
Appendix two – About the audit

Audit objective

This audit assessed the effectiveness of Cyber Security NSW's arrangements in contributing to the NSW Government's commitments under the NSW Cyber Security Strategy, in particular, increasing the NSW Government's cyber resiliency.

Audit criteria

We addressed the audit objective with the following audit criteria:

1. Are internal planning and governance processes in place to support Cyber Security NSW meet its objectives?
2. Are Cyber Security NSW's roles and responsibilities defined and understood across the public sector?

Audit scope and focus

This audit focused on the internal effectiveness of CS NSW processes. CS NSW is a relatively new functional area with a large scope of responsibilities. As such, the audit focused on examining whether it had established the necessary planning and governance processes to enable it to meet its objectives, and whether it had established a clear role in the sector.

Audit exclusions

The audit did not assess:

- specific cyber security threats, or the effectiveness of the response by CS NSW to those threats.
- agency vulnerabilities or the adequacy of existing or planned safeguards (for example through penetration testing).
- the achievement of intended outcomes by Cyber Security NSW. Instead, the focus of the audit was on whether intended outcomes are clearly established, and whether CS NSW has the roles, responsibilities, and governance arrangements (including frameworks and processes for planning, resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, and performance management) reasonably necessary to demonstrate credibly that it will be able to achieve those outcomes.

Audit approach

Our procedures included:

1. interviewing:
 - key staff from the Department of Customer Service and Cyber Security NSW
 - NSW public sector stakeholders, including those who had participated in various committees or other forums led or coordinated by Cyber Security NSW, such as the:
 - Cyber Security Senior Officers' Group
 - Cyber Security Steering Group
 - a sample of local councils across NSW
 - cyber security experts.
2. examining relevant data and documentation, including policies, strategies, plans, meeting minutes, reviews, and activity and performance reports.

The audit approach was complemented by quality assurance processes within the Audit Office to ensure compliance with professional standards.

Audit methodology

Our performance audit methodology is designed to satisfy Australian Audit Standard ASAE 3500 Performance Engagements and other professional standards. The standards require the audit team to comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance and draw a conclusion on the audit objective. Our processes have also been designed to comply with requirements specified in the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and assistance provided by the Department of Customer Service and Cyber Security NSW.

In particular, we wish to thank our liaison officers, and the staff who participated in audit interviews and provided materials relevant to the audit. We also gratefully acknowledge the range of government and non-government stakeholders who participated in interviews or provided information to the audit.

Audit cost

Including staff costs and overheads, the estimated cost of the audit is \$420,000.