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30 June 2020

Auditor General makes recommendations to help local governments improve their regulation of food businesses

The Auditor General's latest audit report, *Regulation of Consumer Food Safety by Local Government Entities*, has tabled in Parliament today.

It focuses on food safety regulation by 2 local government entities with large numbers of restaurants, cafes and bars in their local areas, and provides recommendations for the wider sector.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said the audit provided a good baseline understanding of food business regulatory issues.

'At the 2 entities we found many food business inspections were overdue, recordkeeping was poor and follow-up and enforcement actions were not always consistent or completed. These weaknesses increase the risk that unsafe food practices are not fixed, and the public consumes hazardous food.

'Both entities have advised us that they are in the process of completing overdue inspections and improving their inspection and enforcement practices and reporting.

'The findings highlight the importance of a fair and equitable regulatory framework which focusses on the areas of highest risk to consumer safety,' Ms Spencer said.

All Western Australia local government entities are encouraged to consider the findings and recommendations in this report against their own practices so that the public can be confident that the food they consume is safe.

Ms Spencer said in the coming months I plan to report on the effectiveness of the Department of Health's framework for monitoring consumer food safety. The Department was in the original scope of the audit, but we put this work on hold as the Department is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report will provide greater context on how food safety is regulated in Western Australia.

Report resources

- [online version](#)
- [PDF version](#)
- [summary video](#)