

Media Statement

TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2007

Auditor-General's Report: Results of Audits

A report titled *Results of Audits*, by **Auditor-General, Des Pearson**, was tabled in the Victorian Parliament today - presenting the results of 2 recently completed audits which examined:

- the purchase of a contaminated site by the Melbourne Port Corporation, and its impact on the corporation's and its successor's (Port of Melbourne Corporation) finances
- the administration of fees and charges by government departments.

The report finds that inadequate due diligence, non-compliance with government approval requirements and poor information available to decision-makers, contributed to the purchase of a contaminated site by the Melbourne Port Corporation at a price above its value, and exposed the corporation (and its successor entity) to substantial remediation costs.

It also concludes that the departmental fees and charges subject to audit were based on appropriate legal authority and generally supported by adequate administrative systems and processes. Poor documentation however has meant that audit could not conclude whether certain rates charged were authorised in compliance with legislative requirements, and determined in accordance with government policy and guidelines.

The report identifies opportunities for improvement in each of the areas examined, and makes several recommendations to strengthen agency practices and performance.

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Direct link to report: http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_mp_psa/psa19cv.html

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