

A. Full responses from entities

As mandated in Section 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the Queensland Audit Office gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to the Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. We also provided a copy to all 77 councils and gave them the option of providing a response.

This appendix contains the detailed responses we received.

The heads of these entities are responsible for the accuracy, fairness, and balance of their comments.



Comments received from Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning



Department of
**State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning**

Our ref: MC22/1394

4 MAY 2022

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
qao@qao.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Worrall *Brendan,*

I am writing regarding your email of 4 April 2022 about the Draft Report to Parliament titled *Local Government 2021*. I note you also emailed the Honourable Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

I was pleased to note your comments acknowledging the achievement of councils in reducing the number of significant deficiencies in their controlled environment, however the timeliness in producing financial statements to audits has deteriorated despite councils not facing challenges of prior years such as the COVID-19 pandemic, local government elections and implementing new accounting standards.

I note there were no recommendations for the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, (the department) in this draft report.

Additionally, I support the six recommendations for the councils and intend to write to each council to emphasise the importance of implementing these recommendations.

If you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who will be pleased to assist.

Thank you for providing the department with an opportunity to review the Draft Report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kaiser".

Mike Kaiser
Director-General

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530

Comments received from Mayor, Central Highlands Regional Council



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Our ref: ECM #1696423
Your ref:
Contact name: Mayor Kerry Hayes
Direct telephone: 1300 242 686
Email:
Address: PO Box 21, Emerald QLD 4720

26 April 2022

Mr Brendan Worrall
Queensland Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
PO Box 15396
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Email: gao@gao.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Worrall

Response to the draft Auditor-General's report to Parliament Local Government 2021

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2022 regarding the draft Auditor-General's report to Parliament Local Government 2021.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the report. I have read the report and Council has no further response.

We look forward to confirmation of the date this report will be tabled in parliament.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kerry Hayes".

Cr Kerry Hayes
Mayor
Central Highlands Regional Council

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centralhighlands.qld.gov.au