

Council Determined Development Applications Report



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The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is an independent, member-based, not for profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector.

Our membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State. WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

We do this through effective advocacy to all levels of Government on behalf of our Members and by the provision of expert advice services and support to Local Governments.

WALGA's vision is for agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic property.

1.0 Purpose

This data report provides the background, policy context, and analysis of data from 46 Local Governments (Appendix 1) regarding any development application that was determined by Council between July 2022 - June 2023. The purpose of the paper is to:

- 1. Provide an evidence-based analysis of development applications that were determined at Council Meetings and their impact on the delivery of housing and other forms of development;
- 2. Understand how the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2023 and Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Amendment (Single House Development) Regulations 2024 will impact on planning decision making by Local Governments, and particularly decisions made by Council; and
- 3. Inform WALGA's ongoing engagement and advocacy with Government on current and future proposals for planning reform.

2.0 Background

Earlier this year, the Minister for Planning announced that from 1 July 2024, the determination of development applications for single houses or any development associated with a single house, (excluding development of or associated with a heritage protected place) must be made by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Local Government or employees authorised by the CEO and cannot be determined by Council.

The State Government's rationale for this change was to reduce unnecessary red tape for decision making processes for single houses, provide a consistent process for how single house developments are dealt with across the State, improve efficiencies in decision making to assist with the delivery of housing, and enable the Council to focus on strategic planning, ensuring that local planning frameworks are contemporary and fit for purpose.¹

Coinciding with the reforms on 1 July 2024, the Minister for Planning issued a media statement² with the following comments:

These changes to local government decision-making for single houses will make it easier and quicker for Western Australians building a new home, extending or altering their existing house, or completing smaller residential projects.

The erosion of Local Government roles in the planning system through the planning reform agenda is an ongoing concern to WALGA. The announcement of these reforms was not supported by robust evidence, and failed to recognise the important role Councillors play in representing the interests of

¹WAPC (2024) Planning and Development Amendment Act 2023 and Associated Regulations.

² WA Government (2024) Single house reforms streamline approvals and boost housing delivery.



their constituents and the broader community. Further the benefit of determining controversial planning proposals in public forums, where submitters can raise their concerns directly to decision makers, while they also hear from supporters of proposals and the applicant, is pivotal to ensure accountability in decision makers while retaining the community's trust in the planning system.

In response, WALGA undertook a review of the Council Minutes from 46 Local Governments (Appendix 1) between July 2022 - June 2023 to determine how many Council determined development applications will be affected by these reforms to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* (the Act) and *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* (LPS Regulations).

Upon reviewing the Council Minutes, this data was compiled into a single data set to analyse the quantity and types of applications that were determined by each Council and if they were determined in accordance with the officer's recommendations (Appendix 2). In total, there were 511 Council determined development applications. Subsequently, this report was prepared to provide analysis of the data from the 46 Local Governments Council Minutes that were reviewed.

3.0 Report Structure

Following the analysis of the data set, WALGA have structured this report in a narrative format to highlight how many development applications will be affected by these reforms.

Firstly, section 5.1 of the report looks at the existing Performance Monitoring Project data that was compiled for the 2022-2023 financial year, before section 5.2 provides further analysis into the Council determined applications, and in particular, the rate of refusals between Council determined applications against the refusals under officer delegation.

Section 5.3 of this report then compares the types of Council determined applications by land use categories and provides the approvals and refusals rates of these land uses.

Next, section 5.4 of the report breaks the data of all 46 Local Governments into three regions (Inner City, Outer Metropolitan and Regional) to broadly align with the regional classifications used in Performance Monitoring Project. This section looks at the spread of development applications between each region, the approval rates as well as the most common land use categories.

Section 5.5 of the report provides an overview of how Council determined applications were either consistent with or against the officer's recommendations, broken down by land use categories and the three regions. In particular, this section compares the number of applications refused against officer recommendation against other data sources.

Lastly, section 5.6 of the report breaks down the Council determined single residential applications, which are the focus of these reforms. This section highlights the insignificant number of applications that will be affected by these reforms.

