

MEDIA RELEASE – Thursday, 5 June 2025

Declining funding will lead to lower level of audit activity for the Parliament of Tasmania.

Tasmanian Auditor-General Mr Martin Thompson presented his annual plan today setting out the reports he plans to table in Parliament over the coming 2 years.

However, in presenting his plan Mr Thompson said, ‘Reduced funding will further limit my capacity to deliver assurance to the Parliament on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian public sector.

‘Declining levels of funding for performance audit reports, which were already lower than in other similar sized States, will mean I will be unable to provide a level of assurance to the Parliament that aligns with the needs of a State the size and complexity of Tasmania.’

The annual planning cycle begins in July and results in a forward plan presented to the Parliament the following June. It is based on comprehensive stakeholder engagement across the Parliament, State entities, other stakeholders, environmental scanning and intelligence gathered through our ongoing audit activities.

Mr Thompson said, ‘I based my Annual Plan 2025-26 on a continuation of historic funding levels. The Budget, handed down on 29 May, has applied an efficiency dividend to the Office’s appropriation, which funds my performance audit work, as well as ceasing the funding for data analytics capability in the forward years.’

Mr Thompson said, ‘To be transparent, I have retained the performance audits I had planned to deliver in the next 2 years within my plan but have greyed 3 out, highlighting my inability to resource them.

‘In our ranking of audit topics, all 3 removed rated highly and were relevant to the Parliament, and ultimately the Tasmanian people.’

<https://www.audit.tas.gov.au/publication/auditor-generals-annual-plan-2025-26>

ENDS

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