

B. How we prepared this report

Queensland Audit Office reports to parliament

The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) is Queensland's independent auditor of public sector entities and local governments.

QAO's independent public reporting is an important part of our mandate. It brings transparency and accountability to public sector performance and forms a vital part of the overall integrity of the system of government.

QAO provides valued assurance, insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement via the reports it tables in the Legislative Assembly, as mandated by the *Auditor-General Act 2009*. These reports may be on the results of our financial audits, on the results of our performance audits, or on our insights.

Our insights reports may provide key facts or a topic overview, the insights we have gleaned from across our audit work, the outcomes of an investigation we conducted following a request for audit, or an update on the status of Auditor-General recommendations.

We share our planned reports to parliament in our 3-year forward work plan, which we update annually: www.qao.qld.gov.au/audit-program.

A fact sheet on how we prepare, consult on, and table our reports to parliament is available on our website: www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/fact-sheets.

About this report

QAO prepares its reports on the results of financial audits under the *Auditor-General Act 2009*:

- section 60, which outlines the Auditor-General must prepare a report to the Legislative Assembly on each audit conducted of a public sector entity.
- section 62, which outlines the Auditor-General may combine reports on any 2 or more audits.
- section 63, which outlines the discretion the Auditor-General has for reporting to parliament.
- section 59, which outlines the Auditor-General must prepare a report to the Legislative Assembly on each audit conducted of the consolidated fund accounts.

We grouped entities listed in [Appendix F](#) under their ministerial portfolio at the time of preparing this report, which was after machinery of government changes effective 1 November 2024. Where departmental functions were split across multiple ministers, we listed the related entity in each of the relevant portfolios, meaning some entities are listed more than once.

What we cover

Through our financial audit program, we form opinions about the reliability of entities' financial statements. QAO completes these audits under the related Auditing and Assurance Standards Board standards. Each respective entity publishes our audit opinion in its annual report.

Our financial audit reports to parliament provide the results of our audits and assess the quality and effectiveness of internal controls. They also consider public sector-specific risks. These include the probity of matters associated with entity stewardship; propriety of administrative decisions; acts or omissions that give rise to a waste of public resources; and compliance with relevant Acts, regulations, and policies.

This report highlights key insights and information from across our work. It discusses the financial audit results of Queensland state government entities, and it analyses the government's financial performance and position.

Entities included in this report

- 28 departments
- 115 statutory bodies
- 11 government owned corporations
- 82 controlled entities (entities controlled by one or more public sector entity).

These entities are listed in Appendices [E](#) and [K](#).

Note: These do not include entities exempted from audit by the Auditor-General (see [Appendix H](#)), entities not preparing financial reports (see [Appendix I](#)), or entities audited by arrangement.

Our approach

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

Data and information

We used the following data sets in preparing our report:

- Average time ministers took to table annual reports 2023 and 2024 (Figure 3B) – we sourced this data from annual reports for each state sector entity and compared on a year-to-year basis, the average duration between the date the financial statement was certified by audit and the date the annual report was tabled.
- Results of financial performance and position – total state sector (Figure 3C) – we sourced this data from the audited *2023–24 Report on State Finances*.
- Overview of coal royalties' contribution to total state sector revenue and operating result (Figure 3D) – we compare coal royalties' revenue and contribution to total Queensland Government revenue and operating result to the previous 4 financial years (based on audited financial statements).
- Total concessions budgeted by the Queensland Government (Figure 3E) – we compare the current year to
 - the previous 4 financial years (based on audited financial statements)
 - the forecast for the next year (based on *Queensland Budget Strategy and Outlook 2024–25*)

We have not audited the budget. We have used 4 years to show movements over time.

- Grants provided by the state – we sourced this data from audited financial statements.
- State's progress on social and affordable houses commencements by 30 June 2027 under the Housing Investment Fund (Figure 3F) – we sourced this data as at 30 June 2024 data from the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works *Annual Report 2023–24*.
- Assets and liabilities from Queen's Wharf development arrangement (Figure 3G) – we sourced this data from audited financial statements.
- Types of deficiencies we found in information systems controls at state entities this year (Figure 4A and Figure 4B) – we sourced this data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Digital projects underway in departments as of February 2025 (Figure 4D) – we sourced this data from the Queensland Digital Projects Dashboard.



- Total new deficiencies at state sector entities (excluding information systems) (Figure 5A) – we sourced this data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Composition of audit committees at the 21 departments as of 30 June 2024 (Figure 5B) – we sourced this data from our audit files.
- Deficiencies in controls over payroll across the sector in 2023–24 (Figure 5C) – we sourced this data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Ways to strengthen payroll controls across the sector (Figure 5D) – we sourced the data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Deficiencies in controls over expenditure and accounts payable across the sector in 2023–24 (Figure 5E) – we sourced this data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Ways to enhance expenditure and accounts payable controls across the sector (Figure 5F) – we sourced the data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Opportunities for entities to improve their procurement and contract management processes (Figure 5G) – we sourced the data from the audit reports we issued to state sector entities.
- Contractors and consultants expenses (total state sector) (Figure 5H) – we sourced this data from audited financial statements and our audit files.
- Proportion of contractor and consultant expenses by ANZSIC classes (Figure 5I) – we sourced the data used in this chart from audited financial statements and data from our audit files combined with the ANZSIC classification framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

For the dashboards we are publishing alongside this report, we used the following data:

- Water data visualisation – audited financial statements, and drought status, primary industries, and water storage facilities (total capacity and storage level as of 30 June). This information is sourced from emergency action plans provided by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.
- Understanding grants dashboard – we sourced the Queensland Government Investment Portal – Expenditure Data from the Queensland Government’s Open Data website. We have undertaken data cleansing to classify each grant into a sector and recipient type using the information provided by funding agencies. We have also performed limited data cleansing over recipient names to ensure these are spelt consistently and we can accurately count the number of grant recipients.

Presentation

Where possible and useful, we present our graphs and figures with comparative data going back 3 to 5 years to show the relevant movements.

