

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 relevant 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 2024–25 AUDITS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSED REPORT

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2026 providing the department with a copy of the proposed report titled *Results of 2024–25 Audits: Local Government*.

It is reassuring to know that all council audits are complete and that users can rely on councils' financial reports and performance statements.

I note the 2 new recommendations in the report. The Department of Government Services accepts the recommendation addressed to Local Government Victoria (LGV).

My department will write to all councils to remind them of their annual reporting obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*. LGV currently provides extensive sector guidance aimed at strengthening council understanding of legislative and reporting requirements and will consider how best to target awareness of this material to key stakeholders. LGV continues to monitor councils' compliance with annual reporting requirements, including referring matters to the Local Government Inspectorate when warranted. LGV will also continue to work with your office to understand the reasons for non-compliance with annual reporting deadlines and support councils to develop appropriate remediation plans.

I also note the recommendations from prior reports that remain relevant. I can confirm that LGV is working with the Municipal Association of Victoria to complete tailored resources to support councillors and audit and risk committee members throughout their term of appointment. This guidance is expected to be available in the second half of 2026.

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

Yours sincerely

Jo de Morton
Secretary

13/03/2026

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.

