



Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on Thursday 20th July 2023

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SHIRE OF WESTONIA

July/August 23

Date & Time	What	Where	Who
Thursday 20 July	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Monday 24 July	CEACA Board Meeting	Zoom/Teams	Louis Geier & CEO
Thursday 17 August	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff

CEO'S REPORT

- **GENERAL MATTERS**

- The Wolfram Streetscape is now completed with the shelters in front of the Old Miners Hall looking fantastic



- I had some annual leave from Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 July to build my shed.
- A large portion of the month has been taken up with Budget preparation.
- Clare McAuliffe has relocated to 31 Diorite Street (Pool Managers House) with Chantelle Pedrotti now taking residence in unit 3 Pyrites Street units.
- I conducted a tour of the town amenities and attractions for a delegation of Rotary Members tourists on Saturday 24 July.
- A bus load of visitors from the Nangeenan Historical Committee will be visiting Westonia on Saturday 5 August to inspect the Old Miners Hall, Hood Penn Museum and the new Bowling Stadium.
- Along with the Shire President attended the WEROC Board meeting held in Tammin on Wednesday 28 July.
- Draft Budget meeting was held with Councillors on Thursday 6 July.
- Bendigo Bank has been invited to provide an appropriate banking package for the Council and Westonia Progress Association as Bankwest has closed after its takeover by Commonwealth.
- I have been facilitating the Westonia Bowling Club Liquor License application for the stadium.
- Along with Cr Geier participated in a Zoom meeting of the WNESRRG held on Monday 17 July.

- **DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

- Nil.

- **ROADCREW**

- Winter grading conditions have improved a bit with roads in the South and central portions of the Shire having had a winter grade. (Refer Attached Map).
- Truckies have carted synthetic grass, bulka bags of sand and limestone blocks for Bowling Green project from Perth.
- Truckies have assisted with the installation of the new underground fuel tank.
- Truckies have commenced the designated camping area fencing at the Elachbutting Rock.



- **TOWN**

- Tree planting program around the town has been completed.
- Assisted builders with the installation of the ensuite room to Caretakers cottage at Caravan Park.
- Roses have had their annual prune.
- Scott Huggett was employed on 3 July as an additional town maintenance Gardener to assist with the additional workload generated by the Home Care Services with the intention to undertake the new Pool Manager role in the summer season. He will be in Perth next week to undertake the Swimming Pool Managers and Lifesaving training course.
- Sand pad for new Shed at 28 Pyrites Street residence.
- Replace windsock at the airport.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BUILDING MATTERS**

Nil

- **PLANT HOURS**

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 1.7.23

Item		1.6.23	1.7.23
P1	<i>CAT 140 GRADER</i>	1,570hrs	1,647hrs
P2	<i>CAT 12M GRADER</i>	7,755hrs	7,863hrs
P3	<i>PRIME MOVER (OLD FREIGHTLINER)</i>	220,737kms	220,929kms
P4	<i>ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER)</i>	98,900kms	100,460kms
P5	<i>JOHN DEERE LOADER</i>	4,520hrs	4,541hrs
P6	<i>CAT ROLLER (SKIP)</i>	967hrs	1,034hrs
P7	<i>MINI-EXCAVATOR</i>	1,024hrs	1,047hrs
P8	<i>TELEHANDLER JCB</i>	2,526hrs	2,560hrs
P9	<i>TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)</i>	23,388kms	24,532kms
P10	<i>MITSUBISHI CANTER</i>	6,876kms	8,310kms
P11	<i>TOYOTA HILUX (GARDENER) WT 35</i>	99,550kms	99,857kms
P12	<i>JOHN DEERE (5100)</i>	2,529hrs	2,529hrs
P14	<i>TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)</i>	18,055kms	22,001ms
P15	<i>TOYOTA HILUX D/CAB (W/SUPER)</i>	9,102kms	11,316kms
P16	<i>TOYOTA RAV4 (ADMIN)</i>	89,013kms	89,444kms
P17	<i>TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB</i>	20,941kms	21,794kms
P19	<i>FAST ATTACK</i>	16,721kms	16,721kms
P20	<i>FIRE TRUCK</i>	6,727kms	6,727kms
P18	<i>WESSY BUS</i>	140,010kms	140,307kms
P22	<i>KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)</i>	2,026hrs	2,033hrs
P23	<i>TOYOTA MINI-BUS (WT COM V)</i>	36,299kms	36,956kms
P24	<i>CAT ROLLER (LOLA)</i>	1,320hrs	1,407hrs
P25	<i>MICK's BEAUT UTE</i>	161,775kms	162,433kms
P27	<i>TOYOTA PRADO GXL (DCEO)</i>	3,234kms	9,785kms

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Preparations have begun on the 40 Year anniversary Walk for Warralakin to Westonia fundraiser which will be held on the 16th of September 2023. We will have teams of one to ten members Warralakin Wheatbin along Warralakin rd, Stoneman rd, Boundary rd on to Boodarockin rd then take Quartz st to the finish line on the Oval. T-shirts, Logo's, meal and activities along the trail are well underway.

The Westonia Christmas Markets and afternoon Sundowner Sunday the 15th of October – plenty of stall holders are booked in already and we are beginning to start the advertising campaign.

Grant applications & award nominations submitted:

- Rural Health West Outreach program – we have applied for a continuation of funding for Nurse Practitioner Services in Westonia. WAPHA funding is finishing in June this year. We were successful which will pay for Clinic costs for Nurse Practitioner \$4,000/year for a 2 year period.
- 2023-25 Regional Airports Development Scheme funding. To provide a water supply for the airport terminal (1x 32000L Poly tank). We have received a Funding Deed which has been signed and returned to the RADS team for the grant of \$5343.00 along with the Shire's agreed payment of \$5343.00 to cover the total cost of the project. Work has begun, the Tank purchased and delivered, tank pad built and plumbing works to begin. We are currently working on the Acquittal for this project.
- Collgar Wind farm Community fund Application – Level 2 Sponsorship application has been submitted in March 2023. (Being for local initiatives, educational programs and scholarships). The application to upgrade the Westonia picture theatre projector system was successful, and we will receive \$10,000 ex GST towards the project. System has been ordered and has now been installed in the Old miners hall. Acquittal to begin
- Blue Tree Project Grant opened in September last year. We have asked for funding in upcoming Wellbeing initiatives including the Walk from Warralakin. BTP are also offering Mental Health first Aid courses aimed at regional areas and we have asked for more information on how we can get on board with this initiative.
- Age-friendly Communities Connectivity Grants Program 2022-2023 (Department of Communities). Our Wellbeing officer is writing a grant that if successful will allow a program to run that aims to challenge Ageism and a reduce loneliness and improve older people's connections within their local community and more.

Future grant opportunities & award nominations:

- Department of LG, Sport & Cultural Industries – Active Regional Communities Grants (up to \$5000) categories; Capacity building, Event hosting and

Participation. Applications open all year.

WELLBEING REPORT

Age Care

Westonia Home Care Service is up and running. We have had to employ the services of GGJ Consultants and James Underwood & associates to get the legal documents required for clients and staff compliance. Alchemy Technology is drawing up the agreement for us to purchase the bridging software to aid us with our billing and budgeting between the client and provider. We have signed six clients so far and have another two clients interested. We are continuing to provide services to these clients and now have Emilie Menz back on board one and a half days a week to help with community and client care.

Community activities and resources

Meals on Wheels – Northern Rise have given feedback that they are open to requests from clients. Clients are continuing to be very happy with the meals and have very minimal negative feedback since checking in with the clients and Northern Rise a couple of months ago.

June Activities:

- 1st June Bingo – Continual Thursday afternoons, very well attended
- 2nd of June Music morning with Ray Liz and Maxine – 1 attended
- 7th June Lunch at the Commercial Hotel Mdn – 5 attended
- 9th June Morning Melodies @ Cummings Theatre with Sophie Jane – 8 attended.
- 13th Scrabble – 5 attendees
- 14th International Bath Day – Foot Pamper NIL Pax
- 15th Hydrotherapy Pool – 3 attendees & Bingo 5 x attendees
- 16th Making Orange Pomanders – Nil Pax
- 20th Scrabble – 4 pax
- 21st Winter Lunch and Quiz – 2 Pax
- 22nd Hydrotherapy Pool – 3 attendees & Bingo 4 x attendees
- 23rd BYO Beer & Burgers Movie Night – Blue Back 15 Pax
- 27th Scrabble 3 pax
- 28th Phone & Internet Scams with Jasmine Geier – 17 Pax (Very informative)
- 29th Hydrotherapy Pool – 4 attendees & Bingo 5 x attendees
- 30th Cummings Theatre Salute to the Crooners – Cancelled due to COVID would have been 7Pax

July Activities:

- 4th July Scrabble 4pax
- 5th Bus to Mobile Breast Screen Van Merredin – 6 pax
- 6th Hydrotherapy Pool – 2 attendees & Bingo 5 x attendees
- 7th Dot Painting – 4 pax
- 10th Kay's craft group every Monday 9am – 12pm
- 11th Book Club Meeting EOI – 4Pax, Scrabble – 4x pax
- 12th Carpet Bowls – NIL Pax
- 13th Hydrotherapy Pool – 4 attendees & Bingo 7 x attendees
- 14th Gopher Training – 3 Pax



Upcoming events and projects

Various workshops, Activities and outings for the boys, Car boot sale, Walk from Warralakin to Westonia Raise money for Mens health, Movies & Wandering Tours.