4.0 Policy Context

Delegation is generally defined as the assignment of responsibility or authority to another party in order that they can carry out specific duties and activities. Delegation empowers a subordinate to make decisions, that is, it is a shift of decision making authority from one organisational level to a lower one.

Prior to the reforms introduced on 1 July 2024, any development applications (other than those determined by Development Assessment Panels or Western Australian Planning Commission) that were received by Local Governments could be either determined by an officer under delegated authority or directly determined by Council. Delegations and conditions were set by each Local Government through a Council endorsed Delegated Authority Register.



The recent reform see implementation of Part 4 of the *Planning and Development Amendment Act* 2023 supported by amendments to Schedule 2 of the LPS Regulations that:

- Introduce a new section 257C into the Act, which provides the ability for regulations to specify that certain types of development approval functions relating to single houses must be done by or on behalf of the CEO of the local government.³
- Amend Schedule 2 of the LPS Regulations to specify that a single house development or any
 development associated with a single house such as additions, alterations, patios or carports
 where not otherwise exempt are to be done by the CEO of the local government or other local
 government officer/s authorised by the CEO. This will not apply to any heritage protected place
 as defined in Schedule 2.4

These reforms ensure that prescribed development approval functions in relation to prescribed single house development can no longer be determined by Council.

5.0 Research Data Analysis

5.1 Performance Monitoring Project Data

WALGA initiated the Local Government Performance Monitoring Project⁵ in 2017 to accurately report the planning and building performance of participating Local Governments.

Participating Local Governments opt in to the project to have their data recorded and de-identified to allow comparison of data across Local Governments. Prior to 2020, in addition to the summary report, participating Local Governments receive an individual report tracking their performance for comparison year on year. Since 2020, WALGA reports the results of the Performance Monitoring Report on an interactive dashboard, publically accessible on WALGA's website.

43 of the 46 Local Governments whose data has been reviewed for this research paper are participants of WALGA's Local Government Performance Monitoring Project, which consists of 90% of the WA population.

This data provides comprehensive longitudinal evidence on performance of Local Government planning functions, and generally indicates a high level of approval, high levels of delegated decision making, and timely determinations of proposals by Local Governments.

5.1.1 Performance Monitoring Project Data

The data presented in Figure 1 represents the total number of development applications (DA's), as reported by the 43 Local Governments that participate in the Performance Monitoring Project. The approved rate of DA's determined by these Local Governments between July 2022 - June 2023 was 98.61%. Furthermore, only 2.75% of all DA's were determined by Council. These proportions are consistent across the seven years of data collection undetaken by the Performane Monitoring Project.

The data collected for this report relate to the 2.75% of Council determineded development applications reported as part of the Performance Monitoring Project, as well as data from three additional Local Governments.

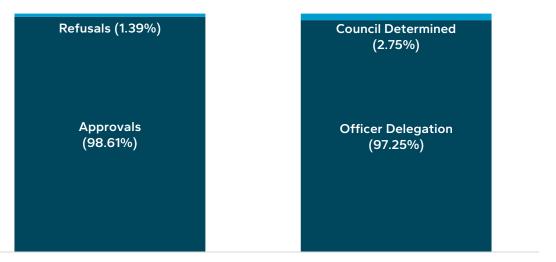
³ Western Australia Government (2023) <u>Planning and Development Amendment Act 2023 (Part 4 - Performance of development approval functions of local governments in relation to single houses.</u>

⁴ Western Australia Government (2024) <u>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes)</u> <u>Amendment (Single House Development) Regulations 2024.</u>

⁵ WALGA (2024) <u>Local Government Performance Monitoring Project.</u>



Figure 1 - Performance Monitoring Project Data



Total Approvals v Refusals

Total Development Applications

5.2 Council Determined Development Applications Data

5.2.1 Council Determined Approvals v Refusals & Officer v Council Refusals

Following a review of the 46 Local Governments Council Minutes, Figure 2 shows there was a total of 511 DA's that were determined by Council, with 429 approvals (83.95%) and 82 refusals (16.05%).



