

Executive Summary

On 5 August 2024, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) submitted its Annual Report 2023-24 (Report) to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Under Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee maintains oversight of the Queensland Audit Office and, pursuant to the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*¹ the committee is responsible for considering the entity's annual report.

The Report detailed the QAO's performance and financial position for the financial year, information about its leadership and governance frameworks, the impact of its services, and plans to build future capacity.

Key results detailed in the Report include:

- the QAO formed 414 audit opinions (the same as 2022–23), with audit service providers (ASPs) delivering 45 per cent of the audits (similar to the 42 per cent in 2022–23)
- reports on financial audits were delivered at an average of \$175,000 per report (\$35,000 above the SDS target of \$140,000, and \$24,000 above last year's average cost of \$151,000)
- overall income from continuing operations was \$54.1 million (over the budget of \$51.5 million)
- total expenses from continuing operations was \$53.9 million (over the budget of \$51.7 million).

The QAO's overall position for the financial year was an operating surplus of \$131,000 against a budgeted deficit of \$191,000. The operating surplus contributed to a positive change in equity, totalling \$18,278,000 as at 30 June 2024.

The committee held a public oversight hearing with staff from the QAO on 19 February 2024 to discuss the Report and other matters. The Auditor-General gave evidence which included information about the role of Audit Service Providers and the controls used to reduce the likelihood of misuse of confidential information, along with strategies used to recruit and retain staff.

The committee found that the Report satisfied the requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019, and the Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies.

The committee made 1 recommendation: that the House note the contents of the report; the recommendation can be found at page v of this report.

¹ Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, section 94 (1) (ii)