

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Sharing School and Community Facilities – NSW Education

QUESTION No. 1

The audit report also noted (p17) that the Department was in the process of recruiting an additional 34 staff to assist with the backlog of school-initiated infrastructure proposals. However, these staff are allocated to the Department's priority maintenance program and can only work on approving school proposals when they have spare capacity.

- Are there measures in place to monitor the effectiveness of additional staff recruited to assist with the backlog of approvals?

ANSWER

Measures are in place to monitor the effectiveness of additional staff recruited to assist with the backlog of approvals, this includes regular reporting to the Executive Director, Asset Management.

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) regularly receives applications for school-funded works and SINSW Asset Management has made significant progress in delivering these works on behalf of schools, particularly since the establishment of a central delivery team whose principle role is the delivery of school-funded works.

Since the recruitment of this team, feedback has been positive on the co-ordinated approach and on the fact that schools do not bear the cost of delivering the works or need to project-manage capital works, where schools may not have the capacity or project management expertise.

The SINSW Executive Director of Asset Management ensures that the team has sufficient capacity and capability and engages with the AMU, schools and relevant external stakeholders, as appropriate. This ensures projects are delivered in a timely manner to the satisfaction of schools and the community and in accordance with departmental standards and statutory requirements.

QUESTION No. 2

The Audit Office recommended that by December 2018, the Department of Education should provide readily-accessible information about available school facilities to community groups and local councils.

In its response, the Department advised that its School Website Service facility will include a new section for school facilities available for hire from Term 1, 2019.

- a) Is the Department monitoring how many schools have listed available facilities on their websites?
- b) Have Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) been established to measure the effectiveness of the website?
- c) What has been the response to this initiative to date?

ANSWER

- a) All participating schools have information available on their websites eg [Penrith High School Community Facilities](#).
- b) The Department's School Website includes a section for school facilities, see [Sharing our facilities](#). No KPIs have been established to measure the effectiveness of the website.
- c) SINSW regularly reviews the program to ensure lessons learned are captured and opportunities for improvement are identified and incorporated into the program. The

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
Sharing School and Community Facilities – NSW Education

most recent holiday period showed an unprecedented take up of 300+ participating schools.

QUESTION No. 3

The Audit Office recommended that by December 2018, the Department of Education should ensure that the implementation of the new 'Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy' is adequately resourced, and has the support of Principals.

In its response, the Department advised that Schools Infrastructure NSW has been established to support Principals in implementing the Community Joint Use framework.

Does Schools Infrastructure NSW measure KPIs to ensure there are adequate resources and support for Principals?

ANSWER

On a project by project basis, SINSW agrees with the school the delivery performance and anticipated timeframe of each project that takes into account relevant planning approvals, tender processes, staging, and operational considerations such as the best time of the year to conduct the works.

TRANSCRIPT QUESTIONS

Ms MIGOTTO: Mr Chair, I was just interested, following on your question, whether we got a specific answer around the actual number of backlog proposals for school-initiated infrastructure projects.

Ms HARRISSON: I do not have that specific number with me, but I am very happy to provide it to the Committee in writing following.

ANSWER

In 2017-18 and 2018-19 School Infrastructure NSW delivered approximately 1,175 school funded projects, and on 1 July 2019 approximately 540 school funded projects were underway. As at 30 September 2019, approximately 700 school funded projects are underway, as more projects are approved and commenced.

Of the total number, approximately 100 have been in progress for over 12 months due to the complex nature of the projects. The remaining works have been in progress for less than 12 months.