

s47F

From: 47F
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2020 4:06 PM
To: VINE-CAMP Kerry
Cc: HALLINAN David; SPENCE Pip; 47F; WHALEN Greg
Subject: RE: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Kerry, will do so now.

Dave indeed did and they were both mine in the red text to refer media enquiries. Sorry!

47f

OFFICIAL

From: VINE-CAMP Kerry <Kerry.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2020 3:55 PM
To: T 47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; SPENCE Pip <Pip.Spence@infrastructure.gov.au>; 47F @infrastructure.gov.au; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi 47F

Yes please can you reach out to the relevant media areas, including PMC, and provide the points. That is cleaner.

Can you check typo's Dave thought he picked one up!!

Kerry Vine-Camp

First Assistant Secretary, Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications



Australian Government
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
 Regional Development and Communications

t: 02 6274 7664 | m: 47F
 e: Kerry.vine-camp@infrastructure.gov.au w: www.infrastructure.gov.au
 GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their Elders both past and present. 🇦🇺 🇺🇸

OFFICIAL

From: 47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2020 3:41 PM
To: VINE-CAMP Kerry <Kerry.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; SPENCE Pip <Pip.Spence@infrastructure.gov.au>; 47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

I'd be comfortable with that Kerry and would also suggest sharing with our DoF and the Government Solicitor for oversight.

Are you happy to facilitate this through your program partners or would you prefer we reach out to the respective media teams and provide embargoed as FYI?

47F

OFFICIAL

From: VINE-CAMP Kerry <Kerry.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2020 3:30 PM
To: 47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; SPENCE Pip <Pip.Spence@infrastructure.gov.au>; s47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

47F

Can we provide these to PMC.

K

Kerry Vine-Camp CPHR
First Assistant Secretary | Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications
t: [02 6274 7664](tel:0262747664) | m: 47F
e: Kerry.vine-camp@infrastructure.gov.au w: www.infrastructure.gov.au
GPO [Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601](#)

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

OFFICIAL

From: " 47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 18 September 2020 at 3:21:58 pm

To: "VINE-CAMP Kerry" <Kerryn.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: "HALLINAN David" <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>, "SPENCE Pip" <Pip.Spence@infrastructure.gov.au>, "47F" <[\[REDACTED\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au)>, "WHALEN Greg" <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Kerry, I think these are in good shape and should cover the anticipated line of enquiries.

We'll hold the TP's now and draw upon them to present formed responses for your clearance should we receive any enquiries.

Please let me know if I can provide any further support.

Hope you have a relaxed weekend.

47F

Director | Media Services
Communication Branch
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
t: 47F
e: [\[REDACTED\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au)
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

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OFFICIAL

From: VINE-CAMP Kerry <Kerryn.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2020 2:49 PM
To: 47F <[\[REDACTED\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au)>
Cc: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; SPENCE Pip <Pip.Spence@infrastructure.gov.au>; <[\[REDACTED\]@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au)>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report (002).docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

47F

Updated TP's can you please sense check.

K

OFFICIAL



ANAO report on purchase of “Leppington Triangle” land for the future development of Western Sydney Airport

Talking Points

Please note: All media enquires are to be referred to media@infrastructure.gov.au

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications notes the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report and agrees with all recommendations made.
- The Department is already taking action to address any shortcomings in processes and decision-making identified in relation to the Leppington Triangle acquisition.
- The Department has a strong record of operating and meeting the highest standards of integrity and ethics.
- The department has engaged Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake an assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.
- The Department will review existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, and update accordingly.
- The department will review probity and conflict of interest reporting.
- The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action. This includes:
 - An independent review of the transaction arrangements to ensure the findings of the audit are addressed, and
 - Management reviews into matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO, which will ensure the concerns raised are specifically addressed.

- An external probity adviser will be appointed to support ongoing functions related to major projects and land acquisitions.
 - This probity adviser will assist with the development of guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989.

The Department notes the ANAO view the purchase could have been made at a much later date. However, the Department considers that

- The acquisition of the Triangle represented the final parcel of land that needed to be acquired for the airport site, creating a complex market situation.
 - The acquisition of the Triangle came about alongside the establishment of the Western Sydney Airport Company and the public release of the Government's Airport Plan which committed to a two-runway airport.
 - Early acquisition provided certainty to stakeholders for long term planning, has allowed Western Sydney Airport Company to plan effectively for the entire development of the Airport as identified in the Airport Plan, and has reduced the risk of future challenges on the Airport development.
- The Department agrees that the valuation strategy was unorthodox, however, the strategy was developed in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Australian Government Solicitor and was designed to mitigate the risk of costly and lengthy legal challenges.
 - As the report notes, the land-holding company had previously challenged land acquisitions at the airport site with the Department spending over 10 years in legal proceedings.

On the matter of 'unethical behaviour'

- Noting a thorough response to the findings is underway and the complexity of the acquisition process, the Department is currently investigating the assertions in the report of "unethical behaviour" by its officers. The department's land acquisition was not undertaken in isolation with the strategy being developed in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Australian Government Solicitor.

Background – Departmental response to recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications prepare comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks of proposals to spend public money.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

The Department will review and update existing material to ensure there is a clear requirement for comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks to support proposals to spend public money, and particularly in regard to valuations and land acquisitions. All staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and updated guidance material will be made available to all staff and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 2

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications put in place meeting and communication protocols for when staff engage directly with individual landowners, developers or similar parties with heightened probity risks. The protocols should: include guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and to require properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has established protocols on meeting with interested parties developed specifically for the Western Sydney Unit. The guidance is available to all staff. The Department will review the protocols to expand coverage to other areas of the Department.

These will include, at a minimum, guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations. Staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 3

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications develop policies and procedures to govern its approach to obtaining purchase valuations.

Department response

Agreed. The Department will develop specific guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989. All guidance material will be made available to staff and appropriate training provided.

Departmental contact

47F

Greg Whalen | greg.whalen@infrastructure.gov.au 02 6274 7341, s47F

47F

From: 47F
Sent: Sunday, 20 September 2020 7:04 PM
To: HALLINAN David
Cc: WHALEN Greg; 47F
Attachments: gton Triangle report [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
 Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report.docx

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Dave

Please find the attached updated talking points as outlined below and confirming this version has been provided to both the Department of Finance and PMC.

Kind regards,

47F

Director | Media Services
 Communication Branch
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

t: 0 47F
 e: @infrastructure.gov.au

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇦🇺

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 19 September 2020 4:02 PM
To: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>; 47F
 47F infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: FW: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi 47F

Not sure I have the final version of dot points. But I got a call from Finance overnight seeking a slight amendment to these. They'd prefer we not name them and AGS in the point on valuation strategy. I'm comfortable with the request.

Would you mind amending as below and distributing again. The relevant point is below. If we could remove the highlighted section, that would work best I think.

Many thanks

Dave

- The Department agrees that the valuation strategy was unorthodox, however, the strategy was developed in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Australian Government Solicitor and was designed to mitigate the risk of costly and lengthy legal challenges.

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 18 September 2020 1:14 PM
To: VINE-CAMP Kerry <Kerry.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; SORBELLO Stephen <Stephen.Sorbello@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Kerry, how are you?

Please find the attached talking points for consideration and clearance based on our response to the report. Can you please return the approved version to me for the Media Team will hold the master copy and update accordingly.

Please note the TP's are prepared in anticipation of media interest to develop responses in a timely manner. All enquiries will be assessed on an individual basis and responses developed in consultation with you.

We will monitor any media activity on this topic and deliver news items to you directly.

Happy to discuss further at any stage

Thanks,

47F

Director | Media Services
Communication Branch
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
t: s47F | m: 47F
e: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

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OFFICIAL:Sensitive

From: VINE-CAMP Kerry Kerryn.VINE-CAMP@infrastructure.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2020 3:14 PM
To: 47F [@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:47F@infrastructure.gov.au)
Cc: HALLINAN David David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au; SORBELLO Stephen Stephen.Sorbello@infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: ANAO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi 47F

As discussed.

Regards

Kerryn Vine-Camp

First Assistant Secretary, Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

t: 02 6274 7664 | m: 47F
e: Kerryn.vine-camp@infrastructure.gov.au w: www.infrastructure.gov.au
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

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OFFICIAL



ANAO report on purchase of “Leppington Triangle” land for the future development of Western Sydney Airport

Talking Points

Please note: All media enquiries are to be referred to media@infrastructure.gov.au

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications notes the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report and agrees with all recommendations made.
- The Department is already taking action to address any shortcomings in processes and decision-making identified in relation to the Leppington Triangle acquisition.
- The Department has a strong record of operating and meeting the highest standards of integrity and ethics.
- The department has engaged Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake an assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.
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- The acquisition of the Triangle came about alongside the establishment of the Western Sydney Airport Company and the public release of the Government's Airport Plan which committed to a two-runway airport.
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- The Department agrees that the valuation strategy was unorthodox, however, the strategy was designed to mitigate the risk of costly and lengthy legal challenges.
- As the report notes, the land-holding company had previously challenged land acquisitions at the airport site with the Department spending over 10 years in legal proceedings.

On the matter of 'unethical behaviour'

- Noting a thorough response to the findings is underway and the complexity of the acquisition process, the Department is currently investigating the assertions in the report of "unethical behaviour" by its officers.

Background – Departmental response to recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications prepare comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks of proposals to spend public money.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

The Department will review and update existing material to ensure there is a clear requirement for comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks to support proposals to spend public money, and particularly in regard to valuations and land acquisitions. All staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and updated guidance material will be made available to all staff and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 2

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications put in place meeting and communication protocols for when staff engage directly with individual landowners, developers or similar parties with heightened probity risks. The protocols should: include guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and to require properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations.

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These will include, at a minimum, guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations. Staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 3

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications develop policies and procedures to govern its approach to obtaining purchase valuations.

Department response

Agreed. The Department will develop specific guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989. All guidance material will be made available to staff and appropriate training provided.

Departmental contact

[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au 47F

Greg Whalen | greg.whalen@infrastructure.gov.au 02 6274 7341, s47F

47F

From: 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 5:27 PM
To: HALLINAN David
Cc: ATKINSON Simon; WHALEN Greg; 47F
Subject: Response confirmation and updated Media Coverage Report
Attachments: MediaReport_leppington-triangle_20_to_22_September_5_05pm.pdf

Hi Dave

Just confirming the response has been delivered as provided below.

Please find the attached updated media report containing all coverage to date.

I'll provide a further update after 9am tomorrow.

Thank you

47F

From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 3:06 PM
To: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: ATKINSON Simon <Simon.Atkinson@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For clearance: s47F inquiry on Leppington Triangle audit report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Have reviewed the proposed amendments with the Secretary. We'd like to go with the version herein.

Query

1. What is the process of investigation you are undertaking?
2. Will this involve an external investigation? Is it appropriate for the dept to be investigating itself?
3. Does the phrase "individual breaches of integrity" indicate the department believes there is a prima facie case that its officers breached legislation/guidelines/their employment contracts?
4. How many departmental officials are being investigated? Have they been suspended? What levels of public servant are being investigated?
5. who was the delegate/decision-maker?

Response

The ANAO report identifies serious matters that require appropriate investigation. The Department is undertaking investigation in accordance with the Public Service Act, following the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

The Department is also undertaking an independent review of the transaction, by an independent auditor, to ensure any further problems in Departmental processes are identified and addressed.

It is not appropriate for the Department to identify or make comment on individual/s during independent investigations.

OFFICIAL

From: 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 11:57 AM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Leppington Triangle audit report

Hi,

I'm writing a follow-up on the Leppington Triangle ANAO report.

I'm particularly interested in this in the department's response:

In light of the allegation of individual breaches of integrity, the matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all such matters are fully understood and appropriate action can be taken.

Could I please ask:

- What is the process of investigation you are undertaking?
- Will this involve an external investigation? Is it appropriate for the dept to be investigating itself?
- Does the phrase "individual breaches of integrity" indicate the department believes there is a prima facie case that its officers breached legislation/guidelines/their employment contracts?
- How many departmental officials are being investigated? Have they been suspended? What levels of public servant are being investigated?

Thanks for considering.

Kind regards,

47F

47F

s47F



s47F

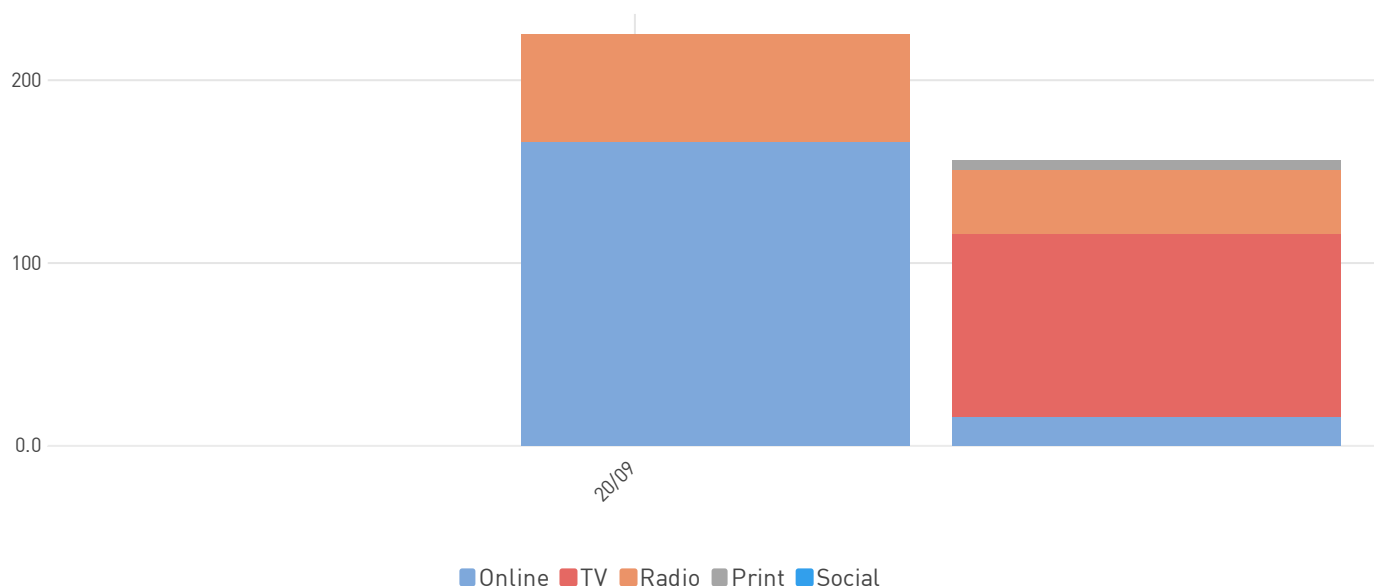


Media Coverage Report | Leppington Triangle

Compiled for Department of Infrastructure on 22 September 2020

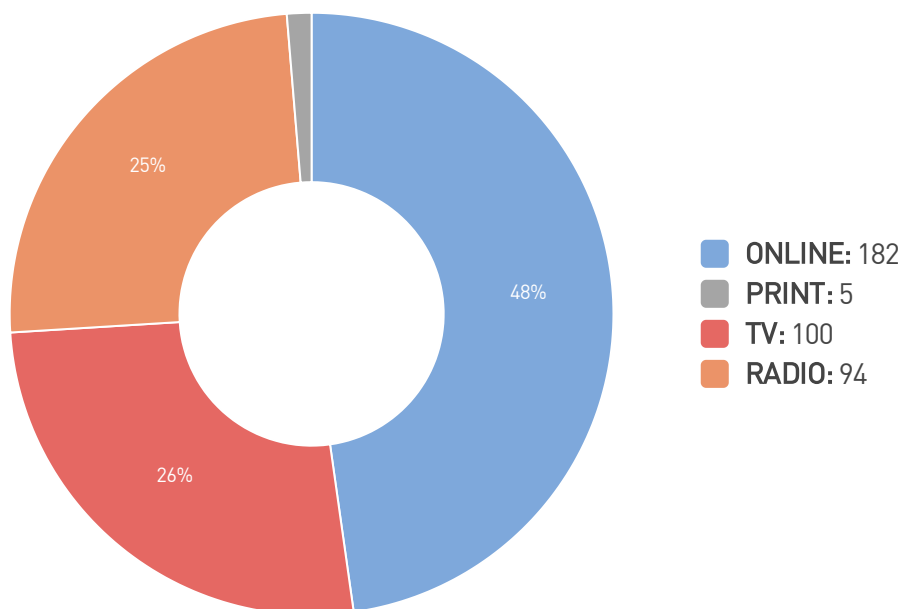
News Volume over 3 Days

20 September 2020 to 22 September 2020



Volume Breakdown

A breakdown of media coverage by media type based on volume of coverage



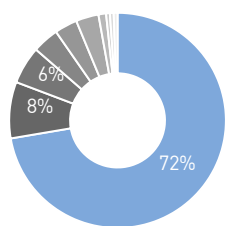
Mentions Heatmap

Shows the times your organisation is mentioned most in the media



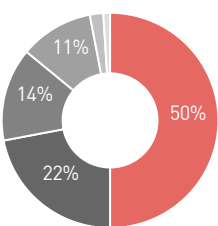
Coverage by Media Type

Online



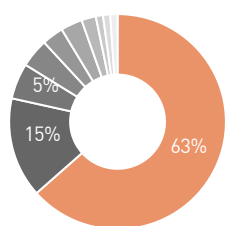
- 128 Australian Community Media
- 15 Seven West Media
- 10 News Corp
- 7 McPherson Media
- 6 Independent

TV



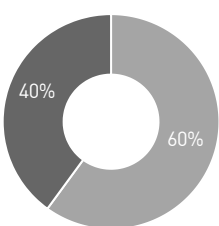
- 50 WIN Network
- 22 Southern Cross Austereo
- 14 Ten
- 11 Nine
- 2 WIN Network/Southern Cross Austereo

Radio








- 59 ABC
- 14 Nine Radio
- 5 TRSN
- 4 Bathurst Broadcasters
- 3 Grant Broadcasters

Print








- 3 Nine
- 2 News Corp






Top Authors

	Paul Osborne	122
	Clare Armstrong	9
	Paul Osborne	8
	AAP Newswire	7
	Matt O'Sullivan	4

Top Publishers

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	Broome Advertiser	2
	Crikey	2
	Adelaide Now	1
	Benalla Ensign	1

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	National Nine Early Morn...	20
	Studio 10	14
	National Nine Early Morn...	11
	National Nine Early Morn...	2

Trending News Themes

Recurring keywords detected

Recommendations Department Government Due Diligence Times Report
Briefings Runway Land Audit

Potential Audience Reach Cumulative potential audience across all media items in report
7,349,500

Mentions



Taxpayers paid 10 times fair value for land next to Western Sydney Airport, audit finds

Travel Weekly – 22 September 2020, 5:04pm

by | 633 words | Potential Audience: 5000 | Media ID. ON83302756

Mentions: audit (3), ANAO (5), Infrastructure (5), ANAO's audit (1), Leppington (5), Infrastructure's (1), ANAO audit (1), ANAO's (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Govt Drops \$30m on Western Sydney Land Worth \$3m: Audit

The Urban Developer – 22 September 2020, 4:15pm

by | 662 words | Potential Audience: 10000 | Media ID. ON83303097

Mentions: Audit (4), Leppington (7), ANAO (6), Infrastructure (3), ANAO audit (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Federal Govt. questioned over Western Sydney Airport purchase

The Market Herald – 22 September 2020, 3:04pm

by **Belinda Cameron** | 547 words | Media ID. ON83292362

Mentions: Audit (4), ANAO (4), Leppington (2), Infrastructure (3), audit's (1), ANAO's (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Audit finds Government paid \$26.7 million more for Western Sydney Airport land than it was worth

Infrastructure Magazine – 22 September 2020, 1:13pm

by **Imogen Hartmann** | 365 words | Potential Audience: 1000 | Media ID. ON83286085

Mentions: Audit (4), ANAO (5), Leppington (2), Infrastructure (3), ANAO's audit (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Govt paid \$30m for airport land, later reported it was valued \$3m

South West Voice – 22 September 2020, 11:56am

by **Eric Kontos** | 450 words | Potential Audience: 2000 | Media ID. ON83274088

Mentions: Audit (1), ANAO (3), infrastructure (4), Leppington (2)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

Audit report reveals government paid 10 times what parcel of Leppington land was worth

Camden Advertiser – 22 September 2020, 11:48am

by **Kayla Osborne** | 453 words | Potential Audience: 2000 | Media ID. ON83294809

Mentions: Audit (7), Leppington (5), Infrastructure's (1), ANAO (2), Infrastructure (2), ANAO's (1)

SYNDICATION

Camden Advertiser, **Camden Advertiser**, **Macarthur Advertiser**, **Macarthur Advertiser**, **Wollondilly Advertiser**, **Wollondilly Advertiser**

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



360 with Katie Woolf 5 times a week, 9:00am to 12:00pm

MIX 104.9 Darwin (Darwin) – 22 September 2020, 11:33am

Potential Audience: 24300 | Media ID. RA723158808

Queensland a landowner has been paid 10 times the value of his property to make way for the new Western Sydney Airport, The Commonwealth bought the **Leppington** triangle site for 30,000,000 dollars less than a year later, the National **Audit** Office valued

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



News Bulletin 5 times a week, 11:00am to 11:05am

Hot 100 (Darwin) – 22 September 2020, 11:31am

Potential Audience: 25600 | Media ID. RA723157462

property to make way for the new Western Sydney Airport, The Commonwealth bought the **Leppington** triangle site for 30,000,000 dollars, Less

than a year later, the National **Audit** Office valued it at just over 3,000,000 deaths and illnesses from Bushfire, I smoke estimate,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Studio 10 5 times a week, 8:00am to 12:00pm

Ten (Perth) – 22 September 2020, 11:30am

Potential Audience: 2800 | Media ID. TC77356362

The minister says it will deliver about 130-thousand jobs over that period . An **audit** has found that the government paid ten times what a piece of land was worth as part of the western sydney airport development. Taxpayers were slugged almost \$30 million for a 12-hectare property purchased from the **Leppington** pastoral company in 2018. Incredibly, only one valuation was obtained prior to the sale Then, less than a year later, it was valued at just over \$3 million. In its scathing report, the australian national **audit** office said briefings to ministers were "inappropriate and inconsistent with acting ethically. A raging tip fire has blanketed melbourne's northwestern suburbs in smoke.

