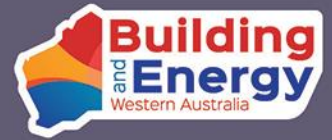




Government of Western Australia  
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



# **Progress report**

## **Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22**

## **BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD**

I am pleased to present the annual *Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22* (Report). The Report details individual local government private swimming pool safety barrier inspection figures for the 2021/22 period, as voluntarily reported by those local governments.

Swimming pools promote a healthy, active lifestyle and are a source of fun and entertainment for all. However, swimming pools are also known to be a common location of drowning for young children. While active adult supervision is the best method to prevent these incidents, safety barriers play an important part.

Inspections by local governments are an effective way of making sure that safety barriers comply and are being maintained. These inspections are an important task and I commend local governments for their efforts in meeting their statutory obligation.

While this Report shows a low percentage of overdue inspections, there remains room for improvement. It is disappointing that 9 local governments did not provide data and that there continues to be significant numbers of overdue inspections in some local government districts. I remain confident that these local governments will do their best to improve and hope that the continued public reporting of this information will help encourage this.

Of particular concern are the Shires of York and Northampton, who reported a significant amount of pool inspections as being overdue in consecutive reporting years. However, I am told that both have advised they have since inspected most of these overdue pools and are working diligently to inspect the remaining.

Safety barriers are a very important part of the strategy to prevent and reduce the deaths of children by drowning in private swimming pools. I will continue to identify local governments that perform poorly to ensure they meet their statutory obligations under the building legislation for inspecting private swimming pool safety barriers.



Kristin Berger  
**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).

Pool safety barriers are known to be effective in helping to restrict the unsupervised access of young children into swimming pool areas, reducing the likelihood of a drowning incident.

Local governments are required to inspect the safety barriers of private swimming pools within their district at intervals not exceeding four years. These inspections monitor the compliance of those safety barriers. Local governments have powers under the *Building Act 2011* to assist them in enforcing compliance.

Local governments were formally requested to voluntarily provide data on their pool safety barrier inspection progress in June 2022. An early notification email was sent in March, and a reminder email in August. The due date was 15 August 2022. Where responses were received after this date they have been included in the Report where possible.

Of 139 local governments in Western Australia, 130 provided a response prior to the preparation of this Report. Where a local government's data was not received it has been recorded in the Report as 'Data not provided by deadline'.

This Report is the fourth annual report on the progress of local governments' pool inspection programs and is in response to recommendation 7 of the Ombudsman WA report [Investigation into ways to prevent or reduce deaths of children by drowning](#), tabled in Parliament on 23 November 2017.

Building and Energy is currently undertaking a review of the regulatory requirements for pools and their safety barriers. It is anticipated that the provision of the data presented in this Report will become a mandatory annual requirement for local governments.

Some local governments, in their responses, detailed reasons why some inspections had not been conducted within the four year maximum. These included:

- the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to inspect;
- cyclone Seroja;
- bushfire;
- difficulties in organising access to some properties; and
- staff resourcing.

Summary	2021/22	2020/21	2018/19	2017/18
Total number of pools	170,975	166,709	161,960	159,183
Total number pools overdue	2,571	2,673	2,545	3,632
Total pools overdue %	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%	2.3%
Local governments with overdue inspections	49	54	40	44
Local governments that did not provide data	9	14	17	20

## Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
City of Albany	134	26	0	0.0%
City of Armadale	5,270	2,124	0	0.0%
Shire of Ashburton	529	142	0	0.0%
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	267	10	0	0.0%
Town of Bassendean	842	327	0	0.0%
City of Bayswater	2,947	677	0	0.0%
City of Belmont	1,294	335	0	0.0%
Shire of Beverley	27	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Boddington	56	6	7	12.5%
Shire of Boyup Brook	4	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Brookton	17	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Broome	1,794	624	2	0.1%
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	8	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Bruce Rock	8	0	0	0.0%
City of Bunbury	1,314	511	47	3.6%
City of Busselton	1,701	477	2	0.1%
Town of Cambridge	3,653	1,226	38	1.0%
City of Canning	6,315	1,220	4	0.1%
Shire of Capel	1,131	385	0	0.0%
Shire of Carnamah	5	0	0	0.0%

## Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Carnarvon	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Chapman Valley	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Chittering	63	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Christmas Island	5	5	0	0.0%
Town of Claremont	861	227	0	0.0%
City of Cockburn	7,807	2,224	0	0.0%
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	2	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Collie	343	114	0	0.0%
Shire of Coolgardie	99	27	29	29.3%
Shire of Coorow	29	25	4	13.8%
Shire of Corrigin	19	0	0	0.0%
Town of Cottesloe	734	112	12	1.6%
Shire of Cranbrook	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Cuballing	10	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Cue	5	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Cunderdin	11	9	0	0.0%
Shire of Dalwallinu	17	3	1	5.9%
Shire of Dandaragan	56	0	10	17.9%
Shire of Dardanup	888	219	0	0.0%
Shire of Denmark	12	12	0	0.0%
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	128	120	8	6.3%

## Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	187	97	0	0.0%
Shire of Dowerin	5	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Dumbleyung	12	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Dundas	6	0	6	100.0%
Town of East Fremantle	613	234	5	0.8%
Shire of East Pilbara	305	197	83	27.2%
Shire of Esperance	127	71	1	0.8%
Shire of Exmouth	125	24	0	0.0%
City of Fremantle	993	300	92	9.3%
Shire of Gingin	306	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Gnowangerup	12	0	1	8.3%
Shire of Goomalling	16	0	0	0.0%
City of Gosnells	7,427	2,608	0	0.0%
City of Greater Geraldton	1,927	591	40	2.1%
Shire of Halls Creek	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Harvey	1,625	255	0	0.0%
Shire of Irwin	122	26	4	3.3%
Shire of Jerramungup	1	0	0	0.0%
City of Joondalup	22,864	6,425	93	0.4%
City of Kalamunda	5,759	1,650	8	0.1%
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2,650	350	73	2.8%

## Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
City of Karratha	1,955	484	5	0.3%
Shire of Katanning	104	94	10	9.6%
Shire of Kellerberrin	28	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kent	5	5	0	0.0%
Shire of Kojonup	18	18	0	0.0%
Shire of Kondinin	3	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Koorda	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Kulin	7	0	0	0.0%
City of Kwinana	1,834	421	100	5.5%
Shire of Lake Grace	10	7	0	0.0%
Shire of Laverton	2	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Leonora	5	5	0	0.0%
City of Mandurah	5,812	1,862	9	0.2%
Shire of Manjimup	69	30	0	0.0%
Shire of Meekatharra	2	2	0	0.0%
City of Melville	10,609	1,864	1	0.0%
Shire of Menzies	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Merredin	98	17	4	4.1%
Shire of Mingenew	26	0	3	11.5%
Shire of Moora	77	32	0	0.0%
Shire of Morawa	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.

## Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Town of Mosman Park	925	244	18	1.9%
Shire of Mount Magnet	8	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Mount Marshall	6	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Mukinbudin	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Mundaring	3,722	799	444	11.9%
Shire of Murchison	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Murray	1,194	446	0	0.0%
Shire of Nannup	11	1	1	9.1%
Shire of Narembeen	12	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Narrogin	128	102	1	0.8%
City of Nedlands	2,854	640	0	0.0%
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Northam	545	59	71	13.0%
Shire of Northampton	157	7	75	47.8%
Shire of Nungarin	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Peppermint Grove	279	71	0	0.0%
Shire of Perenjori	3	0	3	100.0%
City of Perth	218	115	0	0.0%
Shire of Pingelly	32	28	0	0.0%
Shire of Plantagenet	15	15	0	0.0%
Town of Port Hedland	816	577	98	12.0%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Quairading	60	18	0	0.0%
Shire of Ravensthorpe	Data not provided by deadline			
City of Rockingham	10,657	3,296	4	0.0%
Shire of Sandstone	4	4	0	0.0%
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	2,144	345	0	0.0%
Shire of Shark Bay	6	0	0	0.0%
City of South Perth	2,925	218	647	22.1%
City of Stirling	12,985	4,199	1	0.0%
City of Subiaco	775	230	0	0.0%
City of Swan	8,620	2,505	142	1.6%
Shire of Tammin	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Three Springs	3	0	3	100.0%
Shire of Toodyay	102	9	0	0.0%
Shire of Trayning	3	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	1	1	0	0.0%
Town of Victoria Park	868	332	0	0.0%
Shire of Victoria Plains	10	0	0	0.0%
City of Vincent	1,173	148	84	7.2%
Shire of Wagin	Data not provided by deadline			
Shire of Wandering	21	0	1	4.8%
City of Wanneroo	14,774	4,364	100	0.7%

## Progress report - Local governments' periodic inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers 2021/22

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2021/22	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Waroona	197	111	16	8.1%
Shire of West Arthur	4	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Westonia	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wickepin	2	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Williams	27	27	0	0.0%
Shire of Wiluna	1	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	36	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Woodanilling	9	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wyalkatchem	6	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	294	184	0	0.0%
Shire of Yalgoo	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Yilgarn	23	18	5	21.7%
Shire of York	167	3	155	92.8%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>170,975</b>	<b>47,998</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

*Where total number of pools is recorded as '0' this indicates the local government has no registered pools in their jurisdiction.*

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