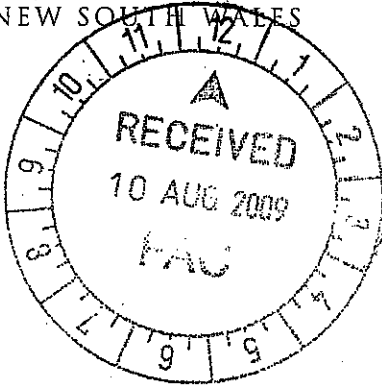




THE AUDIT OFFICE
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

Mr Paul McLeay MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



5 August 2009

Dear Mr McLeay

Examination of Auditor-General's Performance Audit Report
Recycling and Reuse of Waste by the NSW Public Sector

We have reviewed the submission provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change concerning the recommendations in the above performance audit report.

We are pleased that the Department's submission indicates that it has accepted all of our recommendations and is making satisfactory progress in implementing them.

Please find attached our assessment of the extent to which each response addresses the issues raised in the original report, along with a comment on progress. We have not substantiated the submission.

I plan to forward a copy of this correspondence to the Director-General the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

I am happy to provide any further assistance the Committee may need in completing its examination.

Yours sincerely

Peter Achterstraat
Auditor-General

attachment

	Auditor-General's recommendations Report 181, Recycling and Reuse of waste by the NSW Public Sector June 2008	Does DECC's response indicate appropriate action has started?	NSW Audit Office comments on progress reported in DECC's response
1	Develop specific targets as part of WRAPP for purchasing materials with recycled content and report on performance in its biennial reports (page 12)	Yes	DECC's submission indicates good progress is being made.
2	Regularly review agency WRAPP plans, including plans prepared by state owned corporations, against policy requirements and provide feedback (page 14)	Yes	DECC's submission indicates that there has been some delays, but that it will address this issue soon. This could be followed up toward the end of the current financial year.
3	In consultation with the Department of Commerce, review relevant State Contracts to ensure they assist agencies to optimise WRAPP outcomes (page 14)	Yes	DECC's submission indicates good progress is being made. We would also like to see DECC have input into contracts for the supply of office equipment such as photocopiers.
4	Encourage and assist the large waste generators exempted from biennial reporting to continue to provide data on their WRAPP performance (page 14)	Yes	DECC's submission indicates good progress is being made.
5	In consultation with NSW Treasury, write to non-complying agencies and remind them of their WRAPP obligations under annual reporting legislation (page 15)	Yes	DECC's submission indicates that this has been delayed pending a government decision on changes to annual reporting requirements. This is a satisfactory explanation at this time. This is a matter that could be followed up toward the end of the current financial year.
6.1	Review the WRAPP program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure it reflects current thinking in sustainable purchasing, recycling and reuse (page 16) 	Yes	DECC's submission indicates satisfactory progress is being made.
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise the important role of the Department of Commerce in the implementation of WRAPP (page 16) 	Yes	DECC's submission indicates satisfactory progress is being made
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider requiring large waste generating agencies to report performance against their own individual targets (page 17) 	Yes	DECC's submission indicates satisfactory progress is being made.
6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify further measures to reduce overall paper consumption and increase the use of recycled content paper (page 26) 	Yes	DECC's submission indicates satisfactory progress is being made.

	<p>Auditor-General's recommendations</p> <p>Report 181, Recycling and Reuse of waste by the NSW Public Sector</p> <p>June 2008</p>	<p>Does DECC's response indicate appropriate action has started?</p>	<p>NSW Audit Office comments on progress reported in DECC's response</p>
6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	Yes	DECC's submission indicates satisfactory progress is being made.
6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider introducing more challenging targets for recycling and reuse which are specific to WRAPP (page 28) 	Yes	DECC's submission indicates satisfactory progress is being made.