

Programme

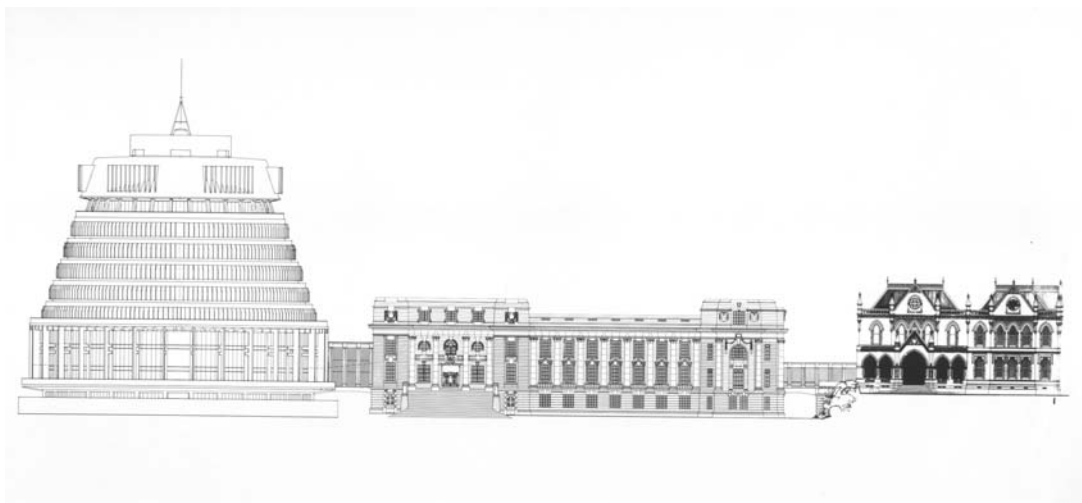
Australasian Council of Public
Accounts Committees

ACPAC 2009



*Sharing lessons—seeking improved
accountability—facing new challenges*

Wellington, New Zealand
15 to 17 April 2009



ACPAC 2009 Programme

Wednesday, 15 April 2009

Pōwhiri (Welcome Ceremony)

- 9.45am Manuhiri (visitors) to assemble at the northern end of the Parliament forecourt where they will be met by the Kaiwhakarite who will explain the procedure of the pōwhiri.
- 10.00am Pōwhiri ceremony commences.
- 10.30am At the completion of the pōwhiri ceremony, all delegates to proceed up the main steps of Parliament into the Grand Hall.

Conference registration and morning tea

- 10.30am Registrations in the Grand Hall along with morning tea
- 11.00am Delegates to move to the conference venue

Minutes and matters arising

- 11.15am Minutes of the Mid-Term ACPAC Meeting, held on 28 to 29 May 2008 at the McLaren on the Lake Conference Centre, McLaren Vale, South Australia, to be confirmed.

Communiqué

- 11.20am Decide and agree process for drafting the Communiqué and its adoption by the Conference

Session 1

11.30am

Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Legislative Assembly

Paper: *Understanding accountability*

Presenter: Ms Caroline Le Couteur, Chair

12.15pm

Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre, La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia

Paper: *Executive Accountability to Parliament – Reality
or Rhetoric*

Presenter: Adjunct Professor Peter Loney

1.00pm

Lunch

2.15pm

Interactive Auditors-General panel session

Topic: *Practical matters for the Constitution and
operation of public accounts committees—what works
well where?*

Chair: Kevin Brady, Controller and Auditor-General,
New Zealand

Panel members: Mike Blake, Auditor-General,
Tasmania, George Sullimann, Auditor-General, Papua
New Guinea, and Jeremy Lonsdale, Director-General,
(Performance Audit), National Audit Office, United
Kingdom

3.00pm

Afternoon tea

3.15pm

Centre for Democratic Institutions, Australian National University, Canberra

Paper: *Practical issues facing public accounts-type committees in the smaller democratic nations*

Presenter: Quinton Clements, Deputy Director

4.00pm

Auditors-General perspective

Paper: *The challenge of implementing International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in the public sector*

Presenter: Greg Schollum, Assistant Auditor-General, Accounting and Policy, Office of the Controller and Auditor-General, New Zealand

Session 2

4.45pm

Committee of Public Accounts, House of Commons, United Kingdom

Topic: *The role of the United Kingdom's Public Accounts Committee*

Presenter: Mr Edward Leigh, MP, Chairman

5.30pm

Conference adjourns



Wednesday, 15 April 2009 – Cocktail event



Delegates and guests to enter Parliament Buildings through the main entrance

6.30pm – 7.30pm **Host:** Mr Lindsay Tisch, MP, Deputy Speaker

Venue: Galleria

Dress: Formal (Dinner suit)

Delegates have evening free

Thursday, 16 April 2009

Delegates to enter Parliament Buildings through the main entrance

8.15am

Communiqué

Discussion of the matters to be included in the Communiqué.

