

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

403. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the report *Information systems audit: State government 2021–22*, in which the Auditor General says —

Concerningly, and similar to last year, half of the audit findings (282) were unresolved issues from 2020–21. At 13 entities, control weaknesses were so pervasive they resulted in qualified audit opinions—a serious matter—due to weak system access management, and network security controls. These findings, if not addressed, could result in data breaches, system outages and financial loss to the State and its citizens.

- (1) Has the Premier been briefed about the Auditor General's 566 general computer control findings to 61 entities for the last financial year?
- (2) Given the seriousness of the findings, has the Premier directed that urgent action be undertaken?
- (3) Will the Premier undertake to provide Parliament with monthly updates until the Auditor General's 10 recommendations have been implemented?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The WA government takes these risks seriously and has implemented several initiatives to increase the level of cybersecurity maturity across the WA public sector. The Auditor General's report acknowledges the hard work being done by staff and leaders across the state government to mitigate these risks. The report found that risk management, which importantly reduces the likelihood and impact of negative events, reached its highest level of compliance on record at 87 per cent. This is double what it was under the former Liberal–National government, when compliance was only 44 per cent in 2012. Under the former Liberal–National government, more than 60 per cent of entities failed to meet IT and cybersecurity benchmarks. This year, 66 per cent of entities met information security framework benchmarks. This is the highest level of compliance on record.