

MEDIA RELEASE – 22 April 2026

The Tasmanian Auditor-General hosts international meeting in Hobart

Strong independent oversight bodies, such as Audit Tasmania, are an essential part of the integrity and accountability framework that provide Parliament and the public with trust and confidence in their governments. This is even more important in challenging fiscal and operating environments for Governments in our region.

This week in Hobart the Tasmanian Auditor-General, Martin Thompson, hosted a meeting of Auditors-General with representatives from all Australian States and Territories, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and several Pacific Island nations. “The meeting was held in conjunction with the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees hosted by the Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, Chair of the Tasmanian Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee,” Mr Thompson said.

Independence and accountability were high on the agenda as the forum heard from Andrew Young, an academic from Deakin University, and coauthor of the 2025 report into the Independence of Australasian Auditors-General. Mr Young outlined the international principles of independence of public sector auditors and how each State and Territory, including Tasmania rates. [ACAG report assessing the independence of the Auditor-General - Audit Tasmania](#)

Mr Young identified that the key vulnerabilities in Tasmanian audit legislation are the lack of transparency in funding to Audit Tasmania and autonomy from the executive government of the day. This requires the role of Parliament to be one of decision making, not merely advising the executive government of the day in relation to annual budgets for audit. It also requires that the Auditor-General can operate Audit Tasmania in an efficient manner that is free of restrictions imposed from other State sector legislation or practice.

The meeting provided a forum to discuss how the role of Auditor-General supports Public Accounts Committees to provide independent oversight of how public funds are spent. This scrutiny includes not only what public funds have been spent, but how well the expenditure has met the needs of its citizens.

“The first Auditor-General in Tasmania was appointed in November 1826 after Governor Arthur discovered a significant misuse of public funds in the colonial accounts,” Mr Thompson observed. “As we move into our 200th year, it’s important to remember where we came from. The fraud that occurred in the police fund in 1826 happened because of a lack of effective oversight. Our role now is still to provide that effective oversight and assurance to the Parliament.”

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