

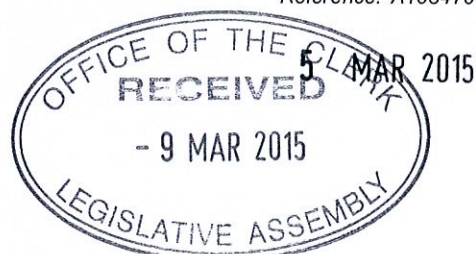


Premier of New South Wales

DIS/06641
LAC12/107

Reference: A1034709

Ms Ronda Miller
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
NSW Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Miller

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2014 regarding report No. 19/55 of the Public Accounts Committee – *Examination of the Auditor-General's Performance Audits May 2013 – July 2013*.

I am pleased to provide you with the NSW Government response to the Committee's report.

Yours sincerely

MIKE BAIRD MP
Premier

Enc: NSW Government response to report No. 19/55 of the Public Accounts Committee – *Examination of the Auditor-General's Performance Audits May 2013 – July 2013*.

NSW Government Response to the Report No. 19/55 of the Public Accounts Committee – Examination of the Auditor-General’s Performance Audits May 2013 – July 2013.

Recommendation	Agency Responsible	Support/Not Support	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing publish the results of its review of the ClubGRANTS guidelines by June 2015.</p>	OLGR	Noted. The review outcomes will be published by September 2015.	<p>On 13 October 2014, the Premier and the Deputy Premier signed the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding <i>Resilient Clubs Resilient Communities</i> (MOU) with ClubsNSW. Under the terms of the MOU, a re-elected Coalition Government has made a number of commitments which if implemented, would require significant amendments to the ClubGRANTS Guidelines.</p> <p>The review of the ClubGRANTS Guidelines will be deferred until after the NSW election on March 28 2015 to enable the changes to the guidelines contemplated by the 2014 MOU to be included as part of the review.</p> <p>Completing a major review of the ClubGRANTS Guidelines in less than three months would be problematic, given the time required for amended draft guidelines to be developed and approved that reflect the policy intent of the 2014 MOU, undertake consultation with stakeholders, and for amended guidelines to then be approved by the responsible Minister and be published.</p> <p>Therefore, it is proposed that the review be undertaken by September 2015 to enable sufficient time for each stage of the review process to be completed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that the Office of Environment and Heritage publish its statewide heritage management strategy by June 2015.</p>	OEH	Supported	
<p>Recommendation 3: The Committee recommends that the Minister for the Environment and Heritage conduct a review of permissible uses under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.</p>	OEH	Supported	OEH will commence a review of permissible uses under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> in 2015. This is likely to occur following finalisation of current reform initiatives related to biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage protection.
<p>Recommendation 4: The Committee</p>	OEH	Supported	OEH will identify quantitative measures in addition to the qualitative measures for

recommends that the Office of Environment and Heritage develop quantitative measures for the management of historic heritage in national parks by December 2015.			<i>State of the Parks</i> reporting for historic heritage management performance. These will be consistent with OEH's overarching approach to asset management, which includes a single quantitative measure.
Recommendation 5: The Committee recommends that NSW Health adopt a comprehensive sustainability strategy by February 2015.	NSW Health	Supported	Implementation of the recommendation is in progress. NSW Health will develop a strategy to implement Government's Resource Efficiency Policy by 2015 and the introduction of the energy and water benchmarking tool to Local Health Districts will be completed by February 2015.
Recommendation 6: The Committee recommends that NSW Health support the introduction of the energy and water benchmarking tool to Local Health Districts by February 2015.	NSW Health	Supported	Implementation of the recommendation is in progress. NSW Health will develop a strategy to implement Government's Resource Efficiency Policy by 2015 and the introduction of the energy and water benchmarking tool to Local Health Districts will be completed by February 2015.
Recommendation 7: The Committee recommends that NSW Health finalise the guidelines to promote best practice in operating theatre management by December 2014.	NSW Health	Supported	The Operating Theatre Guidelines were finalised in December 2014 and have been published and can be viewed on the Agency for Clinical Innovation website at: http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/252436/operating-theatre-efficiency-guidelines.pdf
Recommendation 8: The Committee recommends that NSW Health support the Ambulance Service of NSW in the roll out of the transferring patients to hospital alternatives initiative to other areas of NSW as part of the integrated care program.	NSW Health	Supported	NSW Health will continue to support NSW Ambulance in the implementation of a range of models of care in transferring patients to hospital alternatives according to local needs of health services. NSW Ambulance's Integrated Care Strategy focuses on improving the integration and connectedness of the models of care with other health and social services providers, Medicare Locals and non-government organisations within and across Local Health District boundaries.
Recommendation 9: The Committee recommends that the Government release its new social housing policy as soon as possible.	FACS	Supported	The Government is developing a new social housing policy. The Government has recently released a discussion paper to facilitate a conversation with the community on how the Government's reform directions may be achieved. This consultation process closed in February 2015. The timing of any subsequent

			release of a new social housing policy is planned for July 2015.
Recommendation 10: The Committee recommends that the Government release its asset portfolio strategy, including its strategy for management of housing estates, by June 2015.	FACS	Supported in principle	The Government supports the development of a document explaining the new asset portfolio strategy and its release at an appropriate time in 2015.
Recommendation 11: The Committee recommends that the Department of Family and Community Services complete the review of its business plans as soon as possible after the social housing policy is finalised.	FACS	Supported	FACS will ensure that its subsequent business plans reflect the social housing policy.
Recommendation 12: The Committee recommends that the Treasurer write to the Auditor-General to suggest that he conduct a performance audit of Land and Housing Corporation and Housing NSW maintenance arrangements no less than 18 months after the commencement of the new contract or by 31 March 2017, whichever is the earlier, and report on the cost effectiveness of and tenant satisfaction with the new arrangements.	Treasury	Supported	<p>Treasury supports this recommendation.</p> <p>FACS has developed a range of monitoring tools to ensure that the new contract is cost-effective and meets the needs of public housing tenants.</p> <p>FACS would also welcome an independent evaluation of the cost effectiveness and tenant satisfaction with the new arrangements.</p> <p>This review should not commence before December 2016, which is 18 months after the new contract is due to commence in order for the new maintenance contract to take effect.</p>