

Changes to Queensland Audit Office's audit program for 2020–21

As you are aware, the Queensland public sector, including local governments, and the wider community are facing unprecedented challenges following COVID-19. The next few years will see Queensland work through the implications of the pandemic on public spending and service delivery.

My original audit program for 2020–23 was published in December 2019, before the impacts of COVID-19 were known. We have recently re-assessed our previously proposed audits for this financial year—2020–21—to determine if these topics remain the most relevant at this time, or whether we should prioritise alternative topics.

The table below includes the proposed audits I plan to table in 2020–21, including the entities involved, and the status of each.

Update on reports that we intend to table in 2020–21

2020–21 audits	Existing or new topic	Entity	Status
Economic and Governance Committee			
Effectiveness of audit committees in state government entities This report assessed the effectiveness of audit committees in state government entities.	Existing 2019–20 topic	Departments and statutory bodies	Tabled September 2020
Queensland Government response to COVID-19 This report provided a broad outline of government's activities in response to COVID-19, including a summary of government funding and key initiatives planned.	New topic	Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury	Tabled September 2020
Appointing and renewing government boards This review will assess effectiveness in appointing and renewing government boards and management of associated risks.	New topic	Selected public sector entities	Not yet started
Strategies for delivering efficient services This report will share lessons learnt from past audits about strategies to deliver public services efficiently and will highlight the importance of sound administration.	New topic	Selected public sector entities	Not yet started



2020–21 audits	Existing or new topic	Entity	Status
Education, Employment and Small Business Committee			
<p>Educating for the digital future</p> <p>This report will set out information on how the Department of Education is achieving its objectives to securely and reliably connect learners, teachers and staff to the digital resources and online content that they need. The focus will be on two pillars of the department's strategy—Enhanced Collaboration and Digital Enablement.</p>	Existing 2021–22 topic brought forward	Department of Education	Not yet started
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee			
<p>Family support and child safety system</p> <p>This audit assessed how effectively Queensland government agencies work together for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children.</p>	Existing 2019–20 topic	Selected public sector entities	Tabled August 2020
<p>Queensland Health's new finance and inventory management system</p> <p>This review identified the facts relating to the S/4 HANA implementation and subsequent actions by the Department of Health, including the processes informing the go-live decision, the outcomes of the project and subsequent impacts on the health sector.</p>	New topic	Department of Health and hospital and health services	Tabled September 2020
<p>Responding to complaints from people with impaired capacity—Part 1</p> <p>This audit assessed the effectiveness of the Public Trustee in supporting adults with a decision-making incapacity.</p>	Existing 2020–21 topic	The Public Trustee of Queensland	Tabled September 2020
<p>Responding to complaints from people with impaired capacity—Part 2</p> <p>This audit will assess the effectiveness of Queensland's Office of the Public Guardian in supporting adults with a decision-making incapacity.</p>	Existing 2020–21 topic	Office of the Public Guardian	In progress Estimated tabling December 2020
<p>Planning for sustainable health services in Queensland</p> <p>This audit will assess the effectiveness of the Department of Health and the hospital and health services in planning for sustainable health services.</p>	Existing 2019–20 topic	Department of Health and hospital and health services	Recommended September 2020 Estimated tabling December 2020
<p>Emergency department performance reporting (follow up)</p> <p>This follow-up audit will assess whether the Department of Health and hospital and health services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have effectively implemented the recommendations made in <i>Emergency department performance reporting</i> (Report 3: 2014–15) are effectively managing Emergency Length of Stay (ELOS) and Patient Off Stretcher Time (POST) performance. 	Existing 2019–20 topic	Department of Health and hospital and health services	Recommended September 2020 Estimated tabling December 2020

2020–21 audits	Existing or new topic	Entity	Status
<p>Domestic and family violence initiatives</p> <p>This review will provide an overview of the Queensland government initiatives for preventing and responding to domestic violence. This will include initiatives that were adapted or newly created during the COVID-19 crisis. It is proposed the topic overview will lead into two separate audits in future years, the first assessing effectiveness of prevention initiatives and the second on the effectiveness of response to domestic violence.</p>	Existing 2021–22 topic brought forward	Selected public sector entities	Not yet started
<p>Managing healthcare pathways (waitlist management)</p> <p>This audit will assess the effectiveness of strategies employed to ensure patients receive their planned treatment within the recommended time. It will consider strategies put in place to respond to capacity challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis.</p>	Existing 2021–22 topic brought forward	Department of Health and hospital and health services	Not yet started
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee			
<p>Regulating firearms</p> <p>This audit will assess whether Queensland Police effectively regulates the acquisition, possession, use and disposal of registered firearms to ensure community safety.</p>	Existing 2020–21 topic	Queensland Police Service	In progress Estimated tabling November 2020
Natural Resources, Agriculture Industry Development and Environment Committee			
<p>Managing dam safety</p> <p>This audit will assess whether the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is effective in ensuring Queensland's dams are safe.</p>	Existing 2020–21 topic	Selected public sector entities	In planning
<p>Managing our transition to renewables</p> <p>This report will identify the facts relating to the government's framework for transitioning to meet its renewable energy targets.</p>	New topic	Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	Not yet started
State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee			
<p>Contract management of new infrastructure</p> <p>This audit will assess how effectively public sector entities are managing the contracts for the delivery of major new infrastructure.</p>	New topic	Selected public sector entities	Not yet started
Transport and Public Works Committee			
<p>Delivering successful technology projects</p> <p>This report provided insights and shared learnings about recurring risks and issues from ICT projects.</p>	New topic	Selected public sector entities	Tabled September 2020
<p>Awarding of sports grants</p> <p>This report identified the facts relating to the awarding of sports grants within Queensland during 1 July 2017–29 February 2020, including the process for awarding sports grants, whether discretion was exercised, and the value and location of expended monies.</p>	New topic	Department of Housing and Public Works	Tabled September 2020