SYNDICATION

WIN Network [25 Syndications], Ten [7 Syndications], Southern Cross Austereo [1 Syndication]

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Why did taxpayers buy land for 10 times what it was worth from a Coalition donor?

Crikey – 22 September 2020, 11:14am

by **Bernard Keane** | 904 words | Potential Audience: 31000 | Media ID. ON83271414

Mentions: Infrastructure (2), Audit (4), ANAO (8), ANAO's (1), Leppington (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Mornings with Katrina Roe 5 times a week, 9:00am to 12:00pm

Hope 103.2 (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 11:03am

Media ID. RA723133886

The Department says it's investigating staff conduct after a report found the federal government overspent on land for the new Western Sydney Airport, The National Audit Office says the Leppington triangle site was valued at just over 3,000,000

dollars but was sold to the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 dollars, Shadow Infrastructure Minister Catherine King says the report also

raises questions of possible unethical conduct by the infrastructure Department departmental officials meeting with the land holder on their own,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



The John Laws Morning Show 5 times a week, 9:00am to 12:00pm

2SM (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 11:02am

Media ID. RA723132832

Bren jelly for 29,8 million dollars, The land was purchased from the Leppington Pastoral company and will be used in 2,050 for a second runway for the Western Sydney Airport but a valuation of the land conducted less than a year after the purchase has found it's only worth 3,000,000 dollars, The Australian National Audit Office has now questioned the integrity of the

valuation and sales process claiming there was no documented consideration of costs, The federal Infrastructure Department has considered the valuation approach,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



News Bulletin 7 times a week, 11:00am to 11:05am

2ST FM Coast (Nowra) – 22 September 2020, 11:00am

Media ID. RA723131702

the value of his property to make way for the new Western Sydney Airport, The Commonwealth bought the Leppington triangle site

for 30,000,000 dollars, Less than a year later, the National Audit Office valued it at just over 3,000,000 death, Send illnesses,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Studio 10 5 times a week, 8:00am to 12:00pm

Ten (Perth) – 22 September 2020, 10:31am

Potential Audience: 8900 | Media ID. TC77350802

An audit has found that the government paid 10 times what a piece of land was worth as part of the western sydney airport development. Taxpayers were slugged almost \$30 million for a 12-hectare property purchased from the leppington pastoral company in 2018. Then, less than a year later, it was valued at just over \$3 million. In its scathing report, the australian national audit office said briefings to ministers were "inappropriate and inconsistent with acting ethically.

SYNDICATION

WIN Network [25 Syndications], Ten [7 Syndications], Southern Cross Austereo [1 Syndication]

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)

News Bulletin 5 times a week, 10:00am to 10:05am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 10:01am

Potential Audience: 122000 | Media ID. RA723085771

the new Western Sydney Airport, The Commonwealth bought the Leppington triangle site for 30,000,000 dollars less than a year later, the National

Audit Office valued it at just over 3,000,000 dollars Queensland's border, Bubble is expanding to include five local government areas in New South,

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

Federal government paid out nearly \$30m for land worth \$3m

Sky News – 22 September 2020, 9:43am

by | 146 words | Potential Audience: 71000 | Media ID. ON83262929

Mentions: Audit (1), Leppington (2)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

AM Agenda 5 times a week, 9:00am to 12:00pm

Sky News (Australia) – 22 September 2020, 9:11am

Potential Audience: 15800 | Media ID. TC77342420

Scott Morrison will meanwhile address you in virtually again on Friday night in a longer and wide ranging leaders address. The auditor general has given a scathing review of the Department of infrastructure. In Bringelly, it was purchased off a family owned billionaire company Leppington pastoral and that was purchased back in July of 2,018 now, the federal government spent 26.10.

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

Govt paid ten times market value for airport land

Government News – 22 September 2020, 8:32am

by | 534 words | Potential Audience: 4000 | Media ID. ON83259914

Mentions: Infrastructure's (2), audit (5), Infrastructure (3), Leppington (2), ANAO (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

The Ben Fordham Breakfast Show 5 times a week, 5:30am to 9:00am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 8:31am

Potential Audience: 176000 | Media ID. RA723018208

new Western Sydney Airport, The National Audit Office says the Leppington triangle site was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars, but was salted of the Commonwealth,

SYNDICATION
2UE (Sydney)

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

Breaky with Kerry Peck 5 times a week, 6:00am to 9:00am

2BS (Bathurst) – 22 September 2020, 8:31am

Media ID. RA723017568

federal government overspent on land for the new Western Sydney Airport, The National Audit Office says the Leppington triangle site was valued

at just over 3,000,000 dollars, but was salted the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 the infrastructure Department says it accepts recommendations made in the report,

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)



Taxpayers ripped off in 'worst deal of the decade'

2GB – 22 September 2020, 8:09am

by **Ben Fordham** | 68 words | Potential Audience: 18000 | Media ID. ON83256185

Mentions: Audit (2), Leppington (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



The Ben Fordham Breakfast Show 5 times a week, 5:30am to 9:00am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 7:31am

Potential Audience: 160000 | Media ID. RA722970368

Michael Packy Nine News, A report has found the federal government paid too much for land for the new Western Sydney Airport, the National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle site was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars less than a,

SYNDICATION

2UE (Sydney)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breaky with Kerry Peck 5 times a week, 6:00am to 9:00am

2BS (Bathurst) – 22 September 2020, 7:31am

Media ID. RA722969782

much for land for the new Western Sydney Airport the National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle site was valued at

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breakfast with Ali Clarke 5 times a week, 5:57am to 8:00am

ABC Adelaide (Adelaide) – 22 September 2020, 7:24am

Potential Audience: 23000 | Media ID. RA722964918

To go over to Alan Tudge the minister for urban **infrastructure** there's the delineation there haven't heard back from Mr Tudge's office either we've also

contacted **Leppington** pastoral, which is the large family owned dairy company that actually sold this plot of land to see what they've got to say about

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breakfast with Wendy Harmer & Robbie Buck 5 times a week, 6:00am to 8:00am

ABC Sydney (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 7:19am

Potential Audience: 112000 | Media ID. RA722960737

1 of Australia's largest car company, So it was actually valued before the sale went ahead, It was valued by from someone who was recommended by the **Leppington** Pastoral company who owned this to this piece of land and it's being leased

of this, So the Department of **infrastructure** has said that it's investigating allegations of individual breaches of integrity in relation to the,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Taxpayers buy the farm

Crikey – 22 September 2020, 7:10am

by **Chris Woods** | 1660 words | Potential Audience: 31000 | Media ID. ON83252149

Mentions: Audit (1), Leppington (3), Infrastructure (3)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

The Ben Fordham Breakfast Show 5 times a week, 5:30am to 9:00am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 7:09am

Potential Audience: 174000 | Media ID. RA722953440

taxpayers paid 10 times more than they needed to because of advice from the Department of **infrastructure**, The Department told the government to fork out 29,8 million dollars for 12 hectares in **Leppington**,

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

National Nine Early Morning News 5 times a week, 5:00am to 5:30am

Nine (Perth) – 22 September 2020, 7:02am

Potential Audience: 17000 | Media ID. TC77329128

Here is political reporter, emma larouche. the national **audit** office has issued a scathing assessment of how the federal government handled taxpayers' money. 8 million for the land in 2018 to a dairy company run by the billionaire perech family. Only one valuation was carried out before that sale and it was done by a valuer suggest by the **leppington** pastoral company. A year after the purchase a valuation by the department of **infrastructure** found it was only worth just over \$3 million. This valuation sparked the **audit** on the grounds that it was considered a significant and unusual transaction. The report has found the department "fell court of ethical standards in its acquisition of the land".

SYNDICATION

Nine [12 Syndications], Southern Cross Austereo [20 Syndications], WIN Network/Southern Cross Austereo [2 Syndications]

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

News Bulletin 7 times a week, 7:00am to 7:05am

2ST FM Coast (Nowra) – 22 September 2020, 7:01am

Media ID. RA722947748

government during the Covid 19 pandemic, A report has found taxpayers spent 30,000,000 dollars on land worth about 10% of that, the National **Audit** Office says **Leppington** triangle site for Western Sydney Airport was valued at just to start he the,

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

News Bulletin 7 times a week, 7:00am to 7:05am

2ST FM Highlands (Nowra) – 22 September 2020, 7:01am

Media ID. RA722947555

As on land worth about 10% of that, the National **Audit** Office says **Leppington** triangle site for Western Sydney Airport was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars, That was sold at the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 the federal government is preparing

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)

News Bulletin 7 times a week, 7:00am to 7:05am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 7:01am

Potential Audience: 174000 | Media ID. RA722947509

It's seven o'clock good morning I'm Natalie Peters, a report has found the federal government overspent on land for the new Western Sydney Airport, The National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle site was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars but was sold to the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 shadow **Infrastructure** Minister Catherine King says the report also raises questions of possible unethical conduct by the **infrastructure** Department departmental officials meeting with the LANDHOLDER on their own, The venue know brick,

SYNDICATION

2UE (Sydney)

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)



Breakfast with Bill McMartin Once a week, 7:00am to 9:00am

Casey Radio 97.7 FM (Melbourne) – 22 September 2020, 7:01am

Media ID. RA722947463

3,000,000 The Australian National **audit** offers has looked at the purchase of the **Leppington** triangle land, It's found the **infrastructure** department,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breakfast with David Eisenhower 5 times a week, 6:00am to 10:00am

FM96.3 Sounds of the Mountains (Cootamundra) – 22 September 2020, 7:01am

Media ID. RA722947300

Economic need is right time to make that chain and ordered his father federal government paid 30 million dollars for land for the new Western Sydney Airport the spider being work, Just 3 million Australian National **Audit** Office is look at the purchase, I'll be **Leppington** triangle, and it's found the **infrastructure** department didn't do, It's due diligence at aspects

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breaky with Kerry Peck 5 times a week, 6:00am to 9:00am

2BS (Bathurst) – 22 September 2020, 7:00am

Media ID. RA722946587

it's seven o'clock good morning I'm Natalie Peters, a report has found the federal government overspent on land for the new Western site airport, The National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle side was,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



The Ben Fordham Breakfast Show 5 times a week, 5:30am to 9:00am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 6:33am

Potential Audience: 169000 | Media ID. RA722926525

The National **Audit** Office says **Leppington** triangle, The site for the Western Sydney Airport was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars, but

SYNDICATION

2UE (Sydney)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breaky with Kerry Peck 5 times a week, 6:00am to 9:00am

2BS (Bathurst) – 22 September 2020, 6:32am

Media ID. RA722925636

of that, The National **Audit** Office says **Leppington** triangle, The site for the Western Sydney Airport was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars, but was sold to the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 the atmosphere is expected to be 10 for in state,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