TOURISM REPORT

WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

We welcomed Jodie aboard as she is doing a wonderful job at keeping the park spotless and all the visitors happy, Jodie is a great addition to the Shire of Westonia and has been very keen to learn everything needed to keep the

visitors up to date with what is happening about town and our favorite spots around the place

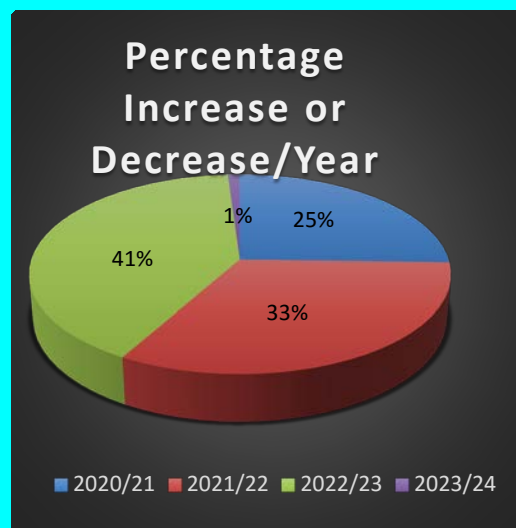
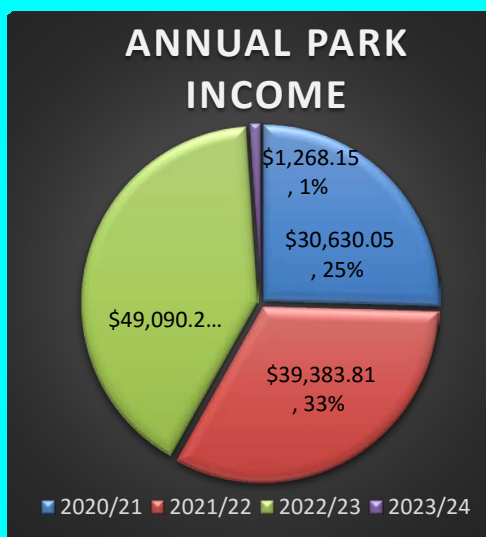
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

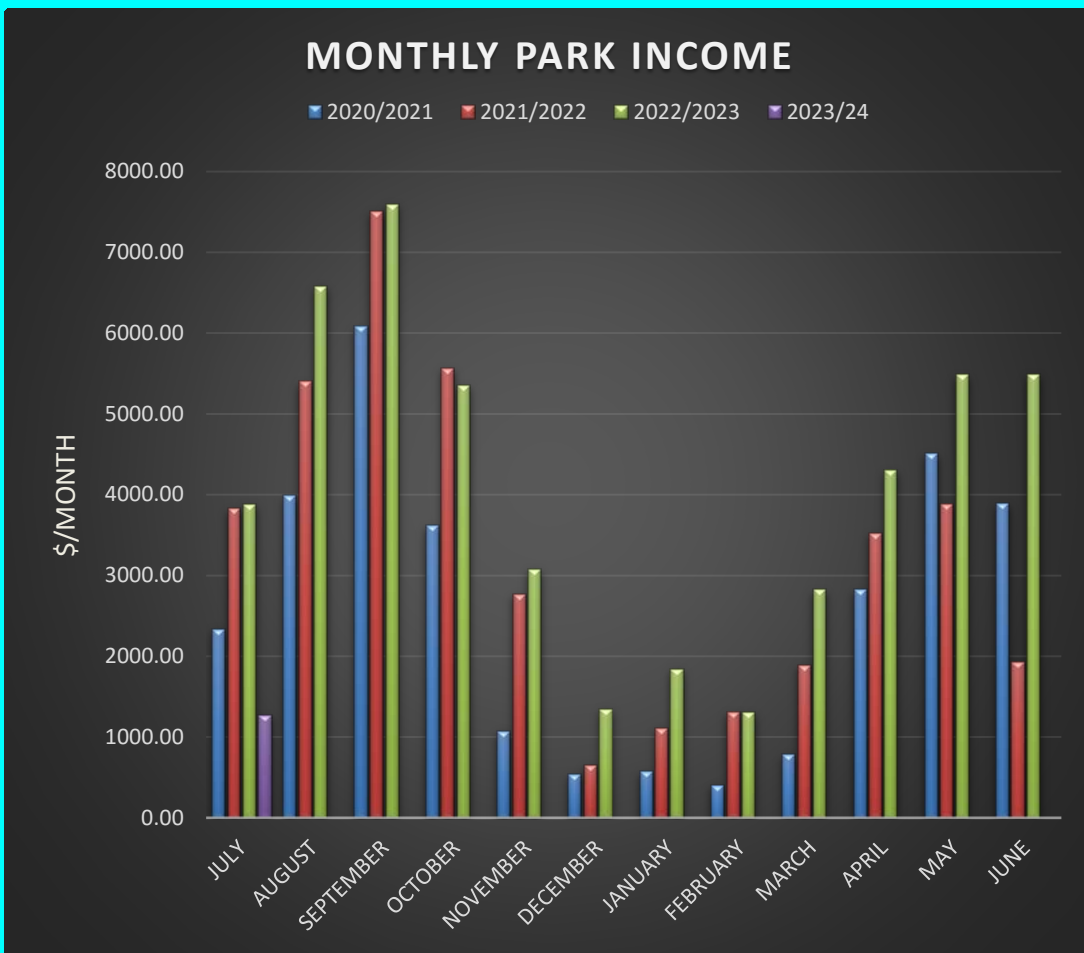
- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing. Focal area being bathroom maintenance (fixtures and disabled bathroom upgrade)
- Disabled toilet drainage will need some major work as tree roots have made their way into the pipes.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Permanent signage required to say “If office is unattended, please ring the caretakers phone or Shire office alternatively you can visit the Shire office during business hours Monday to Friday to complete your booking”.
- Overflow – new signs needed for sites and information sign needed to describe who to ring or see to book in and outline that you must un-hook. Defined bays might be a good idea for this area.

STATISTICS





HOOD-PENN MUSEUM

There has been a steady flow of visitors over the school holidays both parent and children were equally impressed at the displays, the farm scene is still a work in progress, small additions are being done when there is spare time.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing

RECENT PROJECTS

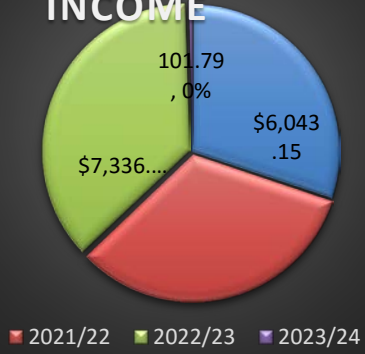
- Old Truck modification for farming scene and Back drop in-place.

FUTURE PROJECTS

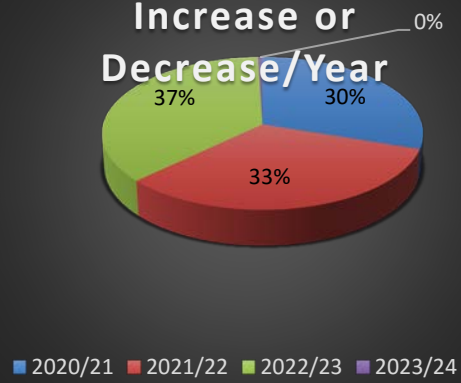
- New scenes to be created in the existing space of the old storage room to tell the stories of our primary industries of which Westonia was founded on.

STATISTICS

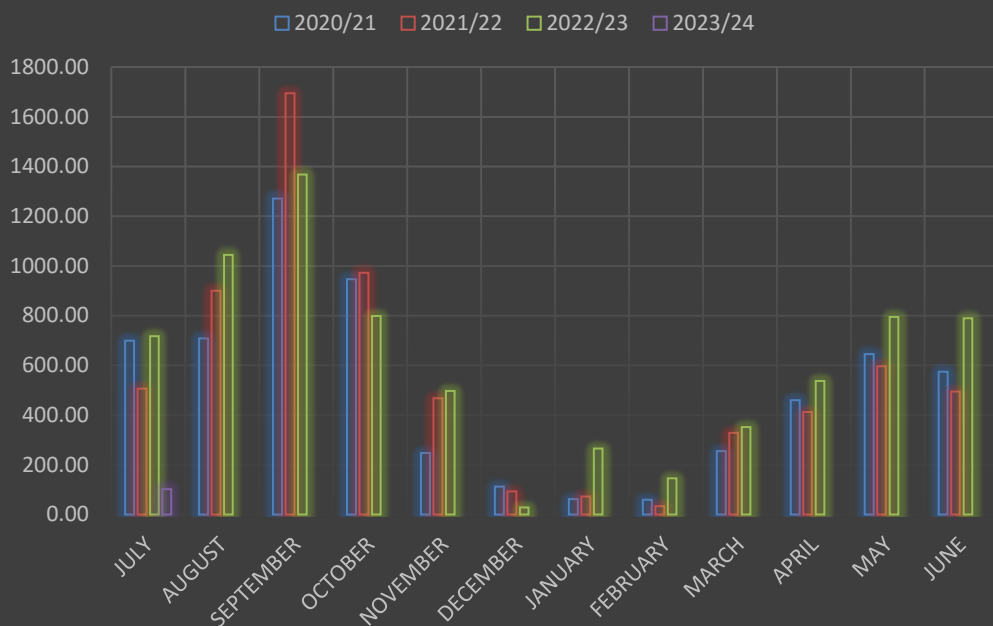
ANNUAL MUSEUM INCOME



Percentage Increase or Decrease/Year



MONTHLY MUSEUM INCOME



Estimate 2022-23 from Recommendation Template

State	Council Name	Estimate GP	Estimate LR	Total
WA	City of Albany	3,460,190	2,301,522	5,761,712
WA	City of Armadale	2,575,935	1,855,592	\$4,431,527
WA	City of Bayswater	1,778,934	989,520	\$2,768,454
WA	City of Belmont	1,105,296	683,896	\$1,789,192
WA	City of Bunbury	813,778	1,078,928	\$1,892,706
WA	City of Busselton	1,059,994	1,782,656	\$2,842,650
WA	City of Canning	2,417,756	1,644,679	\$4,062,435
WA	City of Cockburn	3,097,463	2,568,948	\$5,666,411
WA	City of Fremantle	823,929	482,266	\$1,306,195
WA	City of Gosnells	3,266,144	2,090,144	\$5,356,288
WA	City of Greater Geraldton	4,997,651	2,498,309	\$7,495,960
WA	City of Joondalup	4,147,385	2,704,315	\$6,851,700
WA	City of Kalamunda	1,535,068	1,440,139	\$2,975,207
WA	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	1,834,272	1,977,536	\$3,811,808
WA	City of Karratha	1,425,401	1,504,341	\$2,929,742
WA	City of Kwinana	1,245,205	981,451	\$2,226,656
WA	City of Mandurah	2,310,235	1,642,820	\$3,953,055
WA	City of Melville	2,672,107	1,372,096	\$4,044,203
WA	City of Nedlands	585,049	363,216	\$948,265
WA	City of Perth	806,857	458,858	\$1,265,715
WA	City of Rockingham	3,639,715	2,628,286	\$6,268,001
WA	City of South Perth	1,127,766	502,756	\$1,630,522
WA	City of Stirling	5,766,291	2,686,599	\$8,452,890
WA	City of Subiaco	444,495	235,475	\$679,970
WA	City of Swan	4,035,680	3,367,272	\$7,402,952
WA	City of Vincent	956,348	454,116	\$1,410,464
WA	City of Wanneroo	5,575,630	3,946,488	\$9,522,118
WA	Shire of Ashburton	2,541,220	1,122,895	\$3,664,115
WA	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	635,248	1,269,043	\$1,904,291
WA	Shire of Beverley	841,257	587,936	\$1,429,193
WA	Shire of Boddington	83,620	259,198	\$342,818
WA	Shire of Boyup Brook	999,355	837,666	\$1,837,021
WA	Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	1,180,169	831,796	\$2,011,965
WA	Shire of Brookton	934,603	438,125	\$1,372,728
WA	Shire of Broome	1,967,904	675,330	\$2,643,234
WA	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	1,231,415	803,152	\$2,034,567
WA	Shire of Bruce Rock	1,941,862	996,994	\$2,938,856
WA	Shire of Capel	1,811,920	788,982	\$2,600,902
WA	Shire of Carnamah	1,205,480	588,208	\$1,793,688
WA	Shire of Carnarvon	4,334,069	1,695,895	\$6,029,964
WA	Shire of Chapman Valley	635,999	660,196	\$1,296,195
WA	Shire of Chittering	1,237,136	581,331	\$1,818,467
WA	Shire of Collie	1,488,834	606,061	\$2,094,895
WA	Shire of Coolgardie	694,325	643,362	\$1,337,687
WA	Shire of Coorow	1,733,825	682,128	\$2,415,953
WA	Shire of Corrigin	1,509,502	846,449	\$2,355,951
WA	Shire of Cranbrook	1,141,259	800,403	\$1,941,662
WA	Shire of Cuballing	622,118	418,338	\$1,040,456
WA	Shire of Cue	1,880,756	616,760	\$2,497,516
WA	Shire of Cunderdin	1,135,871	640,073	\$1,775,944
WA	Shire of Dalwallinu	2,309,732	1,436,439	\$3,746,171
WA	Shire of Dandaragan	987,597	1,276,241	\$2,263,838
WA	Shire of Dardanup	1,007,895	660,170	\$1,668,065
WA	Shire of Denmark	596,922	601,127	\$1,198,049
WA	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	5,635,752	1,367,917	\$7,003,669

WA	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	1,459,389	817,632	\$2,277,021
WA	Shire of Dowerin	1,051,029	685,310	\$1,736,339
WA	Shire of Dumbleyung	1,336,867	772,208	\$2,109,075
WA	Shire of Dundas	1,281,650	484,568	\$1,766,218
WA	Shire of East Pilbara	3,323,289	2,400,468	\$5,723,757
WA	Shire of Esperance	3,845,856	3,761,896	\$7,607,752
WA	Shire of Exmouth	1,514,946	512,769	\$2,027,715
WA	Shire of Gingin	1,134,601	1,085,787	\$2,220,388
WA	Shire of Gnowangerup	1,138,491	810,549	\$1,949,040
WA	Shire of Goomalling	584,089	461,064	\$1,045,153
WA	Shire of Halls Creek	3,843,161	1,051,149	\$4,894,310
WA	Shire of Harvey	2,796,116	1,240,510	\$4,036,626
WA	Shire of Irwin	396,724	415,788	\$812,512
WA	Shire of Jerramungup	946,702	781,391	\$1,728,093
WA	Shire of Katanning	1,981,658	623,357	\$2,605,015
WA	Shire of Kellerberrin	1,856,384	721,993	\$2,578,377
WA	Shire of Kent	1,471,708	910,512	\$2,382,220
WA	Shire of Kojonup	916,008	846,466	\$1,762,474
WA	Shire of Kondinin	1,872,133	985,554	\$2,857,687
WA	Shire of Koorda	1,518,803	799,656	\$2,318,459
WA	Shire of Kulin	1,716,650	1,086,654	\$2,803,304
WA	Shire of Lake Grace	2,064,197	1,602,998	\$3,667,195
WA	Shire of Laverton	1,924,745	1,146,042	\$3,070,787
WA	Shire of Leonora	559,199	828,194	\$1,387,393
WA	Shire of Manjimup	3,127,017	1,721,580	\$4,848,597
WA	Shire of Meekatharra	2,989,083	1,791,498	\$4,780,581
WA	Shire of Menzies	1,754,446	935,754	\$2,690,200
WA	Shire of Merredin	1,966,252	1,041,805	\$3,008,057
WA	Shire of Mingenew	438,710	408,072	\$846,782
WA	Shire of Moora	1,210,198	912,618	\$2,122,816
WA	Shire of Morawa	1,435,376	719,335	\$2,154,711
WA	Shire of Mount Magnet	1,866,234	415,025	\$2,281,259
WA	Shire of Mount Marshall	1,906,592	1,091,149	\$2,997,741
WA	Shire of Mukinbudin	1,254,521	673,184	\$1,927,705
WA	Shire of Mundaring	1,803,654	1,298,433	\$3,102,087
WA	Shire of Murchison	3,587,808	1,097,175	\$4,684,983
WA	Shire of Murray	1,186,415	1,087,337	\$2,273,752
WA	Shire of Nannup	1,035,505	600,684	\$1,636,189
WA	Shire of Narembeen	1,547,692	1,014,226	\$2,561,918
WA	Shire of Narrogin	1,777,082	734,151	\$2,511,233
WA	Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	3,837,392	1,066,730	\$4,904,122
WA	Shire of Northam	2,740,486	1,002,561	\$3,743,047
WA	Shire of Northampton	1,595,008	899,163	\$2,494,171
WA	Shire of Nungarin	1,163,706	391,925	\$1,555,631
WA	Shire of Peppermint Grove	45,380	25,078	\$70,458
WA	Shire of Perenjori	1,698,948	1,110,857	\$2,809,805
WA	Shire of Pingelly	1,174,904	459,470	\$1,634,374
WA	Shire of Plantagenet	1,460,064	1,111,649	\$2,571,713
WA	Shire of Quairading	1,495,004	709,506	\$2,204,510
WA	Shire of Ravensthorpe	1,475,790	929,509	\$2,405,299
WA	Shire of Sandstone	1,892,948	588,555	\$2,481,503
WA	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	1,702,547	1,291,116	\$2,993,663
WA	Shire of Shark Bay	1,700,790	576,716	\$2,277,506
WA	Shire of Tammin	941,711	362,238	\$1,303,949
WA	Shire of Three Springs	973,709	578,109	\$1,551,818
WA	Shire of Toodyay	1,001,598	706,063	\$1,707,661
WA	Shire of Trayning	1,606,112	577,313	\$2,183,425

WA	Shire of Upper Gascoyne	3,692,586	1,220,378	\$4,912,964
WA	Shire of Victoria Plains	751,422	690,874	\$1,442,296
WA	Shire of Wagin	1,178,132	616,515	\$1,794,647
WA	Shire of Wandering	367,846	291,075	\$658,921
WA	Shire of Waroona	1,103,335	489,641	\$1,592,976
WA	Shire of West Arthur	733,096	643,671	\$1,376,767
WA	Shire of Westonia	1,177,971	644,133	\$1,822,104
WA	Shire of Wickepin	1,156,701	650,457	\$1,807,158
WA	Shire of Williams	381,951	426,930	\$808,881
WA	Shire of Wiluna	2,285,377	1,120,789	\$3,406,166
WA	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	1,666,802	1,011,314	\$2,678,116
WA	Shire of Woodanilling	604,421	390,691	\$995,112
WA	Shire of Wyalkatchem	1,511,745	560,767	\$2,072,512
WA	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	3,077,722	1,275,222	\$4,352,944
WA	Shire of Yalgoo	2,063,314	741,301	\$2,804,615
WA	Shire of Yilgarn	2,597,959	1,812,594	\$4,410,553
WA	Shire of York	1,057,524	778,052	\$1,835,576
WA	Town of Bassendean	414,044	265,026	\$679,070
WA	Town of Cambridge	754,866	516,625	\$1,271,491
WA	Town of Claremont	283,873	130,736	\$414,609
WA	Town of Cottesloe	213,879	113,240	\$327,119
WA	Town of East Fremantle	203,858	91,448	\$295,306
WA	Town of Mosman Park	235,238	104,389	\$339,627
WA	Town of Port Hedland	680,357	979,837	\$1,660,194
WA	Town of Victoria Park	970,372	461,634	\$1,432,006
WA	Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission (Special Roads)	-	10,221,999	\$10,221,999
WA Total		230,921,687	145,984,876	376,906,563

WESTONIA SHIRE VISITOR FEEDBACK FORM



How would you rate our Caravan Park?

Facilities



Customer Service



How would you rate our town attractions?

Hood- Penn Museum - excellent



Recreational Facilities - good



Heritage Walk Trail } didnt do -



Nature Reserves



Comments:

How would you rate your customer service experience from our local businesses

Edna May Hotel



Gallery Café - lovely atmosphere



Westonia Community Co-Op - everything you need on a small scale.



Comments: PUBLICAN RUDE, IGNORED US COMPLETELY, AND WE LEFT AFTER TEN MINUTES (ONLY 4 OTHERS IN BAR AT THE TIME). ANOTHER COUPLE TOLD US (AFTER THEY HAD BEEN THERE FOR A MEAL) "WHY DONT YOU JUST COOK IN YOUR CARAVAN"

Is there anything else you would like to share about your stay in Westonia?

EXTREMELY TIDY AND WELL PRESENTED TOWN. VERY GLAD TO HAVE STAYED

Your customer feedback form can be left with our caravan park caretaker or posted into the honesty box located in the caravan park laundry.

Thank you for your valued feedback



Hon David Templeman MLA
Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage

Our Ref: 66-22115

Mr Bill Price
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Westonia
ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Price

INCREASE IN FUNDING - COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND AND THE CLUB NIGHT LIGHTS FUNDING PROGRAM

I am delighted to announce an increase in funding to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).

