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**EXECUTIVE MINUTE**

on

**JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT  
REPORT [No. 497]  
*Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2021-22***

**General comments**

*The Department of Home Affairs welcomes the opportunity to respond to Report No. 497 of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit 'Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2021-22' (the Report).*

**Response to the recommendation**

**Recommendation No. 5 paragraph 2.118**

*The Committee recommends that in light of the constant optimism biases which disguise the true situation in relation to public sector cyber-security the Government consider implementing an assurance regime on agencies' self-reporting to government on the cybersecurity aspects of the Protective Security Policy Framework, at least on a risk basis if not across all entities, and adopt appropriate assurance measures as recommended by the Australian National Audit Office.*

**Recommendation is supported.**

The Department will implement an assurance mechanism to assess the self-reported cyber and protective security maturity of non-corporate Commonwealth entities to acquit recommendation 5, in consultation with the Government Security Committee.

The Department will commence this function following the 2024-25 Protective Security Policy Framework reporting period. Delivery will be subject to recruitment of appropriate skilled staff and consultation with all non-corporate Commonwealth entities.

*Signed by*

**Hamish Hansford**

Acting National Cyber Security Coordinator  
Deputy Secretary—Cyber and Infrastructure Security

The Department of Home Affairs

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