

Budget Estimates 2024-25 Hearing – 26 February 2025**Supplementary Questions**

1. **The Auditor-General’s 13 December 2024 State Agencies report states “On 21 November 2024, nine days before the deadline, 109 annual reports of transitional reporting GSF agencies were tabled in Parliament. Tabling a high volume of annual reports at the same time creates a significant information burden making it challenging to assess agency performance.” Please explain in greater detail this ‘significant information burden making it challenging to assess agency performance’?**

Annual reports are an important decision-making tool and are the primary means for agencies to demonstrate their accountability to Parliament, the government, and the public. They provide a comprehensive summary of an agency’s activities and performance and show how public resources have been applied during the annual reporting period. A significant information burden is placed upon users when 109 reports are tabled at the same time, reducing their ability to consider report contents in a timely and fulsome manner.

- a. **What improvements might the Audit Office suggest the government implement with respect to the tabling of their reports in future?**

Responsible ministers should present finalised annual reports to Parliament as soon as available. This allows users to consider the agency’s activities and performance in a timely manner. The *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* and related Treasurer’s Directions require the accountable authority for a reporting GSF agency to prepare annual reporting information for the agency within 4 months of the end of the annual reporting period and to provide it to the responsible Minister to enable them to table the annual reporting information in Parliament as soon as practicable (but no later than 5 months from the end of the annual reporting period).

Please note that Section 7.18 of the *Government Sector Finance Act*, in relation to the Total State Sector Accounts (TSSA), requires the Treasurer to inform the Legislative Assembly before 30 November if the TSSA will not be tabled on time and state the reasons why the Treasurer cannot comply.

2. **Can you provide any further details in relation to the planned audit into the regulation of the greyhound racing industry, including the anticipated timeline, scope of the audit and whether it will seek feedback from the public?**

The planned audit on greyhound racing regulation will commence in May 2025 and a timeline for completion will be developed at this time (likely to be February 2026). Considerations relating to stakeholder engagement will be addressed when the audit commences and terms of reference are developed. We will seek feedback from the public if it will provide evidence relevant to our final report.