

**Submission  
No 23**

## **INQUIRY INTO PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Auditor-General for New South Wales

**Date Received:** 24 January 2022

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The Hon Mark Latham MLC  
Chair, Portfolio Committee 3 - Education  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Contact: Claudia Migotto

Our ref: D2200776

24 January 2022

Dear Mr Latham

## **Inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in New South Wales**

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Portfolio Committee 3 – Education inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in New South Wales. I welcome the Committee’s examination of this important topic.

The effective planning and delivery of infrastructure across all areas of Government service delivery has been and will continue to be a significant focus area for my audit program. I have conducted two performance audits on this topic in the Education cluster in recent years.

In 2017, I released a report titled *Planning for school infrastructure*, which looked at whether the Department had a strategy and implementation model to ensure sufficient fit-for-purpose student learning spaces when and where needed. I found the Department had developed a Strategic Plan with expert input and validation of assumptions to meet future needs. However, successful implementation of the Strategic Plan would require collaboration with other key stakeholders and mitigation of significant risks.

In 2021, I released a report entitled *Delivering school infrastructure*, which focused on the planning and delivery of new, upgraded and redeveloped schools to meet demand for public school education. In this report I found that while the Department had updated and improved its long-term strategic plan, further work needed to be done on developing and advising government on its pipeline of priorities.

These reports can be accessed at:

- <https://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/our-work/reports/planning-for-school-infrastructure>
- <https://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/our-work/reports/delivering-school-infrastructure>

Thank you once again for the invitation to make a submission to the Committee’s inquiry. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you would like further information about my reports to Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Crawford  
Auditor-General for New South Wales