Breakfast with Wendy Harmer & Robbie Buck 5 times a week, 6:00am to 8:00am

ABC Sydney (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 6:19am

Potential Audience: 71000 | Media ID. RA722915866

Airport, This is news from the Australian National **Audit** Office that we've heard about in the last 24 hours the 12 hectare pocket of land was bought by the Commonwealth for 29,8 million dollars from the **Leppington** Pastoral company in,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



News Bulletin 7 times a week, 6:00am to 6:05am

2GB (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 6:01am

Potential Audience: 124000 | Media ID. RA722901279

And harder it's six o'clock, Good morning on Natalie Peters, A report has found the **infrastructure** Department failed to exercise proper due diligence before overpaying for land for the Western Sydney Airport, the National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle site for the federal **Infrastructure** Minister Alan Tudge says there's no question of ministerial involvement, The federal government will unveil an 18,

SYNDICATION

2UE (Sydney)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



News Bulletin 5 times a week, 6:00am to 6:10am

2NUR (Newcastle) – 22 September 2020, 6:00am

Media ID. RA722900776

Or **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle site was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars a year after it was sold to the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 a spokesperson for the federal **Infrastructure** Minister Alan Tudge says there's no question of

SYNDICATION

2BS (Bathurst), 2LT (Blue Mountains), 2YOU FM (Tamworth), Great Lakes FM (Great Lakes)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



News Bulletin 5 times a week, 6:00am to 6:10am

2GN Goulburn (Goulburn) – 22 September 2020, 6:00am

Media ID. RA722900696

le proper due diligence before overpaying for land for the Western Sydney Airport, The National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** triangle site was valued at just over 3,000,000 dollars a year after it was sold to the Commonwealth for 30,000,000 a spokesperson for the federal **Infrastructure** Minister Alan Tudge says, there's no question of ministerial involvement, The federal government will unveil an

SYNDICATION

2XL Snowy Mountains (Cooma)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)



News Bulletin 5 times a week, 6:00am to 6:10am

Magic 2CH (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 6:00am

Media ID. RA722900571

Peters, a report has found the **infrastructure** Department failed to exercise proper due diligence before overpaying for land for the Western Sydney Airport, The National **Audit** Office says the **Leppington** trial,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)

2SM Breakfast with Grant Goldman 5 times a week, 5:00am to 9:00am

2SM (Sydney) – 22 September 2020, 5:40am

Media ID. RA722884989

Than the fair value of a 12,26 hectare triangle of land at Leppington, This happened back in July 2,018 that they thought potentially would be needed to build a second runway in around three decades, So what are we basing this on the price of what the land might have been in three decades now, Less than a year after the Department of infrastructure advised, the government buy the land from the Leppington Pastoral company at the high price,

[VIEW IN STREEM](#)



Airport land cost \$26.7m above value

Australian Financial Review (AFR) – 22 September 2020, 12:00am

by John Kehoe | on page 3 | 365 words | Potential Audience: 38000 | Media ID. PR05050683

Mentions: Audit (2), Infrastructure (3), Leppington (4), ANAO (3)

[VIEW PRINT ITEM](#)



Taxpayers spent \$30m on runway land worth \$3m

The Sydney Morning Herald – 22 September 2020, 12:00am

by Matt O'sullivan | on front page | 672 words | Potential Audience: 78000 | Media ID. PR05050569

Mentions: Leppington (7), Infrastructure's (2), audit (3), Infrastructure (2)

[VIEW PRINT ITEM](#)



Feds paid land owner 22 times over NSW price

The Sydney Morning Herald – 22 September 2020, 12:00am

by Matt O'sullivan City Editor | on page 5 | 549 words | Potential Audience: 78000 | Media ID. PR05050560

Mentions: Leppington (6), Infrastructure's (1), audit (2), Infrastructure (2)

[VIEW PRINT ITEM](#)



Flying high: Feds pay \$27m over for airport

The Australian – 22 September 2020, 12:00am

by Rosie Lewis | on front page | 809 words | Potential Audience: 94000 | Media ID. PR05048392

Mentions: Audit (3), Infrastructure (5), Leppington (6), ANAO (1)

[VIEW PRINT ITEM](#)




Government slammed for sky-high purchase

The Daily Telegraph – 22 September 2020, 12:00am

by Clare Armstrong | on page 9 | 243 words | Potential Audience: 222000 | Media ID. PR05047469

Mentions: audit (2), Leppington (3), Infrastructure (3), ANAO (2)

[VIEW PRINT ITEM](#)


 **Nightlife with Philip Clark** 4 times a week, 7:00pm to 11:00pm
ABC Goldfields (Goldfields) – 21 September 2020, 11:52pm
Media ID. RA722627721

Point 6 5,000,000 a tenth of the price of the **Leppington** Pastoral company, Was it led to an **audit** by the federal Auditor

SYNDICATION

ABC Esperance (Esperance), ABC Great Southern (Albany), ABC Kimberley (Kimberley), ABC Mid-West and Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt), ABC Perth (Perth), ABC Pilbara (Pilbara), ABC South West WA (South West WA)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)

 **News Bulletin** 7 times a week, 11:00pm to 11:05pm
ABC Adelaide (Adelaide) – 21 September 2020, 11:32pm
Potential Audience: 5000 | Media ID. RA722610137


Western Sydney Airport for 10 times, What the property was worth, Matthew Doran reports from Parliament House, The 12 hex air pocket of land was bought by the Commonwealth for 29,8 million dollars from the **Leppington** Pastoral company, But

less than a year later, the government estimated the plot was worth just over 3,000,000 dollars, It sits at what will be the end of the Western Sydney Airport's second runway, The **Audit** Office has criticised the federal **infrastructure**,

SYNDICATION


ABC [86 Syndications]

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)

 **News Bulletin** 5 times a week, 7:00pm to 7:05pm
6IX 1080AM (Perth) – 21 September 2020, 9:01pm
Potential Audience: 100 | Media ID. RA722490948

for the new Western Sydney Airport to the tune of 26,7 million dollars, The Australian National **audit** officers looked at the purchase of the **Leppington** triangle land it's found the **infrastructure** department,

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)

 **News Bulletin** 7 times a week, 9:00pm to 9:05pm
2GB (Sydney) – 21 September 2020, 9:01pm
Potential Audience: 33000 | Media ID. RA722490673

Of a Rugby League fight it's nine o'clock good evening I'm Helleni landed off, An **audit** has found the federal government paid

30,000,000 dollars for land for the new Western Sydney Airport, despite it being worth just 3,000,000 The Australian National **Audit** Office has looked

at the purchase of the **Leppington** triangle land, It's found the **infrastructure** Department didn't do its due diligence and aspects of the

operations fell short of ethical standards? A spokesperson for **infrastructure** Minister Alan Tudge says the department is invested Stigating staff conduct a Jerusalem,

SYNDICATION

4BC (Brisbane)

[VIEW IN STREAM](#)

Department's 'ethical standards' questioned after 'inflating' land price by 10 times, audit office claims

The New Daily – 21 September 2020, 8:15pm

by Josh Butler | 970 words | Potential Audience: 68000 | Media ID. ON83220069

Mentions: audit (2), infrastructure (6), Leppington (8), ANAO (13), Infrastructure's (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Government paid 10 times too much for land at Western Sydney airport to be used after 2050

The Guardian – 21 September 2020, 8:15pm

by Paul Karp | 852 words | Potential Audience: 387000 | Media ID. ON83220055

Mentions: Leppington (4), Audit (2), ANAO (11), infrastructure (3), ANAO's (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Western Sydney airport land buy queried

Town and Country Magazine – 21 September 2020, 8:01pm

by Paul Osborne | 265 words | Potential Audience: 1000 | Media ID. ON83208823

Mentions: audit (2), infrastructure (1), Leppington (2), audit's (1)

SYNDICATION

Australian Community Media [122 Syndications]

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Federal Government paid ten times value of land for future Western Sydney Airport expansion

Sound Telegraph – 21 September 2020, 7:36pm

by Clare Armstrong | 465 words | Media ID. ON83220858

Mentions: audit (2), Leppington (4), Infrastructure (3), ANAO (3)

SYNDICATION

Broome Advertiser, Country Man, Kalgoorlie Miner, Narrogin Observer, Sound Telegraph, The Kimberly Echo, The West Australian

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Federal Government paid ten times value of land for future Western Sydney Airport expansion

The Courier Mail – 21 September 2020, 7:36pm

by Clare Armstrong | 525 words | Potential Audience: 173000 | Media ID. ON83218851

Mentions: audit (2), Leppington (4), Infrastructure (4), ANAO (3)

SYNDICATION

Adelaide Now, Cairns Post, Geelong Advertiser, Gold Coast Bulletin, Herald Sun, NT News, The Courier Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Mercury

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Taxpayers spent \$30m on land worth only \$3m for Western Sydney Airport's second runway

Brisbane Times – 21 September 2020, 6:45pm

by **Matt O'Sullivan** | 567 words | Potential Audience: 378000 | Media ID. ON83215319

Mentions: Leppington (6), Infrastructure's (1), audit (2), Infrastructure (2)

SYNDICATION

Brisbane Times, **The Age**, **The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)**, **WA Today**

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Auditor slams government 'ethics' in airport land deal

Australian Financial Review (AFR) – 21 September 2020, 6:33pm

by **John Kehoe** | 621 words | Potential Audience: 87000 | Media ID. ON83214900

Mentions: Audit (4), Infrastructure (7), Leppington (5), ANAO (5), Infrastructure's (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Government paid 10 times what Western Sydney Airport land was worth, audit finds

ABC News – 21 September 2020, 6:26pm

by **Matthew Doran** | 426 words | Potential Audience: 1126000 | Media ID. ON83214931

Mentions: audit (3), Leppington (3), ANAO (4), ANAO's (1)

SYNDICATION

ABC News, **MSN Australia**

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Political Alert - Scathing Auditor-General report: \$26.7m overspend on donor's \$3m piece of land (FED)

CCH Parliament Political Alerts – 21 September 2020, 5:45pm

349 words | Media ID. ON83211357

Mentions: INFRASTRUCTURE (5), Leppington (5), audit (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



CATHERINE KING - MEDIA RELEASE - SCATHING AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORT: \$26.7M OVERSPEND ON DONOR'S \$3M PIECE OF LAND - MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

Federal Labor Media – 21 September 2020, 5:38pm

431 words | Media ID. ON83210573

Mentions: INFRASTRUCTURE (5), Leppington (5), audit (1)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Federal government paid 10 times more than airport land value

The Australian – 21 September 2020, 5:10pm

by **ROSIE LEWIS, GREG BROWN** | 323 words | Potential Audience: 201000 | Media ID. ON83208060

Mentions: Audit (1), Infrastructure (2), Leppington (3)

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

News

Western Sydney airport land buy queried

Shepparton News – 21 September 2020, 4:55pm

by **AAP Newswire** | 262 words | Potential Audience: 5000 | Media ID. ON83207260

Mentions: audit (2), infrastructure (1), Leppington (2), audit's (1)

SYNDICATION

Yahoo! [1 Syndication], Seven West Media [8 Syndications], The Daily Mail [1 Syndication], McPherson Media [7 Syndications]

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:43 PM
To: HALLINAN David; WHALEN Greg
Cc: [REDACTED] 47F Media (Infrastructure)
Subject: s47 enquiry: auditor report on airport land purchase - DEADLINE 5:30PM
Attachments: F Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report.docx

Good afternoon Dave and Greg

Please find the below enquiry from t s47F and our proposed response based on previously agreed talking points
 I don't feel the highlighted lines are required her however have left in for consideration.
 Happy to discuss.