There will now be \$20 million available for allocation through CSRFF, an increase of \$7.5 million per year. In conjunction with the \$2.5 million annual Club Night Lights Program (CNLP), these programs provide financial assistance to community groups and local governments to develop basic, sustainable infrastructure for sport and recreation.

The CSRFF and CNLP aim to increase physical activity and participation in sport and recreation and ensure the rational development of good quality, well-designed and well-utilised facilities.

I would also like to announce the following policy changes:

- The CSRFF and CNLP Small Grants programs' maximum project cost has increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000. This increase streamlines the application process for projects under \$500,000 with two funding rounds per year.
- Applications within the CSRFF and CNLP Small Grant round are also eligible to receive funding to cover up to half of the project, up to a limit of \$200,000 in total funding.
- The CSRFF and CNLP Annual Grants (previously for projects of \$300,001–\$500,000) category has been abolished with all projects over \$500,000 now being considered in the CSRFF and CNLP Forward Planning round.
- The maximum grant available for the CSRFF Forward Planning round has increased from \$2 million to \$2.5 million.

The 2024–2025 CSRFF and CNLP Forward Planning round for projects over \$500,000 will open on **1 June 2023** and close on **30 September 2023**, with successful projects likely to be announced in January 2024.

In addition to this, the July CSRFF and CNLP Small Grants round for projects up to \$500,000 will open on **1 July 2023** and close on **31 August 2023**, with successful projects likely to be announced in December 2023.

For the 2024-2025 round, the CSRFF continues to focus on projects that improve the usability of facilities for female participants. Projects that address this, including the provision of lockable individual showers and the installation of toilet cubicles instead of urinals, will be prioritised.

Commencing in 2021-2022, the CNLP provides \$10 million over four years to fund sports floodlighting at community sporting venues. Copies of the 2024-2025 CSRFF/CNLP policy manual and application forms for the upcoming rounds will be sent electronically to your organisation.

Capital investment by local governments continues to be an important contributor to Western Australia's economic recovery. I wish to reinforce the benefits of using local contractors to complete projects, including the use of Aboriginal businesses where possible. Should you be successful in receiving a grant, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries may request you report on job creation for projects over \$1 million in value. I also encourage the use of waste avoidance and resource recovery strategies in infrastructure development.

Thank you for your involvement in the CSRFF and CNLP process and commitment to the provision of quality infrastructure for sport and recreation. I look forward to continuing the partnership between the State Government and your organisation in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely



HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

29 JUN 2023



AUDIT SURVEY ANALYSIS

A summary of the sector's response to the local government audit process

AUDIT SURVEY ANALYSIS

Introduction

Responsibility for financial auditing of Western Australia's local governments transitioned from the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries to the Office of the Auditor General with the proclamation of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Act 2017*.

Since this time there has been a range of comments and criticisms of the audit that needed to be corralled and formalised in discussions with the OAG in order to get clarity and better understand how to improve the audit performance and outcomes for local governments.

Local Government Professionals WA partnered with WALGA during April to conduct a survey of the sector to ascertain current issues and attitudes associated with the annual local government audit process.

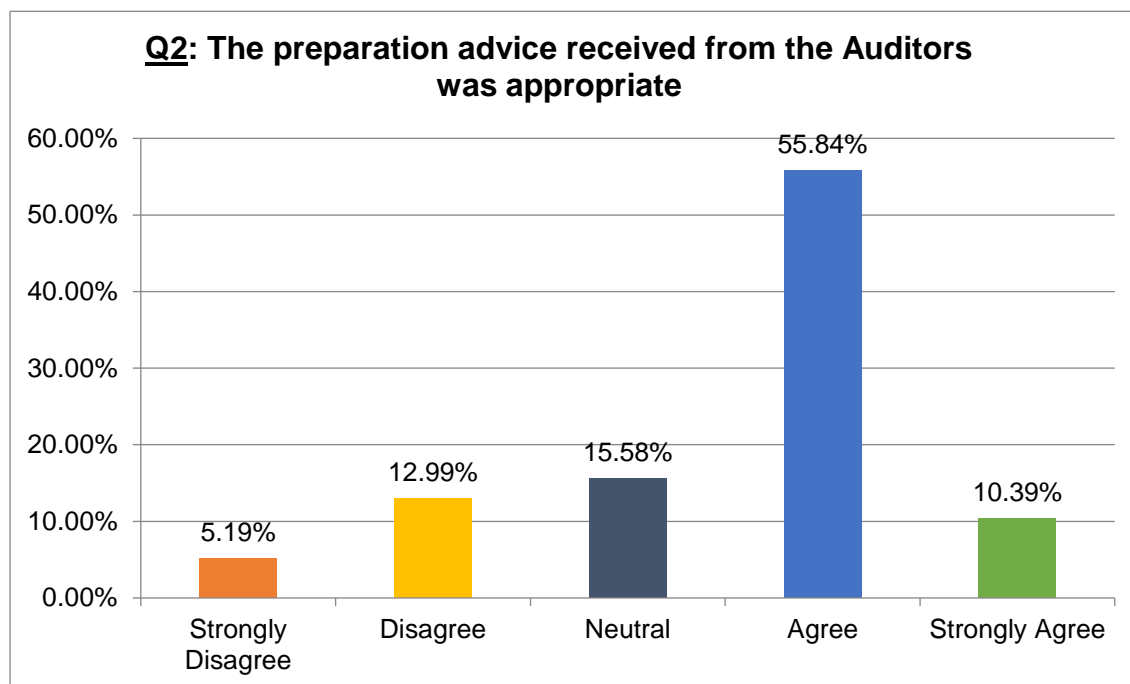
The survey was jointly designed to enable the Associations to provide consistent and constructive advice to the Office of the Auditor General. The OAG is supportive of the process and welcomes this contribution from the peak bodies to inform their continued improvement.

Data and quotations from the survey are provided so as to maintain the anonymity of the 91 local governments referenced as contributors at **Q1**. This level of response provides us with a high level of confidence that the results are strongly indicative of the sector perspectives on the questions asked.

Responses are presented in chart form, demonstrating the percentage of respondents indicating support for the available choices, followed by an indicative summary of the written comments that relate to each question.

The Key Emerging Issues are identified at the end of the report, together with an outline of the advocacy that Local Government Professionals WA proposes to take in response to the survey outcomes. It is anticipated that WALGA will develop its own advocacy to address the findings and we encourage all local governments to participate in that process.

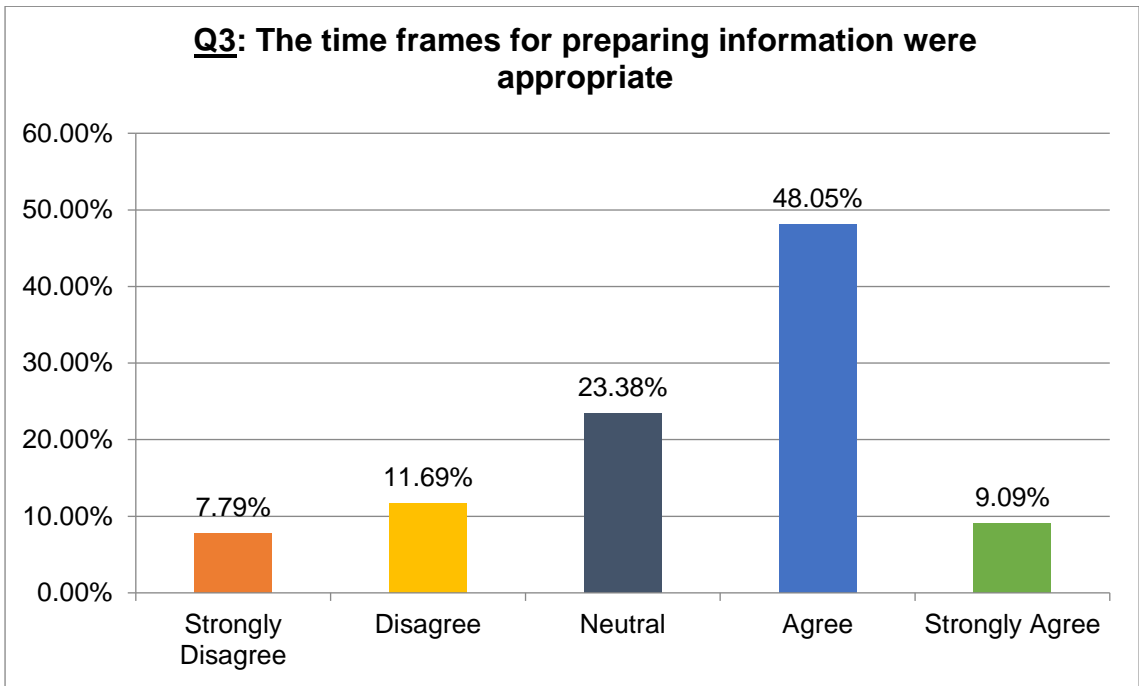
Survey Responses



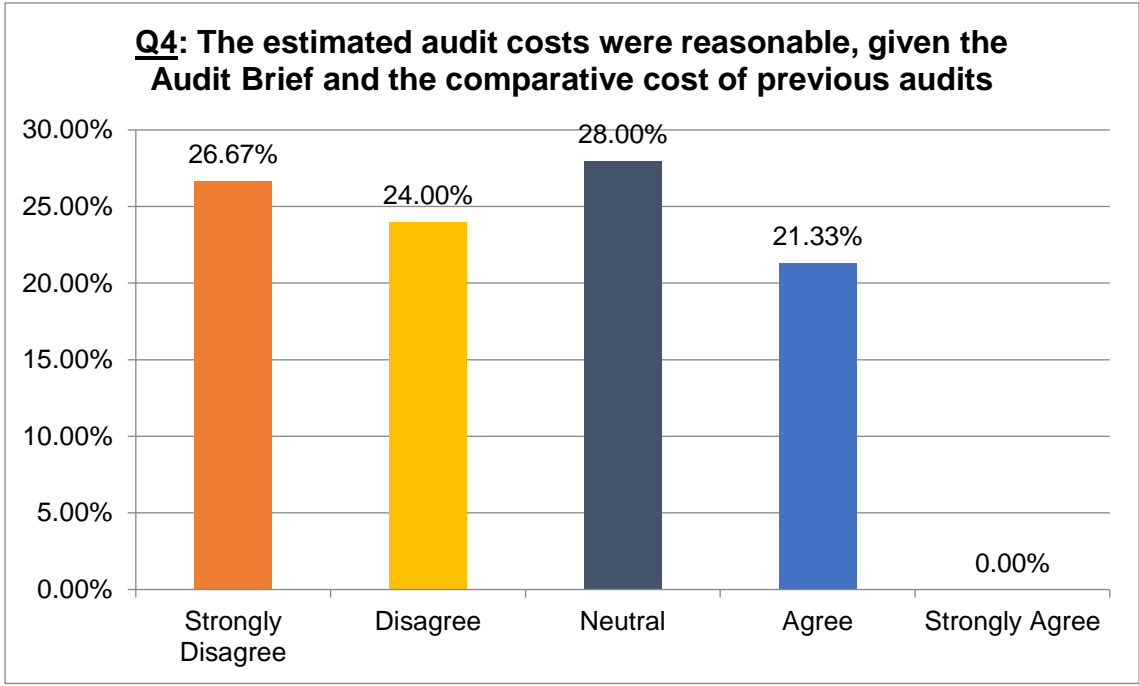
81.8% of respondents were happy with, or neutral to, the Auditors preparation advice.

