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COUNCIL REFERENCE: 31157-08 (D09/98895)  
CONTACT PERSON: Gordon Clark

17 June 2009

Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Kate Harris – Committee Officer

Dear Ms Harris

**Inquiry into the NSW Planning Framework**

Thank you for your letter in this regard dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

Please find attached the following:

- My corrected transcript of evidence
- My response in writing to the additional questions that were posed.

Should you require any clarification please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 4429 3355. Please quote Council's reference 31157-08.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Clark".

**Gordon Clark**  
**Strategy Planning Manager**

/Attach

**Inquiry into the NSW Planning Framework**

**Response to Additional Questions**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

1. What training has been provided to your staff and councillors on the NSW planning arrangements?

**Response** – Council representatives have participated in a number of information workshops or sessions related to the roll out and implementation of the various recent planning reforms e.g. Housing Code, Joint Regional Planning Panels, Part 3 Amendments etc.

However these could not be called "training" as such. They are essentially information dissemination or publicity exercises that provide a superficial overview of the reform or legislation in question. The Department of Planning staff often seem like they are simply there to convey a message, no actual train the Council representatives.

- a. Has the training been sufficient/adequate?

**Response** – not really. The information sessions or workshops are generally superficial in nature and seldom provide detailed answers to complex questions related to the legislation and its practical roll out. Issues are generally not answered or resolved and there is often a denial that complex issues remain to be resolved.

- b. Should there be more training for staff and councillors?

**Response** – more information and training is always appropriate and supported. However for it to be worthwhile and meaningful the particular reform or legislative change needs to be completely resolved/finalised prior to any training.

Additionally, any future training should not just be focussed in the main metropolitan centres. Opportunities for training to be held in rural and regional areas should be considered and promoted.



**Gordon Clark  
Strategy Planning Manager  
Shoalhaven City Council**