

Office of Local Government Who we are





Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Who we are

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is the NSW Government agency responsible for regulating and uplifting the NSW local government sector. OLG is part of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, and is the key adviser to the NSW Government on local government matters.

Our purpose is to build a strong and sustainable local government sector. We aim to ensure councils can continue to effectively deliver services and civic leadership to local communities across NSW.

OLG's vision is to create healthy and prosperous communities through a strong, sustainable local government sector.

We regulate and uplift the capability of the local government sector in NSW. We oversee:



50,000 employees



How we work

Stronger councils, stronger communities

Strong, sustainable councils are a vital part of functional democracy. OLG supports councils to deliver local services and community leadership that build healthy and prosperous communities.

Our role is to ensure councils are efficient, effective and reliable by providing strong governance, clear standards, and ongoing support –especially in times of challenge.

Through regulation and reform, we help ensure communities across NSW benefit from effective local leadership and a functional local democracy.

OLG's role is to create and uphold a strong governance framework that enables councils to perform effectively. We oversee the rules for how councils should operate, help build their capacity to work within the framework, and intervene when issues arise –but only when necessary.

We are also responsible for delivering important government programs that benefit communities, including companion animal reforms, the apprentices, trainees and cadets program, disaster recovery grants, and funding for open spaces and community development.

How we work with councils and community

We support and regulate local government through 5 key actions:

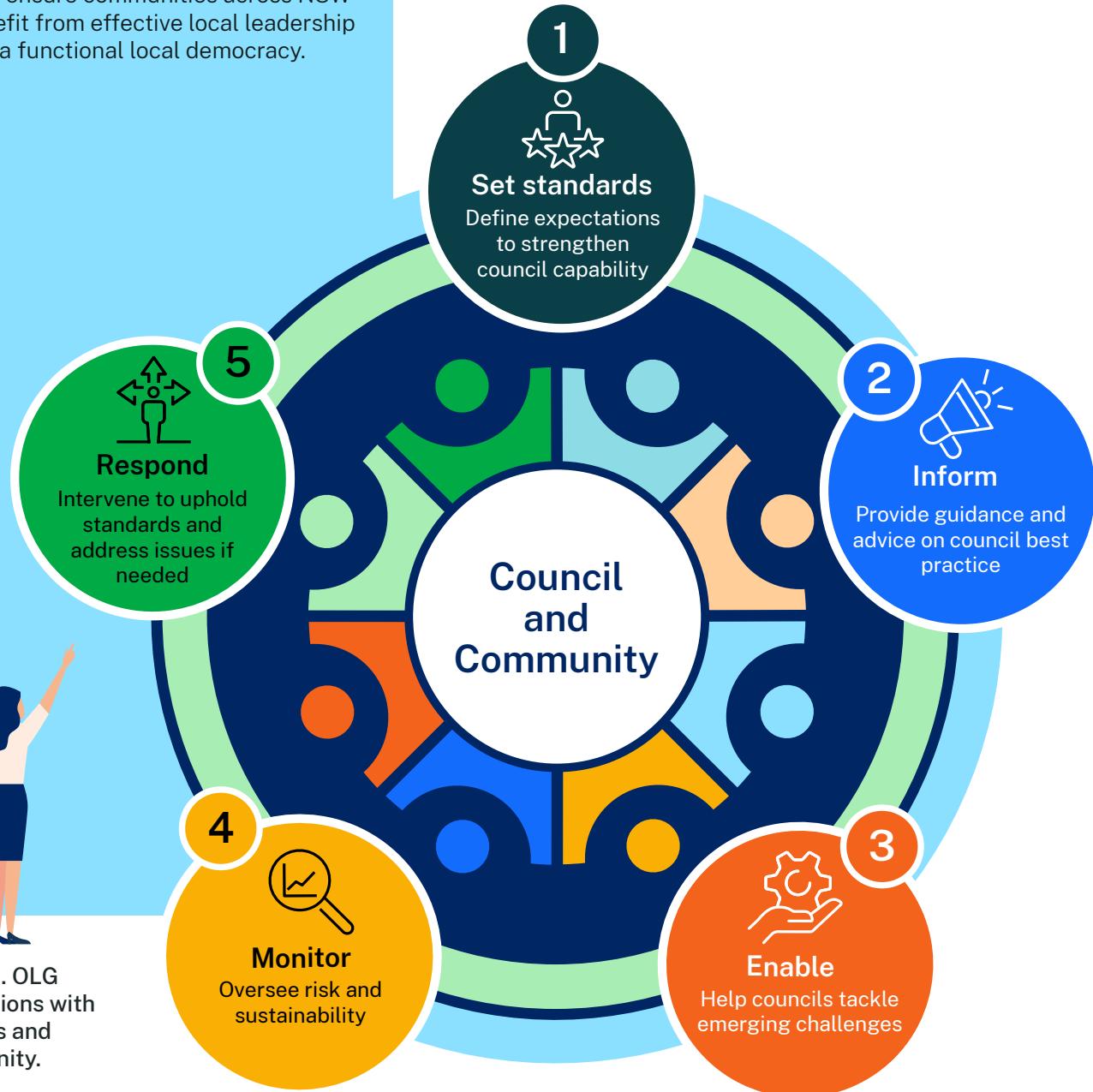
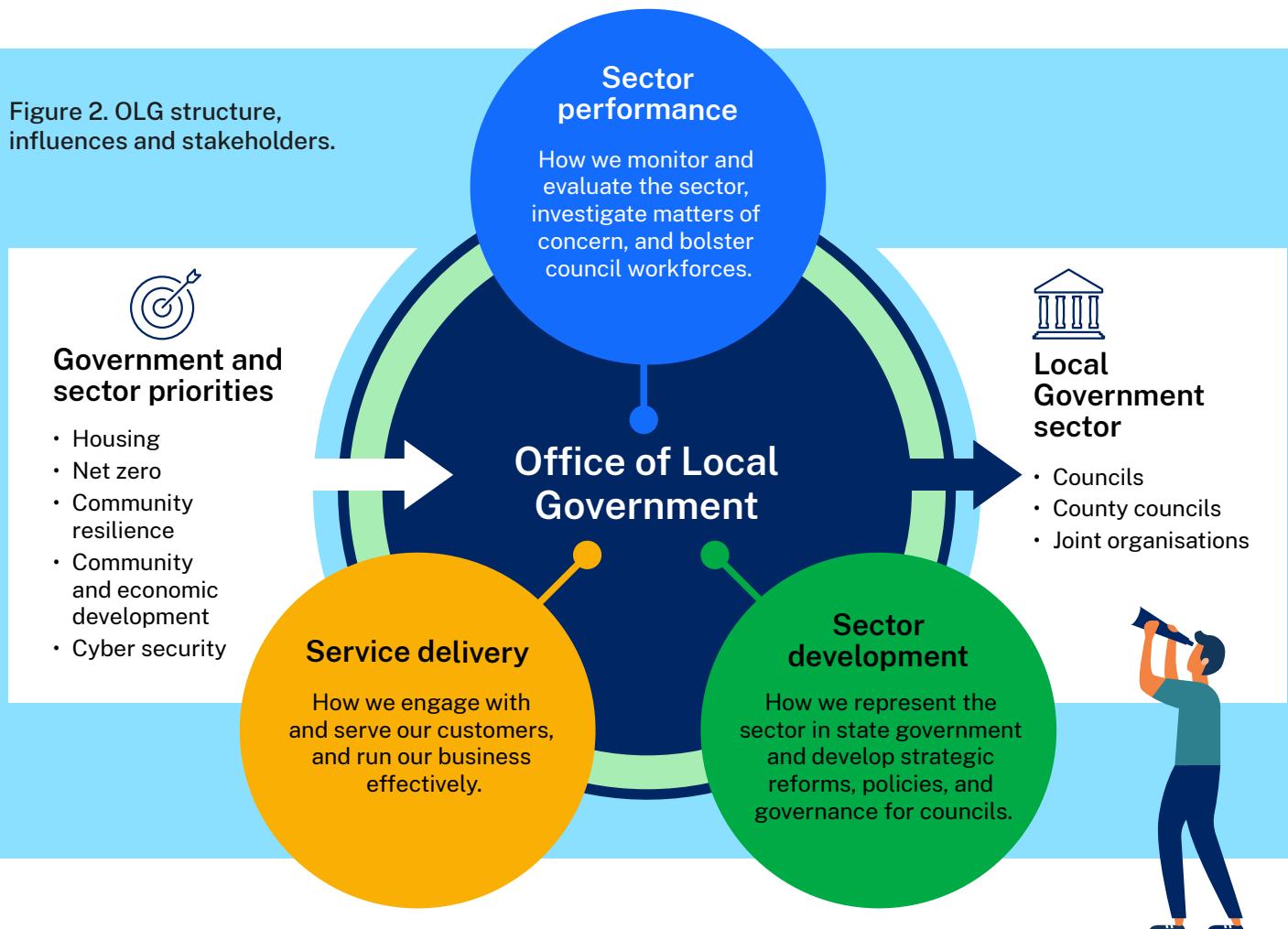


Figure 1. OLG interactions with councils and community.

Leading with purpose

In January 2025, OLG shifted to a new structure. We have rearranged and bolstered several core functions. This structure is driven by the priorities of the NSW Government and the local government sector. It focuses on 3 core functional areas: sector performance, sector development and service delivery.



Our priorities

OLG is guided by 8 core priorities to support and regulate the local government sector:

1. Keeping the legislative framework for local government effective
2. Setting and enforcing clear expectations for councillor conduct
3. Improving councils' financial sustainability
4. Monitoring councils' financial position
5. Sharing data on councils' performance and service delivery
6. Enabling demergers of councils when backed by community
7. Managing an effective framework for companion animals
8. Helping councils deliver on government priorities like housing, environment, and disaster resilience.

These priorities shape how OLG works and align with the Department's and the NSW Government's strategic priorities.