



Mr David Rodwell
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Committee Office
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By email: david.rodwell@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Rodwell

Thank you for your email about the 8 March 2024 hearing for the inquiry into the planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities.

Please find attached my answer to the question I took on notice during the hearing. I do not wish to submit transcript corrections or additional information.

If you require further information, please contact me at _____ or
on _____

Yours sincerely

Matthew Riley
Director Climate and Atmospheric Science
Science, Economics and Insights Division

25 March 2024

Enclosures



PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND COMMITTEES

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Answers to Questions on Notice

Hearing: 8 March 2024

No. Question**1. Common Planning Assumptions Group – Transcript pages 6-7**

The CHAIR: Sorry, I may have missed it, but what is the Common Planning Assumptions Group? Who is it, I suppose, or where is it and how does it function?

MATTHEW RILEY: I might take that. The Common Planning Assumptions Group is a group that reports to the Secretaries Board, so it's a within-government group. It has representatives from all of the major departmental groups—the former clusters, for want of a better term. For instance, it has representatives from DPHI; it also has representatives from my department, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; from Treasury; from Health; from Transport; DPI Agriculture, Department of Regional NSW; and the Department of Communities and Justice. It covers the broad range of activities that the Government undertakes.

It was established a number of years ago when the government of the time elected to undertake the first coordinated strategic planning assessment in New South Wales for many, many years, bringing together the State Infrastructure Strategy, the Future Transport Strategy, the plan for Greater Sydney and other supporting regional plans. At that time, the Government made a decision that rather than different groups who were using perhaps different sources of data—for example, at the time, Infrastructure and Planning were using different population projections, or Transport and Planning were using different population projections. That obviously inhibited our attempt to provide consistency. So, within government, a decision was made to bring together the Common Planning Assumptions Group to work towards the consistent application of data and guidelines through the planning processes.

The group has operated now for, I think, seven years. As I said, it's been refreshed recently and reports directly to the Secretaries Board; it used to previously report through the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It has a number of subgroups. There is the top group, which reports to the Secretaries Board, and underneath that group there are a number of subgroups that work on specific themes. For example, there's a trends and scenarios subgroup. This subgroup includes information such as future climate projections. It includes information that guides the Intergenerational Report that Treasury delivers every five years. It really looks at those big trends and future scenarios. There are also other groups, for example, population and housing, and environment and natural resources; I think their names explain themselves and what they focus on. Each of those groups is chaired by a senior executive within the Government. They're tasked with bringing together work plans to promote the development of common data, common guidance.

The CHAIR: Sorry, Mr Riley, how many subgroups are there?

MATTHEW RILEY: I'll have to take on notice, Chair, exactly how many. I believe there are five but I'll take that on notice.

The CHAIR: Thank you.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer I gave later in the hearing which is recorded on page 16 of the uncorrected transcript.