Figure 2 - Council Determined Approvals v Refusals
& Officer v Council Refusals

Council Determined Approvals v Refusals

Officer v Council Refusals

The Performance Monitoring Project data reported 217 DA's that were refused between July 2022 - June 2023. 82 of these were determined by Council, representing 37.79% of all refusals, whereas the remaining 62.21% equates to 135 refusals under delegation by officers.

Appendix 2 provides a table with all 46 Local Governments Council determined development application data.

5.3 Land Use Data

The 511 Council determined applications reviewed for this Report have been split into 12 categories to broadly describe the land use which each application falls under. These 12 land use categories are:



- New Single Houses;
- Existing Single House Alterations;
- Other Residential Dwellings (grouped and multiple dwellings);
- Workforce Accommodation;
- Residential Business (home businesses and family day cares);
- Commercial;
- Mixed Use (Residential / Commercial) (multiple dwellings with a commercial component);
- Industrial;
- Tourism (hotels, holiday accommodation and caravan parks);
- Rural / Agriculture (plantations, animal husbandry and grain storage);
- Change of Use; and
- Other (infrastructure, signage, car parks and public purposes)

Appendix 3 provides an overview of which land use types were determined by each of the 46 Local Government that were reviewed.

5.3.1 Council Applications by Land Use

Figure 3 demonstrates that single residential land uses comprise a significant proportion of the DA's that were determined by Council, with 61 New Single Houses (11.94%) and 147 Existing Single House Alterations (28.77%). In total, the 208 single residential development applications make up 40.71% of all Council determined applications. The single residential data will be further explored later in this report.

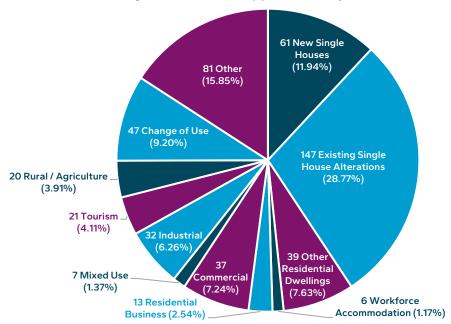


Figure 3 - Council Applications by Land Use

All other residential land uses (Other Residential Dwellings, Workforce Accommodation, Residential Business and Mixed Use) were some of the least common to be determined by Council, and equate to 65 (12.72%) applications.

The non-residential land uses were spread out relatively evenly, with 37 Commerical (7.24%), 32 Industrial (6.26%), 21 Tourism (4.11%) and 20 Rural / Agriculture (3.91%) land uses totalling 110 (21.52%) applications.

Lastly, the 47 Change of Use applications (9.20%) and 81 Other applications (15.85%) were two of the other most common application types, as they both capture a broad spectrum of all land uses.



5.3.2 Approvals v Refusals by Land Use

Figure 4 shows that the land uses with the highest rate of approval include Commercial (91.89%), Other (88.89%) and Tourism and Mixed Use (Residential / Commercial) both having an approval rating of 85.71%. Whereas the land uses with the highest refusal rating are Change of Use (23.40%), Residential Business (23.08%) and Other Residential Dwellings (20.51%).

New Single Houses **51** (83.61%) **10** (16.39%) Existing Single House Alterations 123 (83.67%) **24** (16.33%) Other Residential Dwellings 31 (79.49%) Workforce Accommodation 5 (83.33%) Residential Business 10 (76.92%) **3** (23.08%) Commercial **34** (91.89%) **3** (8.11%) Mixed Use (Resi / Comm) 6 (85.71%) **1** (14 29%) Industrial **26** (81.25%) **6** (18.75%) **Tourism 18** (85.71%) **3** (14.29%) Rural / Agriculture 17 (85.00%) 3 (15.00%) Change of Use 36 (76.60%) **11** (23.40%) Other **72** (88.89%) Approvals Refusals

Figure 4 - Approvals v Refusals by Land Use

With regard to the New Single Houses and Existing Single House Alterations land uses, they have relatively similar approval rates with 83.61% and 83.67% respectively. In terms of all 208 single residential land use applications, this equates to an average approval rating of 83.65%.

