

APPENDIX A

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the agencies listed in Appendix D and we considered their views when reaching our review findings. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to those agencies and asked for their submissions and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the agency head. Agencies attested that their survey responses were accurate and complete as at 31 March 2022.

We received the following responses:

DELWP	15
DET	16
DJCS	17
DJPR	18
DoT	19
DPC	20



Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia
delwp.vic.gov.au

Ref: SEC015614



Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

**PROPOSED LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW REPORT - RESPONSES TO PERFORMANCE
ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2022 enclosing the proposed report for the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) *Limited Assurance Review: Responses to performance engagement recommendations* and inviting a submission from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for inclusion in the final report.

DELWP appreciates the work of your office in conducting this review and is committed to working with VAGO to address risks identified through performance audits.

DELWP has a large and diverse portfolio which brings together Victoria's climate change, energy, environment, water, forest, planning and emergency management functions into a single department. It is noted that VAGO made 123 recommendations to DELWP over the July 2018 to December 2021 reporting period. This is a significantly higher number of recommendations compared to the other eight government departments. DELWP has 40% more review recommendations than the department with the next highest number of review recommendations. DELWP also estimates that it was involved in 64% more performance audit engagements in the reporting period than any other department. While the proposed report includes useful data it is important to reflect the scale and complexity of activity in reporting the performance of departments. This would provide for a more balanced perspective when reporting upon completion rates and median time to complete audit actions.

DELWP has a strong audit and assurance program in place to support audit delivery and timely implementation of recommendations. While DELWP acknowledges that the department has a comparatively high median completion time of 14 months, it also notes that this completion time does not consider the complexity of actions, nor whether they are completed within nominated target dates. The department continues to actively monitor the implementation of actions in progress to address VAGO's recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Should you require any further information, please contact Kirsty Douglas, Executive Director, Legal and Governance, DELWP, at Kirsty.Douglas@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

John Bradley
Secretary

17 / 06 / 2022

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorized by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to foi.unit@delwp.vic.gov.au or FOI Unit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002.



OFFICIAL-Sensitive



Department of
Education and Training

Office of the Secretary

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9637 2000
DX210083

BRI22102633

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Proposed report for the Limited assurance review: Responses to performance engagement recommendations

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2022, and the opportunity to comment on the proposed report for this limited assurance review.

The department is committed to continuous improvement and welcomes the Victorian Auditor-General's Office audits and reviews. The department has reviewed the report and has no feedback.

Should you wish to discuss the department's response, please contact Bella Stagoll, Executive Director, Integrity, Assurance and Executive Services on (03) 7022 0120 or bella.stagoll@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Atta
Secretary
16 / 06 / 2022

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1973 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address.





Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

Level 26
121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: (03) 8684 0501
justice.vic.gov.au
DX: 210077

Mr Andrew Greaves
Victorian Auditor-General
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2022, the proposed report on *Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Update* for audits undertaken from July 2015 to December 2021 and the opportunity to respond.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department) supports the transparency and accountability of the review to monitor and report on how agencies are addressing audit findings.

I note that some of the department's actions are overdue. While this is predominantly due to the priority that needed to be afforded to the management of the impacts of COVID-19 over the last 18 months, I have reiterated to my senior executives the need to consider progress on these recommendations, which are all due for completion by June 2023.

Accordingly, the department will continue to monitor and progress the implementation of these actions as soon as practicable.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Fiona Dowsley, Associate Deputy Secretary, Corporate Governance and Support on 0418 334 971 or via email fiona.dowsley@crimestatistics.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Falkingham
Secretary

17/06/2022



OFFICIAL



Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Ref: BSEC-2-22-22238

GPO Box 4509
Melbourne,
Victoria 3001 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9651 9999
DX 210074

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General of Victoria
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

VAGO's proposed report: Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2022, providing the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) with an opportunity to respond to the proposed report for the Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations assurance review. It is pleasing to note that the department has one of the highest completion rates (74 per cent) for unresolved performance engagement recommendations from reports tabled between July 2018 and December 2021.

The report noted that it took the department 43 months to complete Recommendation 2 from the Local Government Insurance Risks audit report. The development of guidance on risk management for local government has been subject to the resolution of the future of the Liability Mutual Insurance Scheme. This remains under consideration by government in terms of a new prudential framework and legislation. The department noted that the recommendation has been completed as the resolution is not within the control of the department, and that it poses no risk to the department in the short term.

If you require further information, please contact Kim McGinnes, Executive Director Corporate Strategy, DJPR on 0434992455 or kim.mcginnes@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Penelope McKay
Acting Secretary

19/06/2022



OFFICIAL



Department of Transport

GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9651 9999
www.transport.vic.gov.au
DX 210074

Ref: BSEC-1-22-12093R
File:

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General of Victoria
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Victorian Auditor-General's Office - Proposed Report - Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Update

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2022 and for providing the Department of Transport (the Department) with an opportunity to respond to the proposed limited assurance review report titled "Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Update".

The Department appreciates the opportunity to participate in this limited assurance review and acknowledges the importance of providing Parliament and the public with information about the extent to which public entities, including the Department, are responding to and monitoring action against performance audit recommendations. The Department does not have any further comments to provide on the proposed report.

The Department is committed to the timely monitoring and closeout of VAGO recommendations and notes its leading performance in completing recommendations allocated to the Department.

Yours sincerely



Paul Tooms
Secretary
Department of Transport

15 June 2022





Department of
Premier and Cabinet

1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia
Telephone: 03 9651 5111
dpc.vic.gov.au

BSEC-220600281

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the proposed Limited Assurance Review: *Responses to performance engagement recommendations: Annual Status Update*.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this review and acknowledge the importance in providing Parliament and the public with information about the extent to which public entities are responding to and monitoring actions against performance audit recommendations.

The Department has reviewed the proposed report and has no specific feedback or comment.

If you require further information, please contact Kait McCann, Acting Director Corporate Governance, at kait.mccann@dpc.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Jeremi Moule
Secretary

20 / 06 / 2022

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1973 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address.

