



Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees **17th Biennial Conference**

Program



Perth

21 - 23 April 2024

Welcome from the Co-Chairs



We are delighted to welcome you to Perth for the 17th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees hosted at the Parliament of Western Australia. It has been over four years since ACPAC was last able to hold an entirely in-person conference, so it is great that more than 50 delegates from Australia and overseas are able to attend.

The Conference program, in addition to the keynote speech from Western Australia's Auditor General, Caroline Spencer, includes 10 sessions on a wide variety of topics presented by members of public accounts committees and auditors general across jurisdictions. The sessions cover a range of topics from sustainability reporting to managing the non-provision of information, and from wellbeing budgeting to statutory reviews of audit offices – all very relevant to the role of public accounts committees holding the government of the day to account.

Our Welcome Reception on Sunday evening and Conference Dinner on Monday will be held at two of the many wonderful venues Perth has to offer – the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the iconic 'C Restaurant in the Sky'. We hope that during your visit you will have time to enjoy the many other attractions of Perth, including the Swan Valley and Rottnest Island.

We thank the Presiding Officers, Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC and Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, for generously making the Parliament of Western Australia available as the Conference venue; Caroline Spencer for delivering the keynote speech; the presenters for taking the time to share their thoughts and experiences; the facilitators for ensuring the smooth running of sessions; and parliamentary staff for their hard work organising and running what we know will be an interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable conference.



Lisa O'Malley MLA
Co-Chair



Hon Peter Collier MLC
Co-Chair

Conference Hosts



Public Accounts Committee

Lisa O'Malley MLA, Chair
Libby Mettam MLA, Deputy Chair
Lara Dalton MLA
Kim Giddens MLA
Hugh Jones MLA



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee

Hon Peter Collier MLC, Chair
Hon Samantha Rowe MLC, Deputy Chair
Hon Dan Caddy MLC
Hon Nick Goiran MLC
Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC

Keynote Speaker



Caroline Spencer

Ms Spencer was appointed Auditor General for Western Australia in May 2018. Prior to her appointment, Caroline led a professional services firm specialising in public sector audit and governance in Canberra.

Caroline has a passion for promoting accountability and continuous improvement across the public sector and the accounting profession – to enhance trust and performance for the benefit of the communities we serve. With a keen personal interest in seeing our regions and community groups thrive, she is a strong advocate for expansive thinking around participation and valuing good governance and contribution at all levels.

She is a fellow of CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand and the Governance Institute of Australia, and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Caroline is also a member of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, currently with a focus on Australia's first sustainability reporting standards.

Conference Presenters

Name	Position
Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC	President of the Legislative Council, WA
Sarah Connolly MP	Chair, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC
Lara Dalton MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Minister Tingika Elikana	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, Cook Islands
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, TAS
Michael Galea MP	Member, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC
Andrew Greaves	Auditor General, VIC
Hon Justin Hanson MLC	Presiding Member, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, SA
Michael Harris	Auditor General, ACT
Sandra Labuschagne	Deputy Auditor General, WA
Jason Li MP	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, NSW
Melissa McMahon MP	Member, Cost of Living and Economics Committee, QLD
Rona Mellor PSM	Acting Auditor General, AUS
Lisa O'Malley MLA	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Bola Oyetunji	Auditor General, NSW
Michael Pettersson MLA	Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT
Hon Dr Deborah Russell MP	Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ
Stuart Smith MP	Chair, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ
Caroline Spencer	Auditor General, WA
Brendan Worrall	Auditor General, QLD

Conference Facilitators

Name	Position
Hon Dan Caddy MLC	Member, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Hon Peter Collier MLC	Chair, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Lara Dalton MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Kim Giddens MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Sam Hastings	Clerk of the Legislative Council, WA
Hugh Jones MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Lisa O'Malley MLA	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC	Member, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Kirsten Robinson	Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, WA
Hon Samantha Rowe MLC	Member, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA

Monday 22 April 2024

Unless otherwise stated, all sessions will be held in the Members' Dining Room.

