



16 September 2010

Ref: PAC329

Mr Paul Gibson MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Gibson

Thank you for your letter of 1 September 2010.

Events NSW agrees with the Auditor-General's recommendations insofar as they involve Events NSW. Events NSW co-operated fully with the Audit Office during the review.

Details of our responses to the Auditor General's report recommendations are contained in the attached response table to be forwarded to the Audit office as requested in their letter of 7 September 2010.

We believe that our event evaluation methodology is appropriate for our event types and enables us to understand the direct economic impact that an event will have on the State. However, we accept the view that different methodologies can be appropriate for events which are considered by agencies such as I&I and Treasury where a more complex impact analysis may be useful.

Indeed, where medium to longer term strategic benefits are evident or likely, they should be factored in to an assessment

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



John Hopwood
Acting Chief Executive Officer

**Recommendations in the Performance Audit
Government Investment in V8 Supercar Races at Sydney Olympic Park**

Recommendations	Accepted / Rejected	Proposed Action
<p>Our recommendations focus on assisting major event agencies to adopt a more coherent strategy for approaching and assessing major events.</p> <p>We recommend:</p>		
<p>1. Events NSW provide expert advice for assessing and negotiating major event proposals adopting guidelines for economic evaluations agreed with NSW Treasury by 1 March 2011.</p>	Accepted	<p>* To agree on guidelines with Treasury. * Assist as requested.</p>
<p>2. Agencies agree a consistent method for determining the impacts of major events by 1 March 2011.</p>		Await Treasury position.
<p>3. Where investments in major events are not co-ordinated through Events NSW, that assessment, negotiation and management of the event by the government agency follow relevant best practices. These relate to preparation of business cases, analysis of costs and economic impacts, use of expert assistance, negotiation strategies, supervision and post-event evaluation</p>	Not applicable to ENSW	
<p>4. More consistent, complete and accurate costing of events by all agencies involved by 30 June 2011. (We support the proposed review of user charges policy for events.)</p>	Agree	Implemented.
<p>5. Agencies expand their reporting on major event performance by 30 June 2011</p>		Options to be considered.