Therefore, in comparison to the total approval rating of 83.95% alluded to in Figure 2, single residential applications collectively have a marginally lower approval rating (0.30%).

5.4 Inner City, Outer Metropolitan and Regional Data

To further highlight the nuances between the 46 Local Governments, this section breaks up the data into three different regions. This includes a total of 20 Inner City, 10 Outer Metropolitan and 16 Regional Local Governments (Appendix 1). These regions have been chosen to broadly align with the categorisation of areas in the Performance Monitoring Project (Developed, Growth, Fringe and Regional).

The division of Local Governments into Inner City or Outer Metropolitan is influenced by the dominant form of development, being greenfield in newly establish suburbs, or infill in establish communities, respectively.

5.4.1 Council Applications (Inner City v Outer Metro v Regional)

Figure 5 shows how many DA's were determined by Councils in each of the three regions.

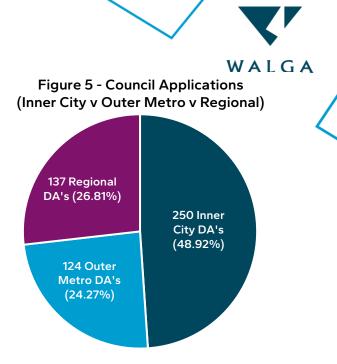
It is evident that the Inner City Local Governments have the most Council determined applications with 250 (48.92%), equating to almost half of all decisions, and the two other regions have each determined approximately a quarter of the remaining DA's.

However, when considering that 20 of the 46 Local Governments have been identified in the Inner City region, it is understandable that they would have a larger proportion of DA's.



For context, the Inner City Local Governments have averaged 12.5 applications per Council, while the Outer Metropolitan and Regional Local Governments averaged 12.4 DA's and 8.5 DA's per Council, respectively.

Therefore, both metropolitan regions have determined a similar amount of DA's on average, while Regional Local Governments have determined significantly less on average between July 2022 - June 2023.



5.4.2 Inner City, Outer Metro and Regional (Approvals v Refuals)

Figure 6 represents the approval rate of each region, with the Inner City Local Governments having the lowest approval rating of 80.80%, and the Outer Metropolitan Local Governments having a relatively similar approval rating at 81.45%.



Figure 6 - Inner City, Outer Metro and Regional (Approvals v Refusals)

Whilst the Regional Local Governments have the highest approval rating at 91.97%, this can be partially attributed to the increased volume of DA's which were sought retrospectively.

5.4.3 Inner City, Outer Metro and Regional by Land Use

Figure 7 indicates that single residential applications are most common type within the Inner City region, with 46 (75.41%) New Single Houses and 96 (65.31%) Existing Single House Alterations determined. This makes sense due to the majority of Perth's housing and population being located in these 20 Local Governments, these areas being predominantly built out, and a lower reliance on Local Development Plans in these areas to facilitate variations to the Residential Design Codes.



It is worth noting that there were no Other Residential Dwellings or Mixed Use (Residential / Commercial) applications in the Outer Metropolitan region, as these higher density residential options are less likely to occur further from the city or are likely to occur in planned high density areas in activity centres where such matters are determined by a DAP.

New Single Houses 75.41% 13.11% 11.48% **Existing Single House Alterations** 65.31% Other Residential Dwellings 89.74% 10.26% Workforce Accommodation 100.00% **Residential Business** 15.38% 61.54% 23.08% 27.03% 56.76% Commercial 16.22% Mixed Use (Resi / Comm) 71.43% 28.57% 56.25% Industrial 9.38% **Tourism** 28.57% 4.76% 66.67% Rural / Agriculture 30.00% 70.00% 21.28% Change of Use 55.32% Other 25.93% 43.21% 30.86% ■ Inner City Outer Metro ■ Regional

Figure 7 - Inner City, Outer Metro and Regional by Land Use

The most common land use applications in the Outer Metropolitan region included Residential Business (61.54%), Commercial (56.76%), Industrial (56.25%) and Other (43.21%). Apart from Residential Business, all of these land uses were non-residential.

