

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Corporation's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Corporation (the Corporation). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Rehan Badar, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Corporation on his behalf.

We have audited the financial statements of the Corporation on pages 4 to 16, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Qualified opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the *Basis for our qualified opinion section* of our report, the financial statements of the Corporation have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Our audit was completed late

Our audit was completed on 1 July 2024. This is the date at which our qualified opinion is expressed. We acknowledge that our audit was completed later than required by section 20 of the Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Act 1996. This was due to an auditor shortage in New Zealand and the consequential effects of Covid-19, including lockdowns.

The basis for our qualified opinion is explained below, and we draw attention to other matters. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Basis for our qualified opinion

The scope of our audit was limited because we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence for the matters described below to determine whether they were completely and properly recorded and disclosed. There were no satisfactory audit procedures that we could adopt to determine the effect of these limitations in scope.

Our work over property, plant and equipment and the associated depreciation expense and losses on disposal was limited

The Corporation did not maintain adequate systems and controls, nor provide all supporting documentation for recording property, plant and equipment. Therefore, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were needed to property, plant and equipment of \$701,555

and the associated depreciation of property, plant and equipment expense of \$78,738 and losses on disposals of \$49,822 (as set out in note 8).

Our work over deferred tax asset, income tax credit, unrecognised tax losses and Niue Consumption Tax (NCT) payable was limited

The Corporation has not filed income tax returns since 2012 and did not register for NCT until 11 May 2022. It also did not maintain adequate systems, and controls, nor provide all supporting documentation for income tax and NCT. Therefore, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were needed to the deferred tax asset of \$17,185, income tax credit of \$17,185, unrecognised tax losses disclosed in note 10 of nil and NCT payable of \$707,278 (as set out in note 14).

Our work over inventory, inventory adjustment and cost of goods sold was limited

Due to restrictions on travel as a result of Covid-19, we were unable to attend the inventory stocktake as at 30 June 2021. While we were able to attend the inventory stocktake as at 30 June 2022, subsequent to this, the Corporation identified inventory that was not counted at the stocktake. The Corporation recorded an adjustment of \$34,987 for this inventory. The Corporation did not maintain adequate systems, and controls, nor provide documentation to support this adjustment. Therefore, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were needed to the reported inventory balances of \$62,608, nor the associated cost of goods sold of \$5,050 and the inventory adjustment of \$34,987 (as set out in note 8).

Our work over personnel expenses was limited

Our work over employee entitlements, presented as comparative information, was limited. While we obtained sufficient assurance over employee entitlements as at 30 June 2022, any misstatement of the carrying value of employee entitlements as at 30 June 2021 would consequently affect personnel expenses for the year ended 30 June 2022 of \$190,590.

As a result, we are unable to obtain sufficient audit assurance to support personnel expenses for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Our work over the comparative information was limited as we expressed a disclaimer of opinion in the prior period

We draw your attention to the fact we expressed a disclaimer of opinion on the 30 June 2021 financial statements.

In the prior year, a significant amount of the Corporation's financial records had been lost or damaged, and insufficient records had been maintained in some cases. Information was also not provided to us upon request due to key staff being away. As a consequence, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence for many transactions and balances recorded in the financial statements. This issue was pervasive to the financial statements, and it was therefore not practicable for us to specify each financial statement line item affected. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means.

Our opinion on the current period's financial statements is qualified because of the possible effects of these matters on the comparability of the current period's figures and the comparative information.

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of matters

Without further modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the following disclosures:

Failure to comply with tax laws

Note 21.2 on page 16 explains the Corporation has not complied with tax laws in relation to income tax, and NCT. The failure to comply with these laws exposes the Corporation to penalties under the relevant tax legislation.

Comparative financial statements were prepared for a multi-year period

The footnote to the statement of financial performance outlines that the comparative period was a multi-year period, with one set of financial statements compiled for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021. As a result, the financial performance and cash flows for the comparative period are not directly comparable with those for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Other legal requirements

In accordance with the Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Act 1996 (the Act) we report that, in our opinion:

- except for the matters described in the *Basis for our qualified opinion* section of the report proper accounting records have been kept by the Corporation, as far as appears from an examination of those records; and
- the financial statements comply with applicable regulations made under the Act.

Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements

The Board is responsible on behalf of the Corporation for preparing financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Board is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements the Board is responsible on behalf of the Corporation for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Corporation, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board's responsibilities arise from the Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Act 1996 and Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Amendment Act 2021.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board of Directors and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the information we audited or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from Article 60 of the Constitution of Niue 1974.

Other information

The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 3, but does not include the financial statements, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in the Corporation.



Rehan Badar
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand