



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

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INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

November 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

The Independent Planning Commission acknowledges and pays respect to all the Traditional Custodians and their Nations of NSW. The Commission recognises and acknowledges that the Traditional Custodians have a deep cultural, social, environmental, spiritual, and economic connection to their lands and waters.



The Hon Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit to you the annual report of the Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) for the 2023-24 reporting year, in satisfaction of the following statutory requirements:

- an annual report on the operations of the Commission under clause 7(1) of Schedule 2 to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*; and
- an annual report on the operations of the Commission in accordance with Division 7.3 of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* and *NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements TPG23-10*.

For most of the 2023-24 reporting year, the Chair of the Commission was Professor Mary O’Kane AC. As the inaugural Chair of the Commission, Mary shaped the Commission into a professional, transparent and capable organisation that delivers for the State of NSW. I would also like to acknowledge the service of Peter Duncan AM, Dianne Leeson and Professor Neal Menzies AM who have each served as Deputy Chairs of the Commission during the 2023-24 reporting period.

Although an independent body, the Commission relies on the hard work of the staff of the Office of the Independent Planning Commission, officers of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and all of the stakeholders who participate in the Commission’s processes. I would like to acknowledge their work and – particularly to the people who voluntarily make submissions to the Commission – to thank them for their contribution.

On 31 October 2023, Soo-Tee Cheong OAM, a valued and long-serving member of the Commission, passed away during his term of office. Soo-Tee’s record of public service (in the Commission and elsewhere), his knack for finding solutions to difficult problems and collegiality leave an example for us to emulate.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Mills

Chair, Independent Planning Commission
12 November 2024

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1. Overview

1.1 Aims and objectives

1.1.1 Purpose of the agency

The purpose of the Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) is to provide high quality determinations and advice that meet the Objects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and build and maintain trust in the NSW planning system.

The Commission's values are reflected in the way its members and staff act and carry out their duties.

Independence	Commissioners are independent and objective in the decisions they make and advice they provide. The Commission and the OIPC are separate from other government departments and agencies.
Integrity	Our processes are undertaken with a high degree of openness and transparency and in line with ethical conduct.
Engagement	We encourage and facilitate stakeholder participation in decision-making processes and in providing feedback on our policies and procedures.
Quality	The Commission makes fair, timely and robust decisions, and instils a work culture of excellence and continuous improvement.
Timeliness	The Commission delivers timely determinations within the legislative and Government policy framework to serve the people of NSW.

The Office of the Independent Planning Commission (**OIPC**) is a controlled entity of the Commission and serves as the staffing agency for the public servants who support the Independent Planning Commission in the exercise of all of its functions. This includes the provision of expert planning, legal, and communications advice to members of the Commission, the receipt of submissions and other communications from members of the public and organising the conduct of public hearings and public meetings.

1.1.2 Key functions

The key functions of the Commission are to:

- determine State significant development applications where there is significant opposition from the community (50 or more public objections), where a local Council of the area in which the application is situated objects to the application or where the applicant has made a disclosable political donation
- conduct public hearings for development applications and other planning and development matters and

- provide independent expert advice on any planning matter (but not development applications), when requested by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (**Minister**) or the Planning Secretary.

1.1.3 Heritage advice

Under the *Heritage Act 1977*, the Minister responsible for heritage can seek an independent review by the Commission of a proposed listing of an item on the State's Heritage Register. The Commission's advice is not binding on the Minister.

1.1.4 Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel

The Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel is a subcommittee of the Commission and is appointed by the Chair of the Commission. It was established under Division 5 of the then *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* on 4 October 2013 and became a subcommittee of the Commission in 2018. The Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel is responsible for the expert assessment of mining and petroleum proposals located on strategic agricultural land.

The Gateway Panel has the following functions under Part 2.4 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021*:

- determining applications for gateway certificates
- providing advice to the consent authority in relation to applications for development consent
- providing advice to the Minister or the Planning Secretary in relation to applications for development consent
- providing advice to the Planning Secretary in relation to the preparation of environmental assessment requirements
- such other functions as may be imposed or conferred on the Gateway Panel by any other law.

As a subcommittee of the Commission, the Gateway Panel is supported in the exercise of its functions by the OIPC. The Gateway Panel issued one gateway certificate in the 2023-24 reporting period, in respect of Cadia Valley Operations.

1.1.5 What we don't do

The Commission does not:

- make policy. The Commission has no policy-making function, and the scope of its decision-making is bound by legislation and guided by government policy
- consider things that are not in its remit as defined in the EP&A Act. The Commission must only consider issues that fall under the mandatory or relevant considerations in the Act
- consider the reputation of an applicant or whether they are a 'fit and proper person'. The Commission's determination only relates to the proposed use of the relevant land
- undertake whole of government assessments of State significant development applications. This is done by the Planning Secretary on behalf of the Commission.

1.2 Management and structure

1.2.1 Constitution of the Commission

Members of the Commission are appointed by the Minister. Members are appointed for terms of up to three years and cannot serve more than six years in total (unless the Minister extends to member's term of office for the purpose of enabling the member to complete a function as a member after the time that the term would otherwise end).

The Commission maintains a high standard of conflict of interest disclosure in general and in reference to specific cases when they are considered by a Commission panel. Full details of the Commission's conflict of interest policies and procedures are provided on the Commission's website.

In the reporting period, ten Commissioners concluded their term with the Commission (including one by reason of death), and six Commissioners were appointed. As at 30 June 2024, there were 21 Commissioners, 48% of whom were female. See Appendix 3.3 for more information on Commissioners.

Commissioners who served between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024

Commissioner	Date of first appointment	End of term during reporting period
Professor Mary O'Kane AC, Chair	1 February 2018	27 March 2024
Mr Andrew Mills, Chair	20 February 2023 (as a member) 28 March 2024 (as Chair)	-
Mr Terry Bailey	4 May 2021	-
Professor Snow Barlow	25 July 2018	-
Mr Soo-Tee Cheong OAM	19 July 2022 ¹	31 October 2023 ²
Mr Michael Chilcott	1 October 2023	-
Professor Alice Clark	25 July 2018	-
Dr Sheridan Coakes	4 May 2021	-
Mr Peter Cochrane	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Mr Peter Duncan AM	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Dr Bronwyn Evans AM	20 February 2023	-
Ms Suellen Fitzgerald	1 August 2023	-

¹ Commissioner Cheong had previously served a non-consecutive three-year term as a member of the Commissioner prior to the commencement of this term of appointment

² Date of Commissioner Cheong's death during his second term of appointment to the Commission

Commissioner	Date of first appointment	End of term during reporting period
Ms Juliet Grant	4 May 2021	-
Mr Ken Kanofski	20 February 2023	-
Ms Dianne Leeson	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Ms Wendy Lewin	26 July 2018	-
Professor Helen Lochhead AO	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Mr Tony McAvoy SC	4 May 2021	3 May 2024
Ms Alison McCabe	20 February 2023	-
Professor Richard Mackay AM	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Mr Duncan Marshall AM	1 August 2023	-
Professor Neal Menzies AM	17 July 2022	-
Ms Janett Milligan	20 February 2023	-
Mr Richard Pearson	1 August 2023	-
Mr Adrian Pilton	26 July 2018	-
Ms Clare Sykes	19 July 2022	-
Professor Elizabeth Taylor AO	1 August 2023	-
Ms Annelise Tuor	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Dr Peter Williams	1 August 2017	31 July 2023
Mr Chris Wilson	26 July 2018	-
Mr Michael Wright	1 August 2023	-

1.2.2 Constitution of the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel

Members of the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel who served between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024

Gateway Panel Member	Key area of expertise
Professor Neal Menzies (Chair)	Agriculture and soil science
Professor Ian Anderson	Agriculture and soil science
Dr Clinton Foster PSM	Petroleum Geology and Exploration
Mr Hugh Middlemis	Hydrogeology

