

Executive Summary

Queensland's Regions 2023 report

The Queensland Audit Office's (QAO) *Queensland's regions 2023* (report) was tabled by the Auditor-General on 13 June 2024. On 14 June 2024, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly referred the report to the former Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee. Consideration of the report lapsed with the conclusion of the 57th Parliament.¹

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities facing regional Queensland. It examines various regional issues, including population and demographic trends, economic diversity, government activities, and the Queensland Government's efforts to enhance coordination and support regional growth.

Originally intended to be the first in a series of annual publications focused on regional issues, the QAO has since advised that future regional matters will be addressed through targeted audits rather than a dedicated series.

Committee self-referral and hearing

On 13 March 2025, the Primary Industries and Resources Committee (committee) self-referred the report and resolved to hold a public briefing with the Auditor-General and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, and to produce a report on the QAO report.

Committee examination

The committee's examination of the Auditor-General's report focused on:

- the impact of demographic shifts, including population decline and ageing populations
- regional jobs and industries and the impact of temporary workforces, including fly-in-fly-out workers
- interdepartmental and intergovernmental cooperation on regional growth, including the impact of machinery-of-government changes.

Recommendation

The committee made 1 recommendation, that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of this report.

¹ Queensland Parliament, Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Consideration of Auditor-General Report 14: 2023-24 – Queensland's Regions 2023 (lapsed), <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=240&id=4441>.