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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Local Government and Communities**

Our Ref: 2889-15; E1651443

TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CIRCULAR N^o 31-2016

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (AUDITING) BILL 2016

In March 2016, local governments were notified of the Liberal National Government's proposal for the Auditor General to undertake financial and performance audits of the local government sector.

It was proposed that the Auditor General and the Office of the Auditor General take responsibility for local government financial audits from 1 July 2017. Local governments were requested not to extend or renew audit contracts past the 2016-17 audit in anticipation of the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Bill 2016* taking effect.

On 25 August 2016 the *Local Government Amendment (Auditing) Bill 2016* was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. However, the Bill will not pass before the dissolution of Parliament.

With the State election scheduled for March 2017, local governments are encouraged to extend or renew audit contracts until the 2017-18 audit, with the option of annual extensions.

If you have any questions, please contact the department on 6551 8700 or via email legislation@dlgc.wa.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Mathews'.

Jennifer Mathews
DIRECTOR GENERAL

12 December 2016

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