

Appendix A:

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the Victorian Building Authority and the Department of Transport and Planning, and we considered their views when reaching our review conclusions. 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.

Responses received

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Victorian Building Authority	A-2
Department of Transport and Planning	A-4



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12 October 2023

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

Dear Mr Greaves

DOMESTIC BUILDING OVERSIGHT PART 1: REGULATION

Thank you for your letter attaching the *Proposed Performance Engagement Report: Domestic Building Oversight Part 1: Regulation*, and providing the VBA with the opportunity to respond.

I was pleased to note the conclusion that the VBA has made good progress in addressing the recommendations from the reviews considered in the report, given that the VBA only received some of the recommendations as recently as May 2023. We are conscious that there is still more work to do, and we are committed to implementing the recommendations from the various reviews so that the VBA continues to improve as a trusted regulator.

I note that the VBA's 2021/22 Annual Report outlined progress against the Minister's Statement of Expectations throughout the report, rather than in a single place. We felt that this was in keeping with the overall form of the Annual Report, which was structured around the pillars in the VBA's Strategic Plan. As you have noted, the VBA will be including a specific table on the Statement of Expectations in its 2022/23 Annual Report.

The VBA accepts in principle the report's single recommendation to set up a system to consistently monitor its progress against all targets and recommendations to improve its performance. As noted in the report, currently the VBA separately monitors and reports to the VBA Board on progress against the targets and recommendations via the relevant Board committees. The Board has asked management to create a consolidated report, which will be considered by the Board at appropriate intervals.

Yours sincerely



Justin Madden AM
Interim Chief Commissioner

Response provided by the Interim Chief Commissioner, VBA – continued

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Victorian Building Authority action plan to address the recommendation from *Domestic Building Oversight Part 1: Regulation*

No.	VAGO recommendation	Acceptance	Agreed management actions	Target completion date
1	<p>Set up a system to monitor its progress against all targets and recommendations that aim to improve its performance.</p> <p>The Victorian Building Authority should use this system to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor its progress against each target and recommendation • identify and address risks specific to each target and recommendation • regularly report its progress against all targets and recommendations to its board • regularly report its progress against all targets to the public, as the government requires. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In principle	<p>VBA management will prepare a consolidated report on progress against the targets and recommendations, for consideration by the Board at appropriate intervals. The consolidated report is to be based on the separate reports currently reviewed by the relevant Board Committees.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Transport and Planning



Department of Transport and Planning

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Ref: BSEC-1-23-4332

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 - Domestic Building Oversight Part 1: Regulation - Proposed report

Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2023 enclosing the proposed report *Domestic Building Oversight Part 1: Regulation*.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) acknowledges the conclusion of the Report that the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has started to address recommendations from recent reviews with the aim of becoming a better regulator.

The Department notes the recommendation raised by your office for the VBA to consistently monitor and report its progress against all targets and recommendations to improve its performance.

DTP recognises the important role that the VBA plays in regulating Victoria's building and plumbing industries, ensuring safe and sustainable places and communities. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report.

Yours sincerely



Paul Younis
Secretary
Department of Transport and Planning

10 October 2023