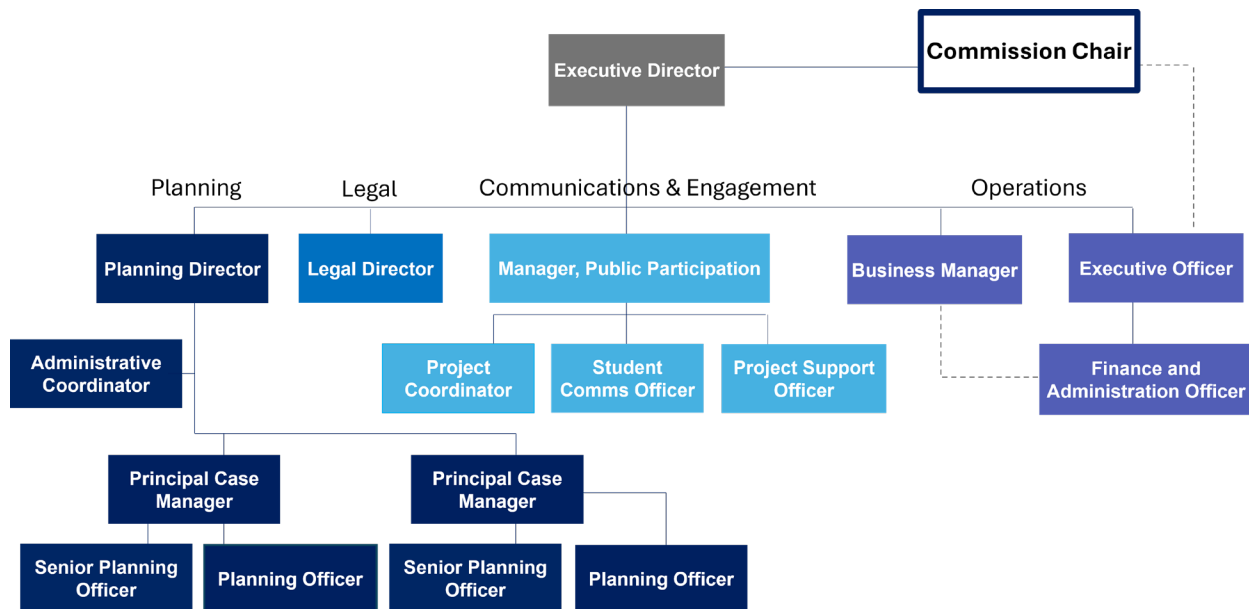
Gateway Panel Member	Key area of expertise
Dr Catherine Moore	Hydrogeology
Dr Glen Walker	Hydrogeology

1.2.3 Management and structure of the OIPC

Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* provides that the Chair of the Commission is the head of agency for the OIPC.

As the Chairs of the Commission, the principal officers of the OIPC during the reporting period were:

- Professor Mary O’Kane AC, for the period from 1 July 2023 to 27 March 2024, and
- Mr Andrew Mills for the period for 28 March 2024 continuing to the end of the reporting period.



*Organisation chart shows substantive roles only

1.3 Charter

The Commission is an independent NSW government agency, the primary function of which is to be a consent authority for State significant development in NSW. With the support of the Planning Secretary as provided under section 4.6 of the EP&A Act, the Commission administers parts of the EP&A Act principally related to the determination of State significant development applications.

The Commission operates independently of other government departments, including the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the **Department**), and has an important role to play in building community confidence in the decision-making processes for major development and land-use planning state-wide.

The Commission is not subject to the direction or control of the Minister or any other government agency, except in relation to procedural matters as set out under the EP&A Act and in the Minister's Statement of Expectations.

The OIPC was established as a separate agency under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013 (GSE Act)* on 1 July 2020. The OIPC provides professional and technical support to the Commission and its members and is the main point of contact for the public and other Government agencies. It coordinates and facilitates the Commission's decision-making processes and aims to provide efficient, transparent, and high-performing support services.

The OIPC is a small agency, with 21 staff members at the end of the 2023-24 reporting period (of whom three were on parental leave).

The OIPC was established on 1 July 2020 as a separate agency under Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*. The functions of the OIPC prior to 1 July 2020 were carried out by the Secretariat of the Independent Planning Commission, which was a unit of what is now the Department.

Clause 9 of the *Administrative Arrangements (Administrative Changes – Regional NSW and Independent Planning Commission) Order 2020* dated 1 April 2020 provided that, as of 1 July 2020, the persons employed in the-then Department who were principally involved in providing support to the Independent Planning Commission would be transferred to the OIPC.

The OIPC does not have any functions allocated to it under legislation and does not administer any legislation.

1.4 Combined annual reports

As the OIPC is a controlled entity of the Commission and has no formal role other than to support the functions of the Commission, this annual report (where relevant) combines information in relation to the Commission and the OIPC. Due to the transitional arrangements under TPG23-10, the OIPC does not have any annual reporting obligations for the 2023-24 reporting year in its own right, although it will have those obligations in the subsequent 2024-25 reporting period.

2. Strategy

The Commission is a NSW Government agency with defined functions and no role beyond those defined functions. Each of the functions is linked to performance measures (set out at 3.6 of this Annual Report). The Commission's strategic objective is to deliver on its statutory functions in a manner that achieves the performance measures set by the Minister.

As staffing agency for the Commission, the OIPC's strategic objective is to ensure that the Commission exercises its legislated functions in a timely and rigorous manner – compliant with all legal requirements and the KPIs set by the Minister's Statement of Expectations.

3. Operations and Performance

3.1 Management and activities

In 2023-24, the Commission worked on a total of 25 cases. Of those 25 cases, 18 were completed in the 2023-24 reporting period and seven carried through into the 2024-25 reporting period.

The completed cases comprised:

- 16 development applications for determination, including six for which public meetings were conducted
- one requests for advice on planning proposals
- one Mining and Petroleum Gateway Certificate.

3.2 Summary review of operations

3.2.1 Types of cases

The Commission determined applications for a range of development types in 2023-24:

- four resource (mining and quarrying) cases
- two urban development cases
- two hospitals and health development cases
- five renewable development case
- two infrastructure case
- one industrial development case

See Appendix 7.3 for more detail.

3.2.2 Public hearings and public meetings

Under the EP&A Act, the Minister may formally ask the Commission to hold a public hearing in relation to a development application or any other planning matter at any time. When the Commission is directed to hold a public hearing into a development application for which it is the consent authority, merit appeal rights in respect of that application are no longer available.

When determining other development applications, the Commission is not required to hold its own public meeting; however, the Commission may elect to do so as community participation is considered to be integral to the decision-making processes for complex and contentious state significant development.

The Commission held no public hearings and six public meetings during the reporting period.

3.3 Land disposal

No land was disposed of by the Commission in the 2023-24 reporting year.

3.4 Research and development

The Commission did not undertake any external research projects in the 2023-24 reporting period.

3.5 Implementation of price determination

The Commission was not subject to any determination or recommendation of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in the 2023-24 reporting year.

3.6 Performance

3.6.1 Minister's Statement of Expectations

The Minister's Statement of Expectations for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024 set out, for the reporting period, key performance indicators to ensure ongoing timeliness and quality of the Commission's decisions.

In setting these timeframes, the Minister has acknowledged the Department also has an obligation to ensure the Commission is made aware of upcoming matters, provide adequate assessment documentation, and respond to information requests in a timely manner, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and the Commission.

3.6.2 Timing exclusions

The Minister's Statement of Expectations requires case processing times to be reported as a 12-month rolling average – "*excluding any time where the Commission has requested further information from the Department or the Applicant*".

The period between 20 December 2023 and 26 January 2024 was also excluded from the determination timeframes set out in the Minister's Statement of Expectations. This exclusion recognises that it is difficult for stakeholders to participate in the Commission's community consultation process during this timeframe because many stakeholders are away during the Christmas/New Year school holiday period.