Enquiry

This new auditor general report suggests the government overpaid \$26m for the land purchased for western Sydney airport, Labor says.
 Can you provide any comments by 5:30pm today?

Suggested response

Thank you for your enquiry s47

The Department notes and agrees with all recommendations made by the ANAO and is already taking action to address any shortcomings in processes and decision-making identified in relation to the Leppington Triangle acquisition.

The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action. This includes:

- An independent review of the transaction arrangements to ensure the findings of the audit are addressed, and
- Management reviews into matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO, which will ensure the concerns raised are specifically addressed.

The Department has a strong record of operating and meeting the highest standards of integrity and ethics and we have immediately engaged Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake an assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.

The department will also review existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, and update accordingly.

Early acquisition in this case provided certainty to stakeholders for long term planning, has allowed Western Sydney Airport Company to plan effectively for the entire development of the Airport as identified in the Airport Plan, and has reduced the risk of future challenges on the Airport development.

The Department also notes the ANAO view the purchase could have been made at a much later date. However, the Department considers that:

- The acquisition of the Triangle represented the final parcel of land that needed to be acquired for the airport site, creating a complex market situation.

- The acquisition of the Triangle came about alongside the establishment of the Western Sydney Airport Company and the public release of the Government's Airport Plan which committed to a two-runway airport.

From: [REDACTED] 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:54 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: auditor report on airport land purchase

Hello

This new auditor general report suggests the government overpaid \$26m for the land purchased for western Sydney airport, Labor says.

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport>

Can you please provide any comments by 530pm today?

Best Wishes,



s47F





ANAO report on purchase of “Leppington Triangle” land for the future development of Western Sydney Airport

Talking Points

Please note: All media enquiries are to be referred to media@infrastructure.gov.au

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications notes the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report and agrees with all recommendations made.
- The Department is already taking action to address any shortcomings in processes and decision-making identified in relation to the Leppington Triangle acquisition.
- The Department has a strong record of operating and meeting the highest standards of integrity and ethics.
- The department has engaged Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake an assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.
- The Department will review existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, and update accordingly.
- The department will review probity and conflict of interest reporting.
- The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action. This includes:
 - An independent review of the transaction arrangements to ensure the findings of the audit are addressed, and
 - Management reviews into matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO, which will ensure the concerns raised are specifically addressed.

- An external probity adviser will be appointed to support ongoing functions related to major projects and land acquisitions.
 - This probity adviser will assist with the development of guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989.

The Department notes the ANAO view the purchase could have been made at a much later date. However, the Department considers that

- The acquisition of the Triangle represented the final parcel of land that needed to be acquired for the airport site, creating a complex market situation.
- The acquisition of the Triangle came about alongside the establishment of the Western Sydney Airport Company and the public release of the Government's Airport Plan which committed to a two-runway airport.
- Early acquisition provided certainty to stakeholders for long term planning, has allowed Western Sydney Airport Company to plan effectively for the entire development of the Airport as identified in the Airport Plan, and has reduced the risk of future challenges on the Airport development.
- The Department agrees that the valuation strategy was unorthodox, however, the strategy was designed to mitigate the risk of costly and lengthy legal challenges.
- As the report notes, the land-holding company had previously challenged land acquisitions at the airport site with the Department spending over 10 years in legal proceedings.

On the matter of 'unethical behaviour'

- Noting a thorough response to the findings is underway and the complexity of the acquisition process, the Department is currently investigating the assertions in the report of "unethical behaviour" by its officers.

Background – Departmental response to recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications prepare comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks of proposals to spend public money.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

The Department will review and update existing material to ensure there is a clear requirement for comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks to support proposals to spend public money, and particularly in regard to valuations and land acquisitions. All staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and updated guidance material will be made available to all staff and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 2

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications put in place meeting and communication protocols for when staff engage directly with individual landowners, developers or similar parties with heightened probity risks. The protocols should: include guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and to require properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has established protocols on meeting with interested parties developed specifically for the Western Sydney Unit. The guidance is available to all staff. The Department will review the protocols to expand coverage to other areas of the Department.

These will include, at a minimum, guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations. Staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 3

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications develop policies and procedures to govern its approach to obtaining purchase valuations.

Department response

Agreed. The Department will develop specific guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989. All guidance material will be made available to staff and appropriate training provided.

Departmental contact

47F

Greg Whalen | greg.whalen@infrastructure.gov.au 02 6274 7341, s47F

47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:49 PM
To: HALLINAN David; WHALEN Greg
Cc: Media (Infrastructure); 47F
Subject: RE: Leppington Triangle audit

Good afternoon Dave and Greg

We have received the following request from 47F regarding the recently tabled ANAO report on the Leppington Triangle purchase.

Enquiry

Does the Department have a response to the federal Auditor General's findings about its purchase of the "Leppington Triangle" land

Suggested response

The department's response to the Auditor General's findings can be found at Appendices 1 of the tabled report - <https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport#29-0-appendices>

Deadline is 5pm today.

Thank you,

47F

Director | Media Services
 Communication Branch | Communication and IT Division
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

47F

infrastructure.gov.au

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇦🇺

From: 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:18 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Leppington Triangle audit

Hi there,

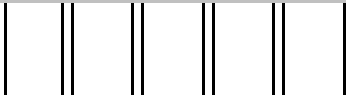
Does the Department have a response to the federal Auditor General's findings about its purchase of the "Leppington Triangle" land?

Here's a link to the tabled report:

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport>

If so, can we please get a response by 5pm.

Best,



s47F

47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:43 PM
To: HALLINAN David; WHALEN Greg
Cc: 47F ; Media (Infrastructure)
Subject: s47 enquiry: auditor report on airport land purchase - DEADLINE 5:30PM
Attachments: Talking points - ANAO Leppington Triangle report.docx

Good afternoon Dave and Greg

Please find the below enquiry from s47 and our proposed response based on previously agreed talking points
 I don't feel the highlighted lines are required her however have left in for consideration.
 Happy to discuss.

Enquiry

This new auditor general report suggests the government overpaid \$26m for the land purchased for western Sydney airport, Labor says.
 Can you provide any comments by 5:30pm today?

Suggested response

Thank you for your enquiry s47

The Department notes and agrees with all recommendations made by the ANAO and is already taking action to address any shortcomings in processes and decision-making identified in relation to the Leppington Triangle acquisition.

The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action. This includes:

- An independent review of the transaction arrangements to ensure the findings of the audit are addressed, and
- Management reviews into matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO, which will ensure the concerns raised are specifically addressed.

The Department has a strong record of operating and meeting the highest standards of integrity and ethics and we have immediately engaged Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake an assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.

The department will also review existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, and update accordingly.

Early acquisition in this case provided certainty to stakeholders for long term planning, has allowed Western Sydney Airport Company to plan effectively for the entire development of the Airport as identified in the Airport Plan, and has reduced the risk of future challenges on the Airport development.

The Department also notes the ANAO view the purchase could have been made at a much later date. However, the Department considers that:

- The acquisition of the Triangle represented the final parcel of land that needed to be acquired for the airport site, creating a complex market situation.

- The acquisition of the Triangle came about alongside the establishment of the Western Sydney Airport Company and the public release of the Government's Airport Plan which committed to a two-runway airport.

47F

Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:54 PM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: auditor report on airport land purchase

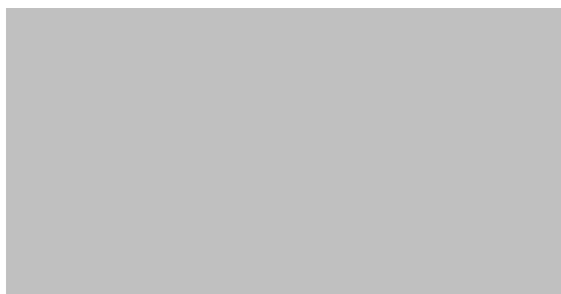
Hello

This new auditor general report suggests the government overpaid \$26m for the land purchased for western Sydney airport, Labor says.

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport>

Can you please provide any comments by 530pm today?

Best Wishes,



s47F



ANAO report on purchase of “Leppington Triangle” land for the future development of Western Sydney Airport

Talking Points

Please note: All media enquiries are to be referred to media@infrastructure.gov.au

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications notes the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report and agrees with all recommendations made.
- The Department is already taking action to address any shortcomings in processes and decision-making identified in relation to the Leppington Triangle acquisition.
- The Department has a strong record of operating and meeting the highest standards of integrity and ethics.
- The department has engaged Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake an assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.
- The Department will review existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, and update accordingly.
- The department will review probity and conflict of interest reporting.
- The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action. This includes:
 - An independent review of the transaction arrangements to ensure the findings of the audit are addressed, and
 - Management reviews into matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO, which will ensure the concerns raised are specifically addressed.

- An external probity adviser will be appointed to support ongoing functions related to major projects and land acquisitions.
 - This probity adviser will assist with the development of guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989.

The Department notes the ANAO view the purchase could have been made at a much later date. However, the Department considers that

- The acquisition of the Triangle represented the final parcel of land that needed to be acquired for the airport site, creating a complex market situation.
- The acquisition of the Triangle came about alongside the establishment of the Western Sydney Airport Company and the public release of the Government's Airport Plan which committed to a two-runway airport.
- Early acquisition provided certainty to stakeholders for long term planning, has allowed Western Sydney Airport Company to plan effectively for the entire development of the Airport as identified in the Airport Plan, and has reduced the risk of future challenges on the Airport development.
- The Department agrees that the valuation strategy was unorthodox, however, the strategy was designed to mitigate the risk of costly and lengthy legal challenges.
- As the report notes, the land-holding company had previously challenged land acquisitions at the airport site with the Department spending over 10 years in legal proceedings.

On the matter of 'unethical behaviour'

- Noting a thorough response to the findings is underway and the complexity of the acquisition process, the Department is currently investigating the assertions in the report of "unethical behaviour" by its officers.

Background – Departmental response to recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications prepare comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks of proposals to spend public money.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has existing frameworks and guidance on the requirements associated with developing proposals to spend public money in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

The Department will review and update existing material to ensure there is a clear requirement for comprehensive and balanced written analysis on the benefits, costs and risks to support proposals to spend public money, and particularly in regard to valuations and land acquisitions. All staff will be reminded of their responsibilities and updated guidance material will be made available to all staff and appropriate training provided.

Recommendation 2

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications put in place meeting and communication protocols for when staff engage directly with individual landowners, developers or similar parties with heightened probity risks. The protocols should: include guidelines regarding suitable venues; require the presence of at least two departmental representatives; and to require properly recorded minutes of meetings and conversations.

