

**Submission
No 17**

**EXAMINATION OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE
AUDIT REPORTS OCTOBER 2016 – MAY 2017**

Organisation: NSW Department of Education

Date Received: 17 May 2018

Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

MT18/321

Dear Mr Notley-Smith

I write in response to your letter of 16 April 2018, requesting the Department of Education's response to recommendations of the Auditor-General's report - Planning for school infrastructure, tabled on 4 May 2017 (your reference: D18/07261).

Please find attached the department's response on the status of recommendations made by the Auditor-General.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



Mark Scott AO
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

17 May 2018

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Education

Planning for school infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED OR REJECTED	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	DUE DATE	STATUS (completed, on track, delayed) and COMMENT	RESPONSIBILITY (Section of agency responsible for implementation)
1 Regularly revisit and evaluate the Strategic Plan to keep it contemporary, refine it based on learnings, update cost estimates to reflect actual results, and respond to available funding	Accept	The next review will be updated to align to the revised State Infrastructure Strategy in 2018 with a 2036 demographic horizon and recently released plans from Infrastructure NSW, Greater Sydney Commission and Department of Planning and Environment. A review of the status of Key Reform Directions was prepared.	December 2018	On track - This will take the form of an Addendum to the current SASP.	SINSW CEO's Office & SINSW Planning and Strategy
2 Work with Treasury NSW to develop a framework for partnering with the private sector	Accept	A joint working party was established with Treasury and a Preliminary Delivery Strategy was prepared to identify appropriate methodologies. SINSW will continue to investigate options for delivering infrastructure in innovative ways, in line with the Preliminary Delivery Strategy.	Ongoing	Ongoing – SINSW will continue to investigate alternate procurement options, for approval by Government at the appropriate time.	SINSW Office of the CE
3 Align Total Asset Management plans with cluster plans as they are developed	Accept	Collaboration with Treasury to identify how this is best achieved have been held.	Ongoing	On track – Preliminary Infrastructure Plans (PIPs) have been completed for all high and medium priority clusters and all other clusters by June 2018 to inform Capital Investment Plans going forward. A program prioritisation tool is	SINSW Planning and Strategy & NSW Treasury

						also under development.	
4	Closely consult and collaborate with communities on implementation of the Strategic Plan	Accept	The department is developing a number of communication strategies relating to the School Asset Strategic Plan (SASP).	Ongoing	On track - consolidation of SINSW strategic communications and policy communication into one directorate that will manage all communications.	SINSW Communications	
5	Continue to collaborate with key government agencies, local government, the non-government school sector and the private sector on implementation of the Strategic Plan	Accept	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been created between SINSW and Department of Planning and Environment overseen by an Executive Steering Group.</p> <p>Memorandum of Understandings have been created with a number of local councils.</p> <p>The department hosts once a quarterly school assets alliance meetings with the non-government sector.</p> <p>A new partnerships directorate is being established to better partner with the private sector.</p>	Ongoing	On track – The department will continue to engage and collaborate with these sectors to implement the SASP.	SINSW CEO's Office; Planning and Strategy; Partnerships Directorate	
6	Publish detailed information on the status of assets, current and projected enrolments, and planned school projects to support effective consultation and collaboration	Accept	SINSW website is now functional and live.	December 2018	Ongoing – further information may be added to the SINSW website as needed, however the SINSW website in its current form enables communities to access information on projects and schools in their local area.	SINSW CEO's Office & Communications directorate	
7	Seek a ten-year capital planning limit from NSW Treasury	Accept	A 10 Year Capital Planning Limit has been created.	N/A	Completed - the CPL will be reviewed as part of each year's budget review with NSW Treasury.	SINSW CEO's Office; Planning and Strategy; NSW	

8	Advise the Government on operational policies and practices to reduce infrastructure requirements.	Accepted	The department will review and consider options to change operational policies and practices to reduce infrastructure requirements. These investigations are underway.	Ongoing	The department will continue to investigate options, noting that changes to operational policies and practices require research and extensive consultation with relevant experts and stakeholders to manage community expectations and concerns regarding any such changes.	Treasury Department of Education Operations Arm.
---	--	----------	--	---------	---	---