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WA public sector needs to improve its administration of grants

In a report tabled in Parliament today the Auditor General has made several recommendations to help the public sector improve its administration of grants programs.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said only 2 of 8 sampled State government entities demonstrated sound grant administration policies, practices and controls.

‘Our audit tested some \$30 million of grants across more than a dozen programs worth almost \$300 million over 2 financial years,’ Ms Spencer said.

‘The quality of grants administration in WA is variable and our audit found gaps in entities’ policies and procedures, assessments of grant applications and monitoring of grants.

‘These findings are not entirely surprising as WA operates without an agreed grants framework, including for election commitments.

‘The findings in this audit and observations from our other audit work indicate that, while some entities and officers are adept in their practices, grant administration across the WA public sector generally needs improvement,’ Ms Spencer said.

The report also includes a case study into the Albany Wave Energy Technology Development Project. The project, unlike most others in the audit sample, was based on an election commitment and it received significant Parliamentary and public interest.

The case study demonstrates the difficulties entities face with administering election commitment grants in the absence of clearly established rules, requirements or guidelines.

In addition to the Auditor General’s recommendations for improvement, the report includes better practice guidance which State and local government entities can adopt to improve their administration of grants.

Report resources

- [PDF version](#)
- [summary video](#)