

VAGO Local Government sector monthly audit update — October 2021

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions performance audit update — October 2021

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Planned Performance Audit reports

DJPR

Overview	Proposed Tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: Supporting workers in transitioning industries Objective: To determine whether Victoria's education skills and training programs are successfully supporting workers in declining industries to transition to new employment. Link	2022–23	DET, DJPR, Federation University, The Gordon Institute and Kangan Institute
Audit: Clinical trials in public hospitals Objective: To determine whether the governance of clinical trials in public hospitals ensures patient safety. Link	2022–23	Alfred Health, DH, DJPR, Northern Health, and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Audit: Developing Fishermans Bend Objective: To determine whether planning and early development of Fishermans Bend supports the delivery of the development's objectives. Link	2022–23	City of Melbourne, DELWP, Development Victoria, DJPR and Port Phillip City Council
Audit: Implementing Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Objective: To determine the extent to which implementation of Plan Melbourne 2017–2050 is supporting productivity, sustainability and liveability. Link	2022–23	DELWP, DJPR, Maroondah City Council and Moonee Valley City Council
Audit: Use of contractors and consultants in the Victorian public service Objective: To determine whether Victorian state government agencies are achieving value for money in their use of contractors and consultants. <u>Link</u>	2022–23 Planned to start within three months	DELWP, DET, DFFH, DH, DJCS, DJPR, DoT, DPC, and DTF

Overview	Proposed Tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: Biosecurity of plants Objective: To determine whether actions to prevent, manage and respond to plant diseases and pests protect Victoria's economy, communities, and the environment Link	2023–24	DJPR (Agriculture Victoria)
Audit: Fraud and corruption control—Victorian Secretaries Board initiatives Objective: To determine whether the fraud and corruption controls initiated by the Victorian Secretaries Board are well designed and operating as intended. <u>Link</u>	2023–24	DELWP, DET, DFFH, DH, DJCS, DJPR, DoT, DPC, DTF and VPSC
Audit: Global Victoria Objective: To determine whether Global Victoria's initiatives are achieving intended economic benefits for the state and are compliant with relevant legislation. Link	2023–24	DJPR (Global Victoria)
Audit: Managing employee performance in the Victorian public service Objective: To determine whether management of employee performance and progression supports staff and public service capability <u>Link</u>	2023–24	DELWP, DET, DFFH, DH, DJCS, DJPR, DoT, DPC, DTF and VPSC
Audit: Managing the impact of deer Objective: To determine the extent to which invasive deer species are managed to protect biodiversity values. <u>Link</u>	2023–24	DELWP, DJPR, Game Management Authority and Parks Victoria

Local government

Overview	Proposed Tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: Regulation of council building approvals in local government Objective: To determine whether council regulation of building activity ensures that safety and amenity requirements are met and council assets are protected. <u>Link</u>	2022–23 Planned to start within three months	Manningham City Council, Monash City Council, Surf Coast Shire Council, Wangaratta Rural City Council and Wyndham City Council
Audit: Effectiveness of the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health program Objective: To determine whether the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health program leads to improved access, participation and outcomes for vulnerable children and their families. Link	2022–23 Planned to start within three months	 City of Casey, DH, Hobsons Bay City Council, Mildura Rural City Council, Municipal Association of Victoria, South Gippsland Shire Council and Yarra City Council
Audit: Fraud and corruption risk in local government procurement Objective: To determine whether fraud and corruption controls over local government procurement are well-designed and operate as intended. Link	2022–23 Planned to start within three months	Banyule City Council, Hepburn Shire Council, MAV, Mitchell Shire Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and Wodonga Regional City Council
Audit: Food safety regulation in local government Objective: To determine whether councils' administration of food safety regulation ensures legislative compliance and supports public health. Link	2023–24	DH and a selection of councils
Audit: Hazardous waste management Objective: To determine whether responsible agencies' control and regulation of hazardous waste has reduced inappropriate disposal. <u>Link</u>	2023–24	City of Maribyrnong, Hume City Council, DELWP, EPA, Sustainability Victoria and Work Safe Victoria

Ongoing Performance Audit reports

DJPR

Audit details	Agency(ies)	Team	Phase	Next planned milestone	Proposed tabling
Audit: Management of spending measures in response to the COVID-19 emergency Objective: To determine whether agency spending in response to COVID-19, including through the Treasurer's Advance, has been used for its stated purpose and complies with relevant laws and policies. Link	DTF, DELWP, DET, DH, DJCS, DJPR, DoT, DPC and Health Purchasing Victoria.	 EL – Sheraz Siddiqui Manager – Kelly Butler 	Reporting	Proposed ReportOctober 2021	October 2021

