

January 2025 progress report to IBAC

No	Recommendation	Portfolio	January 2025 progress
1	<p>The Premier establishes an Implementation Inter-departmental Taskforce (the Taskforce) that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and comprises senior representatives of other relevant departments and agencies including, but not limited to, the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Department of Transport and Planning ii) Department of Government Services iii) Victorian Public Sector Commission iv) Local Government Inspectorate v) Victorian Electoral Commission. b) responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) coordinating implementation of IBAC’s recommendations, where immediate action can be taken ii) progressing consideration of longer-term reforms proposed in the special report that require expert analysis and stakeholder consultation iii) making sure that the proposed reforms meet the principles and outcomes set out in IBAC’s report, and that these reforms are implemented for each of the strategic issues iv) reporting quarterly to IBAC, detailing the progress of action taken in response to IBAC’s recommendations v) reporting publicly within 18 months on action taken in response to IBAC’s recommendations, noting that IBAC may further publicly report on the adequacy or otherwise of those proposals. <p>In undertaking this work, the Taskforce should consult IBAC officers on the development of an implementation plan and the drafting of legislative amendments.</p>	Premier	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce, chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), has been established and is meeting regularly to coordinate implementation of the recommendations. • With release of this progress report, the Taskforce has acquitted recommendation 1.
2	<p>The Premier ensures that the Taskforce considers and recommends measures to address the corruption risks associated with windfall gains from changes in permissible land use, drawing on any lessons learnt in the development and implementation of the <i>Windfall Gains Tax and State Taxation and Other Acts Further Amendment Act 2021</i>.</p>	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway to investigate options to address the corruption risks associated with changes in permissible land use that can result in windfall gains. • Consistent with IBAC’s recommendation, potential measures will be subject to further consideration by the Taskforce that has been established by DPC.
3	<p>The Minister for Planning develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic) so that authorisation of a planning scheme amendment operates as a transparent and accountable gateway process by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) amending section 8A(7) to facilitate proper consideration of the strategic justification and timely authorisation of planning scheme amendments b) setting clear criteria that the Minister for Planning must consider in exercising their discretion to authorise progression of an amendment, including satisfaction of strategic justification c) specifying a presumption against amendment for an appropriate period, noting that the reasons for any exemptions should be clear and details made publicly available. 	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. • The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
4	<p>The Premier ensures that the Taskforce considers and recommends amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic) to ensure that the number of possible outcomes that could be considered ‘correct’ decisions in response to a given proposal at the adoption and approval stages of a planning scheme amendment is narrowed by specifying criteria that must be addressed to the satisfaction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the planning authority to adopt an amendment b) the Minister for Planning to approve an amendment. 	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. • The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
5	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning reviews and clarifies guidance to help prioritise competing policy criteria when assessing the merits of a planning scheme amendment, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the factors that should be considered in assessing strategic justification b) the hierarchy of broader-scale plans 	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is progressing work on reviewing and clarifying guidance to acquit this recommendation. • DTP will undertake targeted consultation with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to inform the drafting of new or updated guidance material

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			that will help assess the merits of proposals against competing policy objectives.
	The Minister for Planning develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic) to require the decision-maker to record the reasons for decisions at relevant points in the planning scheme amendment process	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
7	The Minister for Planning develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) and/or amends ministerial guidance to require every applicant and person making submissions to a council, the Minister for Planning or Planning Panels Victoria to disclose reportable donations and other financial arrangements that parties have made or have with relevant decision-makers in relation to that planning matter (with reference to the New South Wales provisions).	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
8	The Minister for Planning issues Ministerial Directions for Planning Panels Victoria panels to specify that there is a presumption in favour of the existing planning scheme and state policy settings.	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
9	The Premier ensures that the Taskforce considers and recommends amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic) to deter submitters from attempting to improperly influence a council, the Minister for Planning or Planning Panels Victoria in their role in the planning scheme amendment process, including, but not limited to, specifying relevant offences together with appropriate penalties.	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
10	The Premier ensures that the Taskforce engages subject-matter experts and consults stakeholders to develop a model structure for independent determinative planning panels for statutory planning matters that addresses the integrity risks identified in Operation Sandon, having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the skills mix and method of appointing panel members and the efficacy of rotating panel members b) the scope of panel coverage, being whether all councils should be required to use an independent planning panel, including the option of shared or regional panels in areas where councils handle fewer planning permits c) the referral criteria that should apply statewide to make clear which matters should be determined by planning panels rather than by council planning officers d) decision-making process and reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability of panel decisions e) arrangements to handle complaints about planning panels and review their performance to ensure continuous improvement. 	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
11	The Minister for Planning develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) remove statutory planning responsibilities from councillors b) introduce determinative planning panels for statutory planning matters, where a local council is currently the responsible authority. This is to give effect to the model developed by the Taskforce in response to Recommendation 10. 	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has

