

One of the ways the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) strives to reduce the incidence of corruption in the public sector and increases public sector agencies complaints handling and prevention capabilities is by conducting a program of audits.

Our audit program

In developing an audit program, the CCC gathers a wide range of information, applies thorough analysis, and undertakes extensive stakeholder consultation. Our program is based on the following four principles:

Focus	Value
By targeting emerging, entrenched, systemic, or otherwise significant threats, the CCC audit program aims to assess and provide recommendations on high-risk issues in the public sector that are research-based, realistic, and relevant to the public interest.	The audits add value by providing advices on reframing procedural gaps and that aid in addressing corruption risks and controls efficiently, effectively and appropriately.
Method	Scope
By engaging in frequent research, internal review, and inter-agency collaboration, the CCC audit program engages in continuous improvement and innovation of the audit process, ensuring that all audits are conducted to best practice methodology.	By engaging in research into allegation trends, remaining aware of areas of public interest, and remaining vigilant for possible auditable complaints, the CCC audit planning process ensures that the topics, agencies and sectors assessed during audits are high-risk, sufficiently broad, and effectively fulfil the goals of the program.

How did we decide what to audit?

In deciding on the audit topics, we:

- Seek to understand what the CCC's legislative obligations and priorities are.
- Conduct environmental and risk scanning. Examples: examine corruption allegations data; review clusters of allegations reports on high-risk areas; and source published reports from other integrity bodies.
- Consult with internal and external stakeholders to gain perspectives on current, probable and potential corruption risks. This consultation helps us to refine our topics.
- Assess each audit topic based on a consideration of factors: risk priorities, probable for CCC to have an impact, and the potential for CCC to address matters of public interest.
- Consider the spread of activity across themes, sectors and high-risk agencies, and our resourcing capabilities.

We believe the audit program addresses our legislative obligations while remaining responsive to areas of public interest.

Our audit plan for 2017-18

The CCC will undertake five audits:

	Topic	Areas of focus	Schedule
1	Conflicts of interest	<i>Continue from 2016-17</i> Assess whether council's mechanisms for identifying corruption risks, the process design for managing, preventing and detecting, and dealing with complaints, related to conflict of interest are effective. Sector: Local Government	now-Aug 2017
2	Corruption risk assessment	<i>Continue from 2016-17</i> Determine whether an agency is identifying corruption risks other than, or beyond fraud. Assess the effectiveness of an agency's corruption risk assessment process. Sectors: Departments and Statutory Bodies	now-Aug 2017
3	Police corruption assessment	Determine whether the Queensland Police Service has correctly assessed corrupt conduct or police misconduct complaints as 'No Further Action'. The scope is limited to matters during the Joint Assessment and Moderation project trial. Sector: Queensland Police Service	Aug-Dec 2017
4	Secondary employment	Assess the comprehensiveness of secondary employment policies and requirements. The audit will also determine whether management processes are sufficient when addressing existing issues around secondary employment. Sectors: Communities, Energy, Water and Resources (other than Government Owned Corporations)	Jan-Jun 2018
5	Chemical management	Review the handling and storage of hazardous chemicals in agency premises (incl. laboratories). Review how Workplace Health and Safety Queensland do a risk based approach to audit scheduling. Sectors: Departments, Universities and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland	Jan-Jun 2018

When we are commencing a specific audit, we will undertake a more detailed planning to refine the areas of focus. This will include selecting public sector agencies in the industry sectors the specific audit is targeting.

Our proposed audits for the following financial year 2018-19 (watch list)

For the following financial year 2018-19, we propose to complete the following four audits. These audits are tentative as we continue to assess the key risk and value factors each year.

	Topic	Areas of focus	Schedule
1	Recordkeeping requirements	The audit will assess the extent to which agencies are meeting their recordkeeping responsibilities in relation to complaints management. In particular, the audit will examine how effectively agencies are creating, storing and managing records and decisions in accordance with the <i>Crime and Corruption Act 2001</i> and the <i>Public Records Act 2002</i> . Sectors: All sectors (Departments, Local Government and Statutory Bodies)	Jul-Dec 2018
2	Probity in contract	Assess the effectiveness of the agency's contractor management processes to ensure risks are effectively, efficiently and consistently managed, and whether the agency is avoiding Full-time equivalent provisions. Sector: Health Services	Jul-Dec 2018
3	Councillor's interests and use of information	The audit will examine the implementation of recommendations arising out of the CCC's Operation Belcarra, by Councils. The audit will also involve a cross checking of council minutes against each Councillor's register of interests maintained by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure they are consistent. (see note 1 below) Sector: Local Government	Jan-Jun 2019
4	Failure of duty	Assess how effectively an agency has responded to specific complaints relating to failure of duty, including whether the outcomes were appropriate to prevent re-occurrence (see note 2 below). The audit will also identify weaknesses in internal detection and management of neglect of duties. Sectors: Police, Transport and Education	Jan-Jun 2019

Note 1 – The CCC's Operation Belcarra public report will be published in the first quarter of 2017-18. It is anticipated that the report will make a range of recommendations in relation to Councillors' declaring and managing conflicts of interest. For more information about Operation Belcarra, see the CCC's website at <http://www.ccc.qld.gov.au/corruption/operation-belcarra-public-hearing>

Note 2 – Failure of duty allegations can involve failures to comply with legal, policy or reporting obligations or failures to execute duties to an appropriate standard. This type of conduct includes failures resulting from a lack of knowledge, competence or appropriate care or diligence but do not include deliberate acts or omissions with the intent to gain a benefit or cause detriment to another.

The audit plan may be amended in circumstances where there is a clear public interest to conduct an audit in order to promote public confidence in public administration.

How we will communicate audit results?

While not all CCC audit reports are made available to the public, audit reports and summary reports (redacted) may be published on our website to promote the public confidence in public administration. Public sector agencies who participated in the audit are provided with a report which communicates the findings and areas for improvements.

How we measure the success of our audit program?

The success of the audit program is indicated by public sector agencies' responsiveness to audit findings and the implementation of reformative measures which increase their capabilities in complaints handling or prevention responses to achieve the intended purposes.