

B. Legislative context

Frameworks

State sector entities prepare their financial statements in accordance with the following legislative frameworks and reporting deadlines.

Figure B1
Legislative frameworks for the Queensland state public sector

| Entity type | Legislative framework | Legislated deadline |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Departments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Financial Accountability Act 2009</i> • Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019 | 31 August 2022 |
| Statutory bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Financial Accountability Act 2009</i> • Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019 • <i>Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982</i> <p>Each statutory body also has its own enabling legislation</p> | 31 August 2022 |
| Government owned corporations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Government Owned Corporations Act 1993</i> • Government Owned Corporations Regulations 2014 • <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> • Corporations Regulations 2001 | 31 August 2022 |
| Controlled entities that are companies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> • Corporations Regulations 2001 | 31 October 2022 |
| Controlled entities that are charities and not-for-profits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012</i> • Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 | 31 December 2022 |
| Controlled entities that are trusts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust deed | As stipulated in the trust deed |

Notes:

- Departments include those gazetted as departments under the *Public Service Act 2008* and those deemed to be departments under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.
- Controlled entity – an entity owned by one or more public sector entities.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Accountability requirements

The *Financial Accountability Act 2009* applicable to state sector entities requires these entities to:

- achieve reasonable value for money by ensuring the operations of the entity are carried out efficiently, effectively, and economically
- establish and maintain appropriate systems of internal control and risk management
- establish and keep funds and accounts that comply with the relevant legislation, including Australian accounting standards.

Queensland state government financial statements

Each year, Queensland state public sector entities must table their audited financial statements in parliament.

These financial statements are used by a broad range of parties including parliamentarians, taxpayers, employees, and users of government services. For these statements to be useful, the information reported must be relevant and accurate.

The Auditor-General's audit opinion on these entities' financial statements assures users that the statements are accurate and in accordance with relevant legislative requirements.

We express an *unmodified opinion* when the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements and Australian accounting standards. We *modify* our audit opinion when financial statements do not comply with the relevant legislative requirements and Australian accounting standards and are not accurate and reliable.

There are 3 types of modified opinions:

- qualified opinion – the financial statements as a whole comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements, with the exceptions noted in the opinion
- adverse opinion – the financial statements as a whole do not comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements
- disclaimer of opinion – the auditor is unable to express an opinion as to whether the financial statements comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements.

Sometimes we include an *emphasis of matter* in our audit reports to highlight an issue that will help users better understand the financial statements. It does not change the audit opinion.