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			<p>committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
12	The Premier ensures that the Taskforce engages subject-matter experts and consults with key stakeholders to assess the operation of Part 4AA of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) and recommends whether further amendments are required to give full effect to independent panels as the decision-makers for all statutory planning matters, including those where the Minister for Planning is the responsible authority.	Minister for Planning	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is being considered as part of the review and rewrite of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that the government has committed to as part of Victoria’s Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024-2034. The review is underway, with targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken to ensure the review and rewrite focuses on what really matters to stakeholders.
13	The Premier ensures that the Taskforce considers and recommends whether the regulatory regime governing donations in Victoria would be strengthened by identifying and prohibiting high-risk groups (including, but not limited to, property developers) from making political donations to political entities and state and local government candidates.	Premier	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Acquitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquitted with the Electoral Review Expert Panel providing its main report to the Premier on 24 November 2023.
14	The Premier ensures that the Taskforce advises the independent panel review of the 2018 electoral reforms to ensure its report appropriately addresses the corruption risks of political donations highlighted in Operation Sandon.	Premier	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Acquitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquitted with the Electoral Review Expert Panel providing its main report to the Premier on 24 November 2023.
15	The Premier ensures that the implementation of Recommendations 3 and 4 from the Donations & Lobbying special report appropriately addresses the lobbying risks highlighted in Operation Sandon.	Premier	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government is progressing work on reforms to lobbying regulation in the context of its in-principle commitment to implement recommendations arising from IBAC’s Special report on corruption risks associated with donations and lobbying, and its in-principle support for further relevant recommendations from IBAC’s Operation Clara, Operation Daintree and Operation Sandon reports.
16	The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) develops guidelines to apply to electorate officers when a Member of Parliament is on extended leave, to ensure electorate officers are appropriately supervised and are subject to clear lines of accountability.	Department of Parliamentary Services	<p><u>Matter for Parliament</u></p>
17	<p>The Minister for Local Government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensures that Local Government Victoria develops and maintains a Model Councillor Code of Conduct that includes better practice provisions that will apply to all councils, noting that councils can adopt additional provisions to the extent that they are consistent with the minimum standards specified in the Model Councillor Code of Conduct develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic), or amends relevant regulations to specify that councils must adopt the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024</i> received Royal Assent on 25 June 2024. From 26 October 2024, all councillors must observe a Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code) that has been prescribed in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020. The Model Code includes the standards of conduct expected to be observed by councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as councillors and is supported by guidance that assists councillors to understand what constitutes a breach. The Act also amends the definition of misconduct to be a breach of the Model Code to ensure that there are appropriate sanctions available to address conduct that does not meet the expectations set out in the Model Code.
18	The Minister for Local Government uses an appropriate mechanism, such as amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> (Vic) or relevant regulations, to require that councillors undertake mid-term refresher training on governance, leadership and integrity.	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reforms introduced through the <i>Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024</i> require all councillors to undergo

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			<p>mandatory professional development training to ensure that councillors understand their role and responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors must complete the training at least once each year of their term beginning in the first full calendar year after they are elected. • Under the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, the training must cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working together in a Council; • decision making, integrity and accountability; • community representation; • strategic planning and financial management; • conduct; • land use planning. • Guidance has been developed to assist councils in delivering this training. • A failure to complete the training as required will result in allowances being withheld until the training is completed as required. If a councillor is on leave, they will have one month to complete any professional development training they have missed without having their allowance withheld.
19	<p>The Minister for Local Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensures that Local Government Victoria develops and publishes Model Governance Rules to operate as the minimum standards for council meeting procedures b) develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the Local Government Act 2020, or amends relevant regulations to specify that councils must adopt the Model Governance Rules c) ensures that Local Government Victoria maintains the Model Governance Rules in a way that promotes better practices that apply to all councils, noting that councils can adopt additional rules to the extent that they are consistent with the minimum standards specified in the Model Governance Rules. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being guided by a local government steering committee that has been convened. • Extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement will commence in early 2025 to develop Model Governance Rules as minimum standards for council meeting procedures.
20	The Minister for Local Government encourages diligent, considered councillor decision-making by providing guidance and training to councils on administrative and council meeting best practice.	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reforms introduced through the <i>Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024</i> require all councillors to undergo mandatory professional development training to ensure that councillors understand their role and responsibilities. • From 2025, councillors will be required to complete the training at least once each year. • Under the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, the training must cover decision making, integrity and accountability. • Guidance has been developed to assist councils in delivering this training. This supplements existing guidance on conflicts of interest, good governance and unbiased decision making.
21	The Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria includes in the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors a clear statement of expectations to guide councillors and staff in their interactions with each other.	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u></p> <p>Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 26 October 2024, all councillors must observe a Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code) that has been prescribed in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020. • The Model Code provides, among other matters, that a Councillor must treat others, including other Councillors, members of Council staff and members of the public, with dignity, fairness, objectivity, courtesy and respect and that a councillor must act in accordance with any policies, practices and protocols developed and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer under section 46 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> that support arrangements for interactions between members of Council staff and Councillors.