Criticisms were essentially based on specific situational experiences, such as the withdrawal of the audit firm initially appointed to the process, late appointment of a contract auditor, or difficulty with the auditor's technology platform.

Some comments highlighted the vagueness of preparation requirements and the need for clarity, as well as the need for better appreciation by the auditors for the time involved in responding to their requests.

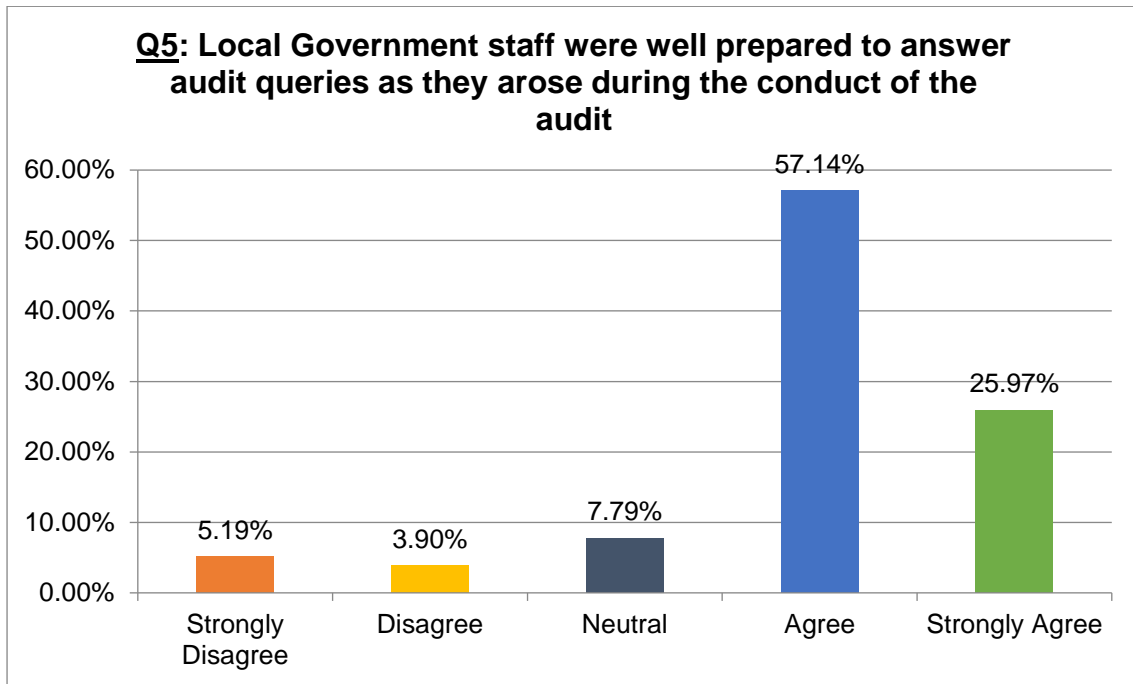


80.5% of respondents were happy with, or neutrally impacted by, the Auditor’s preparation time frames. Comments were mixed, ranging from “*we were ready*” to highlighting timing inflexibility and volume of work.



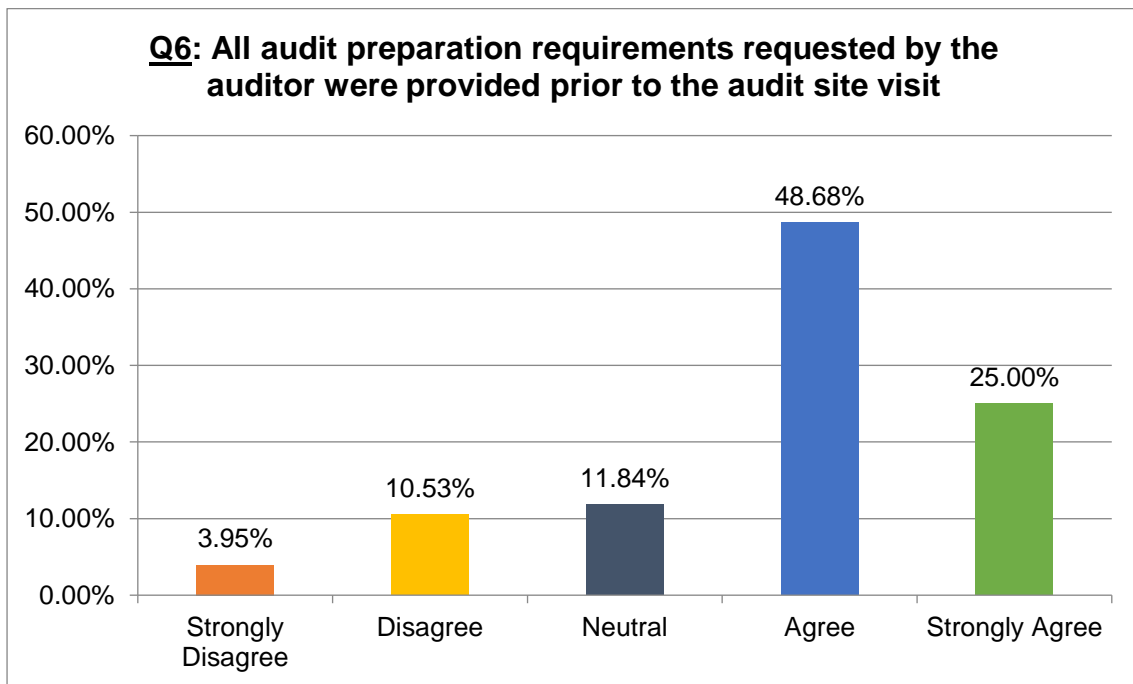
This question was a 50/50 proposition, with **49.3%** of respondents either neutral or believing the estimated audit costs were reasonable.

Comments ranged from “*2.5 times more expensive than prior to the OAG for substantively the same audit outcome*” and concerns about the value-for-money of the audit, to concerns about the lack of transparency from the OAG about how the costs are determined.



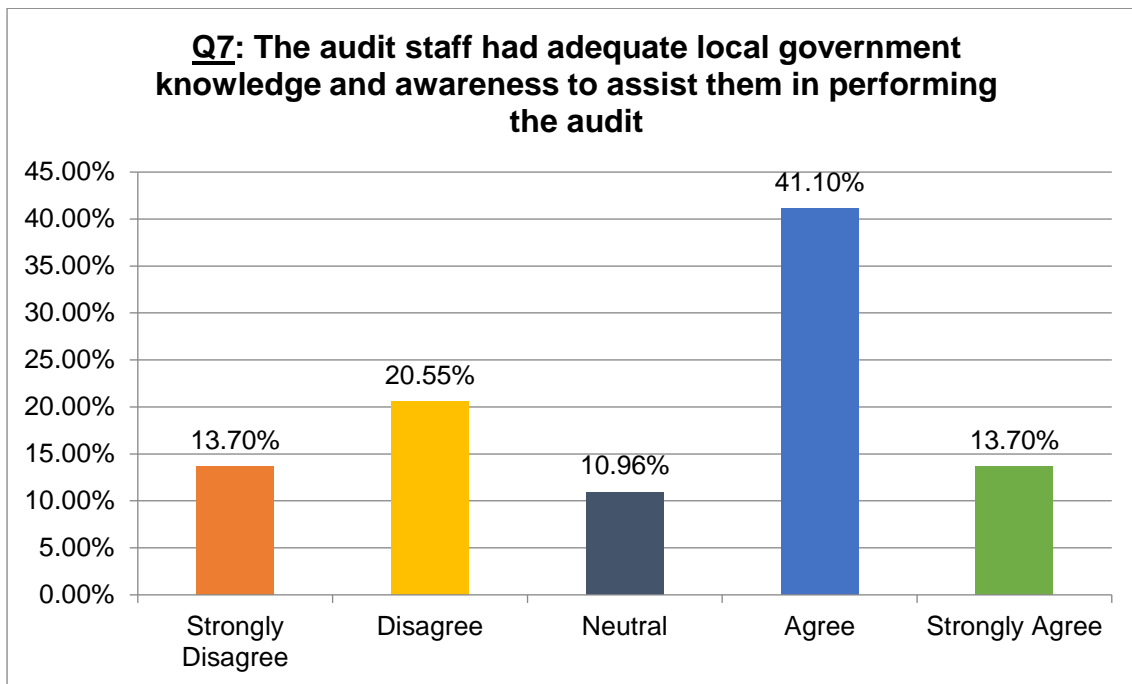
90.9% of respondents were happy or neutral with their response preparation.

Comments highlighted issues such as a lack of audit staff knowledge, to acknowledgement of some delays at the local government end - but not to the extent that would impact the timing or cost variances claimed.



