

# A. Full responses from entities

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As mandated in Section 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the Queensland Audit Office gave a copy of this report and an opportunity to comment to the relevant entities.

This appendix contains the formal response we received.

The head of this organisation is responsible for the accuracy, fairness, and balance of their comments.



## Comments received from Queensland Government Chief Information Officer, Queensland Government Chief Information Office

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Department of  
Housing and Public Works

For reply please quote: QAO 9184P

13 September 2019

Brendan Worrall  
Queensland Auditor-General  
[gao@qao.qld.gov.au](mailto:gao@qao.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Worrall

Performance audit on managing cyber security risks

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2019 enclosing the draft *Performance audit on managing cyber security risks*. We welcome the opportunity to provide our views on the draft.

QGClO have not identified significant gaps in the draft QAO findings. Although some further description of whether the entities audited were departments, authorities, boards or commissions would provide additional perspective and may avoid some misinterpretation and assumptions by the audience.

In QGClO's experience, the entity size and whether they are departments have a correlation with increased cyber security maturity. Smaller government bodies, like authorities, boards and commissions are observed by QGClO to generally have lower cyber security maturity.

To date there has been also an unclear authority for Queensland Government statutory bodies to meet the requirements of the QGEA. I note that, following 18 months of close collaboration between Queensland Treasury and my office, the scope and authority of the QGEA policy framework has been clarified somewhat in updated Financial Performance and Management Standard (FMPS 2019). We also note that, the Queensland Local Government Act 2009 does not bind councils to follow the QGEA or the FMPS.

Our view is that agencies are improving but show the effects of a historic lack of focus on cyber security. Cyber security processes have improved in government, but generally agencies would benefit from further enhancement of maturity in all areas of risk management, not least cyber security.

QGClO's program of centre-led cyber security has seen significant improvements over the past 5 years. Whole of Government activities, such as inter departmental cyber exercises, that have been conducted as recently as March 2019, have had positive effects on agency cyber capability. Whole of Government services, such as the vulnerability scanning service

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and phishing simulation platform are also enjoying significant take-up. However, the centrally funded cybersecurity program is not currently focused to provide services beyond departments.

QGCIO will consider the audit findings and use it to inform its program and advice to agencies over the next three years.

Should you or your Office require any further information, please contact Mr Robert Champion, a/Queensland Government CISO

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Mills', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Andrew Mills  
**Queensland Government Chief Information Officer**

