

MEDIA RELEASE – Thursday, 20 June 2024

Auditor-General recommends Treasury adopt a strategic whole-of-government approach for managing major office accommodation

Mr Thompson said, ‘the aim of this audit was to assess the Department of Treasury and Finance’s (Treasury) centralised management of major office accommodation. The State Service spent approximately \$42 million on major office accommodation leases in the 2022-23 financial year. Treasury’s future lease commitments for major office accommodation was \$478m in the 2022-23 financial year. Given the financial significance, I expected Treasury to have strategies and processes in place to maximise major office accommodation occupation and utilisation across the State Service.’

The audit found that Treasury was partially effective in centrally managing major office accommodation. Treasury had implemented largely appropriate operational processes to manage leases. However, it had not established a whole-of-government strategy which maximised occupation and utilisation. Treasury was not tracking the utilisation of office accommodation. As such, no data was available and the audit could not conclude whether space was being used efficiently.

Mr Thompson said, ‘the strategic centralised management of office accommodation would support the future implementation of a related Tasmanian State Service Review recommendation. It recommended the Government consider the creation and promotion of office hubs as part of a strategy to increase regionalisation of the TSS. The Government has committed to implement these recommendations by December 2024.’¹

To improve the management of major office accommodation, Mr Thompson recommended Treasury:

- adopt a strategic whole-of-government approach for managing major office accommodation
- use and analyse utilisation data to inform strategic planning, to facilitate efficient management and use of major office accommodation.

Further detail and the full audit report can be accessed here:

<https://www.audit.tas.gov.au/publication/management-of-major-office-accommodation>

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¹ Tasmanian Government (n.d.), [Government Response to the Independent Review of the Tasmanian State Service](#), DPAC, p8, accessed 3 May 2024.

https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/161734/Government_Response_to_the_Independent_Review_of_the_Tasmanian_State_Service.pdf