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| cid:_1_0AD1E6F80AD1E48C001123AECA257D0A | Governance e-alertNo. 1 - July 2014 |
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| cid:_2_07B8407C07B83E10001123AECA257D0A | **Welcome** Welcome to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries' (DEPI's) governance e-alerts.What are e-alerts?DEPI e-alerts offer information on key governance topics such as:* new laws and government policies
* governance news
* developments in governance best practice
* updates to DEPI's governance website [On Board](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance) (e.g. new model policies, guidance notes).

E-alerts are tailored to the needs of board members, executives and staff of agencies in the DEPI portfolio. Why have l been sent this email?You have been sent this email because:* you are the chair, CEO, or other nominated contact of a DEPI agency; or
* you have registered for DEPI governance e-alerts as an interested reader.

(If you are not the correct person to receive this e-alert please help us to update our records by emailing fiona.eades@depi.vic.gov.au.)Who sends e-alerts and how often?DEPI governance e-alerts are issued by **DEPI Legal Services.** E-alerts will be issued when there are new developments relating to key governance topics. |
| cid:_2_0B67BD5C0B67BAF0001123AECA257D0A | TopicsAmendments to the Public Administration ActAmendments to the Public Administration Act came into effect on 1 April 2014. For a summary of these amendments see the [DEPI guidance note](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/256795/2014-g-PAA-03-Amends-to-PAA-v3.62-16-May-2014-APP.pdf) in the [Public Administration Act](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/public-administration-act) support module. (A copy of the guidance note is also attached to this e-alert.).Victorian Public Sector CommissionFrom 1 April 2014, the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC) replaces the former State Services Authority. For further information see ‘[About us](http://vpsc.vic.gov.au/about-us.html)’ on the VPSC’s website.Annual reporting for public bodiesOver the next few weeks, DEPI agencies that have annual reporting obligations under the **Financial Management Act** will be sent a copy of the *DEPI guide to annual reporting - public bodies.* This practical guide sets out what must be included in an annual report and the required format. It will also be available for downloading from [On Board](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance).On Board – one stop shop for governance information[On Board](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance) DEPI’s governance website (www.depi.vic.gov.au/onboard) has recently been updated. It is the central place for DEPI agencies to obtain governance information that is tailored to meet their needs. On Board offers [support modules](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/support-modules) on key governance topics such as: [board meetings and decision-making](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/meetings-and-decision-making)  [code of conduct](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/code-of-conduct/_nocache) [conflict of interest](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/conflict-of-interest/_nocache) [dispute resolution](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/dispute-resolution) [gifts, benefits and hospitality](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/gifts-benefits-and-hospitality) [induction (governance essentials)](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/governance-essentials/_nocache) [performance assessment](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/performance-assessment) [Public Administration Act](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance/on-board-governance-guides-and-resources/public-administration-act/_nocache). [On Board](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance) support modules contain model policies and templates, guidance notes, governance guides, and direct links to the topic on other websites, such as the Victorian Public Sector Commission. DEPI offers a [guidance note](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/256806/2014-h-ESS-01-Guidance-from-DEPI-v3.62-April-2014.pdf) that lists the resources which are currently available. (A copy of the guidance note is also attached to this e-alert.) |
| cid:_2_0B015B780B01590C001123AECA257D0A | How else can we help? Further information and queriesIn addition to the governance materials that are available from [On Board](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance), DEPI offers support to its agencies through DEPI divisions and regional offices. If you are a member of a DEPI agency and have a governance query, please contact your agency’s usual relationship manager or team. Alternatively, contact DEPI’s Customer Service Centre on 136 186.Share your ideas for improvementPlease help us to improve the services and resources we offer. If you: * have ideas about how DEPI can improve governance
* would like to provide feedback or suggestions about [On Board](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-governance)
* wish to request an e-alert or governance resource on a particular topic

please email governance@depi.vic.gov.au with your ideas.Other interested readersIf you know someone who may be interested to receive DEPI e-alerts, please forward this email to them. Interested readers are welcome to register for DEPI e-alerts by emailing governance@depi.vic.gov.au. (Board members and staff of DEPI agencies, and DEPI governance staff, are particularly encouraged to register.) |
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|  | Regards, **Adam Fennessy**

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