8.30am

Tour of parliamentary complex

Tour leader: Mr Mike Lee, Tours Supervisor

Tour starts from the Visitor Centre (*Liaison officers will escort delegates to the centre.*) Delegates will be split into two groups. Cameras, cellphones, and bags cannot be taken on the tour—these can be left in the conference venue, which is secure.

Session 3

9.30am

Keynote Address: Auditors-General's perspective

Topic: *The importance of performance reporting, and the ability of public accounts committees to scrutinise the performance of Crown reporting entities.*

Presenter: Kevin Brady, Controller and Auditor-General, New Zealand

10.15am

Morning tea

10.30am

Interactive Auditors-General panel session

Topic: *Trends in performance reporting—stakeholders need to understand what performance reporting is and why it is done.*

Chair: Ian McPhee, Auditor-General, Australian National Audit Office

Panel members: Mike Blake, Auditor-General, Tasmania, Peter Achterstraat, Auditor-General, New South Wales, and Glenn Poole, Auditor-General, Queensland

Session 4

- 11.00am **Commonwealth Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit**
- Paper:** *Different models for optimising cooperation between auditors-general, public accounts committees, and other accountability agencies*
- Presenter:** Ms Sharon Grierson, MP, Chair
- 11.45am **Finance and Expenditure Committee, New Zealand**
- Paper:** *The appropriate role of public accounts committees in reviewing the work programme of audit offices*
- Presenter:** Mr Craig Foss, MP, Chairperson
- 12.30pm **Official conference photo**
- 12.45pm **Lunch**
- 1.45pm **Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, Parliament of Victoria**
- Paper:** *Enhancing public financial and performance reporting and accountability in Victoria: Sharing the PAEC's achievements, including recent reforms to Victoria's public finance practices and legislation.*
- Presenter:** Mr Bob Stensholt, MP, Chair

2.30pm

Public Accounts Committee, Parliament of Western Australia

Paper: *Case studies of the public-private model to fund major infrastructure*

Presenter: Hon John Kobelke, MLA, Chair

3.15pm

Afternoon tea

3.30pm

Economic and Finance Committee, House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia

Paper: *Franchising and Local Government Accountability*

Presenter: Leon Bignell, MP

Session 5

4.00pm

Auditors-General perspective

Paper: *Specific concerns of auditors-general and other officers charged with maintaining official accountability, including maintaining independence, proper resourcing and capacity, and issues arising from outsourcing services*

Presenter: Des Pearson, Auditor-General, Victoria

4.30pm

Interactive Auditors-General panel

Topic: *How to ensure an appropriate balance between risk and reward in public-private partnerships, and adequate scrutiny by Auditors-General and Parliament of contract management and project delivery*

Chair: Peter Achterstraat, Auditor-General, New South Wales

Panel members: Jeremy Lonsdale, Director-General, (Performance Audit), National Audit Office, United Kingdom, and Glenn Poole, Auditor-General, Queensland

5.15pm

Conference adjourns

Thursday, 16 April 2009 – Conference dinner

Delegates and guests to enter Parliament Buildings through the main entrance

6.30pm
to 10.00pm

Venue: Banquet Hall, Beehive

Dress: Formal (Dinner suit)

Friday, 17 April 2009

Delegates to enter Parliament Buildings through the main entrance

8.30am

**Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees
Business** *(for Council members only)*

9.30am

Communiqué

Further discussion of matters to be included in the Communiqué.

Session 6

9.45am

Public Accounts Committee, Parliament of NSW

Paper: *Improving Public Financial Accountability—The Way Forward—Enhancements in Government Reporting and Public Accountability*

Presenter: Mr Paul McLeay, MP, Chair

10.30am

Morning tea

Session 7

11.00am

Keynote Address

Topic: *Freedom of information issues, and ensuring public accounts committees get the information they need to for their jobs—the relevance of the Egan case beyond Australia*

Presenter: Ms Nicola White, Head of the Legal Team, Office of the Controller and Auditor-General, New Zealand

11.45am

Public Accounts Committee, Tasmania: Role-play and presentation

Topic: *Ensuring PAC recommendations are implemented*

Presenters: Hon Jim Wilkinson, MLC, Chair *and* Mike Blake, Auditor-General, Tasmania

12.30pm

Lunch

1.45pm

Communiqué

Consider final communiqué

Session 8

2.00pm

Committee activity reports

(Each jurisdiction has 5 minutes to talk to their report)

Commonwealth
South Australia
South Australia (Statutory Authorities)
Solomon Islands
Tasmania
Australian Capital Territory

Questions (10 minutes)

Western Australia
Western Australia (Estimates)
Papua New Guinea
Queensland
New South Wales
Victoria

Questions (10 minutes)

3.00pm

Afternoon tea

3.15pm

Committee activity reports (cont...)

