

Report on a page

This report summarises the audit results of 236 Queensland state government entities, including the 21 core government departments.

The internal systems and processes (controls) entities have in place to support reliable financial reporting are generally effective. We audited more of the information systems this year and have found more control deficiencies that require attention.

Queensland Treasury is leading the whole-of-government approach to climate-related financial reporting. All Queensland Government entities need to understand the upcoming changes and consider the potential impacts on their financial reports and operations.

Financial statements are reliable

State entities' 2023–24 financial statements are reliable and comply with relevant laws and standards. Ministers improved the timeliness – and therefore relevance for the public – of their annual reports (including financial information). They tabled them about 7 days earlier than last year.

The state's expenditure grew this year

The total state sector moved from a net operating surplus of \$11.1 billion in 2022–23 to a net operating deficit of \$1.5 billion in 2023–24. This \$12.6 billion decline was mostly due to higher levels of expenditure, including \$8.5 billion for cost-of-living measures. Total revenue remained largely consistent with last year.

New information systems control deficiencies identified

We expanded the focus in our audits this year to better assess the controls entities have over access to their information systems and networks. Entities are increasingly relying on new technologies and facing heightened risks of cyber attacks. We found new control deficiencies in the systems across all state entities.

We continue to find recurring issues, not just in how access is controlled, but also in how risks are managed where information systems or data processing is managed by vendors external to government.

Because all entities need to strengthen these controls, we have created a new, dedicated chapter on information systems.

State entities have generally effective controls, but weaknesses are still present

While key controls at state entities are generally effective, entities do need to improve their controls over payroll, accounts payable and expenditure, and procurement and contract management. Entities must have strong robust controls to reduce their exposure to fraud, legal, and reputational risks. Effective controls also ensure accountability and reduce the risk of overspending.

Strong governance also plays an important part in good internal controls with significant deficiencies related to governance identified at Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited.

