

Appendix one – Response from the Office of Local Government within the Department of Planning and Environment



Office of
Local Government

5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

Our Reference: A822114
Your Reference: D2206464
Contact: Ally Dench
Phone: 02 4428 4100

Ms Margaret Crawford
Auditor-General for New South Wales
GPO Box 12
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email:

7 June 2022

Dear Ms Crawford

Thank you for the opportunity to review an updated draft of the report on Local Government 2021.

I have reviewed the changes in the draft report and would like to clarify my feedback in relation to the recognition of rural firefighting equipment (RFS Assets) for your consideration in finalising the report.

I acknowledge the State's position is that it does not control RFS assets. Councils need to assess whether they control any rural firefighting equipment in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. Councils need to recognise, in their financial statements, any material assets under their control and state the relevant accounting policy in relation to the treatment to the Audit Office.

The Minister for Local Government and the Department do not have legal authority to direct councils in this matter. However, we are working closely with Treasury to educate, guide and assist councils to understand the State's view regarding the ownership and recognition of the RFS assets in their financial reporting.

Should you require further assistance in relation to these matters, please do not hesitate to contact Ally Dench, OLG's Executive Director on _____ or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Michael Cassel
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment

T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

A822114