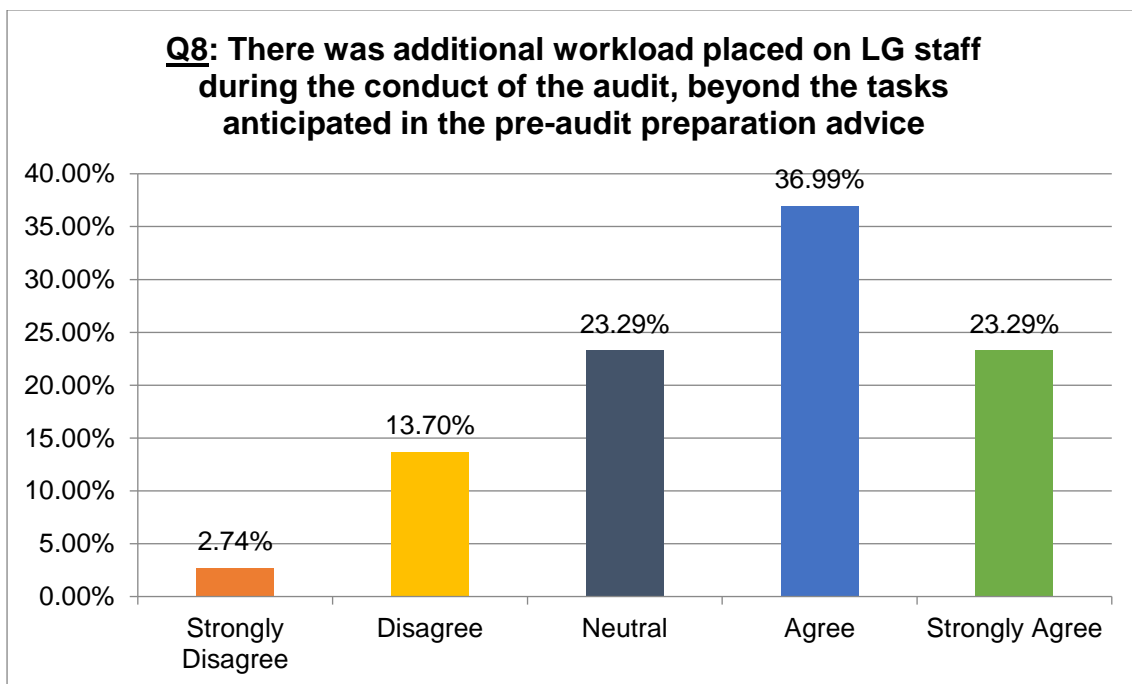
85.5% of respondents either strongly agreed, agreed or were neutral in their response to the proposition.

Comments essentially claimed compliance with the requirement or acknowledged some minor omissions or delays.



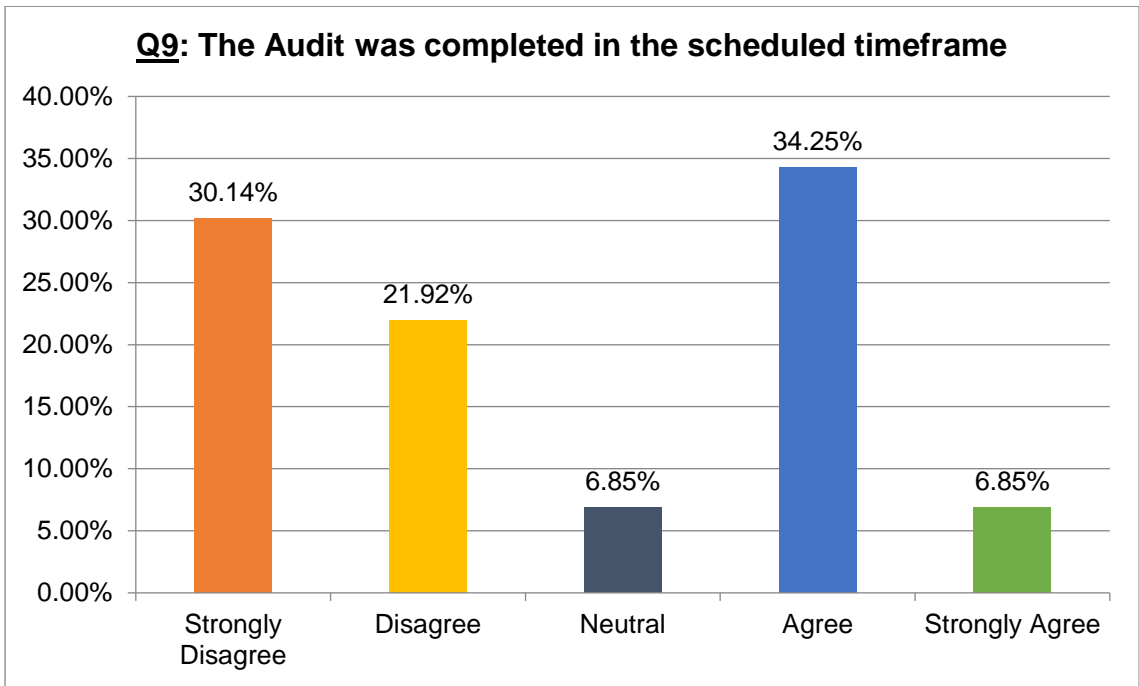
65.8% of respondents were either neutral or supported the statement, indicating that approximately one third of local governments experienced lower than expected levels of local government knowledge and awareness by their auditors.

Comments highlighted this lack of operational knowledge, although some acknowledged that there had been an improvement over last year.



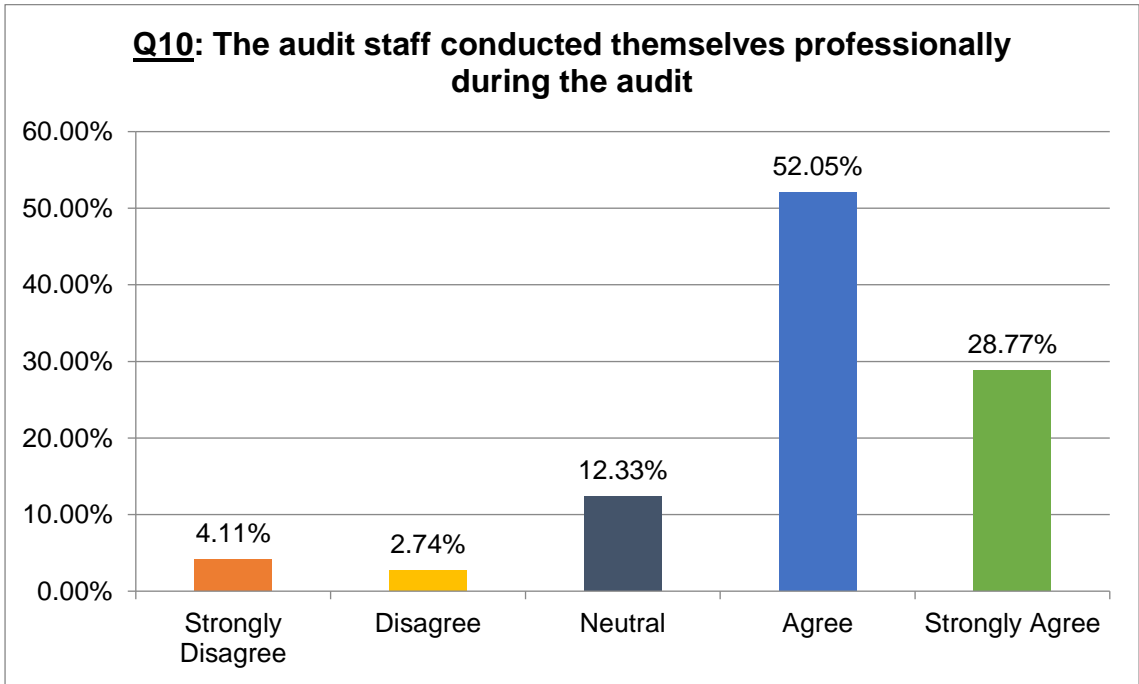
81.6% of respondents were neutral or agreed that they had experienced an abnormal workload, in addition to normal expectations.

Comments emphasised difficulties created by the high number of detailed sampling requests, additional information requests, and repeated requests because the auditor had lost the previous response.

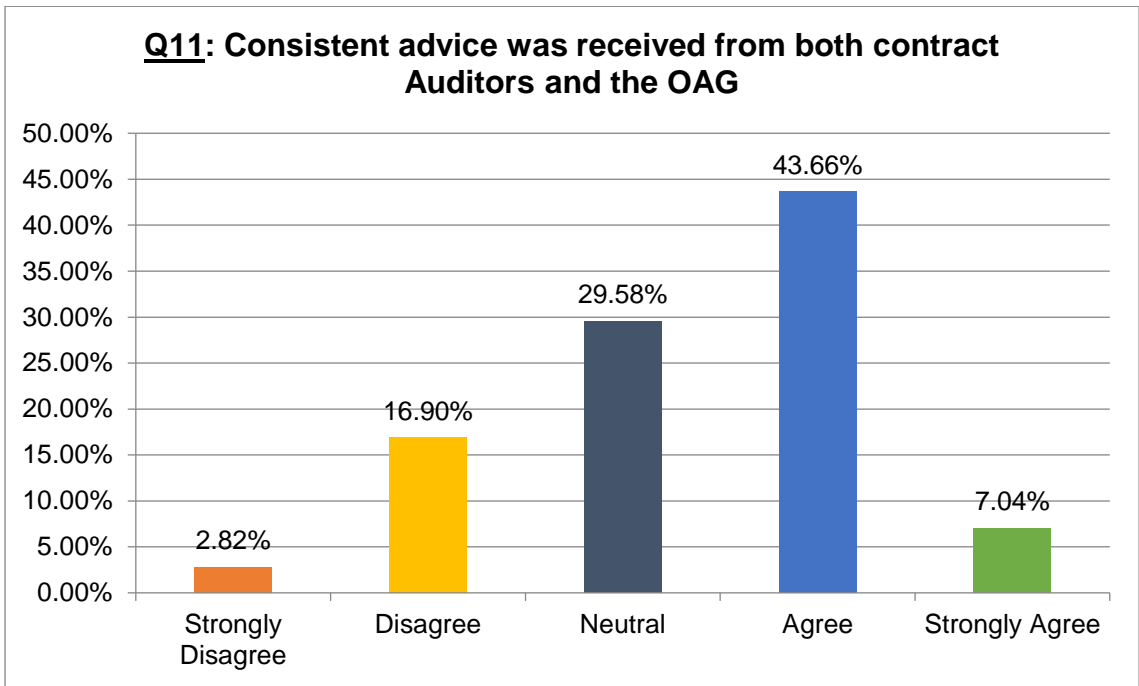


Another 50/50 proposition, where **48%** were neutral or agreed and **52%** disagreed.

