

Your reference: PAC296-03
Our reference: ED09/876
Contact: Peter Salier, (02) 9895 7075

Mr Paul McLeay MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr McLeay

I am writing to you in relation to your letter dated 17 June 2009 regarding the Auditor General's Report on Recycling and Reuse of Waste by the NSW Public Sector.

I am pleased to forward the enclosed completed template setting out the Department of Environment and Climate Change's (DECC) response to each recommendation. I have also enclosed copies of supporting documentation which have been prepared and/or updated to address the Auditor General's findings.

The audit was conducted in an open manner and recognised the significant work DECC has done over the past ten years to support agencies and State Owned Corporations in implementing the Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy. It also highlighted areas for improvement and provided an opportunity for implementation within the broader NSW Government administration. The audit findings have been disseminated to all agencies and will assist DECC and government agencies to continue to improve their waste reduction, recycling and purchasing performance.

Costs associated with the audit were absorbed by DECC and involved staff time in researching, collecting information and discussions with the Auditor General's staff.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mr Peter Salier, Senior Project Officer, Government, Sustainability Programs Division, on (02) 9895 7075 or email peter.salier@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

LISA CORBYN
Director General

Enclosures:

- Performance Audit – Implementations of Recommendations template
- *Guidelines for writing a WRAPP Plan* (new publication)
- *WRAPP reporting guidelines 2009* (new publication)
- *Know your paper* (revised publication)
- Know your printing paper (revised publication)



PERFORMANCE AUDIT – Recycling and Reuse of Waste by the NSW Public Sector

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Accepted or Rejected	Actions to be taken	Due Date	Status (completed, on track, delayed) Comment	Responsibility
<p>1 Develop specific targets as part of WRAPP for purchasing materials with recycled content and report on performance in its biennial reports (page 12)</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Incorporate targets from the 2008 NSW Government Sustainability Policy into current WRAPP reporting. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 85% of all copy paper purchased by NSW Government in 2014 must contain some recycled content. From the commencement of the 2008/09 financial year, agencies are required to specify the inclusion of at least one recycled content option as part of each publication quote sought <p>Consider in relation to overall WRAPP review (Recommendation 6)</p>	<p>May 2009</p> <p>June 2010</p>	<p>Completed 2009 WRAPP Reporting Guidelines released in May 2009 incorporated the NSW Government Sustainability Policy targets.</p> <p>On track Further targets will be developed in collaboration with agencies for high use materials e.g. paper, landscaping and concrete. Because of biennial reporting arrangements, a lead time of up to 2 years is necessary to incorporate new targets.</p>	<p>DECC</p>

Recommendation	Accepted or Rejected	Actions to be taken	Due Date	Status (completed, on track, delayed)	Responsibility
2 Regularly review agency WRAPP plans, including plans prepared by state owned corporations, against policy requirements and provide feedback (page 14)	Accepted	Offer to provide all agencies with specific WRAPP feedback on their 2007 performance Develop a resource, to assist WRAPP Contact Officers develop a WRAPP Plan Request agencies/SOCs to submit their current WRAPP Plan with their next progress report in August 2009.	July 2008 February 2009 July 2009	<p>Completed No specific requests have been received from agencies. The Department provides advice on a regular basis to agencies at officer level in relation to their WRAPP plans, reporting and benchmarking.</p> <p>Completed <i>Guidelines for writing a WRAPP Plan</i> published and circulated in hard copy and web - May 2009</p> <p>Delayed Targeted for initial review will be the top 15% of agencies with high generation and disposal rates and/or significant purchasing requirements but with reported low levels of recycled content. This now to be undertaken following agency reporting period for 2009 (August 2009).</p>	DECC
3 In consultation with the Department of Commerce, review relevant State Contracts to ensure they assist agencies to optimise WRAPP outcomes (page 14)	Accepted	Establish a formal process with Commerce for early advice on up coming contracts.	June 2009	<p>Completed A formal process for review of contracts by DECC has been established with Commerce.</p> <p>Key contracts which have been reviewed to include WRAPP context are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Integrated Waste Management contract 0800629 o Workplace Supplies contract C1006. 	DECC Department of Commerce