8.30am – 9.00am	Registration Forrest Foyer, Parliament House
9.00am – 9.20am	Welcome to Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ingrid Cumming Opening Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa O'Malley MLA – Co-Chair of ACPAC
9.20am – 10.05am	Keynote Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caroline Spencer – Auditor General for Western Australia <i>In the absence of angels: the role of auditors and Parliament within our system of checks and balances</i> Facilitator: Hon Peter Collier MLC
10.05am – 10.45am	Official Conference Photo Parliament House front steps Morning Tea Parliament House Courtyard
10.45am – 11.30am	Session 1: Sustainability reporting – Is there a role for PACs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lara Dalton MLA – Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA <i>Biding our Time</i> Stuart Smith MP – Chair, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ Rona Mellor PSM – Acting Auditor General, AUS <i>Is there a role for PACs in the area of sustainability reporting?</i> Facilitator: Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC
11.30am – 12.15pm	Session 2: Measuring how procurement policies shift government spending to achieve intended outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa O'Malley MLA – Chair, Public Accounts Committee, WA <i>The value for money proposition</i> Melissa McMahon MP – Member, Cost of Living and Economics Committee, QLD <i>How the Buy Queensland approach has transformed public procurement</i> Michael Harris – Auditor General, ACT <i>The impact of themed audits over multiple years</i> Facilitator: Kim Giddens MLA
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Lunch Parliament House Courtyard

<p>1.15pm – 2.00pm</p>	<p>Session 3: Gender responsive budgeting – How governments can identify and fund measures to help close the gender gap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Dr Deborah Russell MP – Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ <i>Gender responsive budgeting – identifying gaps and responding appropriately</i> • Melissa McMahon MP – Member, Cost of Living and Economics Committee, QLD <i>Queensland Government’s policy commitment to gender-aware budgeting</i> <p>Facilitator: Lara Dalton MLA</p>
<p>2.00pm – 2.45pm</p>	<p>Session 4: Beyond economic outcomes – Adopting a wellbeing approach to measure progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Justin Hanson MLC – Presiding Member, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, SA <i>Sustainability bonds from the South Australian Government Financing Authority</i> • Hon Dr Deborah Russell MP – Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ <i>A wellbeing approach to measure progress – the Aotearoa New Zealand experience</i> <p>Facilitator: Hugh Jones MLA</p>
<p>2.45pm – 3.15pm</p>	<p>Afternoon Tea Parliament House Courtyard</p>
<p>3.15pm – 4.00pm</p>	<p>Session 5: Managing occasions of non-provision of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Ruth Forrest MLC – Chair, Public Accounts Committee, TAS <i>Managing and overcoming occasions of the non-provision of information or documents – the Tasmanian Public Accounts Committee experience</i> • Sandra Labuschagne – Deputy Auditor General, WA <i>Was the Minister’s decision reasonable and appropriate?</i> • Brendan Worrall – Auditor General, QLD <i>Managing occasions of non-provision of information</i> <p>Facilitator: Hon Peter Collier MLC</p>
<p>4.00pm – 4.45pm</p>	<p>Session 6: The state of State finances – Experiences with qualified audit opinions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Greaves – Auditor General, VIC <i>The state of State finances: experiences with qualified audit opinions in Victoria</i> • Caroline Spencer – Auditor General, WA <i>Number of qualified opinions now reducing, but much work still to be done</i> • Bola Oyetunji – Auditor General, NSW <i>The state of State finances: experience with qualified audit opinions – a NSW perspective</i> <p>Facilitator: Kirsten Robinson – Clerk of the Legislative Assembly</p>
<p>6.30pm – 10.00pm</p>	<p>Conference Dinner Drinks from 6.30pm; dinner from 7.00pm <i>C Restaurant in the Sky – L33, 44 St Georges Terrace, Perth</i></p>

Tuesday 23 April 2024

9.45am – 10.15am	ACPAC General Meeting Legislative Assembly Chamber
10.00am – 10.30am	Morning Tea Parliament House Courtyard
10.30am – 11.15am	Session 7: Government spending on Aboriginal programs and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC – President of the Legislative Council, WA <i>The role of Parliaments in combatting inequality through social procurement</i> Michael Galea MP – Member, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC <i>Closing the Gap: a Victorian parliamentary committee perspective</i> Facilitator: Lisa O'Malley MLA
11.15am – 12.15pm	Session 8: Jurisdiction Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon Ruth Forrest MLC – Independent Member for Murchison, TAS Minister Tingika Elikana – Chair, Public Accounts Committee, Cook Islands Michael Pettersson MLA – Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT Facilitator: Sam Hastings – Clerk of the Legislative Council
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Lunch Parliament House Courtyard
1.15pm – 2.15pm	Optional Tours Tours will start in the Forrest Foyer (near Reception) at 1.20pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art and more at Parliament House A guided stroll through Kings Park
2.15pm – 3.00pm	Session 9: Public Accounts Committee experiences with Parliamentary Budget Offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Connolly MP – Chair, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC <i>PAC experiences of Parliamentary Budget Offices: a Victorian perspective</i> Jason Li MP – Chair, Public Accounts Committee, NSW <i>The NSW experience of working with a temporary Parliamentary Budget Office</i> Facilitator: Hon Dan Caddy MLC

