Audit snapshot

Treasury's oversight of government businesses

Why we did this audit

There are 14 government businesses in Tasmania that are fully owned and overseen by the Tasmanian Government. They provide a range of services and infrastructure Tasmanians rely on, such as electricity, public transport, or freight rail. Some of these businesses make a profit and return dividends to the government.

Recently, there have been issues within some government businesses that have cost the government a lot of money or resulted in poor outcomes for Tasmania. This has prompted the government to introduce reforms.



$4.85 billion

Debt held by government businesses (excluding TASCORP)



-62%

Government business returns compared to 2018-19 (in 2025-26)



Recent and proposed changes to legislation in response

Declining government business performance has also led to questions being asked as to whether the government is monitoring government businesses effectively, and whether the recent reforms have reduced the risk of similar issues in the future.

What we looked at

This audit looked at two things: **The Framework** and **Treasury's advice to the Treasurer**.

The Framework

The Framework is the set of rules and guidelines that government businesses must follow. The Framework allows the government to get information and make decisions that impact what these businesses do. The legislation, rules and guidelines were updated by recent reforms.

Treasury's advice to the Treasurer

Some ministers, including the Treasurer, make decisions that impact or influence government businesses. Government agencies support ministers making decisions with analysis and advice. We looked at Treasury's advice to the Treasurer in this audit because the Treasurer has a decision-making role for all 14 government businesses.

What we concluded

We found that the Framework is not as effective as it could be. This is mostly because it does not ensure that government businesses follow the rules and guidelines within it. We also found that Treasury's advice to the Treasurer did not meet our expected standards because it did not always include information and analysis needed for informed decision-making.

We concluded that the recent reforms are positive, but more work needs to be done to ensure that government businesses operate in the best interests of Tasmanians. We made two recommendations to Treasury to address these issues. Treasury accepted both recommendations.