

MEDIA RELEASE – Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Auditor-General's report calls for improved oversight of government businesses

A [report released today](#) by the Auditor-General, Mr Martin Thompson, found Treasury's oversight of the State's 14 government businesses is falling short in key areas. The audit concluded that the framework that government businesses operate within lacks compliance, and Treasury's advice to the Treasurer did not always support informed decision making.

"I undertook this audit in response to the deteriorating performance and financial position of government businesses. Against this backdrop, it was not clear as to whether the oversight framework was effectively designed and implemented to ensure Shareholding Ministers, the Parliament and the people of Tasmania were adequately informed in a timely manner." Mr Thompson said.

The report examined the governance framework, which includes legislation, guidelines, rules and processes that government business must follow. It found that compliance was the biggest gap.

"We observed many instances of government businesses not complying with all the rules and guidelines they must follow. We found that there is no requirement under the current framework for monitoring, reporting or enforcing compliance and that nobody effectively undertakes this role," Mr Thompson said.

The report also looked at how Treasury supported the Treasurer oversee the government business sector and the advice provided. It found that Treasury's advice to the Treasurer did not always sufficiently and critically analyse information provided by government businesses.

"The audit included a review of over 250 separate pieces of advice and analysis prepared by Treasury. Based on that comprehensive assessment, I found that advice often did not include critical analysis of information, provide available options, outline risks or make clear recommendations to respond to known issues." Mr Thompson said.

"While recent reforms to government business governance have been positive, the key message of this audit report is that these arrangements have not sufficiently been strengthened to reduce the risk of similar issues occurring again."

"Enhancing the guardrails and oversight of the sector is more important than ever given the financial underperformance and risks emerging across these businesses," he said.

"However, it is difficult to provide assurance that these reforms will be effective while these critical gaps relating to compliance remain and Treasury's advice to the Treasurer is not strengthened."

The report made two recommendations to Treasury which have both been accepted in full.

--ENDS--

Click on [this link to read the Report](#). Further information: contact Jonathan Wassell, Deputy Auditor-General, on **(03) 6173 0900**.