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No clear plan for \$190 million unspent from the Perth Parking Levy

The Auditor General today tabled in Parliament a report on the [*Administration of the Perth Parking Levy*](#).

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said money raised through the levy helps to fund a range of projects to improve and encourage the use of public transport, enhance the pedestrian environment and support bicycle access to discourage cars coming into our city centre. The levy is not the only funding source - a range of other transport related projects in the city centre are funded from other government sources.

The Department of Transport plays a key role in planning how money from the levy, held in the Perth Parking Licensing Account, is used including consulting on projects with key stakeholders such as the State's transport entities and the City of Perth.

Ms Spencer said the audit found that Department officers are well informed of the purpose, opportunities and restrictions relating to the account.

'However, the absence of a specific plan, agreed across government, to spend the collected levy has contributed to the account balance increasing by about \$30 million a year over the last five years to over \$190 million.

'A lack of consistent consultation with the City of Perth, as required by legislation, and public reporting, further contributes to community speculation about why some projects are funded and others are not,' Ms Spencer said.

The audit found one project that does not meet the requirements of the levy's stated purpose, was conditionally approved for \$580,000 subject to planned legislative amendments. The changes to allow spending on non-transport projects were announced this week. There remains uncertainty among stakeholders about what future projects, such as the Perth City Deal, might be funded from the increasing account balance.

Ms Spencer said as a special purpose account, spending from the Perth Parking Licensing Account should meet its intended purpose and funds should not be raised unnecessarily from the people and businesses that contribute.

The State has over \$14 billion allocated in special purpose accounts and needs to ensure they are not mismanaged. Robust planning, consultation with key stakeholders, and clear and comprehensive policies and procedures to assess the relative merits and eligibility of funded projects will reduce this risk.

Report resources

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