

On 13 October 2022, the OAG hosted its fifth Audit Committee Chair Forum. Auditor General Caroline Spencer provided an overview of the 2022 audit season, including audit access and provided a presentation on considerations for audit committees in the era of sustainability reporting. Assistant Auditor General Forensic Audit, Carl Huxtable, presented on the OAG's Fraud Risk Management - Better Practice Guide and the tools available to assist entities to uplift their fraud resilience.

Key points of the presentations are provided below.

Audit access and information gathering powers

Access powers are provided by the *Auditor General Act 2006*. Although it is essential our auditors see everything to be able to do their job, we don't disclose everything.

The Office is currently engaging with key public sector entities to provide clarity for the sector around the information the OAG can obtain and how it is used. We will issue guidance with central agencies once finalised.¹

Sustainability reporting

This is a new area of reporting, that has central agency direction and coordination through the Departments of Treasury and Water and Environmental Regulation.

The WA Government climate change policy is based on an emissions reduction target to 80% below 2020 levels by 2030. Progress towards this target is expected to be reported from the 2023-24 financial year. Not all entities will be required to have the same reporting requirements depending on the business operations.

To prepare we are engaging with central agency regulators and upskilling our staff. Discussions with entities will be preliminary as disclosures in entity financial statements are still some time away.



For now, public sector audit committees should be preparing to understand how the increased reporting requirements will impact their entity and prepare to evolve reporting processes. It is key to continue to focus on core service delivery and neither ignore nor catastrophise the future requirements. It is important to be considered in the suite of entity's usual reports and audit obligations.

Some additional reading can be found the links below:

- [Climate-related risks \(aasb.gov.au\)](https://www.aasb.gov.au)
- [Western Australian Climate Change Policy](#)

¹ Since the forum, the Attorney General has introduced the Auditor General Amendment Bill, 2022, in which our office was consulted

Fraud Risk Management - Better Practice Guide

A robust and well-targeted fraud risk management program can minimise the likelihood and consequences of fraud events. The program should be tailored to an entity's objectives, environment and risk profile. The *Fraud Risk Management – Better Practice Guide*, aims to assist entities to uplift their fraud resilience and raise the standard of fraud and corruption control across the WA public sector.

The guide along with the included tools can be found on our [website](#).



If you have any feedback on the forum or topics you would like presented, email communications@audit.wa.gov.au. Our next forum is scheduled for March or April 2023.

