



Media contact: Rachel Edwards
Mobile: 0439 261 366
Email: rachel.edwards@audit.wa.gov.au

3 May 2018

Auditor General finds confiscation of assets process generally well-managed, with some opportunities to improve

In his latest report, *Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime*, Auditor General Colin Murphy found agencies followed adequate processes to identify and confiscate proceeds of crime under the *Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000*.

The audit assessed if agencies were effectively and efficiently identifying, confiscating and distributing proceeds of crime.

Mr Murphy said the Western Australia Police Force (WA Police) correctly considered the public interest and the likely financial return to the State in deciding to freeze assets.

'WA Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions follow sound processes to identify and confiscate the proceeds of crime sending a clear message that crime does not pay,' he said.

'However, agencies need to better manage frozen assets from seizure to sale to minimise deterioration in condition and value.

'Returning deteriorated assets to their owners could reduce the State's financial return and increase the risk of legal action against the State.

'It also means there is less money available to fund future confiscation activities and for community groups through the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Grants Program.

'While the grants program is managed well, there is more that can be done to identify opportunities to improve efficiency across the confiscations process and increase visibility of outcomes achieved by funding agencies.

'This is particularly important given the constrained resources that agencies are currently operating under,' Mr Murphy said.

The Auditor General's report, *Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime* (Report 5 – May 2018), is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at www.audit.wa.gov.au

ENDS

