

C. Status of prior recommendations

Our report, *State finances 2020* (Report 15: 2020–21), identified 2 recommendations for the Treasurer and Queensland Treasury. Neither recommendation was accepted, but the following table provides a status update on what actions have been taken by Queensland Treasury.

Figure C1
Status of recommendations from prior year’s report

Introduce a statutory time frame for the consolidated whole-of-government financial statements (Treasurer and Queensland Treasury)		Partially implemented*
REC 1	<p>We recommend that the <i>Financial Accountability Act 2009</i> be amended to include a statutory time frame for the certification and tabling in parliament of the consolidated Queensland Government financial statements each year.</p> <p>We also recommend that in an election year, the financial statements are certified prior to 31 October to allow for tabling prior to the state election.</p>	<p>The recommendation was not accepted by Queensland Treasury management. The legislation was not amended to include a statutory time frame for the certification of the consolidated financial statements. However, we acknowledge improvements have been made in the timeliness, with the Auditor-General providing an unmodified opinion on the financial statements on 25 October 2021. The <i>Report on State Finances</i> was subsequently tabled in parliament on 28 October 2021.</p>



Introduce a statutory requirement for annual financial statements to be prepared for funds established under the <i>Queensland Future Fund Act 2020</i> (Treasurer and Queensland Treasury)		Not implemented*
REC 2	We recommend that the <i>Queensland Future Fund Act 2020</i> (QFF Act) be amended to include a requirement for financial statements to be prepared, audited, and made publicly available for each fund created under the QFF Act. These requirements could be based on those included in section 7 of the <i>NSW Generations Funds Act 2018</i> . These financial statements should include information on the underlying investments that support each fund.	<p>The recommendation was not accepted by Queensland Treasury management. In conducting our audits this year, we identified that information on the Queensland Future Fund – Debt Retirement Fund appeared in the financial statements of several entities, including Queensland Treasury, Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd, Queensland Treasury Corporation, Department of Resources, and the Debt Retirement Trust, and in the <i>Report on State Finances</i>.</p> <p>While the information disclosed in these financial statements was materially correct, there was no single set of financial statements that contained all the information required to enable users to fully understand the operations of the Debt Retirement Fund.</p> <p>While there are some additional disclosures in Queensland Treasury’s annual report, these disclosures are not audited.</p> <p>We recognise that the structure of the New South Wales arrangement differs from Queensland, however we highlighted this to demonstrate another jurisdiction’s disclosures in a single location for full transparency and accountability. The Queensland Future Fund is a significant and on-going transaction of government. We recommend separately reporting the future fund arrangement to support transparency and accountability.</p> <p>We have since produced an audit brief – <i>Establishing the Queensland Future Fund</i> (Report 11: 2021–22) – addressing this issue.</p>

Note: *Refer to ‘Recommendation status definitions’.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Recommendation status definitions

If a recommendation is specific to an entity or particular entities, we report on the action that entity has taken and whether the issue is considered to be *fully implemented*, *partially implemented*, *not implemented*, or *no longer applicable*.

Status	Definition
Fully implemented	Recommendation has been implemented, or alternative action has been taken that addresses the underlying issues and no further action is required. Any further actions are business as usual.
Partially implemented	Significant progress has been made in implementing the recommendation or taking alternative action, but further work is required before it can be considered business as usual. This also includes where the action taken was less extensive than recommended, as it only addressed some of the underlying issues that led to the recommendation.

Status	Definition
Not implemented	Recommendation accepted No or minimal actions have been taken to implement the recommendation, or the action taken does not address the underlying issues that led to the recommendation.
	Recommendation not accepted The entity did not accept the recommendation.
No longer applicable	Circumstances have fundamentally changed, making the recommendation no longer applicable. For example, a change in government policy or program has meant the recommendation is no longer relevant.

