



Summary

Central government: Results of the 2017/18 audits

This report summarises our audit of the *Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand for the year ended 30 June 2018* (the Government's financial statements) and of carrying out the Controller function.

The Government's financial statements are important for New Zealanders and New Zealand. They tell a story about what the Government is doing with the money it earns and borrows to deliver the services and investments that support us as individuals and as a nation. Behind the numbers are the things that make a difference in all our lives – hospitals, schools, the highways we drive on, and the taxes we pay.

The Government's financial statements consolidate the many and varied organisations associated with central government. These include government departments, State enterprises, Crown entities (including schools, Crown research institutes, and district health boards), Crown and mixed-ownership model companies, Offices of Parliament, organisations listed in Schedules 4 and 4A of the Public Finance Act 1989, the New Zealand

Superannuation Fund, and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand. We audit each of these organisations each year, which informs our work on the Government's financial statements.

This year, we have issued an unmodified audit opinion on the Government's financial statements. In short, that means that we can assure Parliament that they fairly reflect the Government's financial performance and position.

This is the third year in which we have included key audit matters in our audit report. Key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgement, are of most significance in the audit of the financial statements.

The key audit matters for 2017/18 were:

- recognising tax revenue;
- valuing property, plant, and equipment;
- valuing insurance and superannuation liabilities;
- valuing financial assets and liabilities; and
- entitlements under the Holidays Act 2003.

For the full report visit oag.govt.nz/reports.

