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## **Temporary procurement changes in response to COVID-19 partially met Government objectives**

The Auditor General's [Temporary Abbreviated State Procurement Control Requirements](#) report tabled in Parliament today.

The audit assessed if 25 State government entities were appropriately applying temporary procurement requirements put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said 19 entities chose to apply the changes and all did so correctly, the other 6 did not apply the changes.

'We found the temporary changes met the Government's objective of expediting entities awarding of contracts.

'However, there was no evidence that changes helped reduce entry barriers for new suppliers or maximised opportunities for local businesses,' Ms Spencer said.

The audit also identified that 58% of entities had deficiencies in their procurement practices, not specific to the temporary changes.

'Some of the deficiencies we found included staff not completing conflict of interest declarations, errors in contract registers and contractor performance reviews not being conducted,' Ms Spencer said.

Good procurement practices centred around the principles of probity, accountability and transparency are key to managing procurement risks and the delivery of good outcomes for the State.

The report includes recommendations to help all public sector entities improve their procurement controls.

### **Report resources**

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