



Corporate
Partners 2005

ActewAGL



Bligh Voller Nield

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McCANN
Property & Planning



TransACT

29 July 2005

Ms Andrea Cullen
The Secretary
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Cullen

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the matter of the *Auditor-General's Report No 2 of 2005—Development Application and Approval Process* requested in your letter dated 11 July 2005.

Our concerns with the Authority in their administration of the Land Act are broader than the scope of the Auditor-General's report. However, in mid-2005 members of the Property Council of Australia were interviewed by the auditors where we raised general concerns, shortcomings and failings of the Authority in relation to the development assessment process. A number of development assessment cases were also cited. The Property Council is not surprised by, and agrees with, the key findings outlined in the report in relation to efficiency and timeliness, fairness, consistency with guidelines and legislation and application of ESD principles.

We support the summary of findings and support the principles of the Auditor-General's 22 recommendations. We agree with the Authority's response to the recommendations with the exception of 8 and 11 where we do not agree with the Authority's methodology to implement the recommendation. The Property Council of Australia does not accept any Authority response that cites lack of funding or resources as the reason for non-performance. Such funding and resources should be sought and supported by the ACT Government.

Where the Authority has responded that it will review or implement the recommendation as part of the planning system reform program, the Property Council of Australia has reviewed the recently released Technical Papers and commented on those that we do not believe that some of the changes will result in greater certainty, simplicity and efficiency.

The Voice of Leadership



Please find enclosed a copy of our submission to the planning reform program that details our concerns with the system. The Property Council would welcome the opportunity to present our views in person if required.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Carter
Executive Director
Property Council of Australia (ACT Division)

The *Voice* of Leadership

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