3.6.3 State significant development determinations

During the 2023-24 reporting period the Commission was expected to meet the following timeframes for determination (counted from the date that the Commission receives the Department's Assessment Report):

- 32 calendar days for routine determinations (no public meeting or hearing) and modifications with political donations
- 50 calendar days for determinations subject to a public meeting

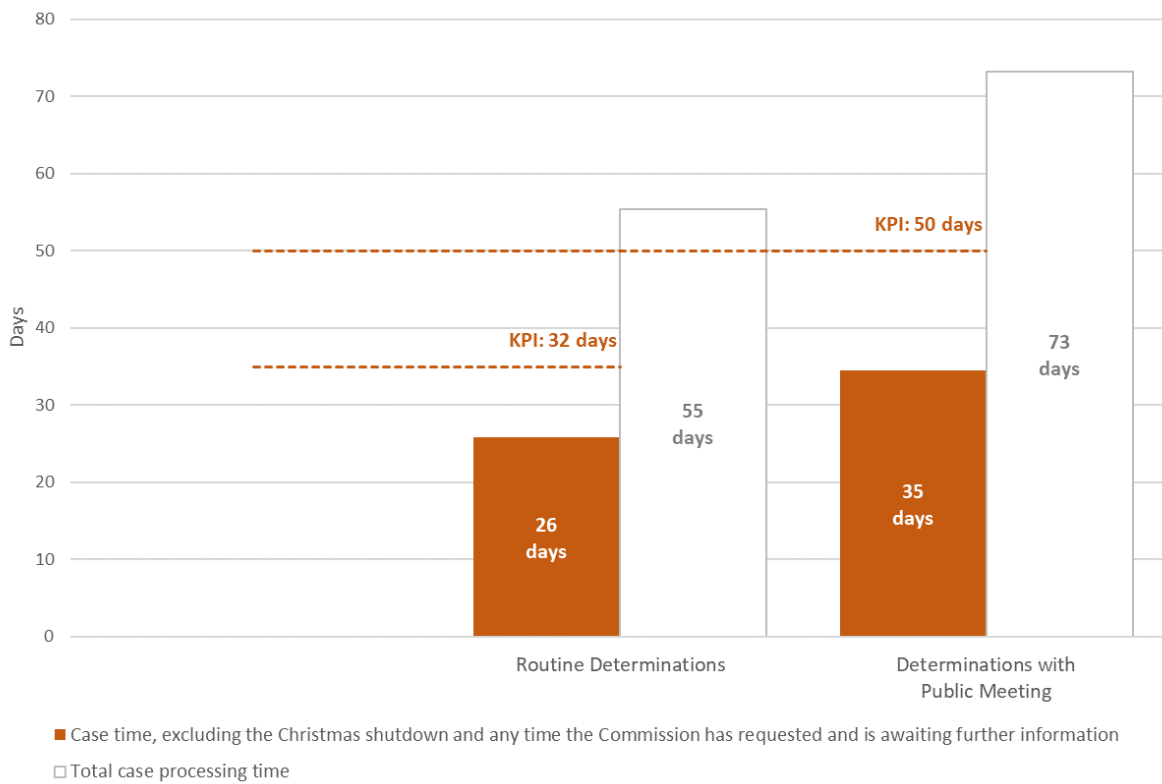
- 12 weeks (84 calendar days) for determinations subject to a public hearing.

In 2023-24, the Commission met the stipulated timeframes. It completed:

- 10 routine determinations (with no public hearing or meeting) in an average of 26 days (55 days without timing exclusions)
- 6 determinations subject to a public meeting in an average of 35 days (73 days without timing exclusions)

The figure overleaf shows the Commission’s processing times for each determination category as a 12-month rolling average.

IPC case processing times 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



3.6.4 Gateway and Rezoning Reviews

When undertaking Gateway and Rezoning Reviews, the Commission is expected to provide its advice to the Planning Secretary within 5 weeks (35 calendar days) including any meetings and preparation of the advice, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary. This timeframe excludes time where the Commission has requested and is awaiting further information from the Department, the local council or a proponent.

The Commission completed one request for advice in 2023-24 with a processing time of 29 days.

3.6.5 Qualitative performance

In line with the Minister’s Statement of Expectations, the Commission monitors its performance from a qualitative perspective, including consideration of stakeholder feedback about its independence, transparency, and accessibility.

Each of the three characteristics of independence, transparency and accessibility are supported by the Commission’s practices, procedures and published policies. These include:

- robust conflict of interest procedures to manage and proactively disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest on the part of Commission members appointed to Panels;
- a *Transparency Policy* that both requires the Commission to proactively publish almost all case-related documents, including transcripts or notes of external meetings, on its website;
- plain-English policies covering every aspect of the Commission’s work that are available on the Commission’s website; and
- a *Community Participation Plan* that accommodates the greatest number of interested participants in the Commission’s processes.

Participant surveys of speakers at public meetings held in 2023-24 provided the following feedback:

	% agree strongly or somewhat	% neither agree nor disagree	% disagree strongly or somewhat	N/A
Independence				
Commissioners are independent	54	32	7	7
Transparency				
Processes are transparent	57	29	11	4
Discussions with stakeholders are transparent	61	25	11	4
Conflicts of interest are dealt with transparently	61	29	7	4
Accessibility				
Processes could be understood	86	11	4	-
Website information is easy to find	61	7	32	-
Materials published in time for submitters to consider	79	18	4	-
Opportunities for community input are provided	89	4	7	-
Any changes to timeframes are explained	57	29	11	4

During the reporting period, the Commission also continued its process of undertaking targeted consultation and engagement with key government, industry and community stakeholders to seek feedback on what the Commission is doing well and what it could do better to build community confidence in the decisions it makes.

The Minister’s Statement of Expectations also requires the Commission to examine the legal robustness of its determinations. Legal proceedings resolved in 2023-24 in which the Commission was a party are set out below. None of the litigation outcomes in the 2023-24 reporting year found error in or otherwise impugned the legality of the Commission’s decisions.

Litigation outcomes 2023-24 in order of resolution

Outcome date	Case	Project	Type of appeal	Court	Outcome
23 October 2023	<i>AA Crown Holdings Pty Ltd v Minister for Planning & Independent Planning Commission</i> (167116 of 2023)	Wollongong Hospital	Merit appeal against deemed refusal (NB: Assessment Report not provided to the Commission)	Land and Environment Court	Appeal discontinued by applicant
14 March 2024	<i>Bingman Catchment Landcare Group Inc v Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd & Independent Planning Commission</i> [2024] NSWLEC 17	Bowdens Silver Project	Judicial review by objector	Land and Environment Court	Appeal dismissed
16 April 2024	<i>Macquarie Health Corporation Ltd v Independent Planning Commission</i> [2024] NSWLEC 1184	President Private Hospital	Merit appeal by applicant against refusal	Land and Environment Court	Conciliated outcome granting consent to amended application
13 May 2024	<i>Fitzsummer Pty Ltd v NSW Independent Planning Commission & Elgin Energy Pty Ltd</i> (84402 of 20234)	Glanmire Solar Farm	Merit appeal by objector against grant of consent	Land and Environment Court	Appeal discontinued by applicant

3.6.6 People Matters Employment Survey

Of all staff of the OIPC, 95% voluntarily chose to participate in the 2023 NSW Public Sector Employee Survey (**PMES**), the results of which showed significant improvement on already high levels of performance across the majority of headline topics compared to 2022.

The Commission's 2023 PMES results exceeded the public sector results on every measure, with the Commission reaching an overall employee engagement score of 90%, a job satisfaction score of 88%, a wellbeing score of 87% and a customer service score of 96%.

4. Management and Accountability

4.1 Numbers and remuneration of senior executives

The Commission does not have any employees, except as employed through the OIPC in its capacity as the staffing agency for the Commission.

The tables below show the number of Public Service Senior Executives employed by the OIPC at the end of the last reporting year and their average remuneration.

	2023-24			2022-23		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Band 4 (Secretary)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Band 3 (Deputy Secretary)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Band 2 (Executive Director)	0	1	1	0	1	1
Band 1 (Director)	2	1	3	2	0	2

NB: These are Senior Executive statistics as of 20 June 2024. This data is based solely on senior executives in their substantive role and band level.

	2023-2024		2022-2023	
	Range (\$)	Average Remuneration (\$)	Range (\$)	Average Remuneration (\$)
Band 4 Secretary				
Band 3 Group/Deputy Secretary				
Band 2 Executive Director	\$287,201 - \$361,300	\$328,318	\$287,201 - \$361,300	\$296,869
Band 1 Director	\$201,350 - \$287,200	\$229,182	\$201,350 - \$287,200	\$232,381

* 30.8% of IPC employee-related expenditure in 2023-24 was related to Senior Executives compared to 30.5% in the 2022-23 reporting period.

4.2 Human resources

The table below shows the number of staff employed by the OIPC by category as at the end of the 2023-24 reporting period compared to the previous year.

