



## **INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**To the Minister for Education, Science and Training**

### **Matters relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements**

This audit report relates to the financial Statements of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board for the year ended 30 June 2004 included on the Board's web site. The Directors of the Board are responsible for the integrity of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board's web site.

The audit report refers only to the statements named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the audited financial statements.

If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements to confirm the information included in the audited financial statements presented on this web site.

### **Scope**

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Directors;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board for the year ended 30 June 2004.

The Directors of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

### **Audit approach**

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Procedures were performed to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Board's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the Statements of Financial Performance and Cash Flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors.

### **Independence**

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### **Audit Opinion**

In accordance with subsection 19(1) of the *Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act 1970*, I now report that the financial statements are in agreement with the accounts and records of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board, and in my opinion:

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and records;
- (ii) the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board as at 30 June 2004, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended;
- (iii) the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets, by the Board during the year have been in accordance with the *Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act 1970*; and
- (iv) the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

Australian National Audit Office



P Hinchey  
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Sydney  
15 November 2004