Lastly, the Regional Local Governments had the most applications relating to Workforce Accommodation (100%), Rural / Agriculture (70.00%) and Tourism (66.67%), which are all commonly located in regional areas of Western Australia.

5.5 Officer Recommendation Data

When making a decision on a DA Councils are able to determine applications in-line with or against the officer's recommendation. This section assesses how many applications were determined to either align with or against the recommendation from the Local Government officer. WALGA has not recorded where a Council only made amendments to conditions of approval.

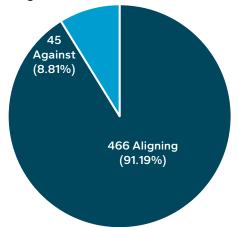
5.5.1 Council Applications Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation

Figure 8 outlines that 466 (91.19%) of the 511 Council considered applications were determined in line with the officer's recommendation.

Furthermore, considering that all 511 Council determined applications represent 2.75% of all DA's (refer to Figure 1), the 45 against (8.81%) officer recommendation make up an insignificant amount of the total number of DA's.

The assertions made by the State Government in support of their recent reforms, that Council involvement in planning decisions making is "unnecessary red tape", is not supported by the available data.

Figure 8 - Council Applications Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation





The data is clear that in the vast majority of cases, Councils, following the consideration of the technical assessment by their qualified planning staff, and following deputations by impacted individuals and the applicant, and any debate, support those recommendations.

5.5.2 Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation by Land Use

Figure 9 shows which land use applications were aligned with or against the officer's recommendation.

There was 13 Residential Business (100%), 20 Tourism (95.24%) and 19 Rural / Agriculture (95.00%) applications that were aligned with officer's recommendations, with both Tourism and Rural / Agriculture only having one application that was determined against officer's recommendation.

The land uses that were more commonly determined against officer's recommendation were 8 Other Residential Dwellings (20.51%), 1 Workforce Accommodation (16.67%) and 1 Mixed Use (Residential / Commercial) (14.29%). Since the Workforce Accommodation and Mixed Use land uses had the least number of total applications, these single applications that were determined against officer's recommendation are skewed with a proportionally higher percentage.

New Single Houses **54** (88.52%) **7** (11.48%) Existing Single House Alterations 134 (91.16%) Other Residential Dwellings 31 (79.49%) Workforce Accommodation 5 (83.33%) **1** (16 67%) Residential Business 13 (100%) Commercial **34** (91.89%) Mixed Use (Resi / Comm) 6 (85.71%) Industrial **30** (93.75%) **Tourism 20** (95.24%) Rural / Agriculture 19 (95.00%) **1** (5.00%) Change of Use 44 (93.62%) **3** (6.38%) Other **76** (93.83%) **5** (6.17%) ■ Aligns with OR Against OR

Figure 9 - Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation by Land Use

5.5.3 Determined Against Officer Recommendation by Land Use

Figure 10 reveals of the applications which were determined against officer's recommendation, how many of these were either approved or refused against the recommendation.

In terms of the 511 total applications that were determined by Council between July 2022 - June 2023, there were only 33 (6.46%) that were refused against officer recommendation and 12 (2.35%) approved against recommendation.

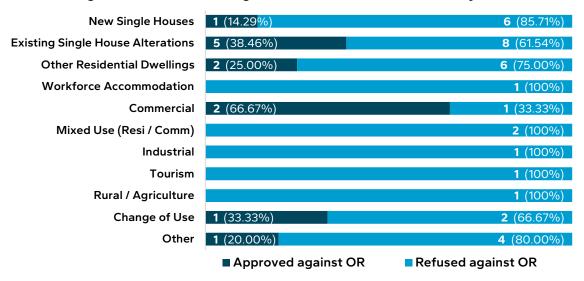
It is evident that most applications were refused against the recommendation, except for Commercial land uses which had 2 (66.67%) applications which were approved against officer's recommendation.

However, most of these land uses had less than 5 applications which were determined against the officer's recommendation. Only the New Single Houses, Existing House Alterations and Other Residential Dwellings had more than 5 applications determined against the recommendation.