The Chair of the Commission, as agency head of the OIPC appointed by the Minister, is not an employee of the OIPC.

Category	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Ongoing	8	11	8
Temporary	9	3	2
Executive	4	3	3
TOTAL	21 ³	17	13

4.3 Consultants

No consultants were engaged on or behalf of the Commission during the reporting period.

4.4 Promotion

No overseas visits were made by members of the Commission or by employees or officers of the OIPC as part of their duties in the 2023-24 reporting year.

4.5 Requirements arising from employment arrangements

All employees of the OIPC were involved in the provision of personnel services to the Commission during the 2023-24 reporting year. For part of the reporting year, some employees of the OIPC provided services in kind to support the work of another agency.

4.6 Legal change

During the 2023-24 reporting year there were no significant changes to the Acts and subordinate legislation that govern the functions and processes of the Commission. Changes to development standards and other planning regulations that may impact the Commission's consideration of specific development applications are taken into account in the Commission's Statements of Reasons in individual matters.

Significant judicial decisions during the 2023-24 reporting year affecting the Commission are set out at 3.6.5 of this Annual Report.

³ As at 30 June 2024, three of these staff members were on approved parental leave

4.7 Economic or other factors

There were no reportable economic factors affecting the achievement of the Commission's operational activities.

4.8 Events arising after the end of the annual reporting period

The Commission has no after balance date matters having a significant effect on the succeeding year to report.

4.9 Risk management and insurance activities

4.9.1 Risk Management

The Commission's internal risk management program helps to ensure a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

The Commission's Risk and Compliance Committee meets quarterly and is chartered to advise the Chair of the Commission in discharging the Commission's governance responsibilities (including the Chair's governance of the OIPC), specifically through oversight of a risk management framework and risk register and monitoring of compliance.

This includes identification of appropriate risk profiles and compliance with all relevant laws, codes, Ministerial expectations and directions, Commission policies and procedures, and community expectations of timeliness, probity, and transparency.

The Risk and Compliance Committee:

- reviews the risk register against achievement of the Commission's objectives and performance indicators
- reviews risk amelioration activities and the Commission's risk tolerance/appetite
- monitors compliance with relevant legislation, policies and processes
- monitors emerging risks and consider potential responses
- recommends improvements to the management and treatment of risks
- recommends improvements to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, policies and processes.

4.9.2 Insurance

The NSW Treasury Managed Fund provided insurance for workers compensation, property and public liability. No compensation claims were lodged in the reporting period.

4.10 Internal audit and risk management policy

TPP 20-08 did not apply to the Commission during the reporting period, as the Commission was not listed in Schedule 2 to the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2018*.

On 8 June 2021 the NSW Treasury provided the OIPC with a small agency exemption from the requirements of TPP 20-08 Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the General Government Sector. The basis of this exemption is that the OIPC is a small agency and that the cost of compliance with TPP 20-08 is not commensurate with the size and risk profile of the OIPC (noting the risk management activities referred to above).

Accordingly, the OIPC is exempt from the requirements to:

- comply with the core requirements of TPP 20-08
- attest compliance, and
- include the Attestation Statement in the OIPC's annual reporting information.

4.11 Privacy and personal information

The Commission complies with the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* through implementation of its publicly available Privacy Statement and related policies.

The Privacy Statement requires the Commission and OIPC to uphold and respect the privacy of anyone about whom it holds personal information. The Statement also acts as a reference tool for staff to best meet privacy obligations under the Act.

No internal review was conducted by or on behalf of the Commission or the OIPC under Part 5 of the Act in relation to entitlement of a person aggrieved by the Commission.

4.12 Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (**GIPA Act**) requires agencies to provide access to government information and encourages proactive release of such information. The Commission operates at a high level of transparency and the Commission's Transparency Policy sets out in detail all government information proactively released by the Commission and OIPC.

The Commission received one informal access application under the GIPA Act during 2023-24. All documents sought under the application were released to the applicant within six days of the informal application being made.

4.13 Other information

4.13.1 External costs incurred in production of this Annual Report

No external costs were incurred in the production of this Annual Report.

4.13.2 Website at which this Annual Report may be accessed

www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au

4.14 Exemptions

The Commission has no relevant exemptions from annual reporting requirements.

5. Sustainability

5.1 Disability inclusion action plan

The Commission is supportive of the NSW Government's commitment to building an inclusive and equitable community and supporting the fundamental right of choice for people with disability. Providing inclusive services, information and workplaces is part of the Commission and OIPC's core business.

The Commission (and the OIPC) is guided by the principles in the Commission's Diversity Policy.

5.2 *Modern Slavery Act 2018* reporting

The Commission operates under the Department's procurement framework as the Department provides services to the Independent Planning Commission. All *Modern Slavery Act 2018* requirements are managed through this framework. For further information please see the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's Annual Report.

5.3 Work health and safety

The Commission is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment for all staff, Commissioners, contractors, clients and visitors. This was achieved by measures including:

- continuing numerous health and wellbeing initiatives, including the corporate fitness program and influenza vaccinations
- providing personal protective equipment for field trips
- job safety analyses for field trips
- auditing first aid kits
- provision of an Employee Assistance Service to support mental health issues for employees.

Neither the Commission nor the OIPC had any injuries or prosecutions under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* in the 2023-24 reporting year.

5.4 Workforce diversity

The OIPC, as the staffing agency for the Commission, is committed to building a positive and diverse workplace that is free of discrimination.

The OIPC operates under the Independent Planning Commission's *Diversity Policy* which seeks to widen the Commission's and the OIPC's decision making and service delivery skills, capabilities, and insights, in accordance with the NSW Government's commitment to workforce diversity in the NSW public sector.

5.4.1 Trends in the representation of workforce diversity groups

Workforce Diversity Group	Benchmark	2022	2023	2024
Women	50%	71%	59%	62%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People	3%	0%	0%	0%
People whose First Language Spoken as a Child was not English	23%	14%	0%	5%
People with Disability	6%	7%	6%	5%
People with Disability Requiring Work-Related Adjustment	N/A	7%	6%	0%

Note 1: The benchmark of 50% for representation of women across the sector is intended to reflect the gender composition of the NSW community.

Note 2: The NSW Public Sector Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2019–2025 takes a career pathway approach in that it sets an ambitious target of 3% Aboriginal employment at each non-executive grade of the public sector by 2025.

Note 3: A benchmark from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing has been included for People whose First Language Spoken as a Child was not English. The ABS Census does not provide information about first language, but does provide information about country of birth. The benchmark of 23.2% is the percentage of the NSW general population born in a country where English is not the predominant language.

Note 4: In December 2017 the NSW Government announced the target of doubling the representation of people with disability in the NSW public sector from an estimated 2.7% to 5.6% by 2027. More information can be found at: [Jobs for People with Disability: A plan for the NSW public sector](#). The benchmark for 'People with Disability Requiring Work-Related Adjustment' was not updated.

5.4.2 Trends in the distribution index for workforce diversity groups

Workforce Diversity Group	Benchmark	2022	2023	2024
Women	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
People whose First Language Spoken as a Child was not English	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
People with a Disability	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
People with a Disability Requiring Work-Related Adjustment	100	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note 1: A Distribution Index score of 100 indicates that the distribution of members of the Workforce Diversity group across salary bands is equivalent to that of the rest of the workforce. A score less than 100 means that members of the Workforce Diversity group tend to be more concentrated at lower salary bands than is the case for other staff. The more pronounced this

tendency is, the lower the score will be. In some cases, the index may be more than 100, indicating that members of the Workforce Diversity group tend to be more concentrated at higher salary bands than is the case for other staff.

Note 2: The Distribution Index is not calculated when the number of employees in the Workforce Diversity group is less than 20 or when the number of other employees is less than 20.

6. Financial performance

See audited financial statements at Appendix 7.1.

