

A. About the Queensland Audit Office

Our audit services

QAO is parliament's independent auditor of Queensland's state and local government public sector entities. We are one of the largest audit practices in Queensland.

We provide audit and assurance services and share insights through our reports to parliament. Our financial audits deliver audit opinions on the accuracy and reliability of entities' financial statements. Our performance audits examine government programs to consider if public money is being used well and if government is meeting the community's expectations around service delivery. Our mandate was strengthened this year to allow us to undertake performance audits over government owned corporations.

In 2022–23, we formed 414 audit opinions about the reliability of financial statements of state and local government entities (2021–22: 397). Our audit service providers performed the audits that delivered 174 (42 per cent) of these opinions (2021–22: 165 or 42 per cent). We recover the costs of our financial audits from audit fees. Financial audit fee revenue totalled \$42 million in 2022–23 (2021–22: \$39.8 million).

Our audits are not just a compliance activity – we make recommendations that strengthen internal controls and improve public sector accountability. This year, the *Auditor-General Act 2009* was amended to provide clarity that an objective of a performance audit is also to identify any opportunities for the public sector entity to achieve its goals more economically, efficiently, and effectively.

We tabled 18 reports to parliament this financial year. Eight of these were on the combined results of individual financial audits, with the other 10 covering performance audits. Our insights and recommendations help entities improve their financial management and service delivery. Our [Forward work plan 2023–26](#) sets out the reports we plan to table over the next 3 years.

The cost of our performance audits, all our reports to parliament, investigations and the position of the Auditor-General are funded through parliamentary appropriations – totalling \$7.3 million in 2022–23 (2021–22: \$7 million).

More information about our achievements, our structure, and our mandate is in our annual report, which is available on our [website](#).

Our mandate

The *Auditor-General Act 2009* (the Act) governs the powers and functions of the Auditor-General. It provides the legal basis for QAO's access to information, and the freedom to report the findings from our audits. Our audits are conducted in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*. These standards require us to adopt standards issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board to the extent they are consistent with the requirements of the Act.

Strategic review of the Queensland Audit Office

A key accountability measure within the *Auditor-General Act 2009* (the Act) is that an independent review of our organisation be conducted at least every 5 years. The Governor in Council appoints the independent reviewers from outside our organisation and provides them with the terms of reference. The reviewers engage with us, our staff, our clients, and other key stakeholders to understand how well we are operating and fulfilling our mandate.



The *Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office 2017* was tabled in parliament on 23 March 2017. All recommendations from the review that do not rely on action by external stakeholders have been addressed by us. The next review is currently in progress and is due to be completed in December 2023.

