

A. Entity responses

As mandated in Section 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the Queensland Audit Office gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to the:

- Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water
- Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works
- Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing
- Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Director-General, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
- Director-General, Department of State Development and Infrastructure
- Director-General, Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works.

We also provided a copy of the report to the following, giving them the option to provide a response:

- The Premier
- Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury
- Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
- Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- Director-General, Department of Education
- Director-General, Queensland Health
- Director-General, Department of Energy and Climate
- Director-General, Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
- Director-General, Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
- Director-General, Department of Tourism and Sport
- Director-General, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
- Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Public Sector Commissioner, Public Sector Commission.

This appendix contains their detailed responses we received.

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



Comments received from Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref: CTS 08610/24

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5 June 2024

The Auditor-General
qao@qao.qld.gov.au

Dear Auditor-General

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2024 regarding your proposed *Queensland regions 2023* report to Parliament.

I note your request for a formal response on this matter as it will form part of the final report. I also note that as per Section 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, any comments are to be provided in writing to the Auditor-General within 21 days of receipt of the report, and that the contents of the proposed report are to remain confidential until tabled in Parliament in early June 2024. I am happy to provide comment on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The proposed *Queensland regions 2023* report brings together regional insights from financial audits across government entities. This report is the first in a series that will complement annual sector-based reports by examining different aspects of Government support of Queensland's regions.

As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities it was pleasing to read that between 2021 and 2023, Queensland Government departments provided approximately \$1.1 billion in grants to support regional businesses and local governments with infrastructure investment and to assist them in growing their economies and employment.

Given that Queensland is home to major cattle, agriculture, aquaculture, and manufacturing producers, it was equally pleasing to note that Government spends a significant portion of its budget on infrastructure including transport links such as road, rail, and ports, which provide access for new agricultural activities.

I agree with the *Queensland regions 2023* position that while the footprint of departmental regional borders may differ between departments, it is of no consequence in challenging times requiring disaster management. Queensland's disaster management arrangements use a defined governance and leadership model to allow the Government to quickly coordinate across the State when needed.



I thank you for sharing your proposed *Queensland regions 2023* report and for collating regional insights from financial audits across government entities.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Furner".

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities

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

Our reference: MN05594-2024
Your reference: PRJ03876



23 May 2024

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

Office of the
Director-General

Department of
**Housing, Local Government,
Planning and Public Works**

Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2024 regarding the proposed Queensland's regions 2023 (Report XX: 2023-24) audit report.

I acknowledge the proposed report has been provided to the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. I am providing a response on behalf of the Minister.

I appreciate the opportunity to consider the proposed Queensland's regions 2023 (Report XX: 2023-24) audit report.

The department welcomes the report's acknowledgement of the important role of local governments in fostering job creation and delivering essential services to their communities, and the support provided by the State Government through the grant and funding programs identified in the report.

In Appendix D (page 32), the report identifies all regional plans under the department's program as 'statutory regional plans', however 12 of the 13 regional plans are statutory, as the Gulf Regional Development Plan is non-statutory.

The department recommends the following amendments are made to the report:

Report reference	Existing text	Change required
Appendix D – Status of statutory regional plans text (Page 32)	<i>Omit</i> – Statutory regional plans are long-term strategic documents that guide land use planning for state and local governments. The Queensland Government has committed to reviewing all statutory regional plans that are more than five years old. Figure C1 details the current statutory regional plans and their review status.	<i>Insert</i> – Regional plans are long-term strategic documents that guide land use planning for state and local governments. The Queensland Government has committed to reviewing all regional plans that are more than five years old. Figure D1 details the current regional plans and their review status.
Figure D1 Status of statutory regional plans heading (Page 32)	<i>Omit</i> - Figure D1 Status of statutory regional plans.	<i>Insert</i> – Figure D1 Status of regional plans.
Figure D1 Status of statutory regional plans (Page 32)	<i>Omit</i> – Central Queensland published Oct 2015.	<i>Insert</i> - Central Queensland published Oct 2013.
Figure D1 Status of statutory regional plans (Page 32)	<i>Omit</i> - Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday.	<i>Insert</i> - Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday.

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The department will continue to update statutory regional plans for the remaining 10 regions across the state.

If you require further information or assistance in relation to this matter, [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time on this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Mark Cridland
Director-General

Auditor-General's response: We have updated the report based on this feedback.



Comments received from Director-General, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water



Auditor-General's response: Following receipt of this feedback, we made several amendments to the report in consultation with departmental representatives.

Comments received from Director-General, Department of State Development and Infrastructure



Department of
State Development and Infrastructure

Our ref: DGC24/233

Your ref: PRJ03876

27 MAY 2024

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

Brendan

Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2024 about the Queensland Audit Office's proposed *Queensland's Regions 2023* report. I note you have also provided the report to the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf on this occasion.

The Department of State Development and Infrastructure (the department) welcomes the insights and analysis on service delivery and support for Queensland's regions included in the report. We remain committed to working across government to better coordinate regional growth activities and enable more effective and efficient delivery of public services.