7. Appendices

7.1 Audited financial statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent Planning Commission

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Independent Planning Commission (the Commission), which comprise the Statement by the Accountable Authority, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows, for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a Statement of Material Accounting Policies, and other explanatory information of the Commission and the consolidated entity. The consolidated entity comprises the Commission and the entity it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable financial reporting requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (GSF Act), the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024* (GSF Regulation) and the Treasurer's Directions
- presents fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Commission and the consolidated entity.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Commission and the consolidated entity in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

The Chair's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Chair is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the GSF Act, GSF Regulation and Treasurer's Directions. The Chair's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Chair determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chair is responsible for assessing the Commission and the consolidated entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Commission and the consolidated entity carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Min Lee
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

10 October 2024
SYDNEY

Independent Planning Commission

Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Independent Planning Commission
Statement by the accountable authority
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Pursuant to section 7.6(4) of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* ('GSF Act'), I state that these financial statements:

- have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable requirements of the GSF Act, the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024* and the Treasurer's directions, and
- present fairly the Independent Planning Commission's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.



Chair: Andrew Mills

Date: 09/10/2024

Beginning of the financial statements

Independent Planning Commission
Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
		2024	2024	2023	2023
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Expenses excluding losses					
Operating expenses					
Employee related expenses	2(a)	3,137	-	3,040	-
Personnel services expenses	2(a)	-	3,137	-	3,040
Other operating expenses	2(b)	2,863	2,863	3,455	3,455
Depreciation and amortisation	2(c)	394	394	371	371
Total expenses excluding losses		6,394	6,394	6,866	6,866
Revenue					
Sale of goods and services from contracts with customers	3(a)	-	-	397	397
Grants and contributions	3(b)	6,000	6,000	6,100	6,100
Acceptance by the Crown of employee benefits	3(c)	27	27	78	78
Other income	3(d)	12	12	244	244
Total revenue		6,039	6,039	6,819	6,819
Net result		(355)	(355)	(47)	(47)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		(355)	(355)	(47)	(47)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Independent Planning Commission
Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,876	1,876	1,862	1,862
Receivables	5	84	84	239	239
Total current assets		1,960	1,960	2,101	2,101
Non-current assets					
Plant and equipment	6	312	312	441	441
Intangible assets	7	593	593	710	710
Total non-current assets		905	905	1,151	1,151
Total assets		2,865	2,865	3,252	3,252
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Payables	8	361	361	401	401
Provisions	9	450	450	444	444
Total current liabilities		811	811	845	845
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	9	50	50	48	48
Total non-current liabilities		50	50	48	48
Total liabilities		861	861	893	893
Net assets		2,004	2,004	2,359	2,359
EQUITY					
Accumulated funds		2,004	2,004	2,359	2,359
Total equity		2,004	2,004	2,359	2,359

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Independent Planning Commission
Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Accumulated funds	Total
	\$000	\$000
Consolidated and Parent		
Balance at 1 July 2023	2,359	2,359
Net result for the year	(355)	(355)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	<u>(355)</u>	<u>(355)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>2,004</u>	<u>2,004</u>
Balance at 1 July 2022	2,406	2,406
Net result for the year	(47)	(47)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	<u>2,359</u>	<u>2,359</u>
Balance at 30 June 2023	<u>2,359</u>	<u>2,359</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Independent Planning Commission
Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Consolidated and parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated and parent 2023 \$000
Cash flow from the operating activities			
Payments			
Employee related		(3,078)	(2,754)
Suppliers for goods and services		(3,089)	(4,062)
Total payments		(6,167)	(6,816)
Receipts			
Sale of goods and services		127	265
Grants and contributions		6,000	6,100
Other receipts		202	460
Total receipts		6,329	6,825
Net cash flow from operating activities		162	9
Cash flow from investing activities			
Purchase of plant and equipment	6	-	(41)
Purchase of intangible assets	7	(148)	-
Net cash flow from investing activities		(148)	(41)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash			
		14	(32)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		1,862	1,894
Closing cash and cash equivalents	4	1,876	1,862

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Statement of material accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Independent Planning Commission (the IPC), a NSW Government entity, was constituted under Part 2, Division 2.3 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* on 1 March 2018. The IPC determines certain State significant development applications, conducts public hearings for planning and development matters, and provides independent advice.

The IPC as a reporting entity comprises the Office of the Independent Planning Commission (OIIPC), an entity under its control. The objective of the OIIPC is to provide personnel to the IPC to perform its duties and responsibilities. The *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024*, Division 2, section 9F provide reporting exemptions to special purpose staff agencies such as the OIIPC.

The consolidated figures represent the IPC and its controlled entity OIIPC; the parent figures represent the IPC only. In the process of preparing the financial statements for the consolidated entity any inter-entity transactions and balances have been eliminated, and like transactions and policies are accounted for using uniform accounting policies.

These consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 have been authorised for issue by the Chair of the IPC on the date the accompanying statement by the accountable authority was signed.

(b) Basis of preparation

The IPC financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations).
- the requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (GSF Act)*; and
- Treasurer's Directions issued under the GSF Act.

Property, plant and equipment, and certain financial assets and liabilities are measured using the fair value basis. Other financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention except where specified otherwise.

Judgements, key assumptions, and estimations management have made are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency, which is the IPC's presentation and functional currency, except in note 14 which is in whole dollars.

(c) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The IPC receives financial support from the principal Department - Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure (DPHI), previously the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) until 31 December 2023. At the date of this report there is no reason not to expect this financial support to continue.

(d) Statement of compliance

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(e) Accounting for the goods and services tax (GST)

Income, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except that:

- the amount of GST incurred by the IPC as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; and
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of receivables or payables respectively.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

Independent Planning Commission**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024****1. Statement of material accounting policies (continued)****(f) Comparative information**

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed for the previous year for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(g) Changes in accounting policies, including new or revised Australian Accounting Standards**(i) Effective for the first time in financial year 2023-2024**

The accounting policies applied in 2023-24 are consistent with those of the previous year however AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates became effective for the first time in financial year 2023-24 and accordingly, the IPC has revised its notes to the financial statements to disclose material policy information.

No other new accounting standards or interpretations that applied to the IPC for the first time in 2023-24 had a material impact on the recognition and measurement of financial statement transactions and balances.

(ii) Issued but not yet effective

NSW public sector entities do not early adopt new Australian Accounting Standards unless the Treasury determines otherwise. The IPC has assessed any potential impact on the financial statements from these new accounting standards and interpretations and no material financial impact is expected when implemented.

(h) Impact of Climate-related matters on Financial Reporting for 2023-24

The IPC has assessed and determined that there are no material impacts of potential climate related matters on the financial statements.

2. Expenses excluding losses**(a) Employee related expenses and personnel services expenses:**

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	2,610	-	2,548	-
Superannuation	277	-	254	-
Long service leave	33	-	74	-
Workers compensation insurance	11	-	15	-
Payroll tax and fringe benefit tax	154	-	149	-
Redundancy payments	52	-	-	-
Personnel services expenses	-	3,137	-	3,040
	3,137	3,137	3,040	3,040

Recognition and measurement**Personnel services**

The IPC does not employ staff but uses personnel services from the OIPC. Personnel services are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

2. Expenses excluding losses (continued)

(b) Other operating expenses:

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Advertising and events	98	98	274	274
Audit fees	33	33	32	32
Commissioners' fees	924	924	1,216	1,216
Contractors	181	181	97	97
Corporate service fees	423	423	405	405
Fee for service	119	119	415	415
Insurance	11	11	11	11
Legal fees	181	181	228	228
Non capitalised assets <\$5,000	8	8	29	29
Occupancy	24	24	30	30
Other operating expenses	33	33	28	28
Printing and stationery	3	3	28	28
Recruitment fee	66	66	27	27
Rental - property	485	485	463	463
Software fees	19	19	6	6
Training and development	20	20	33	33
Travel and accommodation	127	127	90	90
Website	108	108	43	43
	2,863	2,863	3,455	3,455

Comparatives for financial year 2023 have been adjusted to reflect material expenses for the 2024 financial period. These adjustments include the reallocation of non-capitalised asset expenses from operating expenses to its own category line, increasing non capitalised assets <\$5,000 by \$29K and decreasing other operating expenses by \$29K.

Rental property expenses have been re-allocated to a separate category line, increasing by \$463K in 2023 and reducing occupancy expenses by \$463K. Insurance expense of \$8K was reallocated to the insurance line, previously allocated to other fees in 2023 financial year. Website expenses of \$43k, have been reallocated from advertising and events to a separate line item. Total expenses for the 2023 year remain the same.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

2. Expenses excluding losses (continued)

(b) Other operating expenses (continued)

Recognition and measurement

Insurance

The IPC's activities are covered under the NSW Treasury Managed Fund Scheme of self-insurance for Government entities. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past claims.