When asked to indicate why delays were experienced, the common responses referenced differences between the contract auditors and the OAG and disputes over asset valuation (Fair Value).



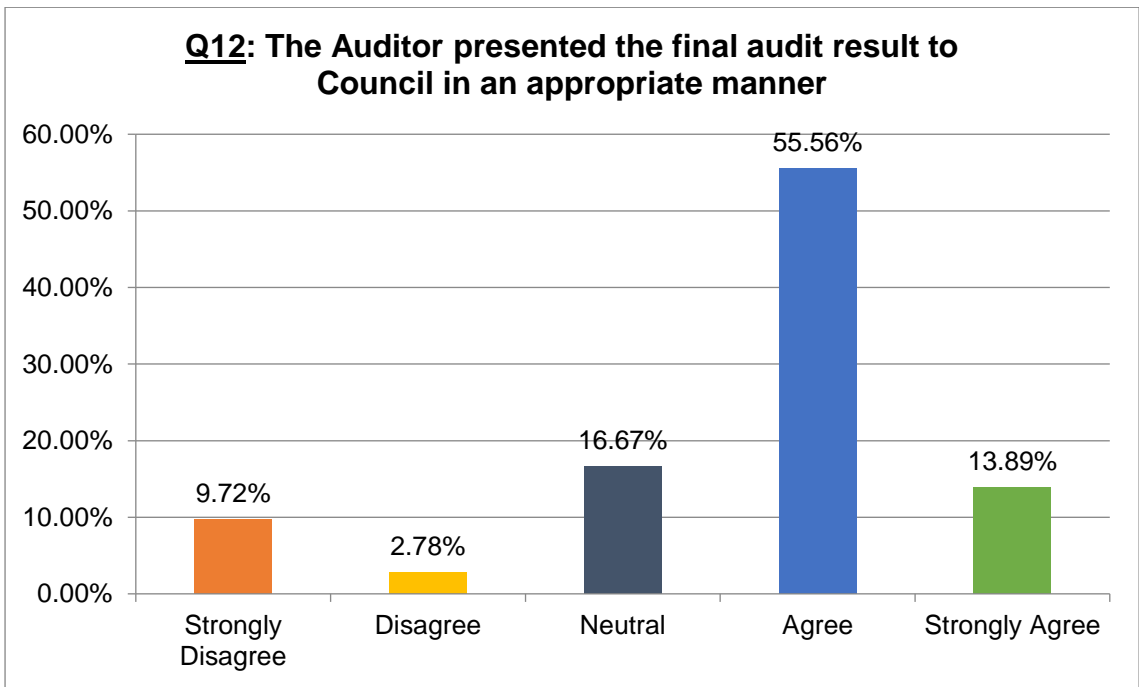
93.1% of respondents supported the statement or were neutral, indicating a very high level of respect and appreciation for the audit staff. Beyond this, the lack of local government experience of some audit staff was referenced.



19.7% of respondents experienced conflicting advice from different audit sources.

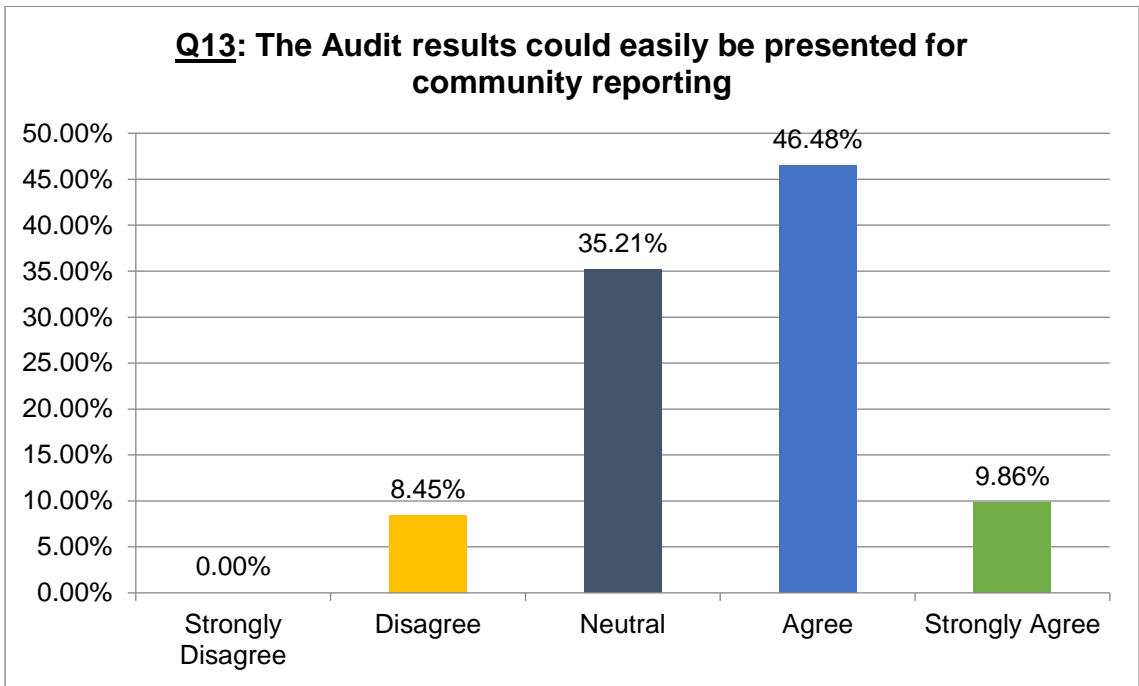
Commentators observed that:

- a lack of knowledge could trigger contradiction of one auditor over the other and referral by contract auditors to the OAG, resulting in considerable delays.
- There was a lack of clarity around asset valuations, creating conflict and inconsistency.



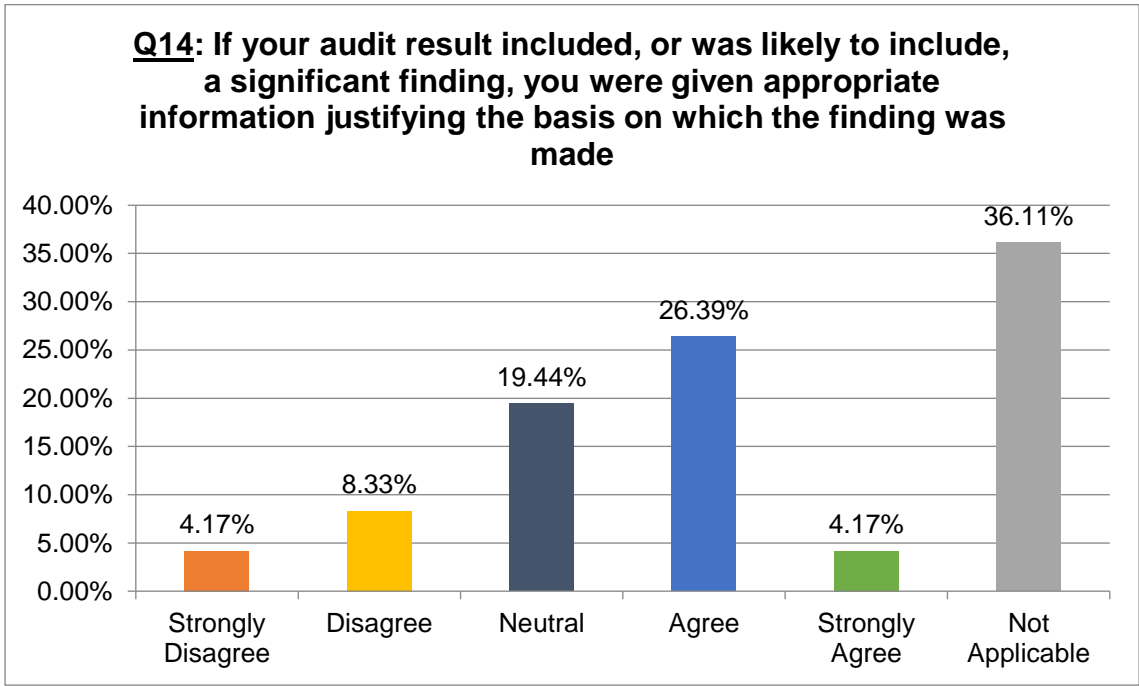
86.1% of responses were neutral or supported the statement, indicating satisfaction with the presentation skills of the audit staff.

Most comments related to the time taken to complete the audit process. The perception of duplication between the exit interview with the Audit Committee and the sign-off with the Council was highlighted.



91.5% of respondents agreed with the statement or were neutral.

An interesting suggestion was that the auditor’s report could be more positively framed to also highlight what is being done well.



12.5% of respondents disagreed with the statement.

Comments indicated that concern was being created by; a lack of clarity on asset valuation; conflict between Contract Auditors and the OAG over the definition of a significant finding, and; late, or lack of, communication to individual local governments over expectations.

Q15 - Please indicate initial estimated audit cost versus actual final audit cost.

The lowest **actual cost** indicated was \$22,000 and the highest was \$138,873.

There was an equal amount of responses indicating that the estimated and actual audit costs were the same, as responses indicating that the actual cost was higher than the estimated cost.

The biggest difference between the estimated and actual cost of an audit was \$40,000, with the average difference being approximately \$12,000.

Only two responses indicated that the actual cost was less than the estimated cost.

Respondents were asked: *What were the reasons given for any variance?* Typical responses indicated -

- *“Additional time taken to source information.”*
- *“We are still waiting for the justification!”*
- *“No variance. Delivered on time with no delays or additional information required. Happy days.”*
- *“We estimated based on previous year and it had gone up again.”*

Q16 - Compared to the 2020/21 audit, did you observe any improvement to the 2021/22 audit process that was worth noting?

There were mixed responses to this question, typified by:

- *“No, it was worse, and 20/21 was horrible.”*
- *“Yes, 2021/22 audit completed in December 2022 in contrast to 2020/21 audit which was completed in February 2022.”*
- *“Yes - our 2021/22 Audit was managed much better from a timing perspective and the OAG stuck to the agreed timeline. This occurred following significant feedback from us following the 20/21 Audit, which included our President meeting with the Director General of the OAG.”*
- *“No, in fact the 21/22 audit process was more difficult, took more time due to additional requests and queries from the auditors, and was delayed further due to the inflexibility of timing from audit staff.”*

Q17 - Do you have any other comments you would like to make in relation to your 2021/22 audit experience?