If you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Fraine".

Graham Fraine
Director-General

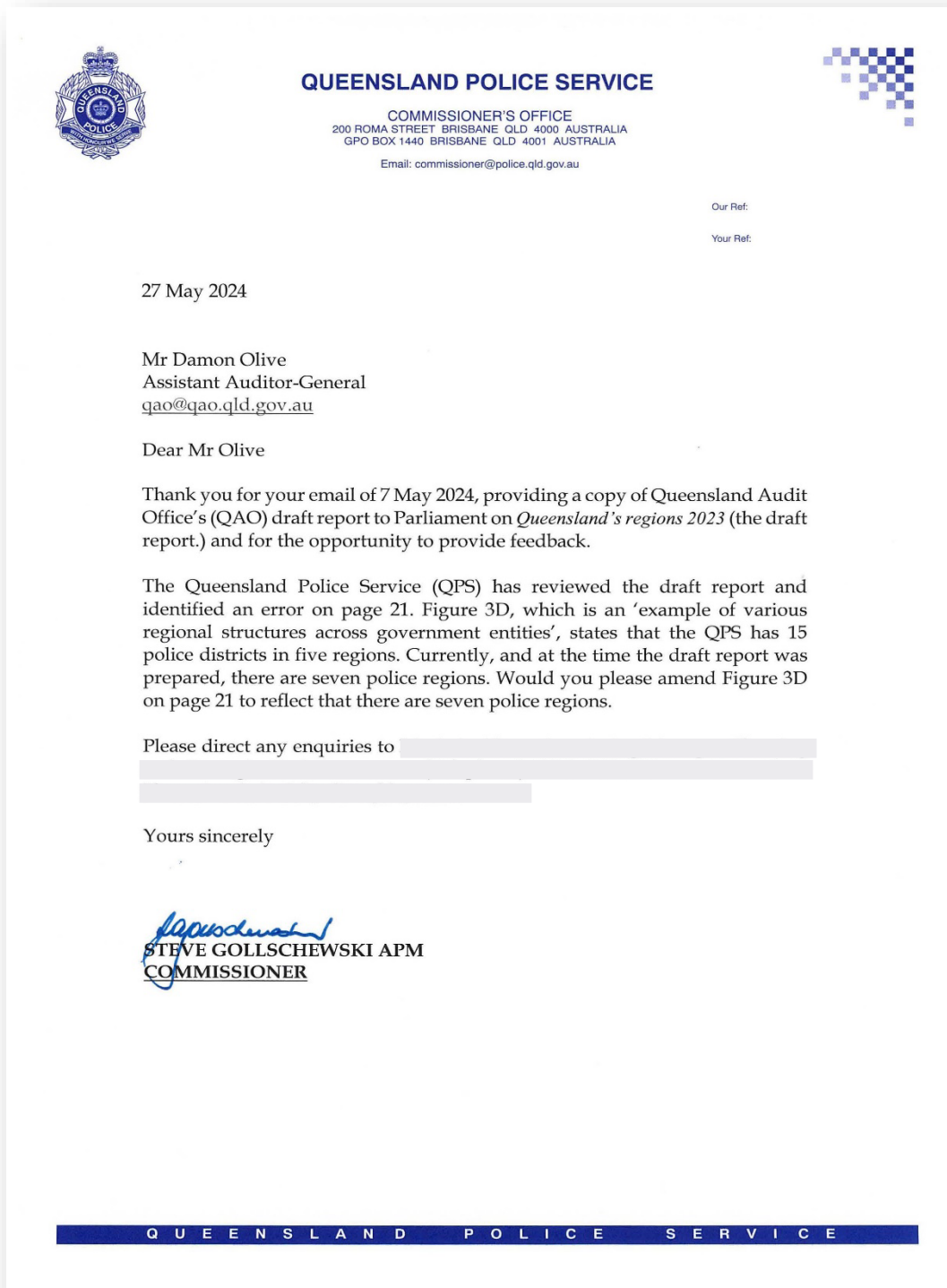
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Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530

Comments received from Director-General, Department of Energy and Climate



Auditor-General's response: We have updated our report following consultation with departmental representatives.

Comments received from Commissioner, Queensland Police Service



Auditor-General's response: We have updated Figure 3D as suggested.



Comments received from Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads



Office of the
Director-General

Department of
Transport and Main Roads

Confidential

Our ref: DG46238

Your ref: PRJ03876

21 May 2024

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

Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2024 advising of the proposed report on Queensland's regions 2023.

I note that there are no recommendations made in this report specific to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

TMR is supportive of the two Queensland Government initiatives relating to the development of a framework for Queensland Government agencies to work together, and the development of regional plans to align economic drivers, infrastructure priorities, and land use planning.

If your officers need further information, they can contact [REDACTED]

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SStannard'.

Sally Stannard
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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