



PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Referred by: Australian Labor Party **Proposal No:** C1469
Date Referred: 12 March 2023 **Date Published:**
Proposal Title: Automatic referral of all major natural disaster relief packages to Audit Office of NSW
Cluster: Whole of government

General Government Sector Impacts

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	4 year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. depreciation)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation					-
Less: Offsets					-
Revenue					-
Net Operating Balance:	-	-	-	-	-

Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Offsets					
Net Capital Expenditure:	-	-	-	-	-

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	-	-	-	-
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Total State Sector Impacts

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	-	-	-	-
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Notes and costing assumptions:

The proposal is for the responsible Minister to request the Auditor-General to review all major natural disaster relief grants programs within three months of dispersal, and to conduct performance reviews of fast-track grants programs. This policy will be on an ongoing basis. The portfolio department of the responsible Minister will refund any costs of the requested audits.

The PBO assumes that the costs of providing reimbursement for the audits can be absorbed by the portfolio department of the Minister making the request at the time; therefore, this policy will have no budget impact.

Background

Under the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983 No 152 NSW*, the Auditor-General is to provide any particular audit or audit-related service to any Minister at the Minister's request.¹

¹ *Government Sector Audit Act 1983 No 152 NSW* pt3, div 1, s27b(3)(c).

Notes and costing assumptions continued:

There are currently five natural disaster assistance grant programs available including for natural disasters dating as far back as February and March 2021.²

The last four annual reports issued by the Audit Office show it conducts an average of 14 audits per year. Based on the current number of natural disaster assistance programs, the length of time they remain open and the number of audits conducted by the Audit Office, the PBO believes the Audit Office would have sufficient capacity to conduct these audits on request.

² Rural Assistance Authority, Storm and Flood Programs, viewed 7 March 2023, <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/storm-and-flood-programs>. There are currently no bushfire programs open.