

Circular to Councils

Subject	Cyber Security Guidelines for Councils
Circular Details	Circular No 25-01 / 24 January 2025 / Doc ID A941198
Previous Circular	22-39 - Release of Cyber Security Guidelines for NSW Local Government
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Cyber Security NSW / community@cyber.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

What's new or changing?

- The updated Cyber Security Guidelines – Local Government (the Guidelines) allow councils to assess their cyber security maturity and plan their maturity uplift.
- The Guidelines outline cyber security standards and controls recommended by Cyber Security NSW for NSW local government.

What will this mean for council?

- Councils can adopt the Guidelines or use them to form the basis of an internally developed cyber security policy.
- Adherence to the Guidelines is strongly recommended.

Key points

- Councils are increasingly dependent on digital technologies and are a target for state-based, criminal and activist threat actors.
- A cyber-attack or incident has a risk of major disruption to services and operations, with genuine risk to critical infrastructure and services.
- Strong cyber security enables the effective use of emerging technologies and ensures confidence in the services provided by NSW local governments.

- The Guidelines should form the basis of an internally developed cyber security policy for individual councils.
- Cyber Security NSW does not offer funding assistance for the implementation of the Guidelines or other cyber security maturity uplift.

Where to go for further information

- The Guidelines and relevant templates for council use are hosted on the Councils and Cyber Security NSW Microsoft Teams forum. To join the forum, contact community@cyber.nsw.gov.au.
- Cyber Security NSW offers various services to assist councils in boosting their cyber security capability. Contact info@cyber.nsw.gov.au for more information.
- For questions about the Guidelines, contact the Policy Development and Coordination Team at policy@cyber.nsw.gov.au.
- The Guidelines are available on the Office of Local Government website [here](#).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Whitworth".

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Secretary
Office of Local Government