



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

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GOVERNMENT OF NIUE (GON) RESPONSE TO AUDITOR-GENERAL'S INTERIM REPORT

Auditor-General has provided his interim report on the status of the audits of the Government of Niue

Alofi, Niue – 22 February 2023 – The Auditor-General's interim report on the status of the audits of the Government of Niue (the Government) and specified entities was today tabled in the Assembly.

During a challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government, working with officials, Deloitte, and advisors on a working group basis have been extensively engaged on completion of the financial statements up to 30 June 2021, with oversight from Audit New Zealand, and the Auditor-General. As noted in the Auditor-General's interim report this work is very close to completion.

As noted in the interim report, the Auditor-General John Ryan stated, "This significant progress has been achieved during a period of challenges that my auditors, the Government and those assisting (Deloitte) have faced during the last year. These challenges include the continuing pandemic, associated travel restrictions and auditor shortages. The substantial progress we have made has been because of a genuine and continuing commitment to bringing the financial statements of the Government and subsidiaries up to date from all those involved."

The progress reflected in the Auditor-General's interim report, and completion of the audit are significant steps in bringing the Government of Niue's financial systems and reporting up to date. Focus will now be on the next phase of the project, which is to review and upgrade the Government's financial management and reporting systems. This is to address the types of issues which have arisen in prior years, so that the Government and the Assembly will have sound and fit-for-purpose financial reporting, and up-to-date Government accounts.

Acting Premier Hon Crossley Tatui welcomed the interim report. "The report from the Auditor-General is well received by the Government. A tremendous amount of work has been done by officials, advisors, Audit New Zealand and the Office of the Auditor General, which the Government appreciates. The Government now looks forward to advancing the next stage of the project for more timely accounts and reporting."

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