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22	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develops and publishes a Model Transparency Policy to specify the minimum standards for council openness and transparency b) ensures that the Model Governance Rules and Model Transparency Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) highlight the importance of open government and the related risks in holding pre-council meetings ii) note the limited circumstances in which it may be appropriate to hold pre-council meetings immediately before a public council meeting, such as to discuss procedural arrangements for the meeting iii) makes clear that councillors must not discuss the substance of agenda items in detail, reach agreements on council agenda items in private, and that briefings should involve the presentation of information only c) develops further guidance to explain to councillors why deliberation on an agenda item (not just voting) in public is important, particularly for planning matters. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being guided by a local government steering committee that has been convened. • Extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement will commence in early 2025 to update the Model Transparency Policy and develop Model Governance Rules. • Under the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, the mandatory professional development training must cover decision making, integrity and accountability as well as land use planning. This training will explain to councillors why deliberation on an agenda item (not just voting) in public is important, particularly for planning matters.
23	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that the Model Governance Rules expressly prohibit voting en bloc in council meetings.</p>	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being guided by a local government steering committee that has been convened. • Extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement will commence in early 2025 to inform the contents of the Model Governance Rules as minimum standards for council meeting procedures.
24	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that the Model Governance Rules require council meeting minutes to state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the names of councillors who spoke on each motion b) the names of councillors who voted for and against each motion (regardless of whether a division was called). 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being guided by a local government steering committee that has been convened. • Extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement will commence in early 2025 to inform the contents of the Model Governance Rules as minimum standards for council meeting procedures.
25	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria undertakes a review, and introduces related reforms, to ensure that councillor breaches of the conflict-of-interest provisions are addressed in a timely and effective manner.</p>	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial problem analysis, scoping and work scheduling is complete. • The Department of Government Services will work with the Local Government Inspectorate on ways to support an improved response to breaches of the legislative requirements in relation to conflicts of interest noting that this sits within the responsibilities of the Chief Municipal Inspector.
26	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that the Model Governance Rules stipulate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) council officer reports on local government planning matters be accompanied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a schedule of reportable donations and other financial arrangements that parties have made or have with councillors (as discussed in Recommendation 7) ii) a statement of the interested parties that includes details of the parties affected by the motion before council, such as the names of personnel, company names and registered addresses b) councillors must acknowledge that they have read the schedule of reportable donations and other financial arrangements and the statement of involved parties before declaring whether they have a conflict of interest in the relevant agenda item for any local government planning matters. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being guided by a local government steering committee that has been convened. • Extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement will commence in early 2025 to inform the contents of the Model Governance Rules as minimum standards for council meeting procedures.
27	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that the Model Governance Rules (such as through an amendment to clause 18.3 of the draft rules):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide a clear process for disclosing all conflicts of interest, including those that involve privacy matters. This process must set out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) precisely what matters will be included in the declaration and public register ii) how declarations involving privacy matters will be recorded iii) how long records will be retained b) require councillors to disclose, in sufficient detail, the circumstances that give rise to a conflict of interest, including, but not limited to, the names of the people or entities associated with the conflict and their relationship to the councillor. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is being guided by a local government steering committee that has been convened. • Extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement will commence in early 2025 to inform the contents of the Model Governance Rules as minimum standards for council meeting procedures.

