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22 July 2025

Wyndham City Council – Written Statement in Response to VAGO Report No. 40: Fraud and Corruption Control – Local Government

Wyndham City Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's follow-up inquiry into the Victorian Auditor-General's reports on fraud and corruption control within local government. As a Council previously audited under Report No. 40, we remain firmly committed to strengthening our fraud and corruption controls and maintaining high standards of integrity and transparency.

In response to the Auditor-General's recommendations, Wyndham City Council has taken comprehensive steps to implement and, where appropriate, go beyond the minimum requirements. We have:

- **Reviewed and strengthened our Councillor Expense and Reimbursement processes**, including the introduction of improved claim forms and reporting frameworks. Expense data is now regularly reported to Council and the Audit and Risk Committee and is publicly available via our website.
- **Updated our Motor Vehicle and Plant Policy** to clarify fuel card use and incorporate fraud prevention mechanisms, including structured controls, exception reporting, and improved vehicle data management through our new asset system. We have also decommissioned onsite fuel due to insufficient oversight.
- **Revised our Purchasing Card Policy in May 2022**, introduced mandatory training and compliance checks before card issuance, and enhanced approval processes to ensure clear accountability and proper segregation of duties.
- **Established transparent reporting mechanisms for CEO expenditure**, despite the CEO not holding a credit card, with travel-related expenses now published online to further bolster public trust.
- **Implemented regular data analytics and internal audits** on credit and fuel card usage, with exception reporting designed to identify irregularities such as out-of-hours transactions or bill splitting.
- **Ensured Council policies reflect community expectations** regarding expenditure on meals and alcohol, with robust oversight and a focus on demonstrating community benefit.
- **Improved reporting of senior management remuneration** in our Annual Report, consistent with accounting standards and regulatory requirements.

- **Embedded fraud and corruption awareness training** as a mandatory requirement for all staff and councillors, complemented by an internal intranet hub with resources, policies, and whistleblower reporting options.
- **Maintained a fraud and corruption incident register**, which remains under regular review as part of our broader policy updates.
- **Published quarterly councillor expense reports**, ensuring full compliance with Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations. Recent updates to our reporting format have improved the level of detail and transparency.

These actions reflect Wyndham's proactive approach to fraud and corruption control, and our determination to protect public resources, build community confidence, and continuously improve our systems and policies.

We remain committed to ongoing review and continuous improvement, ensuring that Wyndham City Council upholds the highest standards of governance.



Stephen Wall
CEO

Encl.
Att.
c.c.