In terms of the total number of planning matters considered by Local Governments across Western Australia each year, the total number of proposals determined by Council against an officer recommendation is statistically insignificant and not a good indicator of the overall performance on the Local Government sector's statutory planning functions.



Figure 10 - Determined Against Officer Recommendation by Land Use



5.5.4 Inner City, Outer Metro and Regional (Officer Recommendation)

Figure 11 shows how many applications were determined to align with or against the officer's recommendations in each of the three different regions.

The Inner City region had 31 applications (12.40%) that were determined against officer recommendation. Whilst this was the region with the most determinations against, it also had the most applications approved against the officer's recommendation with 10 in total (32.36%).

The Outer Metropolitan region had 10 (8.06%) against, while Regional had 4 (2.92%) against the recommendation. Of these two regions, both had 1 application approved against recommendation, which equates to 10.00% and 25.00% respectively.

10 Against 31 Against OR 4 Against OR OR (8.06%) (12.40%) (2.92%)21 Ref against 3 Ref against OR (67.74%) OR (75.00%) 9 Ref against OR (90.00%) 133 Aligning 114 Aligning 219 Alinging OR (97.08%) OR (91.94%) OR (87.60%) 10 App against 1 App against OR (32.26%) OR (25.00%) 1 App against OR (10.00%) **Outer Metro** Regional **Inner City**

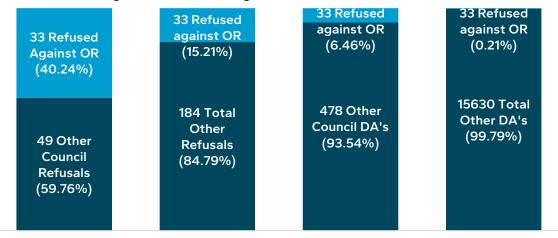
Figure 11 - Inner City, Outer Metro and Regional (Officer Recommendation)

5.5.5 Refused Against Officer Recommendation

Figure 12 compares how the 33 applications refused against officer's recommendation compared against the Council refusals and DA's, as well as the total number of refusals and DA's.



Figure 12 - Refused Against Officer Recommendation



Refused against OR v Refused against OR v Refused against OR v Other Council Refusals Total Other Refusals Other Council DAs Total Other DAs

In relation to all of the 82 Council refusals, the 33 against officer recommendation represents 40.24% of Council refusals. In terms of the 511 total Council applications, this only represents 6.46%.

For the 217 total applications that were refused by either Council or officer under delegation, these 33 applications constutite 15.21% of all refusals, whereas it only equates to 0.21% of all the DA's that were determined by Local Government between July 2022 – June 2023.

5.6 Single Residential Data

As the changes to the Act and the Regulations relate to the determination of DA's for single houses or any development associated with a single house, this section of the report highlights the data in relation to these single residential applications, and how they will be affected by the reforms.

5.6.1 Council Applications (Single Residential Land Uses)

Figure 13 presents how many of the Council determined applications related to the development of new houses or alterations to existing to residences.

There was a total of 61 applications (29.33%) which Council determined in relation to the development of New Single Houses, equating to less than a third of all single residential related DA's considered by Council.

The majority of single residential DA's relate to the 147 applications (70.67%) for Existing Single House Alterations.

Figure 13 - Council Applications (Single Residential Land Uses)

61 New Single Houses (29.33%)

147 Existing Single House Alterations (70.67%)

5.6.2 Single Residential Approvals v Refusals

Figure 14 reveals the approval and refusal rates for applications for New Single Houses and Existing Single House Alterations.



Whilst there are significantly more determinations relating to Existing Single House Alterations, the approval and refusal ratings of these land uses are almost identical, with 51 approvals (83.61%) for New Single Houses and 123 approvals (83.67%) for Existing Single House Alterations, respectively.

Figure 14 - Single Residential Approvals v Approvals



New Single Houses

Existing Single House Alterations

5.6.3 Single Residential v Other Land Uses (Inner City v Outer Metro v Regional)

Figure 15 shows the spread of single residential applications across each of the three regions.

