program
- Correspondence – the A/g Auditor-General's response on 15 September 2015 to correspondence from Ms Michelle Rowland MP on 7 September 2015 regarding administration of the Mobile Black Spot Program www.anao.gov.au/work/request/michelle-rowland-mp-administration-the-mobile-black-spot-program

Recent ANAO audit mentioned during the meeting

- Award of Funding under the Building Better Regions Fund www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/award-funding-under-the-building-better-regions-fund

Kind regards,

Lachlan

Lachlan Wood

Assistant Secretary, Assurance, Integrity, Risk and Governance Branch

Chief Integrity and Risk Officer

Finance, Governance, Budget and Business Services Division

s22(1)(a)(ii) @infrastructure.gov.au

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MS24-000236



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

To: The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications (for information)

Subject: ANAO Performance Audit of the Mobile Black Spot Program - Improving Mobile Coverage Round (IMCR) - Progress Update

Critical Date: For information

Recommendation:

1. That you **note** the progress of the ANAO performance audit of the “Award of funding under the Mobile Black Spot Program” which addresses Round 6, the Improving Mobile Coverage Round.

Noted / Please Discuss

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

18/3/24

Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

1. On 31 August 2023, we provided you a brief detailing the process for the ANAO performance audit of the “Award of funding under the Mobile Black Spot Program” (refer **MS23-004227**).
2. On 29 January 2024, the ANAO provided the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts with the Report Preparation Papers (RPPs) for the MBSP performance audit. The department’s written response to the RPPs was provided to the ANAO on 12 February 2024.
3. The purpose of the RPPs is to provide an opportunity for the department to discuss preliminary audit findings, provide feedback to the ANAO, correct errors of fact, identify any issues relating to sensitive information and provide any further relevant information.

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4. An Exit meeting with the ANAO was held on 27 February 2024 providing an opportunity for the department to discuss the preliminary audit conclusions, findings and potential recommendations of the report.
5. The next step in the audit process is for the ANAO to provide the department with a proposed audit report as required by section 19 of the *Auditor-General Act 1997* (the Act). The Act specifies that, if written comments on the proposed report are provided within 28 days, the Auditor-General must consider these comments before preparing the final report. The proposed report is expected to be provided to the department in late March 2024.
6. The department must not disclose any information being considered throughout the audit process, or in the report (or extract), except with the consent of the Auditor-General. The accountable authority can provide the draft report to the Audit & Risk Committee.
7. The final report is expected to be tabled in May 2024. On completion of the audit, the ANAO will:
 - a. notify the accountable authority (the Secretary) and you, as responsible Minister, of the tabling date and, in accordance with subsections 17(4) and 18(2) of the Act, you will both receive embargoed copies of the report before tabling.
 - b. also provide embargoed copies of the report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
8. Following tabling of the report, you may request a briefing from the ANAO, if desired.
9. Once the ANAO has provided you with the embargoed final report, we are able to advise you about the outcomes of the audit, the department's response, the department's proposed action to implement the recommendations, and prepare you for any potential media or Parliamentary interest in the report.

Financial impacts: N/A

Legal/Legislative impacts: N/A

Stakeholder Implications:

Community and media interest is expected in the audit outcomes.

Consultation:

The department's Assurance, Integrity, Risk & Governance Branch has been consulted on this brief.

Media Opportunities:

The final audit report is expected to attract media attention due to the program being designed and delivered as part of the Government's election commitments. This program was also the subject of multiple FOI requests in 2023.

Cleared By: Karly Pidgeon
 Position: Assistant Secretary
 Division: Communications Services and
 Consumer Division
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cleared Date: 08/03/2024

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Section: Regional Mobile Infrastructure
 Programs Branch
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)

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MS24-000236

Instructions for MPS: Nil

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

Responsible Adviser: s22(1)(a)(ii)

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, Sam Grunhard, Daniel Caruso, s22(1)(a)(ii) Karly Pidgeon, s22(1)(a)(ii)

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Pidgeon, Karly
Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2024 6:52 AM
To: s22(1)(a)(ii) ; DLO Rowland
Cc: Grunhard, Samuel; Caruso, Daniel; s22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Info: FOI 24-288 - Brief on ANAO audit of IMCR - expected release 8 April 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: E. Documents with redactions applied.pdf

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Hi s22(1)(a)(ii) ,

I'm writing to advise that I have made a decision on **FOI 24-288** and it is expected to be released by the FOI team to the applicant on **8 April 2024**. The relevant brief and its attachments will also be made publicly available on the department's disclosure log. The documents are attached to this email for information, with only minimal redactions for personal information of non-SES officers and telephone details.

The **scope** of the FOI request made to the department on 7 March 2024 was:

- A copy of the signed brief from the Minister for Communications entitled 'ANAO Performance Audit of the Mobile Black Spot Program – Improving Mobile Coverage Round (IMCR)', PDR Reference number MS23-004227.

The MO was sent a courtesy consultation request by the department's FOI team on the proposed document for release:

- On 20 March 2024 the department's FOI contacted the MO.
- On 27 March 2024 s22(1)(a)(ii) responded with no comment on the documents.

The brief in scope is effectively a **process brief** that:

- outlines the publicly available scope of the ANAO's audit of the IMCR and details the stages and required steps during an audit, including the audit confidentiality obligations on the department, and
- contains as attachments the publicly available ANAO guidance on performance audits, the department's internal guide on working with the ANAO and a summary of the publicly available 2016 report on the audit of MBSP Round 1.

Talking points

- The release of this brief and the attachments raises no concerns from the department's perspective, either on the IMCR or release of the department's internal guide about working with the ANAO.
- A potential question may be:
 1. *Why did the department brief the Minister on the ANAO audit of the IMCR?*
 - a. Consistent with the department's internal policies, the department provides Ministers with factual information about ANAO audits and outlines the processes involved in the conduct of an audit.
 - b. This information provides Ministers with an awareness of an audit's objective, scope, timing, steps and the confidentiality obligations upon the department.
 - c. Information provided in this brief is drawn from publicly available sources and the department's internal guide on working with the ANAO.

Please let me know if you would like any further information regarding this FOI decision.

Regards,
 Karly

Karly Pidgeon

Assistant Secretary • Regional Mobile Infrastructure Programs Branch • Communications Services & Consumer Division

Karly.Pidgeon@communications.gov.au

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Making flexibility work – if you receive an email from me outside of normal business hours, I'm sending it at a time that suits me. Unless it is marked urgent, I'm not expecting you to read or reply until normal business hours.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

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