

Submission

No 14

INQUIRY INTO INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Organisation: Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast and Leader of the Govt. in the Legislative Council

Name: Mr John Della Bosca MLC

Position: Minister

Telephone: 9228 4777

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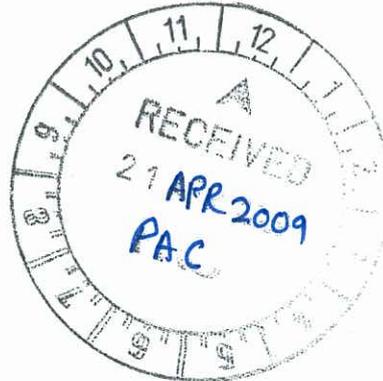
Theme:

Summary



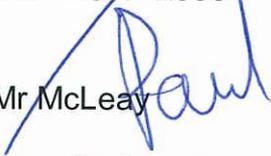
John Della Bosca MLC
Minister for Health
Minister for the Central Coast
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

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



A717410
M09/493

20 APR 2009

Dear Mr McLeay 

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your committee.

The NSW Government has a comprehensive set of policies and guidelines that encourage sustainable procurement practices.

I am pleased to inform you that NSW Health takes those policies and guidelines into account and incorporates sustainability into its procurement activities.

The Department has developed an overarching Environmental Sustainability Strategy that provides a framework for NSW Health to improve its sustainability performance. One of the key aspects of the strategy is recognising the role procurement plays in supporting sustainability.

Specifications for construction projects include sustainability clauses and call for "green" technologies to be applied wherever possible. Notable current examples of the application of these clauses are the construction projects at Liverpool and Royal North Shore hospitals. Architects and other project designers are required to consider and incorporate sustainability at the building design phase. Additional strategies that will evolve from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy include a formal sustainability assessment process for tenders and the development of KPIs for the environmental performance of new infrastructure. Compliance with the KPIs will become a contractual requirement.

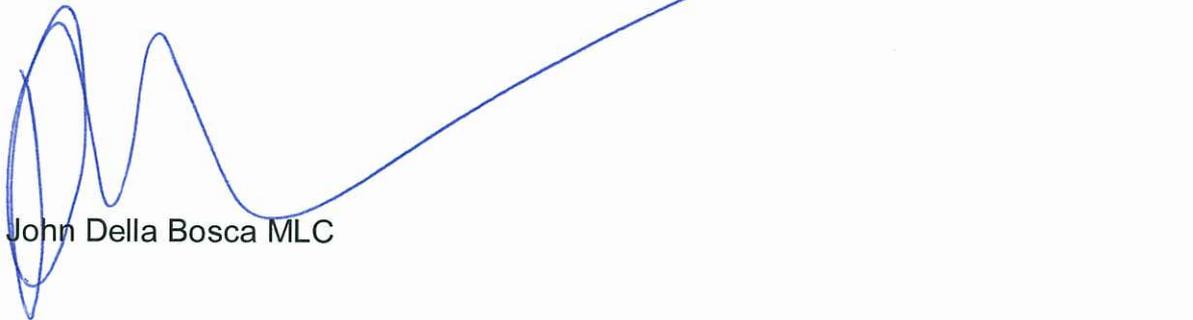
Facilities management is using the National Australian Built Environment Rating System to measure the environmental performance of offices in accordance with Government policy. The National Australian Built Environment Rating System is currently being trialled to benchmark the environmental performance of hospitals. The trial will lead to the establishment of minimum performance standards for new hospitals. Health currently uses the On-line System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting to report on energy, fleet and water consumption. The Government's Energy contract provides detailed usage information to help develop strategies for energy management. A number of projects to improve the environmental performance of major facilities such as cogeneration and recycling of black water are currently being assessed to determine their viability. Cleaning contracts include a requirement to facilitate the separation and recycling of waste.

Goods and services procurement is focusing on whole-of-life costing and achieving supply chain efficiencies. As well as driving out cost there is an environmental benefit in minimising transportation and the emission of greenhouse gases. The new pharmaceuticals contract is expected to be the first of many contracts to leverage supply chain efficiencies and deliver environmental benefits. Policies supporting the purchase and use of recycled copy paper and other office supplies have been in place for some time.

It is important to note that in the Health industry medical standards take precedence and may impact on environmental considerations. One obvious area is in packaging where opportunities to minimise packaging are restricted due to the greater need to ensure product integrity.

Thank you for raising these issues with me. Should you require further information, please contact Mr Rodney Lambert, Manager, Procurement, Policy and Planning, Strategic Procurement and Business Development Branch, NSW Department of Health, on 9391 9215.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

John Della Bosca MLC