Department response

Agreed. The Department has established protocols on meeting with interested parties developed specifically for the Western Sydney Unit. The guidance is available to all staff. The Department will review the protocols to expand coverage to other areas of the Department.

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Department response

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Departmental contact

s47F

Greg Whalen | greg.whalen@infrastructure.gov.au 02 6274 7341, s47F

47F

From: 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 5:22 PM
To: WHALEN Greg; HALLINAN David
Cc: 47F
Subject: Australian article

The Australian has just posted

Government paid 10 times more than airport land value

The federal government spent nearly \$30m purchasing a small parcel of land for the Western Sydney Airport despite it being valued at a 10th of the price, in an acquisition process that was unethical and inappropriate.

A scathing report published by the Australian National Audit Office on Monday also found the Department of Infrastructure paid 22 times more per hectare for the Leppington Triangle land in Bringelly, on the outskirts of Sydney, than the NSW government paid for its portion.

The land, which was owned by [wealthy businessman Tony Perich and his family through their Leppington Pastoral Company](#) dairy farm, was bought by the federal government in July 2018 for \$29.8m with an expectation it would be needed in about 30 years when a second runway for the Western Sydney Airport was constructed.

Auditor-General Grant Hehir said the department's operations during and after the acquisition "fell short of ethical standards" and an "appropriate" acquisition strategy was not developed.

Instead, the government was focused on "incentivising an unwilling seller to dispose of their land some 32 years in advance of when it was anticipated to be needed for the airport expansion, an approach at odds with the department asserting that early purchase allowed it to capitalise on 'goodwill' from the landowner".

The 12.6ha of land was valued by the federal government after approaching just one supplier, M J Davis Valuations, whose name had been suggested by the Perich family "then agreed to by the department on the basis that there were no conflicts of interest between the parties".

"The approach taken by the Department of Infrastructure to valuing the Leppington Triangle was not appropriate," Mr Hehir said.

"The approach inflated the value of the land, which in turn led to the Australian government paying more than was proper in the circumstances."

From: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 5:06 PM
To: @infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David

<David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Lines [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

47F

Below is 47F suggested shortened version of your response on the question about 'what is the Department doing about the recos on staff ?'

I have cleared this wording with Dave Hallinan. Can you please forward to s47F and copy us in.

Thanks,

Greg

OFFICIAL

From: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:57 PM

To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Lines [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

"The Department has agreed to all recommendations in the report.

It is also investigating matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO.

There is no question of Ministerial involvement. It goes to the administrative actions of the Department, more than two years ago."

47F

47F

From: 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:52 PM
To: 47F
Cc: WHALEN Greg
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: media request from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Spoke to 47F and he is taking a look at that line now and will come back to either Greg or I shortly.

47F

From: 47F <47F@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:43 PM
To: 47F <47F@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: FOR ACTION: media request from s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi 47F

I understand that 47F has received a media enquiry in relation to the ANAO Report (relates to action the Department is taking against staff members identified in the ANAO Report). Greg has reminded him that these need to be referred to the Department so that responses can be coordinated, but in any event we have proposed the below line from our defensive TPs:

“The Department has instigated management reviews into matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO, to ensure the concerns raised are specifically addressed. As this work is ongoing, it would be inappropriate to make further comment.”

Grateful if you could please touch base with s47F to confirm the request.

Kind regards,

47F

47F

Director - Government
 Business Office
 Major Transport &
 Infrastructure Projects
 Division
 Department of
 Infrastructure, Transport,
 Regional Development and
 Communications

47F

w:
www.infrastructure.gov.au

GPO Box 594, Canberra
ACT 2601

OFFICIAL

47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:05 PM
To: HALLINAN David; Media (Infrastructure); WHALEN Greg
Cc: 47F
Subject: RE: Leppington Triangle audit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Dave.

Another enquiry coming your way for consideration momentarily.

47F

From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:57 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: RE: Leppington Triangle audit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

That approach is fine by me. There's a fair bit in the letter they can consider.

Thanks
 Dave

OFFICIAL

From: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:49 PM
To: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; 47F
 47F infrastructure.gov.au
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Enquiry

Does the Department have a response to the federal Auditor General's findings about its purchase of the "Leppington Triangle" land

Suggested response

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Deadline is 5pm today.

Thank you,

47F

Director | Media Services
Communication Branch | Communication and IT Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

47F

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇦🇺

From: 47F

Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:18 PM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Leppington Triangle audit

Hi there,

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Here's a link to the tabled report:

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport>

If so, can we please get a response by 5pm.

Best,

47F

s47F

47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:05 PM
To: HALLINAN David; Media (Infrastructure); WHALEN Greg
Cc: 47F
Subject: RE: Leppington Triangle audit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:57 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: 47F y@infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: RE: Leppington Triangle audit [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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 Dave

OFFICIAL

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Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:49 PM
To: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; 47F
 47F infrastructure.gov.au
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Deadline is 5pm today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Director | Media Services
Communication Branch | Communication and IT Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

47F

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

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From: 47F

Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 3:18 PM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Leppington Triangle audit

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Here's a link to the tabled report:

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport>

If so, can we please get a response by 5pm.

[REDACTED]

s47F

[REDACTED]

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 5:19 PM
To: WHALEN Greg
Cc: s47F; HALLINAN David
Subject: RE: Lines [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

We're good Greg. Minister is happy with the below and will use it for all related enquiries specifically seeking Ministerial comment.

s47F

From: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 5:06 PM
To: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Lines [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s47F

Below is s47F suggested shortened version of your response on the question about 'what is the Department doing about the recos on staff ?'

I have cleared this wording with Dave Hallinan. Can you please forward to s47F and copy us in.

Thanks,

Greg

OFFICIAL

From: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 4:57 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Lines [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

"The Department has agreed to all recommendations in the report.
 It is also investigating matters of staff conduct identified by the ANAO.
 There is no question of Ministerial involvement. It goes to the administrative actions of the Department, more than two years ago."

s47F



47F

From: 47F
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 5:48 PM
To: WHALEN Greg; WHALEN Greg; 47F
Subject: Town and Country online and Shadow Minister release - Leppington Triangle report
Attachments: 265X1005.PDF

Western Sydney airport land buy queried



Land near the Western Sydney airport is valued at a 10th of the price the federal govt paid for it.

A parcel of land bought by the federal government next to the proposed Western Sydney International Airport for just under \$30 million in 2018 is now valued at \$3 million, an audit has found.

The auditor-general said the infrastructure department had not shown appropriate due diligence in its purchase of the 12.26ha Leppington Triangle.

"In the course of this audit it became clear that aspects of the operations of the department, both during and after the acquisition, fell short of ethical standards," the auditor-general found in the report released on Monday.

The department's approach was focused on "incentivising an unwilling seller to dispose of their land some 32 years in advance of when it was anticipated to be needed".

As well, the auditor found the department's underlying analysis "overstated the identified benefits, did not quantify costs and did not address risks, and the acquisition approach eventually employed departed from the approved strategy".

The government expected it would require the land when a second runway was needed around 2050.

The problem began when the property owner suggested to the government the name of a valuer which was agreed to by the department.

"It was not made evident (in key briefings with decision makers) that the department intended to pay a per hectare rate some 20 times higher than that proposed by the NSW government for its portion of the Leppington Triangle."

The department agreed to the audit's recommendations to improve the way it gets valuations, prepare more detailed cost-benefit analyses and run proper meetings with landholders

47F [REDACTED]
Director | Media Services
Communication Branch | Communication and IT Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

[REDACTED]
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇺🇸 🇦🇺

CATHERINE KING MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

SCATHING AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORT: \$26.7M OVERSPEND ON
DONOR'S \$3M PIECE OF LAND

A Liberal Party donor is the beneficiary of a \$26.7 million overspend on a piece of land valued at only \$3 million purchased by the Liberal Government.

The Auditor-General has today released a scathing report into the Morrison Government's \$30m purchase of the Leppington Triangle, a 12.26 hectare triangle of land that in a few decades time may be used to build a second runway at Western Sydney Airport.

Astonishingly, just eleven months after completing the deal the Government itself valued the land at only \$3m – a tenth of the price it had paid to the landowner.

The price paid per hectare by the Morrison Government was 22 times higher than the price paid by the NSW Government for its portion of the Leppington Triangle.

According to Department of Infrastructure records, the Morrison Government had undertaken nine valuations of the land. The purchase price was 4 times

higher than the highest of these valuations.

On the date of the purchase, the agricultural land was leased back to the seller, Leppington Pastoral Company, for ten years, with an option to renew for a further decade.

Leppington Pastoral Company has previously donated to the Liberal Party.

According to the Auditor-General:

“The Department of Infrastructure did not exercise appropriate due diligence in its acquisition of the Leppington Triangle land for the future development of the Western Sydney Airport. In the course of this audit it became clear that aspects of the operations of the department, both during and after the acquisition, fell short of ethical standards.”

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure must immediately address these incredible findings and explain how his Government so comprehensively wasted Australian tax-payer's money.

If Australians cannot trust the Morrison Government with this infrastructure spend, it will be impossible to trust them with future investments.

21 SEPTEMBER 2020

MEDIA CONTACT: NICK BEAVER 0419 709 266

47F

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 1:32 PM
To: HALLINAN David
Cc: ATKINSON Simon; WHALEN Greg; Media (Infrastructure); [REDACTED]
 CHARLES Susan
Subject: For clearance: s47F enquiry on Leppington Triangle audit report
Importance: High

Good afternoon Dave

As discussed, please see the below s47F follow up and our suggested response for your edit and approval. Questions seeking when and how (parameters) the investigation will take place and if the findings will be released publicly will drive a further media cycle. I've placed a holding line below for consideration in highlight.

Enquiry

1. What is the process of investigation you are undertaking?
2. Will this involve an external investigation? Is it appropriate for the dept to be investigating itself?
3. Does the phrase "individual breaches of integrity" indicate the department believes there is a prima facie case that its officers breached legislation/guidelines/their employment contracts?
4. How many departmental officials are being investigated? Have they been suspended? What levels of public servant are being investigated?
5. who was the delegate/decision-maker?

Suggested response from a departmental spokesperson

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications acknowledges the findings of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and has agreed to all recommendations contained in the report.

The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action, and the Department has already committed to implementing the changes outlined in our response to the audit to ensure this does not happen again.

The Department has launched an investigation of staff conduct in the matter and will follow the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

This investigation will commence within xx days/weeks, with the department to make further statements on the findings in due course.

The Department has also engaged *Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd* to undertake an independent assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.

An external probity adviser will be appointed to support ongoing functions related to major projects and land acquisitions. This probity adviser will assist with the development of guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989.

The Department will not pre-empt these reviews by commenting on possible outcomes at this time.

Background:

The Department's response to the Auditor General's findings can be found at Appendix 1 of the tabled report—www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport#29-0-appendices.

Kind regards

47F

Director | Media Services
Communication Branch | Communication and IT Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

47F

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇺🇸 🇦🇺

From: 47F

Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 11:57 AM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Leppington Triangle audit report

Hi,

I'm writing a follow-up on the Leppington Triangle ANAO report.

I'm particularly interested in this in the department's response:

In light of the allegation of individual breaches of integrity, the matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all such matters are fully understood and appropriate action can be taken.