The key point to note here is how many of the single residential applications have occurred in the Inner City region, with 142 DA's which represents 68.27% of all single residential DA's. In terms of the 250 applications for this region, this equates to 56.80% of all Inner City determinations.

On the other hand, Outer Metro and Regional Councils determined 25 DA's (20.16%) and 41 DA's (29.93%) respectively.

Figure 15 - Single Residential v Other Land Uses (Inner City v Outer Metro v Regional)



This outcome is to be expected, as most variations for housing are sought in Inner City suburbs where housing stock is older, site constrains make overlooking and use of retaining more prevalent, and the desires for larger homes necessitate variations to the deemed-to-comply requirements of the Residential Design Codes. Whereas the Other Metropolitan areas are more likely to have newer housing stock, or areas where variations to the R-Codes are supported by Local Development Plans and thus less likely to require development approval.



The data indicates that the changes to the Act and Regulations will have minimal effect in the Outer Metropolitan and Regional areas, where less than a third of their Council determined DA's relate to single residential land uses.

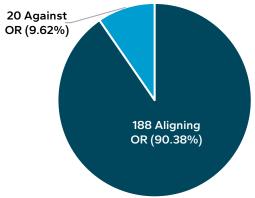
5.6.4 Single Residential (Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation)

Figure 16 displays the portion of single residential DA's that were determined in alignment with the officer's recommendation.

In total, there was 188 determinations (90.38%) that aligned with the officer's recommendation, while 20 (9.62%) were determined against the recommendation.

7 of these DA's (35.00%) related to New Single Houses, whereas the remaining 13 applications (65.00%) were for Existing Single House Alterations.

Figure 16 - Single Residential (Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation)



5.6.5 Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation (Single Residential)

Figure 17 provides further detail to the data shown in Figure 18, by breaking down the determinations for each of the single residential land uses.

7 Against OR 13 Against OR (11.48%)(8.84%) 8 Ref against OR (61.54%) 6 Ref against OR (85.71%) 134 Aligning OR 54 Aligning OR (91.16%) (88.52%) 5 App against OR (38.46%) 1 App against OR (14.29%)

Figure 17 - Aligning v Against Officer Recommendation (Single Residential)

New Single Houses

Existing Single House Alterations

Of the New Single House applications, 7 (11.48%) were determined against officer's recommendations, with 1 approved (14.29%) and 6 refused (85.71%) against recommendation.

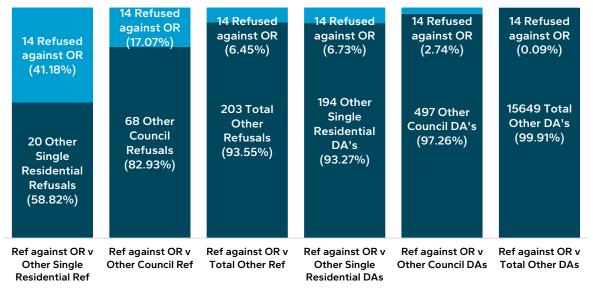
The Existing Single House Alterations had 13 (8.84%) determined against recommendation, with 5 approved (38.46%) and 8 refused (61.54%).

5.6.6 Single Residential Refused Against Officer Recommendation

Figure 18 compares the 14 single residential applications which were refused against officer recommendation against all single residential refusals and DA's, all Council refusals and DA's and the total refusals and DA's.



Figure 18 - Single Residential Refused Against Officer Recommendation



In relation to all 34 single residential refusals, the 14 against officer recommendation represents 41.18% of refusals, and 6.73% of all single residential applications.

With regards to the 82 Council refusals, this equates to 17.07% of all Council refusals and 2.74% of the 511 total Council applications.

Finally, of the 217 total applications that were refused by either Council or officer delegated authority, these 14 applications make up 6.45% of all refusals. Furthermore, these 14 applications represent 0.09% of all development applications that were determined between July 2022 – June 2023 as reported as part of WALGA's Performance Monitoring Project.

