



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**
Building and Energy



Progress report

**Local government's four yearly
inspections of private swimming
pool safety barriers**

2017/18

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the first progress report on Local Government's Four Yearly Inspections of Private Swimming Pool Safety Barriers 2017/18. The report details local government's private swimming pool safety barrier inspection figures for the 2017/18 period.

This report is in response to recommendation 7 of the Ombudsman Western Australia (Ombudsman) report titled Investigation into ways to prevent or reduce deaths of children by drowning (Report) which requires me to monitor the compliance of local governments with their inspection obligations and report this to Parliament annually.

While supervision is the most effective factor in preventing young children from drowning generally, safety barriers are proven to significantly reduce the incidence of drowning of young children in private swimming pools. The role that local governments play in inspecting these barriers is important as it ensures the majority of swimming pool barriers are compliant and are being continually maintained. The inspections themselves work as a reminder to consumers of the importance of safety barriers as part of the overall strategy in preventing young children from drowning.

I would like to thank all local governments who reported their data to me by the deadline. I would also like to thank the Ombudsman for his Report and for highlighting this important safety issue.

I am pleased to note that the total number of overdue inspections has dropped significantly from the 2014/15 figures provided by the Ombudsman. I would like to applaud local governments for the improvement demonstrated. These efforts should help to reduce the danger of deaths of young children by drowning. I will continue to report this information annually.



Ken Bowron

BUILDING COMMISSIONER



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Building and Energy Division (Building and Energy Division).

Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death in children under the age of five, with private swimming pools contributing to a significant proportion of these deaths.

On 23 November 2017, the Ombudsman tabled his Report in Parliament which explored the contributing factors to the fatal and non-fatal drowning of young children. One of the findings was that a large number of local governments were not meeting their obligations when it came to pool barrier inspections. 59 local governments (43 per cent) were identified as having a total of 8,639 private swimming pools overdue for inspection, out of a total 144,899 pools, as at 30 June 2015.

The Building Regulations 2012 requires local governments to arrange for an authorised person to inspect the safety barriers to private swimming pools located within their districts at intervals of no more than four years, for the purpose of monitoring compliance. Included in the Ombudsman's Report were 25 recommendations, with Recommendation 7 of the Report requiring the Building Commissioner to monitor the compliance of local governments with their inspection obligations and report this to Parliament annually.

As part of addressing the recommendations of the Ombudsman's Report, the Building and Energy Division is currently undertaking a regulatory review of the requirements for pools and their safety barriers. It is anticipated that the provision, by local government, of the type of data presented in this report will become a mandatory annual requirement, with the expectation that public reporting of the progress made by local governments in meeting their pool barrier inspection obligations will assist in encouraging compliance by local governments.

In June 2018 local governments were requested to voluntarily provide compliance data on their pool safety barrier inspection progress. The Building Commissioner's survey revealed there were 3,632 pools overdue for inspection, out of a total number of 159,183 pools, as at 30 June 2018. This demonstrates a significant overall reduction in the total number of overdue pool inspections.

Some local governments were unable to provide a response by the requested deadline and this has been noted accordingly in the table. It should be noted that several local governments reported problems in accessing certain private properties in order to conduct their inspections, circumstances such as this may be a contributing factor to the overdue inspection statistics.

Progress report on local government's four yearly inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2017/18

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2017/18	Overdue
City of Albany	123	27	0
City of Armadale	4985	2083	0
Shire of Ashburton	554	294	33
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	136	3	64
Town of Bassendean	814	0	0
City of Bayswater	2841	684	0
City of Belmont	1246	354	0
Shire of Beverley	27	18	0
Shire of Boddington	50	11	1
Shire of Boyup Brook	3	1	0
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	45	19	1
Shire of Brookton	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Broome	1521	249	444
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	8	0	0
Shire of Bruce Rock	6	5	0
City of Bunbury	1266	700	0
City of Busselton	1426	466	2
Town of Cambridge	3400	886	0
City of Canning	6354	1630	420
Shire of Capel	1005	40	0
Shire of Carnamah	13	0	0
Shire of Carnarvon	109	12	unknown
Shire of Chapman Valley	100	1	14
Shire of Chittering	64	2	0
Shire of Christmas Island	Data not provided by deadline		

Where total number of pools is recorded as '0' this indicates the local government has no registered pools in their jurisdiction.
 'Unknown' indicates the local government were unable to provide this information as it was unknown.