Could I please ask:

- What is the process of investigation you are undertaking?
- Will this involve an external investigation? Is it appropriate for the dept to be investigating itself?
- Does the phrase "individual breaches of integrity" indicate the department believes there is a prima facie case that its officers breached legislation/guidelines/their employment contracts?
- How many departmental officials are being investigated? Have they been suspended? What levels of public servant are being investigated?

47F

47F

s47F

47F

From: 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 9:15 AM
To: WHALEN Greg
Subject: RE: Question from PMO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Greg. Can you please give me a call when you have a moment?

47F

From: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 8:17 AM
To: 47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: S 47F @infrastructure.gov.au; HALLINAN David
 <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au> s47F
Subject: FW: Question from PMO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

47F

Attached below is the Department's response to your earlier question about the ANAO Report on Leppington Triangle.

Regards,

Greg

Greg Whalen

Acting First Assistant Secretary
 Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
 GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601
 t 02 6274 7341 | | m 47F
 w www.infrastructure.gov.au

- Q.** Was the Infrastructure Minister involved in the approval of the land purchase for Leppington Triangle?
- A.** The approval of the purchase was undertaken by Departmental officials. The Minister was briefed on the process and Department's final approval of the transaction.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s47F

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 5:57 PM
To: WHALEN Greg; Media (Infrastructure)
Cc: HALLINAN David; s47F [REDACTED]; LEGG Robyn
Subject: RE: URGENT: s47F [REDACTED] Enquiry - Leppington Triangle and The Northern Road [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Greg. He has posted but will update given our response and what seems to be some glaring inaccuracies in the article

<https://links.streem.com.au/australian-financial-review-afr-20200922-P4q1djUv0Gfy>

Thanks

s47F

From: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 5:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; s47F [REDACTED]
 s47F [REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au; LEGG Robyn <Robyn.Legg@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT: s47F [REDACTED] Media Enquiry - Leppington Triangle and The Northern Road [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

The amended words below are cleared to be released.

Thanks,

Greg

OFFICIAL

From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 5:44 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: s47F [REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: Re: URGENT: s47F [REDACTED] Media Enquiry - Leppington Triangle and The Northern Road [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Approved as below.

Dave

OFFICIAL

From: "WHALEN Greg" <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 at 5:36:24 pm
To: "HALLINAN David" <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT: s47F Media Enquiry - Leppington Triangle and The Northern Road [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dave,

For your clearance. I'm comfortable with this wording (subject to making the minor edits highlighted in green).

Thanks,

Greg

OFFICIAL

From: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 5:14 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>; s47F
s47F infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au>; s47F
s47F infrastructure.gov.au>; LEGG Robyn <Robyn.Legg@infrastructure.gov.au>; Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT: s47 Media Enquiry - Leppington Triangle and The Northern Road
Importance: High

Good afternoon all

Apologies for the last-minute approval request – we receive this one from the s47F quite late and have been gathering the relevant background.

QUESTIONS

1. Have any employees faced any consequences for the behaviour detailed in the report?
2. Will the Department be proceeding with the Northern Road realignment closer to the airport?
3. Will the Department be proceeding with the \$10m underpass detailed on page 33?

PROPOSED RESPONSE

The Australian National Audit Office report identifies serious matters that require appropriate investigation.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is undertaking investigation in accordance with the Public Service Act, following the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

The department is also undertaking an independent review of the transaction, by an independent auditor, to ensure any further problems in departmental processes are identified and addressed.

It is not appropriate for the department to identify or make comment on individuals during independent investigations.

Stage 4 of The Northern Road Upgrade has been planned and delivered in partnership with the NSW Government. It is one of six stages in total to be funded under the joint Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.

The underpass referred to in the ANAO report has been built, and Stage 4 is expected to be fully open to traffic next month. The road has been open as a single carriageway since April 2020, with the dual carriageway set to open in the coming weeks.

Thanks and regards,

s47F

s47F

Media Manager
Media Services
|
Communication
Branch
Department of
Infrastructure,
Transport,
Regional
Development
and
Communications

s47F

| GPO Box 594,
Canberra ACT
2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 2:50 PM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: s47F Media Enquiry

Hello

I have the following question in relation to the ANOA's report into the Purchase of the Leppington Triangle:

- Have any employees faced any consequences for the behaviour detailed in the report?
- Will the Department be proceeding with the Northern Road realignment closer to the airport?
- Will the Department be proceeding with the \$10m underpass detailed on page 33?

My deadline is 5pm.

Thank you

s47F

s47F

s47F

s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 5:14 PM
To: WHALEN Greg; s47F
Cc: s47F; LEGG Robyn; Media (Infrastructure); HALLINAN David
Subject: URGENT: s47F Media Enquiry - Leppington Triangle and The Northern Road
Importance: High

Good afternoon all

Apologies for the last-minute approval request – we receive this one from the s47F quite late and have been gathering the relevant background.

QUESTIONS

1. Have any employees faced any consequences for the behaviour detailed in the report?
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PROPOSED RESPONSE

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The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is undertaking investigation in accordance with the Public Service Act, following the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

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The underpass referred to in the ANAO report has been built, and Stage 4 is expected to fully open to traffic next month. The road has been open a single carriageway since April 2020, with the dual carriageway set to open in the coming weeks.

Thanks and regards,

s47F

s47F

Media Manager
 Media Services
 |
 Communication
 Branch
 Department of



Australian Government

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

Infrastructure,
Transport,
Regional
Development
and
Communications

s47F

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Canberra ACT
2601

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From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 2:50 PM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: s47F Media Enquiry

Hello

I have the following question in relation to the ANOA's report into the Purchase of the Leppington Triangle:

- Have any employees faced any consequences for the behaviour detailed in the report?
- Will the Department be proceeding with the Northern Road realignment closer to the airport?
- Will the Department be proceeding with the \$10m underpass detailed on page 33?

My deadline is 5pm.

Thank you

s47F

s47F

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 1:32 PM
To: HALLINAN David
Cc: ATKINSON Simon; WHALEN Greg; Media (Infrastructure s47F)
 CHARLES Susan
Subject: For clearance: s47F enquiry on Leppington Triangle audit report
Importance: High

Good afternoon Dave

As discussed, please see the below s47F follow up and our suggested response for your edit and approval. Questions seeking when and how (parameters) the investigation will take place and if the findings will be released publicly will drive a further media cycle. I've placed a holding line below for consideration in highlight.

Enquiry

1. What is the process of investigation you are undertaking?
2. Will this involve an external investigation? Is it appropriate for the dept to be investigating itself?
3. Does the phrase "individual breaches of integrity" indicate the department believes there is a prima facie case that its officers breached legislation/guidelines/their employment contracts?
4. How many departmental officials are being investigated? Have they been suspended? What levels of public servant are being investigated?
5. who was the delegate/decision-maker?

Suggested response from a departmental spokesperson

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications acknowledges the findings of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and has agreed to all recommendations contained in the report.

The matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all necessary learning and appropriate action, and the Department has already committed to implementing the changes outlined in our response to the audit to ensure this does not happen again.

The Department has launched an investigation of staff conduct in the matter and will follow the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

This investigation will commence within xx days/weeks, with the department to make further statements on the findings in due course.

The Department has also engaged *Sententia Consulting Pty Ltd* to undertake an independent assurance review and provide advice to the department on areas for improvement.

An external probity adviser will be appointed to support ongoing functions related to major projects and land acquisitions. This probity adviser will assist with the development of guidance materials on obtaining purchase valuations in consultation with the Department of Finance, to ensure that protocols are in line with operations of the Lands Acquisition Act 1989.

The Department will not pre-empt these reviews by commenting on possible outcomes at this time.

Background:

The Department's response to the Auditor General's findings can be found at Appendix 1 of the tabled report—www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/purchase-the-leppington-triangle-land-the-future-development-western-sydney-airport#29-0-appendices.

Kind regards

s47F

Director | Media Services
Communication Branch | Communication and IT Division
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

s47F

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇦🇺

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 11:57 AM

To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Leppington Triangle audit report

Hi,

I'm writing a follow-up on the Leppington Triangle ANAO report.

I'm particularly interested in this in the department's response:

In light of the allegation of individual breaches of integrity, the matters raised by the ANAO in the report are being investigated to ensure all such matters are fully understood and appropriate action can be taken.

Could I please ask:

- What is the process of investigation you are undertaking?
- Will this involve an external investigation? Is it appropriate for the dept to be investigating itself?
- Does the phrase "individual breaches of integrity" indicate the department believes there is a prima facie case that its officers breached legislation/guidelines/their employment contracts?
- How many departmental officials are being investigated? Have they been suspended? What levels of public servant are being investigated?

Thanks for considering.

Kind regards,

s47F

s47F



s47F



s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 9:15 AM
To: WHALEN Greg
Subject: RE: Question from PMO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Greg. Can you please give me a call when you have a moment?

s47F

From: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 8:17 AM
To: s47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; s47F <[REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Question from PMO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s47F

Attached below is the Department's response to your earlier question about the ANAO Report on Leppington Triangle.

Regards,

Greg

Greg Whalen

Acting First Assistant Secretary
 Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
 GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601
 t 02 6274 7341 | s47F
 e greg.whalen@infrastructure.gov.au | w www.infrastructure.gov.au

- Q.** Was the Infrastructure Minister involved in the approval of the land purchase for Leppington Triangle?
- A.** The approval of the purchase was undertaken by Departmental officials. The Minister was briefed on the process and Department's final approval of the transaction.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 12:03 PM
To: WHALEN Greg
Cc: Media (Infrastructure); HALLINAN David; [REDACTED]
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response - s47F [REDACTED] t
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Greg and David

Seeking your approval please of the following response, if possible by 3pm today.

QUESTION:

Does the department intend to take any further action, including referral to any law-enforcement bodies, following the ANAO report on the Western Sydney Airport land purchase?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

The Australian National Audit Office report identifies serious matters that require appropriate investigation.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is undertaking investigation in accordance with the Public Service Act, following the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

The department is also undertaking an independent review of the transaction, by an independent auditor, to ensure any further problems in departmental processes are identified and addressed.

It would be inappropriate for the department to pre-empt these processes by commenting further.

The first three lines are from similar enquiries yesterday, however the highlighted is a slight tweak.

Many thanks in advance,

s47F

Media Manager
 Media Services |
 Communication Branch
 Department of
 Infrastructure, Transport,
 Regional Development and
 Communications

s47F

www.intrastructure.gov.au
 GPO Box 594, Canberra
 ACT 2601



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

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OFFICIAL

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 11:34 AM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Media inquiry

Hello there,

Does the department intend to take any further action, including referral to any law-enforcement bodies, following the ANAO report on the Western Sydney Airport land purchase?