Vanuatu
Kiribati
New Zealand

Questions (10 minutes)

3.45pm

Communiqué

Adoption of the communiqué

4.00pm

Conference closes

Closing remarks by Craig Foss, MP, Chairperson, New Zealand's Finance and Expenditure Committee



Friday, 17 April 2009 (Post conference function)



7.00pm – 10.00pm Dinner, Dockside, Queens Wharf



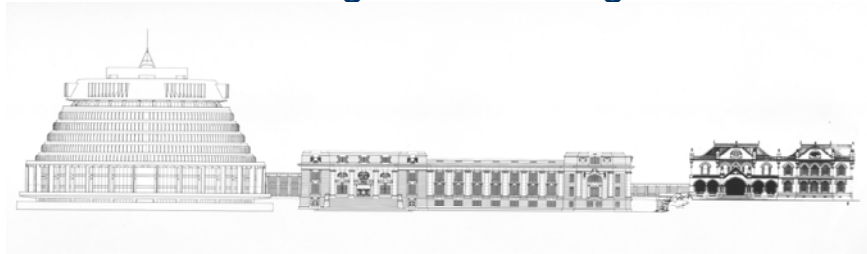
Saturday, 18 April 2009 (Sights of Wellington tour)



A separate information sheet will be provided to delegates at the conference.

ACPAC 2009 (15 to 17 April 2009)

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—facing new challenges*



Pōwhiri (Welcome Ceremony)

The pōwhiri is a custom associated with the welcoming and hosting of visitors. Visitors are welcomed along with the spirits of their ancestors.

For the ACPAC 2009 Conference, the Manuhiri (Visitors) will be received by the Tangata Whenua (Hosts) on Parliament's forecourt.

The receiving of the guests will begin by a warrior coming out from the Tangata Whenua performing the Taiaha. This is a challenge towards the Manuhiri, placing before them a rakau (twig or leaf). Once the warrior has placed the rakau on the ground and has moved away he will indicate to the roopu to uplift the rakau or leaf. Mr Jim Wilkinson, MP, from the Tasmanian Parliament will uplift the rākau.

The Putatara (the blowing of the Conch) follows this and indicates to the Maunhiri that the Pōwhiri and the Tangata Whenua are ready to receive the guests.

Following the Putatara is a Karanga—a call of welcome. The Tangata Whenua makes the call to the Manuhiri. There will be a response from the Manuhiri to the Tangata Whenua. Throughout the execution of the Karanga the Manuhiri will slowly move forward pausing just before the seats. *While moving forward the group should try to stay close together.*

Haka Pōwhiri – Welcome

While the Karanga is being delivered and the Manuhiri are moving forward the Kapa Haka (Welcoming Party) will be performing a welcome to the guests.

Te Oha – The Greeting

At this point and while the Haka Pōwhiri is taking place a select few from the Manuhiri will then move towards the Tangata Whenua to complete Te Oha—the custom in which the Tangata Whenua greet people. This is the shaking of hands and the pressing of noses. This act is carried out when two people shake hands, then come together, and lightly press noses twice. While this is taking place, the remainder of the group will then move towards the seats. Those persons supporting the speakers with the Waiata (song) should try to move to the immediate left so that when it is time to sing the waiata, everyone is together.

Seating arrangements

Once the shaking of hands and pressing of noses is completed, the selected few will then be directed to seats that have been allocated for them. Seats will be set aside for the speakers on behalf of the Manuhiri. Once everyone has been seated the speeches will commence.

Whaikōrero – Speeches

The Whaikōrero format that the local iwi (tribe), Te Ātiawa, practise is that of Paeke, where all the Tangata Whenua speak first, once they have concluded the speeches they will indicate to the Manuhiri that they now have the opportunity to respond. Mr Jim Wilkinson will respond on behalf of the Manuhiri. Others are also welcome to respond.

Waiata – Song

At the completion of each speech, it is customary to have a song of support. The Manuhiri will need to identify a song of support for their speaker.

Once all the speeches have been concluded, the Tangata Whenua will end the ceremonial welcome with a ruruku.