LETTER TO THE MINISTERS

The Hon. Pru Goward MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for Women
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for the Central Coast
Assistant Minister for Planning
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ministers

I am pleased to submit for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report for the Department of Planning and Environment for the year ending 30 June 2014, in accordance with the Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn McNally
Secretary
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The NSW Government established the Department of Planning and Environment on 23 April 2014, when its predecessor, the former Department of Planning and Infrastructure, became part of the new Planning and Environment Cluster.

In May 2014, the Department published Population, Household and Dwelling Projections 2011-31, which identified that by 2031 Greater Sydney will be home to an additional 1.6 million people, while our largest regional cities and country and coastal centres will house 400,000 more people.

Over the year to 30 June 2014, there have been a number of achievements that support growth in NSW including:

• $18.6 billion of major projects were approved, comprising $13.5 billion approved by the Department, $4.8 billion by the independent Planning Assessment Commission and $800 million by the Minister for Planning.

• The construction of 51,976 new homes was approved – the highest level in 15 years.

• Plans were finalised for urban renewal sites in North Ryde, Wentworth Point and the Epping Town Centre, allowing for 9,050 new homes accompanied by infrastructure including parks and upgrades to local roads.

• Better infrastructure to support homes and jobs continued to be funded through the Housing Acceleration Fund, under which 11 critical projects were funded to support the delivery of up to 42,900 new homes and 12,000 hectares of employment land in the Sydney and Hunter regions.

• $42.9 million from the Local Infrastructure Growth Scheme was approved to fund local infrastructure in new release areas in the Blacktown and The Hills local government areas.

• Over $100 million worth of Voluntary Planning Agreements and over $20 million of Special Infrastructure Contributions were negotiated.

The achievements outlined in this report are testament to the hard work, expertise and commitment of the Department’s staff, and I thank them for their contributions.

Carolyn McNally
Secretary
About us
WHAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES

The Department of Planning and Environment is a Department of the Public Service under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013.

The Department is responsible for effective and sustainable planning to support the growth challenge for NSW. It makes plans, assesses proposals and develops timely policy based on evidence. Doing this requires long range thinking, integrated planning, clear and consistent policies and balanced assessment.

Primary legislation administered by the Department

The Department administers legislation on behalf of the Minister for Planning, and the Assistant Minister for Planning. The following Acts are the primary legislation that governs most of the Department’s core business:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
- Building Professionals Act 2005; and

OUR STRUCTURE

At 30 June 2014, the Department was organised into the following areas.

- Planning Strategies, Housing and Infrastructure Division.
- Growth Planning and Delivery Division.
- People and Business Division.
- Policy, Strategy and Reform Division.
- Finance and Services Division.
- Development Assessment Systems and Approvals Branch.
- Planning Reform and General Counsel Branch.

The staff of the following government agencies are part of the Department:

- Central Coast Regional Development Corporation;
- Hunter Development Corporation; and
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (which manages the Luna Park Reserve Trust).

These Government agencies publish separate annual reports under the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984.

The staff of the independent Building Professionals Board and the Planning Assessment Commission are also part of the Department. The Building Professionals Board publishes an Annual Report which is included with the Department’s Annual Report. Owing to administrative arrangements some statistics and other information relating to the Building Professionals Board are published in the Department’s Annual Report.

The Office of Environment and Heritage, the Office of Local Government and UrbanGrowth NSW are Public Service executive agencies related to the Department, under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. These agencies publish separate Annual Reports.

THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT CLUSTER

The Planning and Environment Cluster was established on 23 April 2014, and comprises:

- the Department of Planning and Environment;
- the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH); and
- the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Before the Cluster was established, the Department, OEH and OLG were part of the Premier and Cabinet Cluster.

The Cluster advises the: Minister for Planning; the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning; and the Minister for Local Government.

Previously, the then Department of Planning and Infrastructure advised the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP.
OUR COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Department works with a variety of stakeholders, including:

- local government: individual councils, Regional Organisations of Councils and their peak groups;
- State and Federal Government agencies and Members of Parliament;
- industry and businesses and their peak representative bodies;
- community, environment and not-for-profit groups;
- planning professionals, academics and technical specialists and their representatives bodies;
- property owners and investors, including owner/occupiers, residential and commercial property owners and investors; and
- local residents, including residents’ action groups.

Community and stakeholder participation in planning is a key priority in order to capture and consider an appropriate diversity of views when making planning decisions. It also helps to ensure that planning outcomes respond, wherever possible, to the community’s needs, interests and concerns.

We work to meet our statutory obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000. We also ensure that our engagement with communities and stakeholders is consistent with principles for community participation. We engage with communities and stakeholders so that they can inform planning decisions, and to build community capacity to participate in planning.
**NSW 2021**

NSW 2021 is the NSW Government’s 10 year strategic plan to rebuild the economy, return quality services, renovate infrastructure, restore accountability to government and strengthen our local environment and communities.

NSW 2021 includes 32 goals and 180 targets by which achievement of the goals is measured. The plan sets priorities and guides NSW Government resource allocation in conjunction with the State Budget.

The Department of Planning and Environment is either the lead agency or a contributing agency responsible for delivering the following NSW 2021 goals and measures:

**NSW 2021 Goals and Measures for the Department of Planning and Environment**

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| Goal 20: Build liveable centres (lead agency)                        | • Percentage of the population is living within 30 minutes by public transport of a city or major centre in Metropolitan Sydney.  
   • Increase the number of strategic plans that provide for increases in jobs and dwellings within walking catchments of centres of all sizes with good public transport through up-zonings and increased densities. |
| Goal 29: Restore confidence and integrity in the planning system (lead agency) | • New planning system legislation to be introduced by end 2012.  
   • Percentage of decisions published within five days by the Department of Planning and Environment:  
     - Gateway decisions for amendments to Local Environmental Plans.  
     - Voluntary Planning Agreements.  
     - Planning Assessment Commission determinations.  
     - Planning Assessment Commission advices.  
   • Percentage of State Significant Development and State Significant Infrastructure applications determined within four months.  
   • Level of customer satisfaction with key planning processes. |
| Goal 3: Drive economic growth in regional NSW (contributing agency)   | • Number of Strategic Regional Land Use Plans completed by 2014.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Goal 4: Increase the competitiveness of doing business in NSW (contributing agency) | • Percentage of planning approvals issued as complying development certificates.  
   • Number of days it takes to make a Gateway determination.  
   • Introduction of new planning legislation in November 2012 following comprehensive review of NSW planning system.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Goal 5: Place downward pressure on the cost of living (contributing agency) | • The number of completed dwellings added to existing stock each year, from Metropolitan Development Program data.  
   • The potential dwelling capacity of land with trunk water and sewer services available each year from the Metropolitan Development Program data.                                                                                                                                                              |

Source: NSW 2021

These aims are supported at a strategic level in the Department’s Corporate Plan.

**Progress in 2013-14**

In 2013-14, the Department continued to realise the NSW 2021 goals, and its achievements are available in the NSW 2021 Performance Report 2013-14. Achievements are also reported in the operational performance chapters in this report.