Many thanks,

s47F

s47F

s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 4:15 PM
To: HALLINAN David
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) s47F WHALEN Greg
Subject: Outstanding media - for discussion with s47F

Importance: High

Hi Dave

Outstanding enquiries all in one place, in anticipation of a discussion shortly:

s47F

1. Confirming Luke Yeaman was the deputy secretary of the Department of Infrastructure for the infrastructure group (with responsibility for the Western Sydney Unit) in July 2018 when the Leppington Triangle was purchased?
2. Does Mr Yeaman take full responsibility for the acquisition?
3. Does Mr Yeaman regret purchasing the land for \$29.8m when it was valued at just \$3.1m 11 months later?
4. Was Mr Yeaman fully aware of the valuation and acquisition process conducted by the department?
5. Did Mr Yeaman know the purchase price exceeded all known market valuations of the land?
6. Was Mr Yeaman satisfied with the briefings his officers provided him about the land?
7. Does Mr Yeaman believe the department exercised due diligence in its acquisition of the land?
8. Does Mr Yeaman believe the operations of the department were at times unethical?
9. Does Mr Yeaman believe the acquisition was value for taxpayers' money?

s47F

1. What is the status of the investigation into allegations of individual breaches of integrity raised by the ANAO? When did the department start this investigation? When does it expect to finish it?
2. What are the legal costs incurred by the department in the more than 10 years of legal proceedings involving the land-holding company challenging acquisitions at the airport site? Does this include paying any costs that courts may have awarded the land-holders?
3. Have the former secretary's records regarding the airport land acquisition and Leppington Triangle specifically been retained? Did he keep personal notebooks or diaries that may have contained details of meetings that were destroyed when he left the public service?

s47F

1. is the infrastructure department aware of any other purchases or deals that were similarly (in the words of the minister Fletcher) "concealed" from senior officials or the department?
2. minister Fletcher says he was not notified of the scale of the deal for the Leppington Triangle, and only became aware of the price finally paid when the ANAO report was released. Is this correct? Was the minister not informed of the deal's details by the department?
3. what is the threshold (if one exists) for a payment or purchase before it is escalated to the minister for approval and/or notification?
4. is the department concerned that other purchases or deals may have been made in similar ways, without proper notification or approval from senior officials?
5. does the department believe this Leppington Triangle episode was an isolated case?
6. what action has the department taken internally, in relation to this matter?

s47F

1. Just to clarify, is the department stating that an independent investigator and an independent auditor have been appointed?

Many thanks,

s47F

Media Manager
Media Services
|
Communication
Branch
Department of
Infrastructure,
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Regional
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and
Communications

s47F

| GPO Box 594,
Canberra ACT
2601



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Regional Development and Communications**

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s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 3:02 PM
To: HALLINAN David; WHALEN Greg
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response - s47F
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Dave.

OFFICIAL

From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 2:57 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response - s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Approved. With thanks

Dave

OFFICIAL

From: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 12:03 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response - s47F t [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Greg and David

Seeking your approval please of the following response, if possible by 3pm today.

QUESTION:

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PROPOSED RESPONSE:

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It would be inappropriate for the department to pre-empt these processes by commenting further.

The first three lines are from similar enquiries yesterday, however the highlighted is a slight tweak.

Many thanks in advance,

s47F

Media Manager
Media Services |
Communication Branch
Department of
Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Communications

s47F

www.infrastructure.gov.au
GPO Box 594, Canberra
ACT 2601

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OFFICIAL

From: s47F >
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 11:34 AM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Media inquiry

Hello there,

Does the department intend to take any further action, including referral to any law-enforcement bodies, following the ANAO report on the Western Sydney Airport land purchase?

Many thanks,

s47F

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 10:39 AM
To: WHALEN Greg
Subject: RE: Request for updated talking points and Leppington Triangle coverage report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Greg.

I just spoke with Dave who has updated me on this front.

NFA from you guys at this time.

Have a great day.

s47F

Director | Media Services
 Communication Branch
 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

s47F

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging. 🇦🇺

OFFICIAL

From: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 10:08 AM
To: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: s47F nrastructure.gov.au>; Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for updated talking points and Leppington Triangle coverage report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s47F. I'll call shortly to discuss updates to TPs.

Greg

OFFICIAL

From: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 9:49 AM
To: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au>; Media (Infrastructure)

<media@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: Request for updated talking points and Leppington Triangle coverage report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning Dave and Greg

Please find the attached media coverage report from the past 24 hours.

No further enquiries have come through since yesterday afternoon.

Our Finance colleagues have also reached out this morning seeking an update to our talking points.

The request (we believe) stems from a conversation with Dave and his equivalent last night.

Thank you

s47F

Director | Media Services

Communication Branch

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

s47F

GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

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OFFICIAL

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 12:18 PM
To: s47F
Subject: RE: FOR INFORMATION: Leppington Triangle map [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s47F ☺

OFFICIAL

From: s47F s @infrastructure.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 12:15 PM
To: s47F @infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR INFORMATION: Leppington Triangle map [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

As requested, please find attached updated maps that show the Leppington Triangle. Both maps are publicly available in the WSA Airport Plan (2016), with the exception of the label that we have inserted – one shows current airport layout and the second shows the indicative future layout with second runway.

Thanks,

s47F

OFFICIAL

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 11:35 AM
To: s47F infrastructure.gov.au
Cc: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: FOR INFORMATION: Leppington Triangle map [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

As requested and discussed with Greg, please find attached a copy of a map from the Airport Master Plan (2016) showing the proposed land acquisition of Leppington Triangle. We are also preparing a digital version with a label but I'm providing this in the interim in case needed.

Kind regards,

s47F

t
Business Office
Major Transport &
Infrastructure Projects
Division
Department of
Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Communications

s47F

www.infrastructure.gov.au
GPO Box 594, Canberra
ACT 2601



Australian Government

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

OFFICIAL

s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 2:13 PM
To: WHALEN Greg
Cc: HALLINAN David; [REDACTED] ATKINSON Simon; Media (Infrastructure)
Subject: RE: MEDIA ENQUIRY: s47F ANAO report

Further to below, an initial version of the article is up at <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2020/09/23/airport-land-deal-paul-fletcher/>.

From: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 2:06 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au; ATKINSON Simon <Simon.Atkinson@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: MEDIA ENQUIRY: s47F - ANAO report
Importance: High

Hi all

Drawing your attention to the below enquiry we have just received.

Greg/David – [REDACTED] is happy to meet to discuss approach.

Thanks,

s47F

s47F

Media Manager
 Media Services
 |
 Communication
 Branch
 Department of
 Infrastructure,
 Transport,
 Regional
 Development
 and
 Communications

s47F

| GPO Box 594,
 Canberra ACT
 2601



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s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 1:27 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: s47F - ANAO report

Hi there

s47F here from s47F. I'm getting in touch about the ANAO report into the 'Leppington Triangle' released this week

At a press conference this morning, minister Paul Fletcher told me that questions about whether other similar deals may have taken place would be questions for the department. I wanted to put a few questions to the department for a story I'm writing

I understand the department supplied a lengthy response that was included in the ANAO report, but if you'd be able to supply any information or comment to the below questions, that'd be much appreciated

Thanks for your time

QUESTIONS

- is the infrastructure department aware of any other purchases or deals that were similarly (in the words of the minister Fletcher) "concealed" from senior officials or the department?
- minister Fletcher says he was not notified of the scale of the deal for the Leppington Triangle, and only became aware of the price finally paid when the ANAO report was released. Is this correct? Was the minister not informed of the deal's details by the department?
- what is the threshold (if one exists) for a payment or purchase before it is escalated to the minister for approval and/or notification?
- is the department concerned that other purchases or deals may have been made in similar ways, without proper notification or approval from senior officials?
- does the department believe this Leppington Triangle episode was an isolated case?
- what action has the department taken internally, in relation to this matter?

s47F

s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 2:13 PM
To: WHALEN Greg
Cc: HALLINAN David; [REDACTED] ATKINSON Simon; Media (Infrastructure)
Subject: RE: MEDIA ENQUIRY: s47F - ANAO report

Further to below, an initial version of the article is up at <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2020/09/23/airport-land-deal-paul-fletcher/>.

From: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 2:06 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@infrastructure.gov.au; ATKINSON Simon <Simon.Atkinson@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: MEDIA ENQUIRY: s47F - ANAO report
Importance: High

Hi all

Drawing your attention to the below enquiry we have just received.

Greg/David s47F is happy to meet to discuss approach.

Thanks,

s47F

s47F

Media Manager
 Media Services
 |
 Communication
 Branch
 Department of
 Infrastructure,
 Transport,
 Regional
 Development
 and
 Communications

s47F

| GPO Box 594,
 Canberra ACT
 2601



Australian Government

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

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

s47F

Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 1:27 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: s47F - ANAO report

Hi there

s47F here from s47F. I'm getting in touch about the ANAO report into the 'Leppington Triangle' released this week

At a press conference this morning, minister Paul Fletcher told me that questions about whether other similar deals may have taken place would be questions for the department. I wanted to put a few questions to the department for a story I'm writing

I understand the department supplied a lengthy response that was included in the ANAO report, but if you'd be able to supply any information or comment to the below questions, that'd be much appreciated

Thanks for your time

QUESTIONS

- is the infrastructure department aware of any other purchases or deals that were similarly (in the words of the minister Fletcher) "concealed" from senior officials or the department?
- minister Fletcher says he was not notified of the scale of the deal for the Leppington Triangle, and only became aware of the price finally paid when the ANAO report was released. Is this correct? Was the minister not informed of the deal's details by the department?
- what is the threshold (if one exists) for a payment or purchase before it is escalated to the minister for approval and/or notification?
- is the department concerned that other purchases or deals may have been made in similar ways, without proper notification or approval from senior officials?
- does the department believe this Leppington Triangle episode was an isolated case?
- what action has the department taken internally, in relation to this matter?

s47F

s47F

s47F

From: Media (Infrastructure)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 3:02 PM
To: HALLINAN David; WHALEN Greg
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response - s47F Leppington Triangle report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Dave.

OFFICIAL

From: HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 2:57 PM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response s47F Leppington Triangle report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Approved. With thanks

Dave

OFFICIAL

From: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 12:03 PM
To: WHALEN Greg <Greg.Whalen@infrastructure.gov.au>
Cc: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>; HALLINAN David <David.Hallinan@infrastructure.gov.au>; @infrastructure.gov.au
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media Enquiry response - s47F Leppington Triangle report [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Greg and David

Seeking your approval please of the following response, if possible by 3pm today.

QUESTION:

Does the department intend to take any further action, including referral to any law-enforcement bodies, following the ANAO report on the Western Sydney Airport land purchase?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

The Australian National Audit Office report identifies serious matters that require appropriate investigation.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is undertaking investigation in accordance with the Public Service Act, following the due process of a formal investigation with an independent investigator.

The department is also undertaking an independent review of the transaction, by an independent auditor, to ensure any further problems in departmental processes are identified and addressed.

It would be inappropriate for the department to pre-empt these processes by commenting further.

The first three lines are from similar enquiries yesterday, however the highlighted is a slight tweak.

Many thanks in advance,

s47

s47F

Media Manager
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Communication Branch
Department of
Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Communications

s47F

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ACT 2601

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OFFICIAL

From: s47F >
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2020 11:34 AM
To: Media (Infrastructure) <media@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: Media inquiry

Hello there,

Does the department intend to take any further action, including referral to any law-enforcement bodies, following the ANAO report on the Western Sydney Airport land purchase?

Many thanks,

s47F