COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION

STATE FINANCES DIVISION

9.30 am — 1.40 pm on 22 February 2017

Meeting held at the Commission's offices, Canberra

Present:	Chairperson	Mr G J Smith
	Members	Dr L S Williams AM
		Prof J Petchey

MINUTES

1 The minutes of the State Finances meeting held on 8 February 2017 were accepted.

2017 UPDATE

AP 2017-05 2017 Update draft report – second draft

2 The Commission considered the draft report. It made editorial changes and agreed that any further substantial changes that may be identified after the meeting should be cleared by the Chairman.

3 The Commission noted that the report would be sent to the Commonwealth Treasurer and the States on 10 March 2017, under embargo until 24 March 2017. It noted that if a leak occurred it would be the Treasurer's responsibility to decide on whether to release the report early.

4 Members asked that they be advised when the final report is placed on the Commission's cloud.

2020 REVIEW

AP 2017-04 Proposed work program for 2020 Review

5 The Commission considered State and Commission views on the 2015 Review process, State views communicated to the Secretary during discussions with Heads of Treasury and the preliminary views of States on desirable features of a work program for the 2020 Review. It reviewed a proposed work program based on these views and requested a number of changes. It concluded the following.

- The review should commence with a multilateral Heads of Treasury (HoTs) meeting at a time associated with an already scheduled meeting in March. Alternatively if that were not possible, bilateral meetings with HoTs in their own States could be held in April 2017.
- Bilateral discussions should be held between the Commission and each HoT (as part of a round of State visits by the Commission) in late August/September 2017 on State submissions (due at the end of July) on the HFE staff paper (to be released in mid-May 2017).
- A more flexible release date for the draft report should be provided, so as to avoid possible Commonwealth and State elections. End April or May was suggested. Consequential changes to staff visit dates, State submission due dates and a possible meeting with HoTs would also be required.

6 The Commission asked that Members be sent copies of the revised work program and Commission commitments for the 2020 Review as soon as possible.

FUTURE MEETINGS

7 The next Commission meeting will be held on 22 March 2017.

8 The Chairperson closed the meeting at 1.40 pm on 22 February 2017.

Read and confirmed

G J Smith

Chairperson