



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
GOVERNANCE ADVISORY NETWORK (GAN)
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Purpose

The Local Government Governance Advisory Network (GAN) is established by the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) to seek councillor and officer input into:

1. local government governance policy development and implementation;
2. sector advocacy in relation to governance; and
3. support and networking opportunities for councillors and council staff with responsibility for governance.

Definition

'Governance'

There are a variety of definitions available for governance. For the purpose of this document, governance should be defined broadly, including:

'The culture, systems and processes by which an organisations operates and is controlled. Also the mechanisms by which its people are held to account.

Ethics, decision-making arrangements, risk management, compliance and administration are all elements of governance.'

Membership

The GAN is open to;

1. all councillors, and
2. staff with governance responsibilities,

from [VLGA Member Councils](#).

- There is no cost to member councillors to join the Network.
- Members are expected to cover their own out-of-pocket costs associated with network meetings and events.
- Attendance at meetings is voluntary.
- For councillors, membership of the Network will cease once the councillor's tenure ceases.

Meetings and Events

- The Network will be convened and facilitated by a nominee from the VLGA ('the Convenor'). The Convenor is responsible for the setting of meeting agenda items in consultation with the GAN membership and the VLGA.
- Network meetings and events will take place approximately 6 times per year, alternating between
 - meetings attended by councillors and officers; and
 - 'officer-only' meetings.
- The meeting and events schedule and venue may be adjusted by the Convenor as necessary.
- The Convenor may invite guest speakers / subject matter experts (including council officers) to selected meetings.
- The VLGA will support the Network through provision of face to face and/or remote meeting facilities and associated administrative support.
- Network meetings and events are informal in nature and are designed as forums for exchange of information in accordance with the Purpose as set out above.
- Members of the Network are expected to adhere to confidentiality on relevant matters discussed during meetings and events.
- Member of the Network are encouraged to consider issues and proposals on a sector wide basis (i.e., their impact on local government as a whole) rather than on an individual council basis.