



Tasmanian
Audit Office

Strategic Plan supplement 2024-25

A one-year plan for continual
improvement of the impact, quality and
efficiency of our services

Foreword

I am pleased to present the Tasmanian Audit Office's strategic plan supplement 2024-25 to guide our priority actions for the next 12 months.

Having commenced my term as Auditor-General in May 2024, I am fortunate to be leading a State audit office that is functioning well and has recently been independently assessed overall as: "fulfilling its functions economically, effectively and efficiently. However, like any organisation there are areas where improvements can be made". (Moore Australia Section 44 report to the Parliamentary Accounts Committee, March 2024)

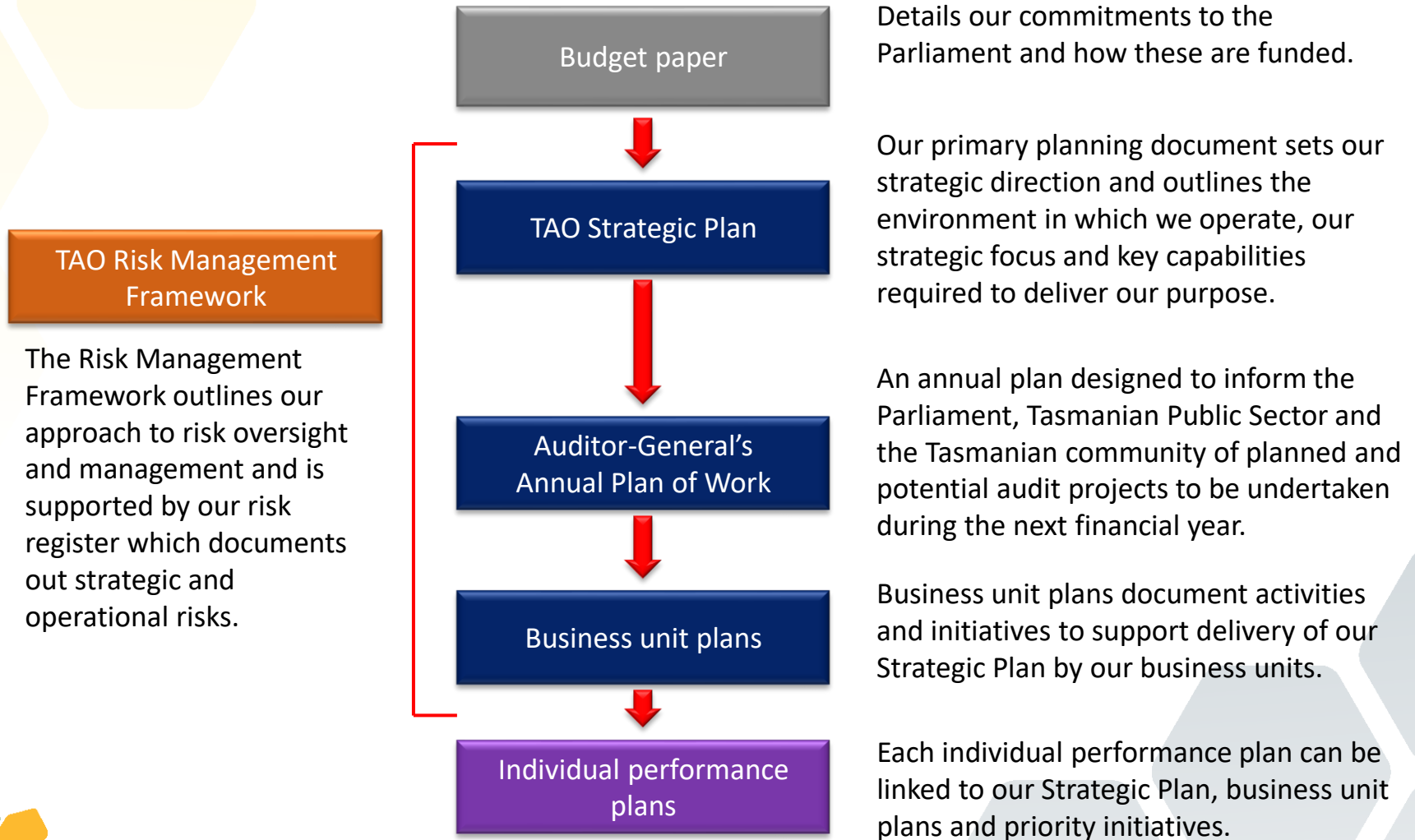
For the past 3 years, strategic improvement projects at the Tasmanian Audit Office have been guided by a 2021-24 plan under the three focus areas of Impact, Quality and Efficiency. This one-year plan is presented under the same framework pending the development of a new strategic plan. It provides for continuity of direction and an opportunity to complete several key projects that are "in flight".

