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Auditor General finds significant shortcomings in first local government information systems audit

The Auditor General has tabled in Parliament the inaugural information systems audit report for the local government sector.

The report, *Information Systems Audit Report 2020 - Local Government Entities*, summarises the results of the 2019 cycle of information systems audits at 1 regional and 9 metropolitan local government entities.

The audit benchmarked entities' information security practices against a globally recognised standard and assessed their general computer controls.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said all 10 local government entities had significant shortcomings in their information security practices.

'Only 4 entities demonstrated that they were effective or partially effective in at least half of the 14 areas of the security standard.

'In addition, the level of maturity for entities' general computer controls was low, with no entity meeting our minimum capability benchmark across all control categories,' Ms Spencer said.

Across the 10 entities, the audit identified 150 general computer control weaknesses with 13 rated as significant, 113 moderate and the remainder as minor.

'All local government entities, including those not sampled in this audit, need to carefully consider the standards and the recommendations in this report to improve information security practices and protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information and systems,' Ms Spencer said.

As with our State sector general computer control work, we have not identified the audited local government entities so as not to expose their systems to additional risks. We provided each entity with detailed findings so they can address identified shortcomings.

Report resources

- [PDF version](#)
- [Online version](#)