

## **Response to the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader re Sharks proposal**

*Response provided on 15 July in response to questions about why the Director-General's Requirements were issued the day before the State election in March this year.*

The answer to your question is simple: the Department was simply trying to meet its statutory requirements under the State's planning laws.

On 21 February 2011, the former Minister declared the Sharks proposal to be a major project and issued a media release the next day to inform the community of the decision.

Under the State's planning laws, the Department then has a statutory 28-day period within which it is required to issue Director-General's requirements (DGRs) to the proponent following consultation with other agencies and the relevant local council.

As such, the requirements were due to be issued on 21 March.

Sutherland Shire Council's input to the DGRs however was not received until 23 March. The Department didn't want to finalise the DGRs until the council's advice was received.

Once this advice was received, and in view of the fact that the statutory timeline had already passed, the Department then incorporated Council's feedback as soon as possible and issued the DGRs to the proponent on the 25th.

There was no direction to the Department from the then Minister or any other party for the DGRs to be issued at this time.