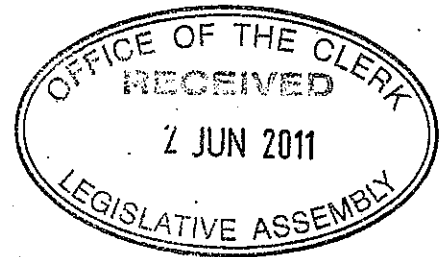




The Hon **Greg Pearce** MLC
Minister for Finance and Services
Minister for the Illawarra



Ref: MC/11/1160

Mr Russell D. Grove
Clerk of Legislative Assembly
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Grove

I am writing in relation to the Committee on the Office of the Valuer General's Report No. 4/54 of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General – Report on the Inquiry into the provisions of the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*.

Please find attached a response covering the recommendations made by the Committee in its Report.

Yours sincerely

Greg Pearce MLC
Minister for Finance and Services

30/5/11

✓ copy to: Clerk-Assistant (committees)
Director, Table

2/6/11

**REPORT ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF THE VALUATION OF LAND
ACT 1916**

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that a comprehensive review of the Act be undertaken and that issues raised in this report be considered as part of that review by the Valuer-General. Particular consideration should be given to the following issues:

- Options for the use of alternate value bases, where these might be applicable;
- Valuation and application dates used by rating and taxation authorities with a view to determining the costs and benefits of realigning these dates;
- The costs and benefits of implementing the Ombudsman's recommendations that the general valuation date be moved to 1 March in the valuing year and the amendment of the schedule for the production of proposed values by contractors accordingly (Section 14B);
- How States that provide multiple opportunities for objections deal with the concern of local councils that their rates are based on a valuation that may be overturned at a later date;
- Section 35, to determine whether the timeframe for lodging an objection should be amended to 45 days;
- Section 29, to insert a provision prescribing the appropriate level of information allowing the Valuer-General to properly consider an objection;
- Section 35B(2), to determine whether there is a need to retain the statutory requirement that the delegate who considers the objection must be separate from the person who considers the objection;
- Section 14F, relating to the valuation of mines and minerals, to ascertain whether this section meets the requirements to value land within the expanded mining sector. Particular consideration should be given to examining whether section 60A should be amended to permit local councils to request a further valuation when significant changes occur to a mining lease during the valuation cycle;
- *Part 5 Use of Valuation Lists*, to permit more flexible provisions for the Valuer-General to provide valuations for use by various agencies as determined by the Valuer-General;
- Removal of outdated language and unclear provisions; and
- Technical issues raised in submissions made to this Inquiry and detailed in the Committee's Report.

In response to the Committee's recommendations the Valuer General has advised that a comprehensive review of the *Valuation of Land Act 1916* will commence in 2011. The issues raised in the Committee's recommendations will be considered as part of that review.