

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.

Responses received

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Department of Education	A-2
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Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	A-5
Department of Transport and Planning	A-6
Gannawarra Shire Council	A-7



Department of Education

Secretary

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone +61 3 9637 2000

BRI23124657

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General
Victorian Auditor General's Office

Dear Mr Greaves

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

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2023, and the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed report for this limited assurance review.

The department is committed to continuous improvement and welcomes your audits and reviews. The department has reviewed the proposed report and has no comments.

Should you wish to discuss the department's response, please contact Shamiso Mtenje, A/Executive Director, Integrity, Assurance and Executive Services on [REDACTED] or by email on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Jenny Atta
Secretary
15/08/2023

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 Energy, Environment
and Climate Action

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia

SEC-230800019

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: Annual Status Update 2023**

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 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 Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for inclusion in the final report.

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

DEECA has a strong audit and assurance program in place to support audit delivery and timely implementation of recommendations. Through this limited assurance review, you requested a progress update on the status of unresolved recommendations as at 31 December 2022 and as at that date DEECA had completed and closed 105 of the 135 recommendations received from your office between July 2018 and June 2022.

In addition, I am pleased to report that DEECA has continued to prioritise and progress the implementation of recommendations. As of the date of this response, an additional nine recommendations have been closed, bringing the current total number of recommendations closed to 114. While this report includes useful data, it is important to reflect the scale and complexity of activity in reporting the performance of the departments. This would provide a more balanced perspective when reporting upon completion rates.

DEECA brings together Victoria's climate change, energy, environment, agriculture, resources, water, forest and emergency management functions into a single department. DEECA has a large and diverse portfolio and was involved in more engagements with your office in the four years covered by this review than any other government department. This is reflected in the number of recommendations being addressed by DEECA.



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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. Should you require any further information, please contact Bronwyn Clarke, Acting Executive Director, Strategy and Performance, DEECA, at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
John Bradley
Secretary

14/08/2023

OFFICIAL



Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

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

Ref: BSEC-2-23-32580

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

Dear Andrew

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

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2023 providing the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (the department) with an opportunity to provide feedback to the Proposed Limited Assurance Review Report: Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations.

It is pleasing to note that the department has one of the highest completion rates (more than 90 per cent) for performance audit engagement recommendations from reports tabled between July 2018 to June 2022.

If you require further information, please contact Karan Gill, Chief Audit Officer of the department at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Tim Ada
Secretary

Date: 14/08/2023





Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia

Ref: BSEC-1-23-3165

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 - Responses to Performance Engagement
Recommendations: Annual Status Update - Proposed Report**

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2023 and for providing the Department of Transport and Planning (the Department) with an opportunity to respond to the proposed limited assurance review report titled *Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Report 2023*.

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 has no further comments on the proposed report.

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

Yours sincerely


Paul Younis
Secretary
Department of Transport and Planning

Date: 7 August 2023





Our Ref: 3.000168
IN23/940634B
CG:DB

2 August 2023

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor General
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
c/- [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Greaves

Proposed Report - Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations

The Gannawarra Shire Council would like to thank the Auditor General for the Audit Report which supports our endeavours to provide better services for our community. We have completed and submitted our action plan and comments, which we understand will be attached with the parliamentary report.

Council is committed to providing an affordable and reasonable level of service to meet the community's expectation of our extensive road network. Whilst our Council has made excellent progress in addressing the performance engagement recommendations, we understand that closing the identified gaps via implementation of enhanced technology solutions and system integrations is still a major challenge for many rural and regional Councils across the Victorian sector.

Council was pleased to contribute input into this important audit and equally provide context of the importance and challenges of road maintenance from a small rural council perspective.

Yours sincerely



Cr Charlie Gillingham
MAYOR



Geoff Rollinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER