

APPENDIX A

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the entities named in this report, and we considered their views when reaching our audit 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.

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 were received as follows:

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions 20



Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Ref: BSEC-2-21-17416

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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 – Results of 2020-21 Audits – Local Government

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2021, providing the department with a copy of the proposed report for Results of 2020-21 Audits – Local Government.

I note that unmodified audit opinions have been provided on all audits finalised as at 19 November. It is pleasing to know that Parliament and the community can use councils' financial and performance reports with confidence.

I welcome the report's findings that the financial position of the local government sector remained resilient despite the uncertain environment caused by the pandemic. It is reassuring that VAGO found performance reporting processes are maturing across the sector, and that the quality of financial reporting has also improved.

I note also that VAGO has not made any recommendations to the department in the report. We support the two recommendations made to councils. The department will share the report with all Victorian council Chief Executive Officers following its tabling in Parliament. The importance of addressing both recommendations will be reinforced.

If you require further information, please contact Justin Perkov, Director Audit & Assurance on 0491 614 371 or justin.x.perkov@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Simon Phemister
Secretary

29 / 11 / 2021



Results of 2020-21 Audits: Local Government
Feedback in response to proposed report

No.	Page Ref.	VAGO statement	DJPR comment
1	19	Recommendations That all councils: 1. prioritise and expedite resolution of prior period internal control issues and reporting deficiencies.	Agreed, this will be brought to the attention of all Councils.
2	19	Recommendations That all councils: 2. prioritise the resolution of IT control deficiencies that pose a risk to complete and accurate financial reporting, or the ability to achieve process objectives and comply with relevant legislation.	Agreed, this will be brought to the attention of all Councils.

DJPR feedback on proposed report – Results of 2021-21 Audits: Local Government (Nov 2021)