

Progress report

Local governments' inspections of private swimming pool safety barriers



Executive summary

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

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of five (young children). Swimming pools are the most common location of these drowning incidents.

Compliant safety barriers are effective in restricting 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 districts at intervals not exceeding four years¹. These inspections monitor the compliance of those safety barriers with building standards². Local governments have powers to assist them in enforcing compliance³.

Local governments have a legislative obligation to provide data on their safety barrier inspections before 1 August each year, for the preceding financial year⁴.

Of 139 local governments in Western Australia, 138 provided data 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'. Where responses were received after the deadline, they have been included in the report where possible.

In their responses, some local governments detailed reasons why some inspections had not been completed within the four-year maximum period. The main reasons were:

- difficulties organising access; and
- staff resourcing.

These reasons are consistently reported by numerous local governments each year.

Table 1: Overview of 2024-25 data received and comparison against previous reports

Summary	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Total number of pools	181,486	178,104	175,535	170,975	166,709
Total number of pools inspected	52,093	45,490	50,258	47,998	46,469
Total number of pools overdue	2,170	1,645	2,722	2,571	2,673
Total percentage of pools overdue	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%
Local governments with overdue inspections	48	54	52	49	54
Local governments that did not provide data	1	5	4	9	14

¹ Regulation 53, [Building Regulations 2012](#)

² Regulation 50A & 52, Building Regulations 2012

³ Part 8, [Building Act 2011](#)

⁴ Regulation 53B, Building Regulations 2012

Table 2: Inspection data provided by individual local governments for 2024-25

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2024/25	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
City of Albany	141	39	0	0.0%
City of Armadale	5,631	1,754	0	0.0%
Shire of Ashburton	527	137	0	0.0%
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	301	20	2	0.7%
Town of Bassendean	917	262	129	14.1%
City of Bayswater	3,084	895	0	0.0%
City of Belmont	1,297	652	26	2.0%
Shire of Beverley	25	6	1	4.0%
Shire of Boddington	56	22	0	0.0%
Shire of Boyup Brook	5	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	51	11	11	21.6%
Shire of Brookton	24	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Broome	1,970	535	0	0.0%
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	5	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Bruce Rock	6	4	0	0.0%
City of Bunbury	1,389	411	0	0.0%
City of Busselton	2,098	536	14	0.7%
Town of Cambridge	3,729	781	0	0.0%
City of Canning	6,257	1,788	0	0.0%
Shire of Capel	1,308	327	22	1.7%
Shire of Carnamah	2	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Carnarvon	75	39	0	0.0%

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2024/25	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Chapman Valley	145	15	0	0.0%
Shire of Chittering	68	21	1	1.5%
Shire of Christmas Island	Data not provided by deadline			
Town of Claremont	907	265	0	0.0%
City of Cockburn	8,567	2,776	6	0.1%
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Collie	341	103	0	0.0%
Shire of Coolgardie	91	40	0	0.0%
Shire of Coorow	31	9	0	0.0%
Shire of Corrigin	14	0	0	0.0%
Town of Cottesloe	813	345	0	0.0%
Shire of Cranbrook	11	11	0	0.0%
Shire of Cuballing	37	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Cue	6	0	1	16.7%
Shire of Cunderdin	14	2	0	0.0%
Shire of Dalwallinu	15	12	0	0.0%
Shire of Dandaragan	91	14	12	13.2%
Shire of Dardanup	996	268	0	0.0%
Shire of Denmark	14	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley	95	70	8	8.4%
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	225	110	8	3.6%
Shire of Dowerin	6	0	0	0.0%