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2017/18	Overdue
Town of Claremont	787	232	0
City of Cockburn	7249	2219	1463
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Collie	331	77	13
Shire of Coolgardie	113	96	17
Shire of Coorow	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Corrigin	17	4	0
Town of Cottesloe	761	68	39
Shire of Cranbrook	2	1	1
Shire of Cuballing	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Cue	4	3	0
Shire of Cunderdin	8	8	0
Shire of Dalwallinu	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Dandaragan	46	14	0
Shire of Dardanup	798	234	0
Shire of Denmark	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	115	3	65
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Dowerin	5	5	0
Shire of Dumbleyung	12	12	0
Shire of Dundas	10	0	0
Town of East Fremantle	580	554	0
Shire of East Pilbara	343	176	0
Shire of Esperance	113	64	0
Shire of Exmouth	103	32	0

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2017/18	Overdue
City of Fremantle	911	511	50
Shire of Gingin	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Gnowangerup	11	11	4
Shire of Goomalling	14	0	0
City of Gosnells	7280	2708	118
City of Greater Geraldton	1831	410	0
Shire of Halls Creek	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Harvey	1414	426	0
Shire of Irwin	101	7	29
Shire of Jerramungup	0	0	0
City of Joondalup	22294	9608	41
City of Kalamunda	5733	1332	26
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2291	297	111
City of Karratha	1670	519	2
Shire of Katanning	110	0	69
Shire of Kellerberrin	26	5	unknown
Shire of Kent	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Kojonup	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Kondinin	6	1	1
Shire of Koorda	14	1	0
Shire of Kulin	10	0	0
City of Kwinana	1705	377	3
Shire of Lake Grace	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Laverton	2	0	0
Shire of Leonora	8	0	0

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City of Mandurah	4985	1492	227
Shire of Manjimup	63	32	0
Shire of Meekatharra	1	1	0
City of Melville	9924	2807	7
Shire of Menzies	0	0	0
Shire of Merredin	96	25	1
Shire of Mingenew	22	0	0
Shire of Moora	102	2	0
Shire of Morawa	4	unknown	unknown
Town of Mosman Park	856	384	29
Shire of Mount Magnet	5	5	0
Shire of Mount Marshall	6	1	0
Shire of Mukinbudin	0	0	0
Shire of Mundaring	3582	1741	0
Shire of Murchison	0	0	0
Shire of Murray	1087	87	3
Shire of Nannup	14	2	0
Shire of Narembeen	12	1	0
Shire of Narrogin	Data not provided by deadline		
City of Nedlands	2749	896	28
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	0	0	0
Shire of Northam	503	272	0
Shire of Northampton	156	4	58
Shire of Nungarin	0	0	0
Shire of Peppermint Grove	268	3	85

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2017/18	Overdue
Shire of Perenjori	Data not provided by deadline		
City of Perth	95	0	1
Shire of Pingelly	34	16	0
Shire of Plantagenet	18	18	0
Town of Port Hedland	827	107	8
Shire of Quairading	44	21	0
Shire of Ravensthorpe	0	0	0
City of Rockingham	9652	2480	0
Shire of Sandstone	2	0	unknown
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	1922	671	29
Shire of Shark Bay	5	0	0
City of South Perth	2705	289	55
City of Stirling	12051	3658	0
City of Subiaco	731	223	0
City of Swan	7851	4195	0
Shire of Tammin	0	0	0
Shire of Three Springs	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Toodyay	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Trayning	3	0	0
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	2	2	0
Town of Victoria Park	800	774	8
Shire of Victoria Plains	8	7	0
City of Vincent	922	268	40
Shire of Wagin	66	34	1
Shire of Wandering	17	3	3

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2017/18	Overdue
City of Wanneroo	13339	4262	0
Shire of Waroona	174	57	0
Shire of West Arthur	3	3	0
Shire of Westonia	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Wickepin	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Williams	30	17	13
Shire of Wiluna	1	0	0
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	28	0	0
Shire of Woodanilling	Data not provided by deadline		
Shire of Wyalkatchem	12	0	0
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	301	224	0
Shire of Yalgoo	0	0	0
Shire of Yilgarn	22	18	4
Shire of York	159	3	1
Total	159183	52605	3632

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Building and Energy**

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