

**Supplementary
Submission
No 28a**

**EXAMINATION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT
REPORTS JUNE - DECEMBER 2020**

Organisation: NSW Department of Planning & Environment

Date Received: 2 June 2022



Mr Greg Piper
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Piper

Auditor-General's performance audit report – *Credit Card Management in Local Government*

I refer to your letter to Mr Michael Cassel, Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the above performance audit. Mr Cassel has referred your letter to me to respond as the subject at hand falls within my remit.

The following responses are provided to the questions raised in your letter:

Can you provide further information on how the local government sector has responded to the circular and guidance issued?

The Office of Local Government (OLG) consulted with a number of councils and agencies in the preparation of the guidelines, including NSW Treasury, the Audit Office, Local Government Finance Professionals NSW and Local Government NSW.

The final version was circulated, in confidence, to those OLG consulted with, prior to the release of the guidelines in September 2021. The feedback received during the consultation process was useful in ensuring relevance to the intended audience. Since publishing the guidelines, the only feedback received has been positive, with just one call seeking clarification on one or two points.

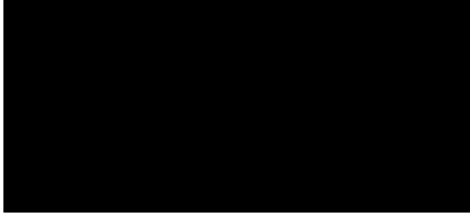
Can you also provide further information on how the Department plans to monitor local councils' performance against the circular?

There is currently no formal monitoring in place for OLG to measure councils' performance in this instance.

As set out in Circular 21-26 issued on 24 August 2021, councils are required to have an audit risk and improvement committee in place by 4 June 2022. Part of the role of the audit risk and improvement committee is to review the effectiveness of the council's risk management framework, fraud and corruption prevention activities, financial management processes, and the council's financial position and performance.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Ally Dench
Executive Director, Office of Local Government