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4 Encourage and assist the large waste generators exempted from biennial reporting to continue to provide data on their WRAPP performance (page 14)	Accepted	<p>Work with the top 8 large waste generators to provide data on their WRAPP performance.</p> <p>Integrate actions to reduce waste into the education components of the NSW Government Sustainability Policy.</p>	<p>July 2009</p> <p>August 2009</p>	<p>On track Letters to be sent by end of July 2009 from DECC DG to top 8 large waste generators seeking their support.</p> <p>On Track DECC already maintains regular contact with all agencies by e-newsletter, providing training opportunities in waste management and sustainable purchasing, promoting best practice recycling systems and disseminating information on products with recycled content. Actions to reduce waste are being incorporated into broader communications plan for Sustainability Policy.</p>	DECC
5 In consultation with NSW Treasury, write to non-complying agencies and remind them of their WRAPP obligations under annual reporting legislation (page 15)	Accepted	Draft letter for sign off by NSW Treasury advising non complying agencies of their obligations to report information on WRAPP achievements in their Annual Report.	August 2008	Delayed This initiative was delayed, pending a decision on proposed changes to annual reporting requirements. To be completed by August 2009.	DECC NSW Treasury
6 6.1 Review the WRAPP program to: ensure it reflects current thinking in sustainable purchasing, recycling and reuse (page 16)	Accepted	Explore synergies with other government initiatives and commitments including the NSW State Plan, the NSW Climate Change Action Plan, the NSW Government Sustainability Policy and the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.	June 2010	On track Will be incorporated into the broader review of WRAPP. Outcome from the current Public Accounts Inquiry into sustainable procurement will also have an impact on review.	DECC Department of Commerce Treasury Selected agencies and industry representatives

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6.2 recognise the important role of the Department of Commerce in the implementation of WRAPP (page 16)	Accepted	Continue to work with Department of Commerce to achieve WRAPP outcomes.	Ongoing	See recommendation 3 above plus will be incorporated into overall review of WRAPP (by June 2010).	DECC Department of Commerce Treasury Selected agencies and industry representatives
6.3 consider requiring large waste generating agencies to report performance against their own individual targets (page 17)	Accepted	Consider in relation to overall WRAPP review	June 2010	On Track Incorporated into the DECC work program 2009/2010.	DECC Department of Commerce Treasury Selected agencies and industry representatives
6.4 identify further measures to reduce overall paper consumption and increase the use of recycled content paper (page 26)	Accepted	Circulate to all WRAPP contact Officers the following publications when updated and available: Know your paper - A guide to purchasing recycled content office paper Know your printing paper - A guide to purchasing recycled content printing paper for corporate stationery and promotional materials.	March 2009 April 2009	Completed The existing guidelines and Key Result Areas already require agencies to review their paper usage and implement strategies to save paper. Recent targets set in the Sustainability Policy are designed to drive the increased use of recycled paper and provide support for agencies to achieve overall reductions.	DECC Department of Commerce Treasury Selected agencies and industry representatives
6.5 clarify the method to be used for assessing and reporting the amounts of construction waste generated, especially fill and virgin excavated natural material (page 28)	Accepted	Consider additional measures in overall review of WRAPP. Consider in relation to overall WRAPP review.	June 2010	On Track Incorporated into the DECC work program 2009/2010.	DECC Department of Commerce Treasury Selected agencies and industry representatives

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6.6 consider introducing more challenging targets for recycling and reuse which are specific to WRAPP (page 28)	Accepted	Consider in relation to overall WRAPP review	June 2010	<p>On Track Incorporated into the DECC work program 2009/2010.</p> <p>Note: because of biennial reporting arrangements a lead time of up to 2 years is necessary to incorporate new targets.</p>	DECC Department of Commerce Treasury Selected agencies and industry representatives