

MEDIA RELEASE

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Room for improvement identified in two Department of State Growth grant programs

Today, Auditor-General, Mr Rod Whitehead, tabled a report in Parliament following an examination of two grant programs, the *Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund* and the *Regional Revival Fund Grant Program*, administered by the Department of State Growth.

The audit looked at whether grants provided under the programs were administered effectively and efficiently. Mr Whitehead said, ‘Whilst the design of the grant programs was sound, with establishment of program objectives and evaluation criteria, the lack of consistency between the application assessments performed and the eventual funding decisions made impacted on the probity of the application process’.

The report also noted the “approved purpose” specified in the *Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund* grant agreements was not sufficiently detailed and, for both grant programs, grant progress and acquittal reports from grant recipients did not always contain sufficient information to confirm that:

- funding recipients had contributed the minimum amount of cash specified in the grant agreement
- grant funds had only been spent on the approved purpose of the grant
- actual outcomes of projects were consistent with expected outcomes.

The examination resulted in eight recommendations to strengthen the application, assessment and monitoring processes for future grant programs similar to the programs examined.

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

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