

Disclaimer: This is guidance material only and does not replace reading the legislation. For further information refer to the legislation and please check the website for updates and other information.

GSF Act basics of what, why and who

At a glance

- The GSF Act consolidates and replaces four financial management Acts in NSW dating from the 1980's.
- The GSF Act affects all NSW Government agencies, Ministers, Secretaries, agency heads, officers and employees.
- The GSF Act is proposed to commence in stages from 1 December 2018 and 1 July 2019 with the reporting arrangements commencing progressively over three years to 2020-21.

Which Acts have been replaced?

The GSF Act consolidates and replaces financial management provisions in four Acts:

- the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PFA Act)
- the *Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987* (the PAFA Act)
- the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*
- the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*

The PFA Act will be amended by removing provisions not related to public sector audit requirements and the Public Accounts Committee, and will be renamed the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* (the GSA Act). The GSA Act will be a separate, standalone Act that contains legislative provisions (i) empowering the Auditor-General, Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee, and (ii) addressing the audit of public sector entities. The other three Acts listed above will be repealed and replaced by the GSF Act.

Why were these Acts replaced?

The GSF Act simplifies and reforms the State's financial management legislation to support a new financial management framework for the State's government sector. It is focused on strengthening performance, accountability and transparency in the government sector and maximising the State's ability to realise its balance sheet potential.

The GSF Act also clarifies the responsibilities and powers of those who have a role in managing the State's finances – including the Treasurer, Ministers, accountable authorities and government officers. It facilitates the provision of more meaningful information to those making decisions on resource allocation and will improve the quality of information reported to Parliament, Ministers, the community and other stakeholders.

Who is affected?

The GSF Act affects all NSW Government entities and agencies, Ministers, Departmental Secretaries, agency

Need more information?

More detailed information about the GSF Act is available from Treasury's website at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au or email Treasury's legislation team at Legislation@treasury.nsw.gov.au