

# A. Full responses from entities

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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 Transport and Main Roads
- Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury.
- heads of the following entities
  - Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)
  - Queensland Rail (QR) and Queensland Rail Limited (QRL)
  - Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (CRRDA)
  - Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited (GPC)
  - North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited (NQBP)
  - Port of Townsville Limited (POTL)
  - Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (trading as Ports North).

We also provided a copy of this report to the Premier and Minister for Trade; Treasurer and Minister for Investment; and Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet with an invitation to respond.

This appendix contains the formal responses that we received.

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



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



Office of the  
Director-General

Department of  
Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: DG40474

15 DEC 2020

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

Dear Mr Worrall *Brendan*

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2020 providing Transport 2020 Report – the proposed report to Parliament. The consolidated report summarises the Queensland Audit Office's (QAO) financial audit results of seven entities in Queensland's transport sector.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has mature financial statement processes and QAO issued an unmodified opinion that TMR's statements are accurate and prepared in accordance with relevant legislative requirements.

In the proposed report, QAO identified three general recommendations around procurement and expenditure, payroll processes and the security of information systems. TMR already has established processes in place around these three recommendations and continues to monitor and strengthen the controls around the identified risk areas.

As you acknowledge in the report, TMR was able to maintain services through the COVID-19 pandemic without significant additional costs or interruption. However, the impacts of these, including ongoing reduced public transport patronage, will continue to be a focus for TMR as the pandemic continues.

TMR appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed report and if you or your officers need any further information, Ms Brydie Bodnar, Chief Auditor, TMR, can be contacted by telephone on .

Yours sincerely

*Neil Scales.*

Neil Scales  
Director-General  
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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## Comments received from Acting Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury



Queensland Treasury

Our Ref: 05893-2020

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

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

*BRENDAN*  
Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for providing the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) draft report Transport 2020 (the Report) summarising the audit results of entities in Queensland's transport sector.

A key objective for the Queensland Government is ensuring that these enterprises operate as efficiently as possible and can work to support Government's objectives for the economy and community, while negotiating changing market conditions.

I welcome that unmodified audit opinions were provided of the 2019-20 financial statements for all these transport entities.

I also note the findings that the transport entities have demonstrated responsiveness when faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, including continuing to provide customers and industry with transport, delivering major projects and supporting commercial business partners, in line with approved Government assistance programs. Although this has contributed to lower financial returns for these entities in 2019-20, the Queensland Government's financial support for the transport sector is crucial to helping sustain our economic recovery.

The Queensland Government strongly supports investment in Cross River Rail and the European Train Control System, which are significant projects that will support transformation of public transport in south east Queensland. It is pleasing that these major works packages are progressing without significant issue, and we will continue to monitor progress toward their successful delivery.

Regarding the QAO's observation of some audit deficiencies identified in 2019-20, I note the QAO's conclusion that it is satisfied with all the transport entities' responses, and their plans to implement satisfactory corrective actions, where necessary.

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The performance, sustainability and internal control environments of all transport entities will continue to be monitored to ensure continued improvement, prudent investment and the delivery of transport services.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond on the Report. If you require any further information, please contact Mr Jason Wishart, Director Commercial Group, Queensland Treasury, on \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

  
Graham Fraire  
Acting Under Treasurer

7 / 1 / 2021