Over the next 12 months I will be developing a new strategic plan with significant input from clients, stakeholders and importantly the leadership team and staff of the Tasmanian Audit Office. I will have the benefit of independent evaluation of our services based on survey of auditees and Parliamentarians, the recent section 44 report to the Public Accounts Committee, and the results and priorities of our staff as reported in the Tasmanian State Service staff survey.

I look forward to reporting progress against this plan and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders in development of our new plan.

Martin Thompson, Auditor-General, June 2024

Our strategic planning framework



Our purpose and vision

Purpose

To provide independent assurance to the Parliament and community on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian Public Sector

Vision

Strive – Lead – Excel / to make a difference

The Auditor-General is appointed under the *Audit Act 2008* to undertake the audit of the financial statements of State entities. The Auditor-General may also undertake performance audits relating to the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of a State entity and examinations or investigations relating to public money or public property.

In delivering this mandate, the Auditor-General is supported by the Tasmanian Audit Office.

Our values

Our values guide us in achieving our vision and in performing our role objectively, with impartiality and in the best interests of the Parliament, the Tasmanian Public Sector and the Tasmanian Community.

01

Professionalism: *How we go about doing our work*

We will, at all times, act with integrity and independence, be ethical, knowledgeable, informed, transparent and work to the highest standards

02

Respect: *How we treat others and expect to be treated*

We will be civil, courteous, credible value others and be valued

03

Client focused: *How we deliver our services*

We will understand our clients' needs, honour our commitments, build long term relationships and foster good communication

04

Camaraderie: *How we work together*

We will create a positive work environment through teamwork, support and good working relationships

05

Continuous improvement: *How we move forward and work better*

We will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of everything we do through innovation, learning and development

Our strategic focus

Three key strategic focus areas provide the framework for our strategies to deliver on our purpose to provide independent assurance to the Parliament and Community on the performance and accountability of the Tasmanian Public Sector.

01

Impact

Making a difference to the bodies we audit, the Parliament and the public by enhancing the relevance and impact of our work

02

Quality

Delivering high quality, professional services by building capability and capacity to meet the changing demands of our clients and stakeholders

03

Efficiency

Building a high performing organisation by quickly and efficiently changing our structure and practices to meet our evolving needs



High priority actions for 2024-25

Previous strategic plan items	Priority	Business units with lead responsibility	High priority actions for 2024-25
Improve overall management of individual audit engagements	High	Financial Audit Services and Performance Audit Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify roles for project management and supervision. Use of gateway approvals for audit planning. Use of reporting tools to support management of audits. Stronger discipline on audit debriefs. Utilise Power BI to assist with management of individual audit engagements. Implement better project status reporting for performance audits. Complete 60% of financial audit work before 30 June. Improve coordination of work with clients.
Implement a financial audit approach for less complex public sector bodies	High	Financial Audit Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of new audit tool when available for less complex public sector bodies.
Embed root cause analysis for quality review findings	High	Performance Audit Services and Financial Audit Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole of office training for consistent approach; Performance Audit Services to deliver based on Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation and financial focus areas.
Embed data analytics into our audit approach	High	Financial Audit Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise a revised project plan for data analytics. Analytics in high priority areas.
Invest in IT people and technologies to increase audit efficiency	High	Financial Audit Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of data and similar tools. Investigate application of AI in audit processes. Investigate use of free text search tools (qualitative data search).
New learning and development program for all levels	High	All Business Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to commence in 2024 as part of human resources framework. Liaise with other Australasian Council of Auditors-General offices (human resources and learning and development subgroups). Inclusion of soft skill L&D for management level positions and management progression.
Grow our future leaders	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to commence in 2024 - manager professional development as part of human resources framework. Inclusion of soft skill learning and development for management level positions and progression.
<i>Independence of Auditor-General</i>	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the case for strengthening the independence and impact of public sector audit in Tasmania. Engagement with key stakeholders on legislative review. Participation in Australasian Council of Auditors-General benchmarking of independence.