Audit details	Agency(ies)	Team	Phase	Next planned milestone	Proposed tabling
Assurance Review: Council waste management services Objective: To determine whether councils' waste management services provide value for money to their ratepayers. Link	Ballarat City Council, Bayside City Council, DELWP, Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group, Greater Dandenong City Council, Melbourne City Council, the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group and Sustainability Victoria.	 EL – Sheraz Siddiqui Manager – Rocco Rottura 	*This audit is now a limited assurance review.	 Proposed Report October/November 2021 	• December 2021
Audit: Business continuity during COVID-19 Objective: To determine whether agencies' business continuity arrangements enabled the continuation of essential public services during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Link	 Cenitex, DET, DELWP, DFFH, DH, DJPR, DJCS, DPC, DoT, DTF and Victoria Police. 	 EL – Trang Ho Manager – Natasha Goss 	Risk Response	Provisional ReportNovember 2021	• February 2022

Local government

Audit details	Agency(ies)	Team	Phase	Next planned milestone	Proposed tabling
Audit: Fraud control over local government grants Objective: To determine whether fraud and corruption controls over local government grants are well designed and operating as intended. Link	Hume City Council, Loddon Shire Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Warrnambool City Council and West Wimmera Shire Council.	 EL – Sheraz Siddiqui Manager – Gina Mancuso 	Risk Response	 End of Conduct Brief January 2022 	• April 2022
Audit: Offsetting native vegetation loss on private land Objective: To determine whether government is achieving its policy objective of no net loss to biodiversity as a result of permitted clearing on private land. Link	Baw Baw Shire Council, Campaspe Shire Council, DELWP, Nillumbik Shire Council, Trust for Nature and Yarra Ranges Council.	 EL – Dallas Mischkulnig Manager – Elsie Alcordo 	 Planning 	Final audit strategyOctober 2021	• May 2022

Performance Audit reports Tabled in the last six months

DJPR

Overview	Tabled	Agency(ies)
Assurance Review: Major Projects Performance Focus: to assess whether public sector reporting of major capital projects contains relevant and sufficient information to enable parliament to understand project performance against approved scope, cost, time and benefit expectations. Link	• September 2021	 Primary auditees: DTF and OPV Other auditees: DJPR, DELWP, DoT, VicTrack, MTIA, SRLA, DJCS, CSV, Melbourne Olympic Parks Trust, Geelong Performing Arts Trust, Development Victoria, South East Water, Melbourne Water, Barwon Water, Goulburn Murray Water, Yarra Valley Water, City West Water, DET, DH, and DFFH
Assurance Review: Managing Conflicts of Interest in Procurement Focus: this assurance review will focus on the Department of Jobs, Precinct and Region's procurement of security services for the government's Hotel Quarantine Program and whether this engagement was conducted in accordance with probity principles. Link	• September 2021	• DJPR
Audit: Major infrastructure program delivery capability Objective: To determine whether relevant public sector agencies have strategically planned the material and human resources needed to deliver major infrastructure programs. Link	• August 2021	DTF (including Office of Projects Victoria, Gateway and High Value Risk units), DoT and DJPR.

Assurance Review: Responses to performance audit recommendations 2015-16 to 2019-20

Focus: This assurance review focuses on agencies' responses to performance audit recommendations, including agencies that were subject to performance audit recommendations 2018–19 and 2019–20, and agencies that reported outstanding recommendations from 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18. This review will assess whether agencies can demonstrate that actions taken directly address the recommendations and are implemented in a timely manner.

• June 2021 • Audited agencies from this period

Link

Audit: Measuring and reporting on service delivery

Objective: To determine whether the state's departmental service performance measurement framework and reporting promotes accountability and informed decision-making.

Link

• May 2021 • DTF, DELWP, DET, DH, DJCS, DJPR, DoT and DPC.

Other Integrity and Local Government Related Bodies

Local Government Reports

Reports prepared within the previous 6 months

Topic	Overview	Status	Completion Date
Victorian Ombudsman			
Investigation into allegations of collusion with property developers at Kingston City Council <u>Link</u>	The report details the Victorian Ombudsman's investigations into Kingston City Council's planning approval processes for the Patterson Lakes marina area following concerns from residents and allegations a senior planning officer and two former councillors had corrupt and improper dealings with property developers.	Completed	12 October 2021
The Ombudsman for Human Rights: A Casebook Link	The report details how the Victorian Ombudsman dealt with more than 3 000 complaints about human rights issues in the past year, prompting, in many cases, reversals of decisions, improved policies and other actions upholding the public's rights.	Completed	4 August 2021
Councils and complaints - a good practice guide 2nd edition <u>Link</u>	This updated guide provides advice on implementing new legislative requirements relating to complaints, using good practice complaint handling and building a positive culture around complaints.	Completed	22 July 2021
Investigation into Melton City Council's engagement of IT company, MK Datanet Pty Ltd <u>Link</u>	The Victorian Ombudsman investigation found that a well-paid council IT contract worker directed \$1.6 million of ratepayers' money into one of his own companies as lax oversight allowed him to manipulate processes. Following the investigation, the Ombudsman has recommended the issues be raised with Victoria Police and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.	Completed	9 June 2021
Investigation into how local councils respond to ratepayers in financial hardship Link	In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Victorian Ombudsman investigated how Victoria's 79 local councils are responding to ratepayers in financial hardship. The investigation focused on council hardship relief for homeowners (ratepayers who cannot pay rates on their primary residence).	Completed	5 May 2021

