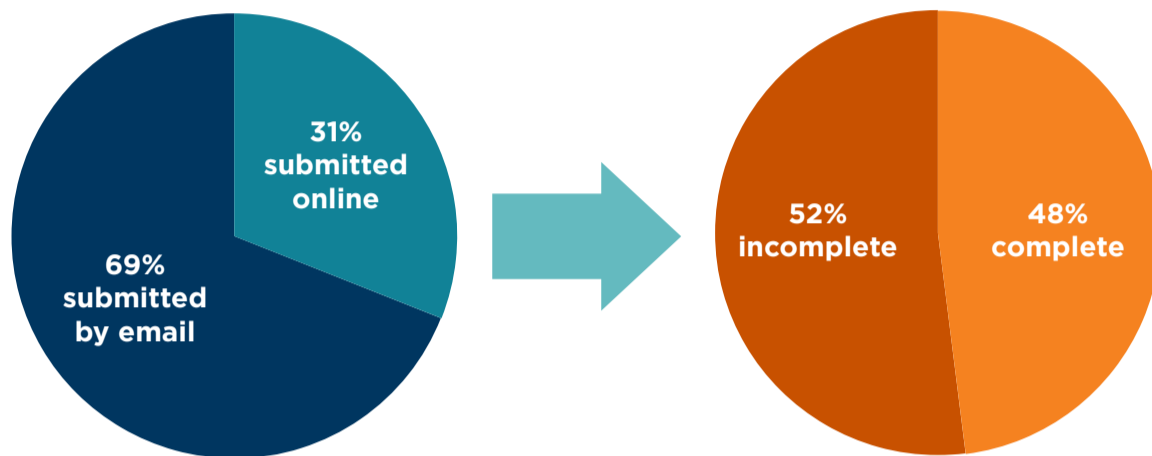


Differential rates and minimum payments: Lessons learned 2023

The 2023 submission period for applications has been reviewed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and assessed against the backdrop of the Minister's Policy and the *Local Government Act 1995*, sections 6.33(3) and 6.35. The following provides a concise overview for areas requiring improvement by local governments and DLGSC.

2023 applications

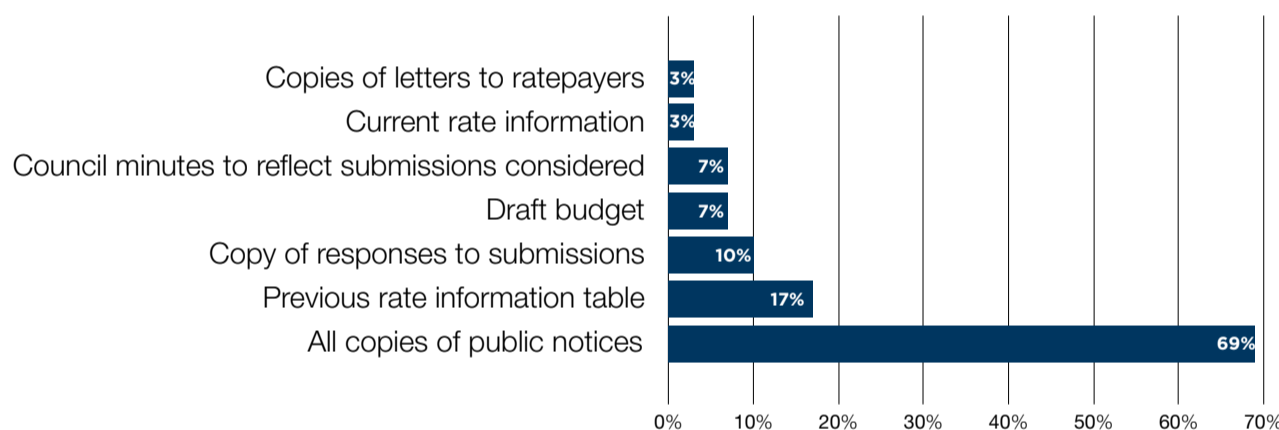


29
15

DLGSC received **27 differential rate** and **2 minimum payment** applications. All applications were approved.

Of the 29 applications received, **15 were incomplete**.

What was missing from incomplete applications?



5

Incomplete applications resulted in an average of **5 extra days processing time** (compared to **10 days** in 2022). These additional days may result in local governments delaying the adoption of the budget and issuing ratepayer notices.

Actions local governments can take to improve their application

Public notice policy

- Public notice should be advertised on the local government's website and in at least three other places.
- All four forms of public notice should be provided.
- Public notice must allow 21 days for public submission not including the date of advertisement.
- Advertisements should be based on valuations for the financial year for which the application is lodged.

Public submissions

- Ratepayer submissions (if any) and the local government's response should be recorded in the relevant council meeting minutes.
- Submissions and responses should be provided.

Rates information table

- Provide rates information table for:
 - The financial year for which the application is lodged.
 - The previous financial year.
- Ensure consistency of Rate In the Dollar (RID) and decimal points throughout supporting documentation.
- Rate information tables should include all rateable categories (unimproved value and gross rental value) and minimum payment.
- Council endorsed RID should be based on current valuations.

What support is DLGSC providing?

- Undertaking a review of the online submission portal.
- Improved **rate information table template** for local governments on the DLGSC website.
- Updated **differential rates giving notice policy** on the DLGSC website.
- A survey to inform development of an improved local government online portal.
- Conducting webinars for local government.
- Contact us with any questions at legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

