




Speech By  
**John Barounis**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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**GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise today to speak about the role of the Queensland Audit Office in ensuring that the Queensland government are held accountable for the finances they control under this and every sitting government. The QAO must prepare an annual report to summarise the audit results of government entities and identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement in the audit results.

The report that the QAO compiles at the end of its audit must contain: financial statements that are reliable; the state's expenditure for that period; new deficiencies in any information systems; and state entities controls, their strengths and weaknesses. It is vital that the Queensland government has policies and procedures in place to ensure that moneys spent are accounted for at every level of government spending.

Queenslanders deserve to know that their hard-earned money is not being wasted, that it is being put to use to directly benefit their communities. Queenslanders voted all of us here. They have the right to know that every single one of us is being held accountable for the finances they give to our government to use wisely. The role of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee is exactly that: to govern the finances.

Under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, this committee is responsible for considering the Auditor-General's reports to parliament. This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of two Auditor-General reports. In relation to *Report 11: 2024-25—State entities 2024*, the committee notes that the financial statements of state entities were found to be reliable and complied with relevant reporting requirements. We encourage the relevant entities to continue to improve controls over information systems as well as internal controls over governance, payroll, accounts payable and expenditure, and procurement and contract management to manage security and financial management risks.

With regard to *Report 12: 2024-25—Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024*, the committee notes the increases in both borrowings and the value of the long-term asset portfolio. The committee will watch the investment in quantum research and innovation with interest. The committee's recommendation is that the House notes the contents of the report.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Auditor-General and Queensland Audit Office for providing its assurance and insights. I also thank the Parliamentary Service staff for their professional hard work. I commend this report to the House.