

NSW Parliament Joint Committee on the Office of the Valuer General - Fourth General Meeting Report

21 November 2006

Findings and Recommendations

FINDINGS

The Joint Committee was established in 2003 to monitor and review the exercise of the Valuer General's functions with respect to methodologies, valuation contract arrangements and the standard of valuation services. In these three areas the Committee finds that substantial improvements have been achieved.

The Committee has monitored and reported on various reforms to the NSW land valuation system in its previous Reports to the NSW Parliament. However it believes that further monitoring and accountability checks on the Valuer General would be of benefit in maintaining public confidence in the land valuation system in NSW. Whether such monitoring or oversight is performed via this existing Joint Committee, or through some other scrutiny mechanism, will be determined by the Government in the 54th Parliament.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Objections Management - The Committee recommends that the NSW Government maintain scrutiny of the land valuation objection management process in NSW.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Workforce Capability - The Committee recommends that the NSW Government examine the workforce capability and qualification requirements for valuers with the aim of ensuring a diversity and breadth of professionals available to provide a contestable service to the Valuer General.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Strata Information -The Committee recommends that the NSW Government examine the provision of valuation information to owners of Strata properties, in particular information about the total land valuation of the Strata property and its dissemination to individual lot owners.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Public Accountability - The Committee recommends that the NSW Government ensure the Valuer General continues to provide independent and transparent information to the public about the valuation system. The Committee sees the delivery of an Annual Performance Report by the Valuer General and the completion of a survey of effectiveness of public communications as key outputs for building public confidence and demonstrating transparency.