Reports currently in progress

Торіс	Overview	Status	Proposed Completion Date
Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruptio	n Commission		
Operation Sandon <u>Link</u>	IBAC held public hearings during 2019 and 2020 into allegations of serious corrupt conduct in relation to planning and property development decisions at the City of Casey council.	In Progress	To be advised

Active governance matters

Topic	Councils and timeline	Relevant Dates
Municipal Monitors <u>Link</u>	 Strathbogie Shire Council (<u>Link</u>) South Gippsland Shire Council (<u>Link</u>) 	Period of six months, commencing 14 September 2021. Undisclosed period following late October 2021 elections.
Long-term Government appointed administrators <u>Link</u>	 South Gippsland Shire Council (Link) Casey City Council (Link) Whittlesea City Council (Link) 	21 June 2019 until the upcoming election for the council in late October / November 2021 14 May 2020 to October 2024 19 June 2020 to October 2024

Interstate audit and integrity reports

Planned Reports

Overview	Proposed tabling	Agency(ies)
New South Wales		
Audit: Development assessment processes in local councils: assessment stage	• 2021-22	Selected local councils
Objective: This audit could assess the extent to which the 'assessment' stage at selected local councils aligns with relevant legislation and relevant guidance from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Independent Commission Against Corruption. <u>Link</u>		
Audit: Compliance review: Cybersecurity	• 2021-22	All NSW Government Departments and
Objective: In February 2019 the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation launched the NSW Cyber Security Policy to ensure all NSW Government Departments and Public Service Agencies are managing cyber security risks to their information and systems. The policy mandates a number of requirements that are a minimum that all agencies must implement. In addition, agencies must assess their level of cyber maturity. This audit will examine whether agencies are complying with the Policy. <u>Link</u>		Public Service Agencies
Audit: Effectiveness of financial management and governance in selected council(s)	• 2021-22	Selected local councils
Objective: This audit will consider one or more councils and examine how these principles are effectively applied in the councils' financial and asset management, funding decisions and risk management practices, and may examine how councils' expenditure and investment decisions have complied with the Act.		
<u>Link</u>		
Audit: The effectiveness of local government regulation and support	• 2021-22	Selected local councils
Objective: This audit may consider whether the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment effectively regulates, monitors and supports the local government sector in New South Wales. <u>Link</u>		

Overview	Proposed tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: Performance audit insights: Key findings from 2018–2021 Objective: This report will analyse the key findings and recommendations from performance audits tabled in the NSW Parliament between July 2018 and June 2021, spanning varied areas of government activity. The report will present common findings and lessons from the past three years of performance audits with particular focus on issues relating to the integrity and transparency of decision making and processes, as well as the fundamentals of good governance such as probity controls and record keeping. Link	• 2021-22	 All NSW Government Departments and Public Service Agencies audited between 2018 and 2021.
Audit: Local government 2021 Objective: This report will bring together findings and recommendations from NSWAO 2020–21 financial audits of local councils and will comment on financial reporting and performance, internal controls and governance, and areas of interest that are in focus during the conduct of our audits. Link	• 2021-22	All local councils
Queensland		
Audit: Improving asset management in local government Objective: This audit will examine whether councils are effectively managing their infrastructure assets to maximise service potential, while minimising the total cost of owning these assets. Link	• 2021-22	 Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Local councils
Audit: Maintaining strong and prosperous regions Objective: This audit will assess the Queensland Government's effectiveness in progressing the goals for strong and prosperous regions in its Queensland Plan. Link	• 2022-23	 Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs Selection of local councils
Audit: Managing Queensland's world heritage sites Objective: This audit will assess how effectively the state's tourism and environmental entities are managing Queensland's world heritage listed sites <u>Link</u>	• 2022-23	 Department of Environment and Science Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport Tourism and Events Queensland Local councils.