The comments could be summarised as seeking:

- Better communication between auditors and the OAG.
- Improved familiarity by audit staff with local government.
- Streamlined processes between local governments, contract auditors and the OAG.

KEY EMERGING ISSUES

The results and comments from the survey highlight five key areas to address in the annual audit process.

Timeframe and delays

Over **50%** of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that *“the audit was completed in the scheduled timeframe”*. Comments from respondents suggested disruptions to the timeframe were caused by things like; consecutive periods of leave taken by the Auditors and OAG staff; difficulties with asset valuations, and; collection of information. One respondent noted that the Auditors continually asked for more information from Local Government staff but refused to acknowledge the delays these requests were causing or allowing for any flexibility in the times allocated.

Additional workload on Local Government staff

60% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that “*there was additional workload placed on Local Government staff during the conduct of the audit, beyond the tasks anticipated in the pre-audit preparation advice*”. Only 15% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Respondents noted that the tasks expected of Local Government staff “*far exceeded*” what was anticipated, and this led to a “*very high workload*” for staff and a strain on resources. Unclear instructions, poor communication and being asked to answer the same question multiple times were cited by respondents as causes for the additional workload.

Cost

Almost half of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that “*the estimated audit costs were reasonable, given the Audit Brief and the comparative cost of previous audits*”. Comments from some respondents reported that the costs were more than twice that incurred prior to the OAG assuming responsibility for Local Government auditing. There was also feedback about a lack of transparency from the OAG in its failure to provide a cost breakdown.

In terms of the actual cost of the audit, only two respondents indicated that the final cost was less than the estimated cost, with a significant amount of respondents indicating the actual cost was higher than the estimate. The average difference between the estimated and actual was an increase of around \$12,000, with the biggest difference being \$40,000.

Inconsistent advice from contract Auditors and OAG

Whilst a majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that “*consistent advice was received from both contract Auditors and the OAG*”, several comments indicated that when inconsistent advice was received it led to confusion, delays, and frustration. One respondent suggested that “*requiring the Local Government to only communicate with the contract auditors, and not also the OAG, would avoid these outcomes*”. In this scenario, it would be up to the contract Auditors and the OAG to be on the same page in terms of the advice given, and this in turn would reduce “*inconsistent advice or information from both parties*”.

Asset Valuation Requirements

There were a number of comments throughout the survey raising the need for simplification and clarification of the Fair Value asset valuation requirements. In response to question 11 about the consistency of advice from the contract auditors and the OAG, one respondent noted that the advice received was good “*apart from the issue of the valuation of assets*”.

A similar comment appears in question 14 where a respondent has sought clarification and guidance about “*the timing of infrastructure revaluation and what mechanisms, beside management judgement, [are] in place to show how we have made the decision*”. Feedback on the handling of the asset valuation process can also be seen in a comment in question 8 which suggests that “*more thought needs to be given between the LG Sector and the OAG.*”

Next Steps

Moving forward, we will continue to work with the OAG to reform the audit process by seeking:

- That the OAG review the requirements for pre-audit information with a view to reducing the need for additional information where possible.
- That auditors be required to improve their communication and information management and avoid repeated requests for information that has already been provided.
- That a ceiling of 20% be placed on variances from the quoted estimated cost of the audit in any single financial year.
- That the transparency of the audit costing quotation be enhanced and any variance be fully explained to the local government as part of the final billing process.
- That local governments only be required to communicate with contract Auditors (*unless the OAG is directly auditing the local government*) and the onus be placed on the contract auditors to confirm their advice with the OAG before instructing the local government.
- The application of Fair Value principles be reviewed in the context of the audit.

We encourage the promotion and discussion of the survey outcomes and our proposed action at the local level amongst both staff and elected members.

Shire of Westonia

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Westonia WA 6423

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Email: shire@westonia.wa.gov.au
Website: www.westonia.wa.gov.au



*Please address all correspondence
to the Chief Executive Officer*

HS1.1.6

22 June 2023

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To Whom it May Concern

SUPPORT FOR CEACA APPLICATION – GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM

The Shire of Westonia wish to express their support for CEACA's application towards the Growing Regions Program.

Westonia is a member and beneficiary of the extremely successful CEACA Regional Housing Program that has provided numerous affordable housing options to residents of the Eastern Wheatbelt.

Westonia currently has 2 x units located in its townsite and has expressed the desire for 3 x additional units to help address the demand currently being experienced in the township.

Council has previously made provision for 3000m² land located on the corner of Quartz & Gold Streets (refer attached survey plan) to accommodate the units so any funding assistance received from the Commonwealth would give CEACA the capacity to add to their housing portfolio for the benefit of the wider community.

If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Price', is written over a faint background image of a horse-drawn cart and a building.

Bill Price
Chief Executive Officer

“A Golden Heart”

17 July 2023

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
c/o senator.watt@aph.gov.au



Dear Minister,

RE: PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA

The Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc. (WEROC) is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation whose members include representatives from the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn. WEROC exists to support the growth and development of the Eastern Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, and we believe that that phasing out of live sheep exports will be detrimental to the economic and social wellbeing of the communities in our region.

The export of live sheep is a key element on which the Western Australian sheep industry is based. For the producer, live export is a necessary process to control livestock numbers, use pastures in a sustainable manner, and provide resilience in difficult seasons particularly in times of drought. The industry also supports a range of large and small contributors including livestock agents, transport operators, shearers, feed suppliers and manufacturers, rural merchandise stores, consultants, and veterinarians.

The sheep industry is an important economic contributor to the WEROC region. In Western Australia the agri-food and fibre production sector was worth \$14 billion in 2021-22 of which the sheep industry (sheep and wool) contributed \$1,347. million¹. In the same period the agricultural output from the WEROC region was \$379million² with the sheep industry contributing \$53million³ (4% of the total value of the sheep industry in the state).

In 2021-22 there were 579,135 sheep and lambs in the WEROC area and 243 sheep and lamb producers⁴. With a total of 840 businesses in the region, sheep production businesses account for approximately 30% of all businesses. As stated previously, there are a range of large and small businesses that exist to support the sheep industry so the number of local businesses that stand to be impacted by the decision to phase out live sheep export by sea, will be considerably higher than the 243 directly involved in sheep/lamb production.

¹ ABS (2023), Agricultural Commodities

² REMPLAN, Wheatbelt Economy Profile

³ Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced by Local Government Areas 2020-21, Australian Bureau of Statistics, July 2022

⁴ Agricultural Commodities by Local Government Areas 2020-21, Australian Bureau of Statistics, July 2022

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) commissioned a report on the impact of the self-imposed live sheep trade moratorium in 2019. The report⁵ examined how the 3-to-4-month halt in exports affected people and businesses involved in the trade and provides an invaluable insight into what can be expected when live sheep export is discontinued permanently. The report found that:

- The live export market provides a stable price floor in the sheep market. Because there are fewer buyers in WA sheep markets compared to eastern markets, competition is heavily reliant on the live export trade to improve competitiveness and prices. During the shipping suspension, the normal price discount in WA compared to eastern markets, widened further due to lack of competition.
- Sheep producers have some ability to adjust their management and sell into domestic markets. However, many support industries and services are highly reliant on livestock exports and experienced negative mental health as well as financial impacts as a result of the moratorium.
- While many industries undoubtedly evolve in response to changed conditions, the isolation of the WA sheep industry and its reliance on live export makes it unique. Without a sustainable live export industry, the WA sheep flock is under threat.

In addition to this research, two recent reports, one by ACIL Allen⁶ and the other by Mercado⁷ highlight the potential negative impacts for Western Australian sheep producers if live export is no longer a disposal option, because excess lamb supplies and persistent processing constraints/limited slaughter capacity in the State are already driving domestic prices down. In the face of reduced markets and lower prices, livestock producers will likely adapt their farming operations by destocking and increasing cropping. As the state's sheep flock declines, so too will the revenue that is generated by the industry throughout the supply chain and for the ancillary support and service industries that have no viable alternative avenues of revenue, the impact will be catastrophic. For our region, this translates to job losses and further population decline in regional communities that are already suffering greatly from outmigration and the flow on impact this has to maintaining vital services and amenities.

We are aware that there was a public consultation period which has now closed and that the independent panel appointed to consult with stakeholders received a considerable number of written submissions and survey responses as well as undertaking face to face consultations. Our understanding is that this feedback will be considered by the independent panel in preparing recommendations that will inform how and when the government will phase out live sheep exports by sea. We are also aware that our counterparts in the North Eastern Wheatbelt (NEWROC) have written to you requesting that the independent panel produce an interim report prior to the final report being submitted in September and that this interim report be shared publicly. We would like to support and reiterate this request.

Yours Sincerely



Rebekah Burges

Executive Officer, Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

⁵ Mercado 2020. Impact of the live sheep export trades self-imposed moratorium and regulatory changes.

⁶ ACIL Allen, Performance and value of the live sheep export trade, June 2023.

⁷ The Mercado Market Insight Report for Q1 2023

WEROC | Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Inc.

Incorporating the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Tammin, Westonia and Yilgarn

A PO Box 5, MECKERING WA 6405 **E** rebekah@150square.com.au **M** 0428 871 202



WALGA

WALGA Heads of Agencies Breakfast

Dear Bill

I am pleased to advise that WA Local Government Association (WALGA) Heads of Agencies (HOA) Breakfast will be held on **Monday 18 September at Crown Perth** as part of the WALGA Local Government Convention 2023.

We invite Local Governments to nominate **up to two** representatives to attend. Your chosen spokespeople may choose to sit together on a single table with one HOA or divide between two tables so that you may raise your topics with two different HOA's. It is important to choose your preferences carefully and curate questions to suit your choices.

WALGA President Karen Chappel is sending further details to Mayors and Presidents, with instructions on how to register.

This event is one of WALGA's premier advocacy initiatives with State Government for the year, and we look forward to seeing your Local Government represented.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Kind regards,

Nick Sloan | CEO



WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present. WALGA is committed to supporting the efforts of WA Local Governments to foster respectful partnerships and strengthen relationships with local Aboriginal communities.



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Our mailing address is:

LV1, 170 Railway Pde, West Leederville WA 6007

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