



Dr Kilian Perrem
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
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28 November 2025
Tamara Mitchell- CEO
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Dear Dr Perrem,

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

Submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2023–24 (Auditor-General Report No. 22 of 2024–25)

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the Committee's Inquiry into the Commonwealth Financial Statements 2023-24, based on Auditor-General Report No. 22 of 2024-25, Audits of the Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2024.

1. Executive Summary

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC) acknowledges the findings of Auditor-General Report No. 22 of 2024-25 and the invitation from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) to provide a submission.

Many of the governance and financial management issues identified in 2022–23 and resolved through the 2023–24 and 2024–25 audits occurred during a period of extended turnover and vacancies in senior positions, including the Chief Executive Officer role. These staffing challenges limited continuity and internal oversight. Since mid-2024, WBACC has stabilised its leadership team, filled key administrative roles, and strengthened its internal finance capability. The Board has also worked diligently to rebuild strong governance foundations and oversight processes, which collectively underpinned the improvements noted by the Auditor in both the 2023–24 and 2024–25 audits.

The audits conducted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) for 2023–24 and 2024–25 demonstrate substantial improvement in WBACC’s financial management, governance, and reporting accuracy. The 2024–25 audit resulted in recognition of major progress since the significant findings first raised in 2022–23. Two moderate issues remain open — one governance-related and one concerning internal control — both expected to be fully resolved during the 2025–26 audit cycle.

2. Summary of Audit Findings (2023–24 vs 2024–25)

| Area | 2023–24 Findings | 2024–25 Findings | Status / Progress |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Audit Opinion | Unmodified opinion issued; some immaterial unadjusted differences. | Unmodified opinion issued; no audit differences. | Improved |
| Governance Arrangements | Category B (moderate) – policy gaps, limited Board/Audit Committee oversight. | Category B (moderate) – policies finalised, SharePoint access; Audit Committee reconvened (Nov 2025). | Improving |
| Financial Statement Preparation | Category B – errors in provisions, disclosures, and manual journals. | Category C (downgraded) – only manual-journal segregation of duties remains outstanding. | Improved |

3. Deficiencies in Governance Arrangements (Category B – Moderate)

The ANAO’s audits identified governance deficiencies relating to procurement, policy implementation, record-keeping, and Audit Committee operation. Originally rated as significant (A-category) in 2022–23, these issues were downgraded to moderate (B-category) during the interim audit in 2023-24 following implementation of WBACC’s Governance and Policy Improvement Program. The Board and management have worked collaboratively to finalise policy frameworks, improve transparency, and reinstate structured oversight.

| ANAO Observation | Corrective Action | Status (Nov 2025) | Target |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Audit Committee not meeting regularly / quorum issues | Charter amended (Sep 2025) to allow an independent member where community vacancies exist; annual workplan approved; first meeting held Nov 2025. | In progress – committee now operational, quarterly cycle established for 2025-2026 | Quarterly meetings through 2026 |
| Embed policy compliance and staff training | SharePoint policy portal launched; staff training completed Oct 2024; annual policy review cycle established. | Ongoing | Continuous |

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------|---|
| Procurement documentation / value-for-money evidence | Procurement Policy approved May 2024; tender and sole-source documentation maintained; contract register established. | Implemented | — |
| Conflict-of-interest and related-party registers | Annual declarations by Board and senior staff; register reviewed at each Board meeting. | Implemented | — |

4. Financial Statements Preparation Process (Category C – Downgraded from B)

The ANAO noted significant improvement in 2024–25, with nearly all prior-year issues resolved. The only remaining matter concerns segregation of duties for manual journal entries. WBACC has introduced compensating controls and is implementing system-based authorisation for additional assurance.

| ANAO Observation | Corrective Action | Status (Nov 2025) | Target |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| Lack of segregation for manual journals (MYOB – accounting software) | Monthly Chief Financial Officer (CFO) review implemented; manual journal register signed by CFO and CEO; evaluating MYOB dual-approval feature. | In progress | System configuration by Dec 2025; full process embedded during the 2025–26 audit cycle |
| Prior-year Key Management Personnel and asset classification errors | Corrected and verified in 2024–25; no audit differences were identified. | Resolved | — |

5. Overall Progress and Next Steps

Across two audit cycles, WBACC has achieved an unmodified audit opinion, cleared all prior misstatements, and significantly strengthened its governance and control environment. The remaining actions are procedural and relate to the continuing maturity of systems and oversight processes:

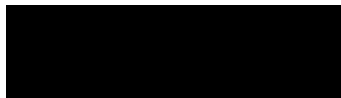
- Maintain quarterly Audit Committee meetings throughout 2026.
- Implement automated journal-segregation control within MYOB.

Both are scheduled for completion by mid-2026.

6. Conclusion

WBACC thanks the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit for its continued oversight and guidance. The Council remains committed to full transparency, effective governance, and timely, accurate financial reporting.

Yours sincerely,



Tamara Mitchell

Chief Executive Officer

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council