Overview	Proposed tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: Local government 2022 Objective: This audit will summarise the results of QAO's financial audits of the Queensland councils and the related entities they control that produced financial statements as at 30 June. <u>Link</u>	• 2022-23	All Local councils.
Audit: Water 2022 Objective: This audit will summarise financial audit results of state and local government owned water entities, and two controlled entities for 2020–21. Link	• 2022-23	 Seqwater SunWater Gladstone Area Water Board Mount Isa Water Board Queensland Urban Utilities Unitywater. Local Councils who own water entities
Tasmania		
Audit: Council general manager recruitment, appointment and performance assessment Objective: This audit will assess recruitment processes, contractual and remuneration arrangements and performance assessment for council general managers. <u>Link</u>	• 2021-22	A selection of local councils
Audit: Managing landfills Objective: This audit will examine whether the Environmental Protection Authority's current regulatory approach is appropriately administered, is being complied with and has been effective in providing assurance that landfills are not leading to adverse human health and environmental impacts, both currently and for future generations. Link	• 2021-22	 Environmental Protection Authority Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment Selected Councils and Joint Authorities

Overview	Proposed tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: Procurement in Local Government - Report 3	• 2021-22	A selection of local councils
Objective: This audit will assess whether procurement of goods and services by councils is being undertaken in accordance with the:		
Local Government Act 1993		
Local Government (General) Regulations 2015		
Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts		
Council's internal policies, procedures and manuals		
<u>Link</u>		
Audit: Private works undertaken by councils	• 2021-22	A selection of local councils
Objective: This audit will assess processes relating to private works undertaken by councils to employees. This will include management oversight and approval processes, determination of amounts to be charged and payment arrangements for work performed.		
<u>Link</u>		

Ongoing Reports

Overview	Proposed tabling	Agency(ies)
New South Wales		
Audit: Business and service continuity planning: Bega Valley Shire Council and Snowy Valleys Council Objective: This audit will examine the effectiveness of business and service continuity planning processes and implementation in a selection of local councils in preparing these organisations for recent emergency events. Link	October 2021	Bega Valley Shire CouncilSnowy Valleys Council
Queensland		
Audit: Local government 2021 Objective: This audit will summarise the results of QAO's financial audits of the Queensland councils and the related entities they control that produced financial statements as at 30 June. <u>Link</u>	• 2021-22	All local councils
Audit: Water 2021 Objective: This audit will summarise financial audit results of state and local government owned water entities, and two controlled entities for 2020–21. Link	• 2021-22	 Seqwater SunWater Gladstone Area Water Board Mount Isa Water Board Queensland Urban Utilities Unitywater. Local Councils who own water entities
Western Australia		
Audit: Safe and Viable cycling in the Perth and Peel region Objective: This audit will assess the effectiveness of LG entities in improving the Perth and Peel cycling network and follow-up recommendations from OAG's 2015 performance audit Safe and Viable Cycling in the Perth Metropolitan Area. Link	• 4 th Quarter of 2021	 Local government entities for Perth and Peel regions Department of Transport

Overview	Proposed tabling	Agency(ies)
Audit: State of Cyber security in local government entities Objective: This audit will determine if local government entities are effectively managing cyber security. Link	• 4 th Quarter of 2021	Sample of Local government entities
Tasmania		
Audit: Council general manager recruitment, appointment and performance assessment Objective: This audit will assess recruitment processes, contractual and remuneration arrangements and performance assessment for council general managers. Link	October 2021	A selection of local councilsHuon Valley Council
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO)		
Audit: Operation of Grants Hubs Objective: This audit will assess the design and implementation of the Streamlining Government Grants Administration (SGGA) Program in improving the effective and efficient delivery of grants administration. *This report will not include Local Councils, but its contents may directly apply to areas concerning Local Government operations.	November 2021	 Department of Finance Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Department of Social Services
<u>Link</u>		

Tabled Reports in the last three months

Overview	Tabled	Agency(ies)
Western Australia		
Audit: Local Government COVID-19 Financial Hardship Support This audit assessed if local government entities provided effective financial hardship support to assist ratepayers impacted by COVID-19 response measures. Link	• 15 October 2021	City of BelmontShire of NorthamptonCity of Rockingham.
Audit: Staff Exit Controls This audit assessed if the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; the Department of Finance and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries effectively and efficiently manage the exit of staff to minimise security, asset and financial risks. <u>Link</u>	• 5 August 2021	 Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Department of Finance Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
South Australia		
Audit: Examination of the Community Wastewater Management Systems Program This audit assessed the arrangements established by the Local Government Association of South Australia to manage the Community Wastewater Management Systems Program. <u>Link</u>	• August 2021	Local Government Association of South Australia

Acronyms

Acronym	Term
CSV	Court Services Victoria
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DET	Department of Education and Training
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DH	Department of Health
DJCS	Department of Justice and Community Safety
DJPR	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
DoT	Department of Transport
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
EL	Engagement Lead
MTIA	Major Transport Infrastructure Authority
OPV	Office of Projects Victoria
SRLA	Suburban Rail Loop Authority
NSWAO	New South Wales Audit Office
QAO	Queensland Audit Office
OAG	Office of Auditor General (WA)