3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea Parliament House Courtyard
3.30pm – 4.15pm	Session 10: Conducting statutory reviews of audit offices – Sharing experiences and lessons learned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Ruth Forrest MLC – Chair, Public Accounts Committee, TAS <i>The role of PACs during and following statutory reviews of audit offices</i> Facilitator: Hon Samantha Rowe MLC
4.15pm – 4.30pm	Conference Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Peter Collier MLC – Co-Chair of ACPAC • Hon Ruth Forrest MLC – Incoming Chair of ACPAC
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Presiding Officers' Farewell Drinks Parliament House Courtyard

Delegates

Australia (Commonwealth)	
Name	Position
Jennifer Adams	Committee Secretary, Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, AUS
Rona Mellor	Acting Auditor-General, AUS

Australian Capital Territory	
Name	Position
Michael Harris	Auditor General, ACT
Sophie Milne	Secretary, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT
Michael Pettersson MLA	Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, ACT

Cook Islands	
Name	Position
Minister Tingika Elikana	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, Cook Islands
Margret Numanga	Committee Secretary, Public Accounts Committee, Cook Islands

New South Wales	
Name	Position
Alison Buskens	Committee Manager, Public Accounts Committee, NSW
Jason Li MP	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, NSW
Bola Oyetunji	Auditor General, NSW
Michael Regan MP	Member, Public Accounts Committee, NSW

New Zealand

Name	Position
Jayden Blake	Clerk of Committee – Select Committee Services, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ
Hon Dr Deborah Russell MP	Member, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ
John Ryan	Auditor General, NZ
Stuart Smith MP	Chair, Finance and Expenditure Committee, NZ

Queensland

Name	Position
Michael Crandon MP	Member, Cost of Living and Economics Committee, QLD
Melissa McMahon MP	Member, Cost of Living and Economics Committee, QLD
Bernice Watson	First Clerk Assistant (Committees), QLD
Brendan Worrall	Auditor General, QLD

Solomon Islands

Name	Position
Heston Rence	Committee Clerk, Public Accounts Committee, Solomon Islands

South Australia

Name	Position
Andrew Blaskett	Auditor General, SA
Matt Cowdrey OAM MP	Member, Economic and Finance Committee, SA
Peter Dimopoulos	Secretary, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, SA
Hon Justin Hanson MLC	Presiding Member, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, SA
Hon Dennis Hood MLC	Member, Statutory Authorities Review Committee, SA
Jessica Watson	Research Officer, Economic and Finance Committee, SA

Tasmania

Name	Position
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, TAS
Simon Scott	Committee Secretary, Public Accounts Committee, TAS
Jonathan Wassell	Deputy Auditor General, TAS

Victoria

Name	Position
Sarah Connolly MP	Chair, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC
Michael Galea MP	Member, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC
Krystle Gatt Rapa	Lead Analyst, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC
Andrew Greaves	Auditor General, VIC
Charlotte Lever	Lead Analyst, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC
Caroline Williams	Executive Officer, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, VIC

Western Australia

Name	Position
Hon Dan Caddy MLC	Member, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Michele Chiasson	Principal Research Officer, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Hon Peter Collier MLC	Chair, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Lara Dalton MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Kim Giddens MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Hon Nick Goiran MLC	Member, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Andrew Hawkes	Advisory Officer, Joint Audit Committee, WA
Alex Hickman	Advisory Officer (Legal), Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Laura Ives Hicks	Committee Clerk, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA

Name	Position
Hugh Jones MLA	Member, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Sandra Labuschagne	Deputy Auditor General, WA
Libby Mettam MLA	Deputy Chair, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Marie Martin	Research Officer, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Lisa O'Malley MLA	Chair, Public Accounts Committee, WA
Catie Parsons	Principal Advisor, Office of the Auditor General, WA
Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC	Member, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Hon Samantha Rowe MLC	Deputy Chair, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA
Caroline Spencer	Auditor General, WA
Anne Turner	Advisory Officer (Legal), Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, WA

Notes

