

A. Entity responses

We gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to the Premier and Minister for Trade; Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology, and Minister for Sport; Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury; Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works. This appendix contains their detailed responses.

The head of each agency is responsible for the accuracy, fairness and balance of its comments.

This appendix contains each detailed response.



Comments received from Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport



Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Digital Technology
Minister for Sport

Your ref: 12248

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3719 7270
Facsimile +617 3012 9017
E: hpwds@ministerial.qld.gov.au

24 SEP 2020

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Mr Worrall

RE: Information brief on awarding of sports grants

I refer to correspondence dated 3 September 2020 from Ms Karen Johnson, Acting Auditor-General regarding the proposed report to Parliament. Thank you for providing the in-confidence report and recommendations for comment.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and the audit team for your efforts and professionalism in the preparation of this information brief.

I acknowledge the objective of the Audit Office in preparing this information brief was to focus on whether the awarding of sports grants was in accordance with documented processes that were appropriate and resulted in the impartial awarding of grants.

I welcome the proposed information brief and recommendations it contains. Whilst I am assured by my Director-General that the areas for improvement outlined in the report have been implemented, it remains that ongoing vigilance is required by the Minister to monitor this.

As acknowledged in the brief, it is my responsibility to ensure that the department's operations are aligned with government policy. I exercised my Ministerial discretion where the department's recommendations did not adequately consider program guidelines or government priorities, and I was therefore not satisfied that the department's investment logic was sound.

In relation to the instances where I exercised my Ministerial discretion, I note that the information brief finds that this was mainly for the Female Facilities Program, awarded in early 2018, and in limited circumstances - being approximately 1 per cent of the 2,900 recommendations for competitive grants provided by the department. I note the brief also acknowledges my delegated authority and responsibility to respond in this way.

It is my view that the community's expectation is that in circumstances where departmental advice is inadequate or incorrect, I take action to remediate, and on a limited number of occasions as identified in the brief this is what I have done.

- 2 -

I am confident that the government has already taken significant steps to deliver a more sophisticated, modern and transparent approach to the awarding of competitive sport grants in Queensland, and we did so under our *Activate! Queensland* strategy released in 2019.

Finally, I appreciate that you acknowledge that the process to support applications to the Active Community Infrastructure (ACI) competitive grant program provided the same access to all members of Parliament. The assertions made by the opposition in relation to access to the ACI program are identified by this brief to be of no basis.

If you require any further information or assistance with this matter please contact Ms Melissa Hallam, Chief of Staff in my office on _____ or email _____

Yours sincerely



Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Digital Technology
Minister for Sport

Comments received from Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works



Department of
Housing and Public Works

22 SEP 2020

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office

Dear Mr Worrall *Brandon*

Thank you for Ms Johnson, Acting Auditor-General's letter of 3 September 2020 providing the proposed report to Parliament on awarding sports grants and informing me of the Queensland Audit Office's intention to table the report in September 2020.

I have considered the proposed report and its findings and note the Queensland Audit Office's acknowledgement that the department has addressed the areas outlined in the report for improvement through the implementation of a revised Operational Policy and Procedure – Sport and Recreation Grant Management and improved record keeping practices.

The department welcomes the opportunity to continue its work with the Queensland Audit Office on improvements to grants administration through the annual audit program.

This commitment to continuous improvement builds upon a long history of strong practices in grants administration by Sport and Recreation staff within this department and in a range of other government agencies which previously housed these responsibilities.

Key to this function has been a focus on the detailed assessment of proposals for funding combined with a local operational knowledge of sport and recreation services and community need. The department ensures assessments of proposals are made against published guidelines and in line with government policy and community expectations.

Thank you again for your letter and your ongoing work with the department.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Liza Carroll'.

Liza Carroll
Director-General

Level 31 1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone +617 3008 2934
Website www.hpw.qld.gov.au

Comments received from Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury



Queensland Treasury

Our Ref: 04494-2020
Your Ref: 12248

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General of Queensland
Queensland Audit Office
PO Box 15396
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Email: qao@qao.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Worrall

I refer to the letter of 3 September 2020 from the Acting Auditor-General about the information brief on awarding of sports grants (information brief).

I acknowledge the information brief's conclusions and the recommendations in relation to financial accountability and ongoing compliance in the awarding of sports grants in Queensland. Treasury's detailed response is enclosed and addresses the recommendation you have identified for consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rachel Hunter
Under Treasurer

17 / 9 / 2020

Encl.

1 William Street
GPO Box 611 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 1933
Website www.treasury.qld.gov.au
ABN 90 856 020 239

Response to recommendations



Queensland Treasury

Awarding of sports grants

Response to recommendations provided by the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury on 23 September 2020.

Recommendation	Agree/ Disagree	Timeframe for implementation (Quarter and year)	Additional comments
Queensland Treasury should update the Financial Accountability Handbook to provide clarity on the role of a minister in the selection and approval of grant recipients. This could include practical guidance on the provision of advice and recording of decisions.	Agree	Q4, 2021	Queensland Treasury agrees that the Financial Accountability Handbook (Handbook) could provide further clarity on the role of the minister, particularly in the selection and approval of grant recipients. As part of updating the handbook for the above, practical guidance on the provision of advice and recording of decisions will also be included.

Comments received from Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

For reply please quote: ECP/TG – TF/20/21298 – DOC/20/194718
Your reference: 12248



Department of the
Premier and Cabinet

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
qao@qao.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for the letter of 3 September 2020, signed by Ms Karen Johnson, Acting Auditor-General, regarding the information brief on awarding of sports grants.

I note the information brief on awarding sports grants is nearing completion and due for tabling in September 2020. A copy of the draft report was most appreciated.

I note the draft report includes one recommendation for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I can advise that Ministers, Assistant Ministers, and their staff are provided induction training on requirements under the *Public Records Act 2002* and in relation to 'right to information and information privacy matters'.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet will work with Queensland Treasury to understand the additional information needed in relation to ministerial responsibilities under the Financial Accountability Handbook and how this can be incorporated into training.

Again, thank you for a copy of the draft report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Stewart".

Dave Stewart
Director-General

25/09/2020

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3224 2111
Facsimile +61 7 3229 2990
Website www.premiers.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

