

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tasmanian Auditor-General's 2020-21 Annual Plan of Work

The Auditor-General, Rod Whitehead, has released his Annual Plan of Work for 2020-21.

Reports for six performance audits in progress are expected to be tabled in Parliament during 2020-21:

- Management of under-performance in the Tasmanian State Service
- Effectiveness of internal audit functions
- Expressions of interest for tourism investment opportunities in national parks
- Management of State roads
- Information and communications technology (ICT) strategy, critical systems and investment
- Council procurement - Report 2

Mr Whitehead stated 'In developing the Plan we continuously monitor issues and developments across the public sector and we consult extensively with relevant stakeholders throughout the year. In exercising my discretionary power to undertake audits and examinations, I am conscious our reports need to be of relevance to Parliamentarians and of interest to members of the public.'

Mr Whitehead stated 'The impact of COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the operating context for all public organisations since the announcement of the Public Health Emergency on 17 March 2020, and it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. COVID-19 will also significantly affect the financial and service performance of many public organisations, and the public sector will need to manage these impacts for many years to come. Therefore, much of our focus over the next year will examine the public sector's response and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.'

The Plan includes four of these audits which will commence and be completed in 2020-21:

- COVID-19: Stimulus measures and targeted financial support payments and expenditures
- COVID-19: Pandemic response and management
- COVID-19: Allocation of personal protective equipment
- COVID-19: Responding to social impacts.

Other performance audits expected to commence during 2020-21 include:

- Retention and attainment of year 12 students
- Children in out of home care: Special care packages
- Council general managers' recruitment, appointment and performance assessment.

The complete Report can be downloaded from www.audit.tas.gov.au.

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