

VAGO status report

Local Government update

August 2023



VAGO publications

VAGO Reporting on Local Government Performance dashboard

Our dashboard collects *Local Government Performance Reporting Framework* data and allows users to see how their council compares to similar councils for 58 performance measures.

<https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/dashboards/reporting-local-government-performance-0>

VAGO Significant accounting developments

Our Financial Reporting Advisory team has released a publication on *Significant accounting developments*

<https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/news/significant-accounting-developments-20230206>

VAGO Transparency Report

Our Transparency Report 2021–22 expands on our Annual Report 2021–22 by outlining our quality control system and how it applies to our audits. Contains details of entities we audit and their annual audit fee over the past 3 years.

https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Corporate%20publications/20230112_Transparency-Report-2021-22.pdf

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Annual Plan 2023-24

- prepared pursuant to the requirements of Section 73 of the *Audit Act 1994*
- tabled in the Parliament of Victoria on 27 June 2023

<https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/report/annual-plan-2023-24>

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Local government sector

2023-24

- Delivering Fishermans Bend

Other sectors

2023-24

- Assuring the integrity of the Victorian Government's procurement activities
- Fair presentation of service delivery performance

Note:

- VAGO's [Annual Plan 2023-24](#) covered our one-year forward work program.
- All the proposed/planned audits are under review as part of our annual planning process and are subject to change or removal.

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Involving local government

Engagement	Planned tabling	Our objective is to determine ...
 <p>Illegal disposal of asbestos-contaminated materials (link)</p>	November 2023	whether responsible agencies have controls in place to minimise the illegal disposal of asbestos-contaminated materials.
 <p>Withdrawal from Commonwealth Games 2026 (link)</p>	November 2023	the costs associated with securing, planning for and exiting from the 2026 Commonwealth Games and assess the quality of relevant advice to government.
 <p>Financial management of local councils (link)</p>	June 2024	whether councils effectively manage their financial resources to fulfil their responsibilities and enable continued financial sustainability.

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Involving other sectors

Engagement	Planned tabling	Our objective is to determine ...
 <p>Responses to performance engagement recommendations (link)</p>	August 2023	if public sector agencies are implementing our performance engagement recommendations in a timely way.
 <p>Major Projects Performance Reporting (link)</p>	October 2023	if the public sector transparently reports the performance of major projects against cost, time, scope and benefits.
 <p>Withdrawal from Commonwealth Games 2026 (link)</p>	November 2023	the costs associated with securing, planning for and exiting from the 2026 Commonwealth Games and assess the quality of relevant advice to government.
 <p>Managing state-significant risks (link)</p>	March 2024	whether agencies are working collaboratively to identify and manage state-significant risks.

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Key areas of audit focus in 2022-23

- Impact of flooding during October – December 2022 on council operations and infrastructure assets
- Valuation of land, buildings and infrastructure assets
- Government grants including the timing and amount of the Financial Assistance Grants
- Developer contributions
- Landfill provision
- Council information technology controls

Local Government model financial report and performance statement 2022-23

- released by LGV at a FINPRO conference on 24 February 2023

FinPro seminar 16 June 2023

- VAGO officers attended and presented at the seminar being held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

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Results of 2022-23 Audits: Local Government report

- To be tabled in Parliament during November 2023
- The report will
 - provide a summary of outcomes from our audit of the local government sector for 2022-23
 - largely focuses on 79 Victorian councils
 - contain an analysis and discussion of financial outcomes and emerging risks
 - detail key internal control and financial reporting issues
- The report may comment on action taken by councils in relation to the prior year recommendations (for the 2021-22 report refer [Link](#))
- Our website will also contain a financial dashboard with 6 years of financial data by council

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Cybersecurity: Cloud Computing Products

Tabled August 2023

Examined the effectiveness of agencies' Microsoft 365 cloud-based identity and device management controls.

[Link](#)

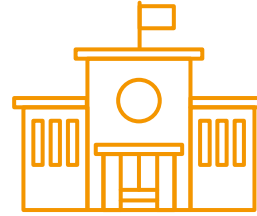


Regulating food safety

Tabled June 2023

Examined whether councils are complying with their legislative responsibilities for food safety to protect public health.

[Link](#)

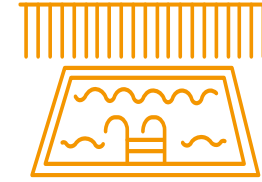


Results of 2021-22 Audits: Local Government

Tabled February 2023

Each council and agency prepares a financial report. Each council also prepares a performance statement. We audit all of these reports and statements.

[Link](#)



Regulating private pool and spa safety

Tabled February 2023

Examined if councils effectively implement private pool and spa safety barrier regulations.

[Link](#)

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For a complete listing of VAGO tabled reports, refer to <https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/search/reports>

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Municipal Monitors

- Greater Geelong City Council
<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/independent-reports#Municipal%20monitors>
- Strathbogie Shire Council
<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/municipal-monitor-appointed-strathbogie-shire-council>

Administrators

- Casey City Council
<https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/news/three-administrators-appointed-casey>
- Moira Shire Council
<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/moira-shire-panel-administrators-appointed>
- Whittlesea City Council
<https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/administrators/>

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Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)

Operation Sandon

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.

<https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/operation-sandon-special-report>

27 July 2023

Australian Standard on Fraud and Corruption Control

IBAC has identified 10 anti-fraud and corruption initiatives that organisations can apply based on the guidance provided in the Standard to prevent fraud and corruption.

<https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/node/939#panel2>

11 July 2023

Operation Daintree special report

Operation Daintree was an investigation by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) highlighting how improper influence compromised the procurement process for a \$1.2m contract awarded to a union-established training group, and compromised the management of the contract.

<https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/node/892>

18 April 2023

Corruption risks associated with major infrastructure projects in Victoria

IBAC has released a research report identifying the key drivers of corruption that can impact major Victorian infrastructure projects responsible for spending billions of taxpayer dollars each year.

<https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/node/451>

15 February 2023

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Victorian Ombudsman

Councils and complaints: Glen Eira City Council's approach to contractor work

The Council's handling of the complaint was contrary to the spirit of its own policy, not to mention the Local Government Act, both of which adopt a broad definition of complaint.

The Victorian Ombudsman investigation found widespread inconsistency in the way councils across the state handle complaints about the services they outsource to third-party contractors.

<https://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/our-impact/news/report-exposes-gaps-in-council-complaint-policies-about-contractors/>

26 April 2023

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