

**Submission
No 8**

**EXAMINATION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT
REPORTS AUGUST 2019 - JUNE 2020**

Organisation: Destination NSW

Date Received: 6 May 2021

6 May 2021

The Hon. Greg Piper MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament of NSW
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear The Hon. Greg Piper MP,

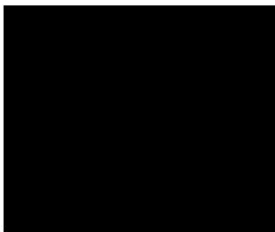
Re: Auditor-General's performance audit report – Destination NSW's support for major events

I refer to the above matter and acknowledge receipt of your letter of 7 April 2021.

As per your request, please find enclosed Destination NSW's response to the Auditor-General's performance audit report – Destination NSW's support for major events in the requested template.

If you have any further enquires, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED], Chief Financial Officer on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Steve Cox
Chief Executive Officer

Encl: Completed Template



IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	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	<p>Improve the documentation of initial event assessment decisions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) providing more detailed guidance for staff on how to make assessments against DNSW's funding criteria b) documenting the reasons for initial assessments against funding criteria in more detail c) documenting Ministerial directions relating to funding events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Accepted b) Accepted c) Accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Destination NSW will enhance documentation on the existing comprehensive assessment process b) Destination NSW will enhance its documentation for initial vetting for eligibility c) Agree to document verbal Ministerial Directions in writing 	1 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed b) Completed c) Completed and ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Events b) Events c) Events and CEO
2	<p>Consider using a streamlined approach to assess and evaluate major events that receive small amounts of funding.</p>	Accepted	Agree but need to ensure consistency of methodology used.	1 July 2020	Completed	Events

3	<p>Improve the application of policies for managing staff independence risks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) clarifying conflict of interest declarations forms for staff b) clarifying the treatment of industry rates under its Gifts and Benefits policy c) revising its Gifts and Benefits register to comply with the Public Service Commission's recommended minimum standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Accepted b) Accepted c) Accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Submission form to be revised. b) Gifts and Benefits policy has been amended to deal with industry rates. c) Gifts and Benefits register has been amended to comply with the Public Service Commission's recommended minimum standards. The gifts and benefit form has also been changed. 	1 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed b) Completed c) Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Corporate Services b) Corporate Services c) Corporate Services
4	<p>Increase transparency by including more detail about the major events it funds and the outcomes of these events in its public reporting.</p>	Accepted	<p>Destination NSW agrees with the Audit Office of NSW recommendation to provide more detailed information without</p>	1 July 2020	a) Completed	Visitor Engagement and Development

			disclosing commercially sensitive information. This includes publishing the number of events, amount funded and estimated outcomes by event category, and report in more detail on its performance against its major event-related KPIs, whilst protecting commercial-in-confidence information.			
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18 October 2021

The Hon. Greg Piper MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament of NSW
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear The Hon. Greg Piper MP,

Re: Auditor-General's performance audit report – Destination NSW's support for major events

I refer to the above matter and acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12 October 2021.

As per your request, we provide the following information on how Destination NSW actioned Recommendation 1. Destination NSW documents Ministerial directions received since the audit report was published by:

1. Preparing briefs for sign off by the Minister
2. Requesting approvals from Minister by email
3. Requesting approvals from Minister received by text message
4. Minutes from meetings with the Minister.

If you have any further enquires, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED], Chief Financial Officer on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Steve Cox
Chief Executive Officer

