
Appendix one – Response from agency



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

Office of the Secretary

IRF21/2970

Ms Margaret Crawford
Auditor-General for New South Wales

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Crawford

Thank you for the opportunity to consider and respond to your Performance Audit – Fast-tracked Assessment Program.

I welcome the findings and recommendations from the audit, which recognise the special efforts of our staff to assist during the COVID pandemic and identify areas for improving the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) operations.

The audit found that the assessment of planning proposals and DAs was compliant with legislative requirements and consultation requirements and in line with delegations. Importantly it made just two recommendations: that we 1) strengthen controls over conflicts of interest and, 2) evaluate the Fast-tracked Assessment Program.

The Department accepts these recommendations and will implement responses to both.

I would like to express my appreciation for the significant work undertaken by the audit team and their ongoing commitment to working through issues with my team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Betts'.

Jim Betts
Secretary