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28	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria develops model conflict-of-interest training, and an associated strategy to ensure that its completion is enforceable, to consistently reinforce conflict-of-interest obligations across councils. The training should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> explain why a councillor cannot or should not participate in the decision-making process for a matter in which they have a conflict, during or outside council meetings ensure that councillors understand their obligation to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> familiarise themselves with the parties who donate to any political, charitable or community interests with which the councillor has an involvement assess whether those donations give rise to a conflict of interest for particular council matters provide precise details of the nature of the conflict when declaring a conflict of interest. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reforms introduced through the <i>Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024</i> will require all councillors to undergo mandatory professional development training to ensure that councillors understand their role and responsibilities. Councillors will be required to complete the training at least once each year of their term beginning in the first full calendar year after they are elected. Under the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, the training must cover decision making, integrity and accountability, which includes conflicts of interest. Guidance has been developed to assist councils in delivering this training which directs councils to guidance issued by Local Government Victoria on conflicts of interest.
29	<p>The Minister for Local Government develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> (Vic) to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> expressly prohibit councillors with a conflict of interest from attempting to influence other councillors (with reference to the Queensland provisions) specify an appropriate penalty for councillors who contravene this provision. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial problem analysis, scoping and work scheduling is complete. Amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> are under consideration and will be informed by extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement.
30	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria reviews the available sanctions for misconduct to ensure that the options provided are adequate and applied in an appropriate way. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that the option to direct that a councillor be ineligible to hold the position of mayor after a finding of misconduct can be applied in a way that is both proportional to the conduct and timebound.</p>	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024</i> has amended the sanctions available to an arbiter on a finding of misconduct to increase the maximum time a councillor can be suspended to 3 months (previously 1 month) and to enable an arbiter to direct that the councillor is not to attend or participate in a specified council meeting or is ineligible to hold the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor for a period specified by the arbiter not exceeding 12 months.
31	<p>The Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria includes in the Model Councillor Code of Conduct a clear statement that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> council officers and members of the public may make a complaint to the Chief Municipal Inspector a CEO must notify IBAC under section 57 of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 (Vic) if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct involves corrupt conduct. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Acquitted</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 26 October 2024, all councillors will be required to observe a Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code) that has been prescribed in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020. The Model Code include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as councillors and is supported by guidance that details the different integrity bodies and how to make a complaint, including to the CMI and IBAC.
32	<p>The Minister for Local Government develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) to require that the Principal Councillor Conduct Registrar collate and publish data annually on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the internal arbitration process, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of applications received the number of applications withdrawn the nature of the issues raised the outcome of completed arbitration processes the cost to the council of dealing with arbitrated matters, including staff costs councillor conduct panels, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of applications received the number of applications withdrawn the nature of the issues raised the outcome of completed panel processes the cost to the council of dealing with panel matters, including staff costs. 	Minister for Local Government	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial problem analysis, scoping and work scheduling is complete. Amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> are under consideration and will be informed by extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement.

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33	<p>The Premier ensures that the Taskforce identifies the most appropriate mechanism to support a council CEO in making a mandatory notification about serious misconduct. This includes suspected breaches of the conflict-of-interest provisions by councillors – in particular, breaches involving material conflicts of interest – noting that the Chief Municipal Inspector has the authority to apply to a councillor conduct panel or prosecute a councillor for misuse of position due to a conflict of interest, but is not currently authorised to receive a mandatory notification concerning a councillor from a CEO, under the <i>Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012</i> (Vic).</p>	<p>Minister for Local Government</p> <p>Attorney-General</p>	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <i>Justice Legislation Amendment (Integrity, Defamation and Other Matters) Act 2024</i>, which was given Royal Assent on 10 September 2024 includes amendments to the <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i> to enable the Chief Municipal Inspector to receive public interest disclosures about councillors, the conduct of a Council or of a member, officer or employee of a Council.• Further amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> are under consideration.• This will be informed by extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement.
34	<p>The Minister for Local Government develops and introduces to Parliament amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> (Vic), or amends relevant regulations, and institutes related enabling processes, to promote greater consistency and independent oversight of recruitment and employment of council CEOs by:</p> <p>a) mandating that councils use a standard employment contract for CEOs that:</p> <p>i) - covers, among other things, the role of the CEO, performance review and management, and termination payment (including limits on such payments)</p> <p>ii) - bans non-disclosure agreements between councils and CEOs or former CEOs</p> <p>amending section 45 to require each council to establish a committee to determine matters relevant to the recruitment, employment and remuneration of the CEO. The committee must be chaired by an independent professional with executive experience in local or state government, and the majority of its members must be external to the council</p>	<p>Minister for Local Government</p>	<p><u>Underway</u> Government response in March 2024 – Support in Principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial problem analysis, scoping and work scheduling is complete.• Amendments to the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> are under consideration and will be informed by extensive sector and key stakeholder engagement.