



Mike Baird MP

NSW Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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IMPROVING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN NSW

NSW Treasurer Mike Baird today welcomed the positive results of the Auditor-General's audit of the Total State Sector Accounts, but stressed the need for pressing ahead with reforms designed to further improve the quality of financial reporting in NSW.

"The State Accounts have received an unqualified audit for the first time in at least a decade," Mr Baird said.

"At the same time, the number of significant errors in the Accounts has halved since last year's audit."

The Auditor-General reports: ***"The quality and timeliness of financial reporting across the NSW public sector have significantly improved."***

"The Treasurer has actively engaged with agency Chief Financial Officers and Audit and Risk Committee Chairs to communicate the importance of accurate and timely financial information at various forums."

"I am pleased that NSW Treasury has taken steps to further improve the accuracy and timeliness of information it uses to prepare whole-of-government financial reports. Treasury continues to implement a range of measures to improve public sector financial reporting."

"The NSW Government has been working hard to strengthen the financial reporting and accountability framework across every government agency. Today's report confirms that the tough measures introduced over the past 12 months are working," Mr Baird said.

"While this is a significant and pleasing improvement, we cannot afford to rest in our program to improve the quality of financial management and reporting in NSW."

Mr Baird said greater accountability for public sector CEOs and CFOs, monthly cluster CFO meetings aimed at reducing financial errors, and enhanced year-end accounting arrangements (including a mandatory requirement for an early close in 2013) had contributed to the improved result.

"We remain committed to rolling out a modern and robust financial reporting and budgeting system across government. We have already allocated funds in the Budget for this and the scoping and design work is underway, but this will take time," said Mr Baird.

"Weaknesses plagued the State's financial reporting processes for over a decade and Labor failed to do anything about it."

“The people of NSW can have confidence that the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has put in place measures to achieve improvements, and will continue to strengthen financial reporting and accountability in NSW,” said Mr Baird.

The Auditor-General will continue to work with Treasury to provide additional assurance in the release of the 2013-14 Half Yearly Review and 2014-15 Budget.

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