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2024/25	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Dumbleyung	13	13	0	0.0%
Shire of Dundas	10	10	0	0.0%
Town of East Fremantle	721	45	279	38.7%
Shire of East Pilbara	292	108	0	0.0%
Shire of Esperance	143	80	0	0.0%
Shire of Exmouth	184	23	0	0.0%
City of Fremantle	1,105	528	0	0.0%
Shire of Gingin	324	148	6	1.9%
Shire of Gnowangerup	12	1	6	50.0%
Shire of Goomalling	16	0	5	0.0%
City of Gosnells	7,505	2,552	0	0.0%
City of Greater Geraldton	2,123	464	3	0.1%
Shire of Halls Creek	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Harvey	1,818	542	0	0.0%
Shire of Irwin	115	60	5	4.3%
Shire of Jerramungup	4	0	1	25.0%
City of Joondalup	23,790	6,772	0	0.0%
City of Kalamunda	5,923	1,871	0	0.0%
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2,198	580	57	2.6%
City of Karratha	2,143	428	123	5.7%
Shire of Katanning	98	35	0	0.0%
Shire of Kellerberrin	20	0	0	0.0%

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

Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2024/25	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Kent	6	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kojonup	18	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Kondinin	2	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Koorda	13	13	0	0.0%
Shire of Kulin	8	0	0	0.0%
City of Kwinana	2,028	398	0	0.0%
Shire of Lake Grace	11	1	2	18.2%
Shire of Laverton	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Leonora	6	6	0	0.0%
City of Mandurah	6,570	2,251	11	0.2%
Shire of Manjimup	76	14	0	0.0%
Shire of Meekatharra	2	2	0	0.0%
City of Melville	11,145	3,260	40	0.4%
Shire of Menzies	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Merredin	99	40	0	0.0%
Shire of Mingenew	29	14	0	0.0%
Shire of Moora	75	23	3	4.0%
Shire of Morawa	0	0	0	0.0%
Town of Mosman Park	1,007	195	0	0.0%
Shire of Mount Magnet	8	6	0	0.0%
Shire of Mount Marshall	5	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Mukinbudin	1	0	0	0.0%

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Shire of Mundaring	3,830	747	37	1.0%
Shire of Murchison	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Murray	1,436	536	0	0.0%
Shire of Nannup	9	9	0	0.0%
Shire of Narembeen	12	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Narrogin	127	29	3	2.4%
City of Nedlands	2,875	1,026	0	0.0%
Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Northam	525	142	0	0.0%
Shire of Northampton	172	37	39	22.7%
Shire of Nungarin	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Peppermint Grove	294	28	0	0.0%
Shire of Perenjori	6	0	0	0.0%
City of Perth	223	166	0	0.0%
Shire of Pingelly	32	7	1	3.1%
Shire of Plantagenet	22	4	0	0.0%
Town of Port Hedland	974	58	161	16.5%
Shire of Quairading	60	0	42	70.0%
Shire of Ravensthorpe	0	0	0	0.0%
City of Rockingham	11,687	2,547	270	2.3%
Shire of Sandstone	3	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	2,478	1,106	0	0.0%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2024/25	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Shark Bay	7	7	0	0.0%
City of South Perth	2,763	527	205	7.4%
City of Stirling	13,011	3,435	171	1.3%
City of Subiaco	818	223	29	3.5%
City of Swan	9,421	3,951	2	0.0%
Shire of Tammin	1	1	0	0.0%
Shire of Three Springs	9	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Toodyay	84	19	32	38.1%
Shire of Trayning	3	0	3	100.0%
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	2	2	0	0.0%
Town of Victoria Park	923	392	9	1.0%
Shire of Victoria Plains	21	1	0	0.0%
City of Vincent	1,334	621	20	1.5%
Shire of Wagin	83	0	19	22.9%
Shire of Wandering	22	2	0	0.0%
City of Wanneroo	16,331	3,566	330	2.0%
Shire of Waroona	216	30	3	1.4%
Shire of West Arthur	4	0	4	100.0%
Shire of Westonia	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wickpin	3	3	0	0.0%
Shire of Williams	29	29	0	0.0%
Shire of Wiluna	0	0	0	0.0%

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Local government	Total no. pools	Inspected in 2024/25	Overdue	Overdue Percentage
Shire of Wongan-Ballidu	33	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Woodanilling	7	6	1	14.3%
Shire of Wyalkatchem	17	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	308	60	2	0.6%
Shire of Yalgoo	0	0	0	0.0%
Shire of Yilgarn	38	0	0	0.0%
Shire of York	179	6	5	2.8%
TOTAL:	181,486	52,093	2,170	1.2%

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