

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DAY, 19 November 2020**

## **Auditor-General's report to Parliament on the management of the State Road network**

The Auditor-General, Mr Rod Whitehead has submitted his report to Parliament on the management of the State road network (Network).

The audit found the Department of State Growth managed the Network efficiently and effectively. This included planning for the maintenance, renewal and upgrade of the network and management of maintenance contracts, risks and stakeholder expectations.

Mr Whitehead said "There was a strong approach to planning, with Government priorities and objectives implemented through a number of policies and long-term plans that defined the scope, approach and objectives of delivering transport services in Tasmania. Supporting these policies and long-term plans was a strategic approach in planning for maintaining, remediating and upgrading the Network to set Levels of Service."

The audit found information used to develop the Department's approach to planning for was well-developed and used intelligence and information acquired from different sources. This included good forecasting and Network performance information.

Mr Whitehead said "There was a strong approach to the management of contracts with companies undertaking road maintenance, ensuring good quality and value for money."

The audit identified a number of improvements that would strengthen the Department's management of Network. These included better coordination of maintenance activities to improve where repairs were not being efficiently undertaken, and improving the prioritisation of road works and road network planning, through better use of the road category, condition information and analysis of repeated road defects or trends to better inform where maintenance is required.

Mr Whitehead noted that despite increased funding in recent years, the Department had identified a maintenance budget shortfall of around 15%, potentially leading to a deterioration of current road condition levels into the future. To address this shortfall, the Department had identified a course of action to implement a number of initiatives to ensure the quality of roads remains at expected levels.

Mr Whitehead made five recommendations to assist the Department improve its use of information, ensure its road policies and strategies remain current and implement strategies to reduce the impact of the shortfall in its maintenance and renewal program.

The complete Report can be downloaded from [www.audit.tas.gov.au](http://www.audit.tas.gov.au).

**ENDS**

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