

MEDIA RELEASE – Monday, 22 June 2026

Auditor-General’s annual plan for 2026-27 focusses on significant risks facing the Tasmanian Public Sector

The Auditor-General, Mr Martin Thompson, has presented his Annual Plan 2026-27 to Parliament. The plan for audits of State Entities is developed after consultation with the Public Accounts Committee, Parliamentarians, state entities and consideration of feedback from Tasmanians.

Mr Thompson: “The Premier’s 2026 State of the State address highlighted why public sector audit is more important than ever. From my perspective, the address signalled that Government is accelerating major project delivery, embracing AI, restructuring agencies, and seeking budget savings without undermining services. Audit plays a key role in maintaining transparency, accountability and trust while making recommendations to support better decisions and more sustainable long-term results.”

The plan for 2026-27 includes 4 volumes of reports to Parliament on the results of financial audits of 121 state entities highlighting where we have identified the functions of the entities were not adequately and properly performed.

A major change to the extent and character of the audit function this year is the inclusion of assurance engagements under Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards for 3 state entities in 2025-26 and a further 5 in 2026-27. Sustainability reports provide information about sustainability-related risks and opportunities that could reasonably be expected to affect an entity’s cash flows, access to finance or cost of capital over the short, medium and long term. Financial and sustainability assurance work is funded through fees charged to the state entities.

Performance audit reports are tabled after an examination of the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of a state entity. The plan this year includes audits spanning governance of government businesses, port infrastructure, freshwater management, ‘Safe at Home’ program, budget and performance management, asset management and the 20-year housing strategy.

Over the last decade funding for performance audits has failed to keep up with growth in the general government sector. This year funding appropriated in the state budget for public sector performance and accountability has been further reduced from \$2.7m to \$2.4m. An additional \$670,000 will be required to deliver the program of 6 performance audits committed to by the Premier and Treasurer.

Mr Thompson noted “Suitable audit coverage can only be achieved with adequate independence. This requires more transparency in setting Audit Tasmania’s budget to match the level of audit coverage that Parliament requires, unimpeded access to information and ensuring I can make decisions on Audit Tasmania’s operations without needing to seek approval from Government. I will continue to provide advice to Government and Parliament regarding updating and strengthening the *Audit Act (2008)*.”

Click on through to the [AG’s Annual Plan](#)

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