

# A. Entity responses

---

We gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Queensland Treasury.

The heads of these agencies are responsible for the accuracy, fairness and balance of their comments.

This appendix contains their detailed responses.



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

For reply please quote: C19RRRT/MM – TF/20/20122 – DOC/20/178135  
Your reference: 9208P



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

Department of the  
**Premier and Cabinet**

Dear Auditor-General

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2020 and for the opportunity to comment on the Queensland Audit Office's (QAO) draft Topic Overview titled 'Queensland Government response to COVID-19' (the Report).

I appreciate your consideration and adoption of much of the feedback provided on the preliminary draft report.

The Report acknowledges release of the Government's *Unite and Recover: Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan* (the Recovery Plan) and the significant number of economic recovery measures underpinning it. Following announcements made at the COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review on 7 September 2020, the value of these direct economic recovery measures now totals more than \$8 billion, with \$3 billion earmarked for additional measures to support Queensland recovery.

In addition to these direct economic recovery measures, I note that the Report now acknowledges the indirect recovery measures taken by the Government that have helped the State limit, respond and recover from the negative impacts of COVID-19. It is important to remember that the State's strong economic position is directly linked to its world-leading health response. Accordingly, protecting community health will continue to remain a focus as the Government navigates through this crisis.

With regard to the three questions posed in the Report, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet continues to ensure that governance is a priority while assisting the Government respond to COVID-19. Consideration of these questions needs to be viewed in the context of ordinary departmental operations as required by the relevant legislation and policies, notably the *Queensland Government Performance Management Framework Policy*. More detailed responses to each of the three questions are enclosed. I urge you to consider these responses as you progress your audit program.

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](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Stewart  
**Director-General**

15/09/2020  
Encl.

## Responses to recommendations

### Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Response to questions contained in the Queensland Audit Office's Topic Overview: Queensland Government response to COVID-19

Ref.	Question	Comments
p.2, Q1	What are the objectives of each response measure and how will their effectiveness be measured?	<p>The Government's <i>Unite and Recover: Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan</i> (the Recovery Plan) was released following extensive consultation with business, industry, regional and community stakeholders and has a three-fold mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protecting our health</li> <li>- Creating jobs</li> <li>- Working together.</li> </ul> <p>Each of the recovery measures contribute to achieving one or all of these objectives, as well as their own, more specific objectives. In accordance with the <i>Queensland Government Performance Management Framework Policy</i>, individual agencies are responsible for measuring and monitoring the achievement of whole-of-Government commitments where the agency has a lead role. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) has responsibility for monitoring whole-of-Government performance relating to delivery of the Government's commitments and priorities more broadly, and provides progress reports periodically to the Premier and Cabinet in this regard.</p>
p.2, Q2	What are the uptake rates of the response measures and how does this compare with what was expected when the initiatives were announced?	<p>The complexity and evolving nature of the pandemic has made it difficult for the Government to predict demand, or how the market will respond to various recovery measures. Further, the majority of response measures have only been recently released, meaning there is sometimes limited, meaningful information on uptake rates. All governments face similar challenges.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, information that indicate uptake rates is being collected monthly by central agencies where available. This information is used to ensure programs are being delivered expediently and to assist in estimating when funding for specific initiatives may be exhausted. It is also being used to monitor agencies' financial performance and assist evaluate whether funding should be reallocated from existing programs to new, emerging priorities.</p>



## Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Response to questions contained in the Queensland Audit Office’s Topic Overview: Queensland Government response to COVID-19

Ref.	Question	Comments
p.2, Q3	What are the actual costs of delivering the response measures?	Short-to-medium term monitoring and evaluation reports on implementation efficiencies, process costs or administration costs are not currently available for all initiatives. However, central agencies will continue to work with administering agencies to ensure the recovery initiatives are delivered efficiently and effectively, noting that due to external influences and the length of program delivery, it can take many years to gather actual costs.



## Comments received from Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury



Queensland Treasury

Our Ref: 04331-2020  
Your Ref: 9208P

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

Email: [qao.mail@qao.qld.gov.au](mailto:qao.mail@qao.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2020 providing the Queensland Audit Office draft report into the Queensland Government response to COVID-19 for review.

I note that the draft report provides a factual overview of the key COVID-19 events and the response measures announced to date.

The report notes that as at 21 August 2020, the Queensland Government had announced over \$7 billion in COVID-19 related response measures. These estimates are consistent with Treasury calculations.

Given the critical task of supporting the Queensland economy in this unprecedented environment, the Queensland Government's financial support for the COVID-19 related response measures will continue to evolve.

Queensland Treasury is playing a critical role in advising Government on the uptake and impact of each COVID-19 measure. Monitoring and governance of the Government's response will be maintained, with continued advice to be provided to Government on the progress.

Queensland Treasury is working with agencies to monitor the actual cost of these initiatives. As discussed with officers from the Queensland Audit Office, this is being facilitated through the receipt of monthly updates from Chief Financial Officers on their agency's actual expenditure on COVID measures (including an overview of take-up rates), the expected timeframes for completion of the measures, and steps that can be taken to expedite completion.

An example of the monitoring focus has been a review of key taxation relief measures – administered by the Office of State Revenue – that has led to the extension of tax relief measures to support small and medium sized businesses as the impact of COVID-19 continues.

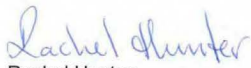
1 William Street  
GPO Box 611 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3035 1933  
Website [www.treasury.qld.gov.au](http://www.treasury.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 90 856 020 239

Queensland Treasury will continue to monitor and advise Government on the response measures to COVID-19 given the significant financial commitment and their importance to economic recovery.

Thank you for engaging with Queensland Treasury on the report. I note your officers met with officers from Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet prior to releasing a revised draft of the report.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr William Ryan, Assistant Under Treasurer, Budget Office Queensland Treasury, on \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Hunter  
Under Treasurer

15 / 9 / 2020