6.0 Summary / Recommendations

This data report has been prepared to provide an evidence based analysis of 46 Local Government's Council determined development applications and understand how many applications will be affected by these reforms to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015.*

Only 2.75% of all development applications considered by Local Governments in 2022-23 were determined by Council. Of the 511 Council determined development applications, only 45 applications (8.81%) were determined against officer recommendation.

Furthermore, of the over 15,000 applications that were determined by Local Governments in 2022–23, only 14 (0.09%) of them related to single residential applications that were refused against officer recommendation.

The intention of these reforms was to "reduce unnecessary red tape" and "improve efficiencies in decision making to assist with the delivery of housing". However this report shows the supposed positive impact of these reforms to the delivery of housing and the streamlining of the planning system has arguably been overstated.

Future reforms to the planning system should be developed and prioritised based on quantitative and qualitative data to ensure reforms maximise long-term benefits to communities and create tangible improvements to planning system and processes.



Appendix 1 – Local Government by Region

City of Subiaco

City of Vincent

Town of Victoria Park

Inner City	Outer Metropolitan	Regional	
Town of Bassendean	City of Armadale	City of Albany	
City of Bayswater	City of Cockburn	Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	
City of Belmont	City of Gosnells	Shire of Broome	
Town of Cambridge	City of Kalamunda	City of Bunbury	
City of Canning	City of Kwinana	City of Busselton	
Town of Claremont	Shire of Mundaring	Shire of Denmark	
Town of Cottesloe	City of Rockingham	City of Greater Geraldton	
Town of East Fremantle	Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	Shire of Harvey	
City of Fremantle	City of Swan	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	
City of Joondalup	City of Wanneroo	City of Karratha	
City of Melville		City of Mandurah	
Town of Mosman Park	1	Shire of Manjimup	
City of Nedlands	1	Shire of Nannup	
Shire of Peppermint Grove	1	Shire of Northam	
City of Perth	1	Town of Port Hedland	
City of South Perth	1	Shire of Toodyay	
City of Stirling	1		



WALGA Appendix 2 – Table of Local Government Application Data

	Applications	Approvals	Refusals	Aligns OR	Against OR
Local Government 43	69	67	2	69	0
Local Government 39	52	37	15	40	12
Local Government 26	45	42	3	43	2
Local Government 32	37	34	3	35	2
Local Government 10	34	32	2	33	1
Local Government 3	31	21	10	28	3
Local Government 34	30	24	6	28	2
Local Government 15	26	19	7	24	2
Local Government 19	15	14	1	15	0
Local Government 42	15	12	3	14	1
Not involved in PMP	13	11	2	12	1
Not involved in PMP	10	9	1	9	1
Local Government 40	10	9	1	10	0
Local Government 28	10	6	4	8	2
Local Government 31	9	9	0	9	0
Local Government 35	9	9	0	9	0
Local Government 37	8	8	0	8	0
Local Government 18	7	5	2	5	2
Local Government 16	7	6	1	7	0
Local Government 6	6	6	0	6	0
Local Government 23	5	4	1	4	1
Local Government 9	5	2	3	2	3
Local Government 29	5	4	1	5	0
Local Government 17	5	5	0	5	0
Local Government 12	5	0	5	3	2
Local Government 14	5	3	2	3	2
Local Government 33	4	3	1	4	0
Local Government 20	4	2	2	2	2
Local Government 13	4	3	1	2	2
Local Government 8	3	2	1	3	0
Local Government 24	3	3	0	3	0
Local Government 41	3	3	0	3	0
Local Government 1	3	2	1	2	1
Local Government 5	2	2	0	2	0
Local Government 4	2	2	0	2	0
Local Government 11	2	2	0	2	0
Local Government 25	2	2	0	2	0
Local Government 27	2	2	0	2	0
Local Government 36	2	2	0	2	0
Local Government 30	1	1	0	1	0
Local Government 22	1	0	1	0	1
Local Government 2	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government 7	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government 21	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government 38	0	0	0	0	0
Not involved in PMP	0	0	0	0	0
DA TOTAL	511	429	82	466	45



Appendix 3 – Bar Graph of Local Government by Land Use

