



# Regional Audit & Risk Forums

## Content & purpose

The purpose of Regional Audit & Risk Forums is to provide a framework to improve the effectiveness of an Audit & Risk Committee. These forums will also enable councils to learn from the experiences of others, including from the Office of the Auditor General and other councils.

## Learning objectives

These workshops are regionally based discussions designed to identify the areas of good practice for an Audit and Risk Committee, and are directed towards improving your own effectiveness in Audit & Risk Committees within the following areas:

- › Risk management and the system of internal controls
- › Reporting – financial & non-financial
- › External audit
- › Internal audit

This is a different approach to that used in the Audit & Risk Committee Roles and Functions workshop, which is focused on the roles and needs for such a committee.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of this workshop you will have:

- › considered how a committee ensures good risk management and whether the organisation has an appropriate level of internal controls;
- › determined what constitutes adequate financial and non-financial reports from management;
- › analysed the benefits of, and what makes a good relationship with external auditors;
- › examined your own levels of internal reporting and communications from committee to council in order to satisfy audit guidelines;
- › tools to help in your own self-evaluation of your committee's effectiveness; and
- › proposed a checklist of your own processes – a series of action points to start a plan for action and improvement.

## Target audience

This workshop's desired demographic consists of elected members who have either served on an Audit and Risk Committee or have a specific interest in risk management. We would recommend that the mayor or chair of a local authority attend.

Where a council has an independent member, it would also be of value if they were in attendance.

Furthermore, we would recommend that senior staff responsible for supporting an Audit and Risk Committee attend.

## When should a council attend a forum?

The ideal time for a council to attend is when there exists an appetite from the Audit & Risk Committee to evaluate its performance and ensure that it is focusing on the right areas. As one of the desired outcomes of the forum is a series of action points to form the basis for action and improvement, it is imperative that councils display a willingness to potentially change the direction of their Audit & Risk Committee. The implementation of this may require a change in the committee's structure of the council and this is best done post-election.

## Workshop fees

The cost per council is \$2,500.00+GST.

There is a minimum attendance of three councils required to run the programme.

## Workshop timings

9am - 3.30 pm