

# Appendix A:

## Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the Department of Government Services and the agencies named in this report. We considered their views when finalising our analysis in this report. 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.

We also provided a copy of the report to the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Premier and Cabinet for their information.

### Responses received

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Department of Government Services	A-2



## Department of Government Services

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

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Auditor-General

### RESULTS OF 2023-24 AUDITS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSED REPORT

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2025 providing the department with a copy of the proposed report titled *Results of 2023-24 Audits: Local Government*.

It is pleasing that overall, councils' financial reports and performance statements are reliable.

I note the seven recommendations in the report. The Department of Government Services accepts the two recommendations addressed to Local Government Victoria (LGV).

My department will write to all Victorian councils to formally advise and remind them of their annual reporting obligations. This action is undertaken annually, however, the failure of 18 councils to meet the legislated timelines highlights that this may require additional attention. For completeness, my department will also ensure that alleged breaches are reported to the Local Government Inspectorate; the body responsible for investigating breaches of the local government legislation.

During 2024 DGS held a number of technical working groups aimed at refining and improving the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. The result of this work is shaping the appropriateness of the performance indicators included in both the performance statement and report of operations within council annual reports.

With regard to prior recommendations, enhancements to the structure and layout of the local government model performance statement are complete. DGS has also commenced work with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to develop tailored resources to support councillors and audit and risk committee members throughout their term of appointment.

If your office requires further information, please contact [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

**Jo de Morton**  
Secretary

28/03/2025

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.