Commissioners' fees

These are sitting fees paid to the IPC Commissioners and are recognised as expenses, when incurred.

Fee for service

Expenses incurred for professional services including transcription services.

Lease expense

The IPC recognises the lease payments associated with the following types of leases as an expense on a straight-line basis:

- Leases that meet the definition of short-term, i.e., where the lease term at commencement of the lease is 12 months or less.
- Leases of assets that are valued at \$10,000 or under when new.

(c) Depreciation and amortisation expense

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Depreciation				
Plant and equipment	129	129	119	119
	129	129	119	119
Amortisation				
Intangibles	265	265	252	252
	265	265	252	252
Total depreciation and amortisation expense	394	394	371	371

For recognition and measurement policies on depreciation and amortisation refer to notes 6 and 7.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

3. Revenues

(a) Sale of goods and services from contracts with customers

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Hearing fees	-	-	397	397
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>397</u>

Recognition and measurement

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

Revenue from public hearing fees is recognised when the IPC recovers the fee charged to an applicant from DPHI.

(b) Grants and contributions

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations	6,000	6,000	6,100	6,100
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,100</u>	<u>6,100</u>

Recognition and measurement

Income from grants without sufficient specific performance obligations is recognised when the IPC obtains control over the granted assets (e.g., cash).

(c) Acceptance by the Crown of employee benefits

The following liabilities and / or expenses have been assumed by the Crown:

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Superannuation - defined benefit	-	-	2	-
Long service leave	27	-	76	-
Contributions by the Crown	-	27	-	78
	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>

For recognition and measurement of leave liabilities refer to note 9.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

3. Revenues (continued)

(d) Other income

	Consolidated	Parent	Consolidated	Parent
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Insurance recoveries	-	-	76	76
Recovery of legal costs	-	-	133	133
Recovery of personnel costs	12	12	35	35
	12	12	244	244

Recognition and measurement

Recoveries

Revenue relating to recoveries including legal costs, insurance and personnel costs are recognised when cash is received or when accrued by the IPC.

(e) Summary of compliance

The *Appropriation Act 2023 (Appropriations Act)* and the subsequent variations, if applicable, appropriated the sum of \$5.2 billion to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces out of the Consolidated Fund for the services of the DPHI formerly the DPE, for the 2023-24 financial year. The spending authority of the Minister from the Appropriations Act has been delegated or subdelegated to the officers of the Department and entities that it is administratively responsible for, including the IPC.

The lead minister for the IPC, being the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, is taken to have been given an appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund under the authority of section 4.7 of the GSF Act, at the time the IPC receives or recovers any deemed appropriation money, for an amount equivalent to the money that is received or recovered by the IPC. These deemed appropriations are taken to have been given for the services of the department.

A summary of compliance is disclosed in the financial statements of the Annual Report of the department. It has been prepared by aggregating the spending authorities of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for the services of the department. It reflects the status at the point in time this disclosure statement is being made. The IPC's spending authority and expenditure is included in the summary of compliance.

The delegation/sub-delegations for the 2023-24 and 2022-23 financial years, authorising officers of the IPC to spend Consolidated Fund money, impose limits on the amounts of individual transactions, but not the overall expenditure of the IPC. However, as they relate to expenditure in reliance on a sum appropriated by legislation, the delegation/sub-delegations are subject to the overall authority of the department to spend monies under relevant legislation. The individual transaction limits have been properly observed. The information in relation to the aggregate expenditure limit from the Appropriations Act and other sources is disclosed in the summary of compliance table included in the financial statements of the Annual Report of the department.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

4. Current assets - cash and cash equivalents

	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
Cash at bank and on hand	1,876	1,876	1,862	1,862
	1,876	1,876	1,862	1,862

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash at bank and cash on hand.

Cash and cash equivalents (as per statement of financial position)	1,876	1,876	1,862	1,862
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Closing cash and cash equivalents (per statement of cash flows)	1,876	1,876	1,862	1,862
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Refer note 13 for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

5. Current assets - receivables

	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
Current				
Debtors	7	7	7	7
Debtor - Department	5	5	132	132
Accrued income	-	-	35	35
Net GST receivable	40	40	43	43
Personnel Services	3	3	2	2
Prepayments	29	29	20	20
	84	84	239	239

Recognition and measurement

Details regarding credit risk of trade receivables are disclosed in note 13.

Trade receivables are measured at the transaction price as they are short term in nature and do not contain any significant financing component.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

6. Property, plant, and equipment

	Plant and equipment
	\$'000
Consolidated and parent	
At 1 July 2022 - fair value	
Gross carrying amount	597
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	<u>(77)</u>
Net carrying amount	<u>520</u>
Year ended 30 June 2023	
Net carrying amount at the start of the year	520
Additions	41
Disposals	(1)
Depreciation expense	<u>(119)</u>
Net carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>441</u>
Consolidated and parent	
At 1 July 2023 - fair value	
Gross carrying amount	637
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	<u>(196)</u>
Net carrying amount	<u>441</u>
Year ended 30 June 2024	
Net carrying amount at the start of the year	441
Depreciation expense	<u>(129)</u>
Net carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>312</u>
At 30 June 2024 - fair value	
Gross carrying amount	637
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	<u>(325)</u>
Net carrying amount	<u>312</u>

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

6. Property, plant, and equipment (continued)

Recognition and measurement

Acquisition of property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognised in accordance with the requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at measurement date.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Capitalisation thresholds

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing \$5,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than \$5,000) are capitalised.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment

Depreciation is provided for on a straight-line basis for all depreciable assets so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the IPC.

Depreciation rates for plant and equipment, range from 20% to 25% (2023: 20% to 25%) over a useful life of 4 to 5 years (2023: 4 to 5 years).

The residual values, useful lives, and methods of depreciation of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each financial year end.

Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Non-specialised assets, such as plant and equipment are valued at depreciated historical cost. These assets are measured at depreciated historical cost as a proxy for fair value. The IPC has assessed that any difference between fair value and depreciated historical cost is unlikely to be material.

The IPC does not own any land and buildings.

Impairment of property, plant and equipment

As a not-for-profit entity, any impairment under AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* is unlikely to arise. As property, plant and equipment is carried at fair value or an amount that approximates fair value, impairment can only arise in the rare circumstances such as where the costs of disposal is material.

The IPC assesses at each reporting date, whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the IPC estimates the asset's recoverable amount.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

7. Intangible assets

	Software \$'000	Software work in progress \$'000	Total \$'000
Consolidation and parent			
At 1 July 2022			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	1,230	-	1,230
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(268)	-	(268)
Net Carrying amount	962	-	962
Year ended 30 June 2023			
Net carrying amount at beginning of year	962	-	962
Amortisation (recognised in depreciation and amortisation)	(252)	-	(252)
Net carrying amount at end of the year	710	-	710
At 1 July 2023			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	1,230	-	1,230
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(520)	-	(520)
Net carrying amount	710	-	710
Year ended 30 June 2024			
Net carrying amount at beginning of year	710	-	710
Additions	-	148	148
Amortisation (recognised in depreciation and amortisation)	(265)	-	(265)
Net carrying amount at end of the year	445	148	593
At 30 June 2024			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	1,230	148	1,378
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(785)	-	(785)
Net carrying amount	445	148	593

Recognition and measurement

The IPC recognises intangible assets only if it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the IPC and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired at no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Following initial recognition intangible assets are subsequently measured at fair value only if there is an active market. As there is no active market for the IPC's intangible software assets, the assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be finite. The IPC's intangible assets are amortised using the straight-line method over four to five years. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life are reviewed at least at the end of each reporting period.

Intangible assets are tested for impairment where an indicator of impairment exists. If the recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to recoverable amount and the reduction is recognised as an impairment loss.

Independent Planning Commission

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

8. Current liabilities - payables

	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
Trade creditors	134	134	65	65
Accrued salaries, wages and oncosts	83	-	57	-
Accruals	125	208	260	317
Other	19	19	19	19
	361	361	401	401

Details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk, including a maturity analysis of the above payables, are disclosed in note 13.

Recognition and measurement

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the IPC and other amounts. Short-term payables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

9. Current/non-current liabilities - provisions

	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
Current				
Employee benefits and related on-costs				
Annual leave	294	-	337	-
Long service leave on-costs	23	-	21	-
Parental leave	121	-	75	-
Payroll tax	12	-	11	-
Payable to the OIPC	-	450	-	444
Total current provisions	450	450	444	444
Non-current				
Employee benefits and related on-costs				
Long service leave on-costs	3	-	2	-
Payroll tax	1	-	1	-
Payable to the OIPC	-	4	-	3
	4	4	3	3
Other provisions				
Restoration costs	46	46	45	45
Total non-current provisions	50	50	48	48

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9. Current/non-current liabilities – provisions (continued)

Aggregate employee benefits and related on-costs

	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
Provisions - current	450	-	444	-
Provisions - non-current	4	-	3	-
Payable to the OIPC	-	537	-	504
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs (Note 8)	83	-	57	-
	537	537	504	504

Movements in provisions (other than employee benefits)

	Consolidated 2024 \$000	Parent 2024 \$000	Consolidated 2023 \$000	Parent 2023 \$000
Carrying amount at 1 July	45	45	45	45
Additional provisions recognised	1	1	-	-
Amounts used	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at 30 June	46	46	45	45

Recognition and measurement

Employee benefits and related on-costs

Salaries and wages, annual leave and sick leave

Salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits) and paid sick leave, expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the period employees render the service, are recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts of the benefits.

Annual leave not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, is to be measured at present value in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* (although short cut methods are permitted).

Actuarial advice obtained by the Treasury has confirmed that using the nominal annual leave balance plus the annual leave entitlements accrued while taking annual leave (calculated using 8.4% of the nominal value of annual leave) can be used to approximate the present value of the annual leave liability. The IPC has assessed the actuarial advice based on its circumstances and has determined that the effect of discounting is immaterial to annual leave. All annual leave is classified as a current liability even where the IPC does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months as the IPC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be materially greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

Long service leave and superannuation

The OIPC's liabilities for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation are assumed by the Crown. The IPC accounts for the liability as having been extinguished resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as 'Acceptance by the Crown of employee benefits and other liabilities'. Long service leave is measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to certain factors based on actuarial review, including expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using Commonwealth government bond rate at the reporting date.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9. Current/non-current liabilities – provisions (continued)

Long service leave and superannuation (continued)

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes, (i.e., Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employee's salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e., State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employee's superannuation contributions.

Consequential on-costs

Consequential costs to employment are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised. This includes outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax.

Other provisions

Provisions are recognised when the IPC has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. When the IPC expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, for example, under an insurance contract, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset, but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to a provision is presented net of any reimbursement in the statement of comprehensive income.

10. Commitments

The IPC has no capital expenditure commitments at 30 June 2024 (2023: Nil).

11. Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

The IPC is unaware of the existence of any contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at balance date.

12. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to net result

	Consolidated and parent 2024	Consolidated and parent 2023
	\$000	\$000
Net cash flows from operating activities	162	9
Depreciation and amortisation	(394)	(371)
Increase/(decrease) in receivables	(155)	154
(Increase)/ decrease in payables	40	361
(Increase)/ decrease in provisions	(8)	(199)
Net gain / (loss) on sale of property, plant and equipment	-	(1)
Net result for the period	(355)	(47)

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

13. Financial instruments

The IPC's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the IPC's operations.

The IPC's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the IPC's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout these financial statements.

The IPC's executive has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Commission, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the IPC on a continuous basis.

(a) Financial instrument categories

Financial assets

Class	Note	Category	Carrying amount Consolidated and parent 2024 \$'000	Carrying amount Consolidated and parent 2023 \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4	Amortised cost	1,876	1,862
Receivables ¹	5	Amortised cost	15	176
Financial liabilities				
Payables ²	8	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	361	401

1. Receivables excludes statutory receivables and prepayments, not within scope of AASB 7.

2. Payables excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue, not within scope of AASB 7.

(b) Derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the IPC transfers its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement; and either:

- the IPC has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
- the IPC has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control

Where the IPC has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset continues to be recognised to the extent of the entity's continuing involvement in the asset.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires.

(c) Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the Statement of Financial Position if there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

13. Financial instruments (continued)

(d) Financial risk

(i) Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the IPC's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the IPC. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for credit losses or allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the IPC, including cash and receivables. No collateral is held by the IPC. The IPC has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the IPC's financial assets is managed by holding cash within the NSW Treasury Banking system and by reviewing and managing the collectability of receivables on an on-going basis adopting procedures established in the Treasurer's Directions.

(ii) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the IPC will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. The IPC monitors future cash flows and ensures adequate funding is held on hand to meet future obligations.

The IPC's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. Liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in TC11-12. For registered small business suppliers, where terms are not specified, payment is made no later than five business days from date of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. For other suppliers, if trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received.

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the IPC's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

Maturity analysis and interest rate exposure of financial liabilities

Class	Note	Category	Carrying amount	Carrying amount
			Consolidated and parent 2024 \$'000	Consolidated and parent 2023 \$'000
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4	Amortised cost	1,876	1,862
Receivables ¹	5	Amortised cost	15	176
Financial liabilities				
Payables ²	8	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	361	401

(iii) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The IPC's exposure to market risk is very limited as it has no borrowings, and all its deposits are at call.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the IPC operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e., until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposure in existence at the reporting date. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

13. Financial instruments (continued)

(d) Financial risk (continued)

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in the market interest rates. Exposure to interest rate risk is minimal as the IPC has no interest-bearing liabilities or borrowings. A reasonably possible change of +/-1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. This basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The IPC's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

	Carrying amount \$000	Net result \$000	Equity \$000	Net result \$000	Equity \$000
Consolidated and parent			-1%	+1%	
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,876	(19)	(19)	19	19
2023					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,862	(19)	(19)	19	19

(e) Fair Value measurement

Fair value compared to carrying amount.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost. The amortised cost of financial instruments recognised in the statement of financial position approximates the fair value because of the short-term nature of the financial instruments.

14. Related party disclosures

During the period, the IPC paid salaries and service fee expenses of \$630,675 (2023: \$606,133), to key management personnel.

During the period, the IPC did not enter into transactions with key management personnel, their close family members or their controlled or jointly controlled entities thereof.

During the period, the IPC entered into transactions with other entities that are either controlled, jointly controlled or significantly influenced by NSW Government. The following transactions are in aggregate a significant portion of the IPC's rendering of services/receiving of services, the nature of these services are detailed below:

Entity	Nature of transaction
DPHI (formerly DPE)	Provision of administrative and operational assistance. Refer note 2(b).
Crown Solicitor's Office	Legal services. Refer note 2(b).
Property NSW	Provision of leased premise.
Department of Regional NSW	Secretariat services in kind.

Independent Planning Commission
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

15. Events after reporting date

There are no known events that would impact on the state of the IPC or have a material impact on the financial statements.

End of the audited financial statements

7.2 Commissioner biographies

For the 2023-24 reporting year



Mary O'Kane AC, Chair

Mary O'Kane was Chair of the NSW Independent Planning Commission, a company director, and Executive Chairman of O'Kane Associates, a company advising governments and the private sector on innovation, research, education and development. She was NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer from 2008-2018; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide from 1996-2001 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Adelaide from 1994-1996.

Mary has served on several boards and committees in the public and private sectors, especially related to energy, engineering, Antarctica, ICT and research. She is currently Chair of the boards of Aurora Energy Pty Ltd, Museums of History NSW, and Sydney Health Partners and a member of the boards of AEMO Services Ltd, the Silverchain Group and Sydney Water.

Mary also carries out reviews in a wide range of fields in many countries. She recently was one of the two leaders of NSW Flood Inquiry. She is currently Chair of the Australian Universities Accord Review Panel.



Andrew Mills, Chair

Andrew Mills is Chair of the NSW Independent Planning Commission, Chair of Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW, Chair of the Financial Reporting Council and a member of the Board of Taxation. He has over 40 years' experience working in the private and public sectors and in a regulatory environment, including as director of several unlisted companies and not for profit entities, and as a former Second Commissioner of Taxation. Andrew holds a Bachelor of Business, a Master of Laws and a Graduate Diploma in Tax Law and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia, a CPA, a Chartered Taxation Advisor (Life) of The Taxation Institute and a member of the International Fiscal Association.



Terry Bailey

Terry Bailey has 35 years' experience working in the environment and heritage fields. Terry has gained a thorough understanding of planning legislation and policies through executive leadership roles in the NSW and Commonwealth governments – his most recent public sector appointment being Chief Executive of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Terry is the Executive Dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering at the University of Tasmania and a former Executive Director of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. Additionally, Terry is an expert advisor in world heritage to the Western Australian Government (Murujuga Cultural Landscape), South Australian Government (Flinders Ranges) and to the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and a reporter under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 to the Federal Minister for the Environment.

Terry has worked extensively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. His interest and passion, including in joint management of protected areas, was developed in Kakadu where he worked in various roles, including as Park Manager.

Between 2004 and 2010, Terry prepared world heritage nominations for the Australian Government, including the Ningaloo Coast, the Australian Convict Sites, and the Sydney Opera House.

Terry has extensive protected area policy development and management experience having worked as a field officer/ranger with Parks Victoria and as the head of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Professor Snow Barlow

Professor Snow Barlow is an agricultural scientist with a Masters of Rural Science from the University of New England and a PhD in soil-plant-water relations from Oregon State University. He is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Melbourne.

Snow has had a significant involvement with the natural resources issues of Australian agriculture and chairs the Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation. He is a member of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation Board and the Research Advisory Committee of the Australian Farm Institute.

He is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology. He has also served on the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.



Soo-Tee Cheong OAM

Soo-Tee Cheong was an architect and urban planner. A fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, he had over 45 years' experience in architecture and planning design as well as building construction and property development. Soo-Tee was the Chair of Botany City Council Design Review Panel from 1999-2017; a member of the Northern NSW Joint Regional Planning Panel; a Councillor and Deputy Mayor of Lane Cove Council.



Michael Chilcott

Michael Chilcott is an environmental practitioner with experience in the fields of environmental impact assessment, environmental law, natural resource planning and management, protected area planning, environmental policy, community and governmental relations. He is a nationally accredited mediator.

Michael's tertiary training is in the fields of natural science, resource management and economics. He has worked in Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Immediately prior to his appointment as a Commissioner with the Independent Planning Commission, Michael completed a seven year term as a Commissioner with the Land and Environment Court (LEC) of NSW.

Prior to his appointment with the LEC, Michael worked for 20 years as a consultant in environmental planning and assessment.

He is a founding member, and past President, of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), the professional association for environmental practitioners. In 2020 Michael was appointed an Honorary Life Member (HLM) of EIANZ, the eighth HLM bestowed by EIANZ since its foundation in 1987.



Professor Alice Clark

Professor Alice Clark holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in economic geology. She is the deputy director - strategic planning at the Sustainable Minerals Institute within the University of Queensland, and proprietor of Cdek Geological and Mining Services, and is a registered primary producer in NSW.

She is a Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and an Honorary Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy where she held the role of President and Chairman of the Board from 2011 to 2012. Alice is also a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Dr Sheridan Coakes

Dr Sheridan Coakes is a Social Scientist with 30 years research and applied experience in the areas of social impact assessment (SIA) and stakeholder and community engagement. Sherie has contributed to the development and institutionalisation of SIA practice in industry and government across Australia and has been involved in numerous large-scale public and private sector development projects in diverse sectors such as mining, quarrying, oil and gas, forestry, renewable energy, infrastructure and urban development.

Sherie holds the position of National Social Practice Lead with Umwelt Australia, is a Convenor of the SIA Community of Practice for the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), has led the SIA Strategic Environmental Advisory Committee, charged with developing a specialist certification for SIA in Australia and New Zealand, and sits on the Certified Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP) Certification Board.

Sherie has worked in a range of planning contexts and has a strong understanding of the 'public interest' and frameworks for integrating social evidence and issues into decision-making.



Peter Cochrane

Peter Cochrane was Director of National Parks and head of Parks Australia from 1999-2013. From 1994-99, Peter was Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association.

He chairs the boards of the Australian Tropical Herbarium, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute and the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS). Peter is a director of the SIMS Foundation and TierraMar Ltd. He is a member of the National Benefit Assessment Panel for the Marine National Facility. He was re-elected in 2021 as a member of the Council of the International Union for Conservation of Nature based in Switzerland and appointed as one of its four global Vice-Presidents. He was appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Biological Earth and Environmental Science at UNSW in July 2021. Peter is also an Assistant Commissioner with the Natural Resources Commission, reappointed in 2021.



Peter Duncan AM

Peter Duncan has over 40 years' experience in government and infrastructure, working at local, state and national levels.

He is the principal of an advisory business and holds non-executive director and board chair roles. His current appointments include Chair of WaterNSW, non-executive director of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, and board member of the Office of Projects Victoria.

Peter has worked as Chief Executive in areas such as transport, infrastructure, forestry, parks, maritime, technology and services. He has held various senior public sector roles including in local government, Premier and Cabinet, Transport for NSW, Primary Industries and for the Olympic Coordination Authority.

Peter is a National Fellow of Institute of Public Administration Australia and a Companion of the Institute of Engineers Australia.



Dr Bronwyn Evans AM

Dr Bronwyn Evans AM is the Chair of Building4.0 CRC, a Director of Standard Communications (GME), a Director of ACOR Consultants and a Director of listed medical device company EBR Systems Inc (ASX EBR). She was recently a member of the NSW Modern Manufacturing Taskforce and she Chairs the NSW Bushfire Mission Expert Panel.

She recently held the positions of CEO of Engineers Australia and CEO of Standards Australia. She has led innovation initiatives, including as Chair of the Growth Centre for MedTech and Pharmaceuticals

Dr Evans has 40 years' experience in engineering, including at Cochlear, GE Healthcare, BHP Steel and Electricity Commission of NSW. She has a PhD in Electrical Engineering, an Honorary Doctorate from Swinburne University, is an Honorary Fellow of University of Wollongong and Engineers Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. In 2021 she received an AM in the Queen's Birthday honours for significant service to engineering, to standards, and to medical technology.



Suellen Fitzgerald

Suellen Fitzgerald is a landscape architect with over 35 years' experience leading teams in both the private and public sector in the fields of urban planning, open space and park planning, landscape and environmental design and public land and property management. She began her career with Parks Victoria and went on to build private design offices in Northern Australia, working in regional and urban environments across the Top End.

Over the last 20 years Suellen has been involved in the development of strategic policy for open space, recreation and park planning for the NSW Government. She was previously the Chief Executive of Greater Sydney Parklands Trust, bringing together all of Sydney's major metropolitan parks into one powerful voice for parks and for the importance of the natural environment in city living.

Suellen has qualifications in Ecology and Landscape Architecture and is a graduate of the executive program of Harvard Business School. She is currently advising public and private organisations on strategy, implementation, and governance.



Juliet Grant

Juliet Grant is a recognised and respected leader in the planning and development industry in Sydney and is the immediate past president of the NSW Division of the Planning Institute of Australia.

Juliet has almost three decades' experience working in senior roles across local and state government, including with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and Transport for NSW, as well as in consultancy, most recently as executive director and general manager of Gyde Consulting (previously known as City Plan Strategy and Development).

Juliet has an intimate knowledge of planning legislation and policies, and strong decision-making and leadership skills as demonstrated by the wide range of strategic and statutory planning projects she has headed up in NSW.

Juliet is presently an expert member on the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel, an alternate state member for all Sydney and regional planning panels, and expert member on three local planning panels (Georges River, Hornsby, and Hawkesbury local government areas).



Ken Kanofski

Ken Kanofski is a company director and independent advisor. Current board positions include Chair of Tellus Holdings, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Placemaking NSW, he is also a Director of Jerrara Power. Ken is also Principal of his own advisory business provides transport and infrastructure advice to a range of public and private sector clients.

Previously, Ken has been CEO of NSW Roads and Maritime, the NSW Land and Housing Corporation, Government Property NSW and WSN Environmental Solutions. Ken is experienced in a range of infrastructure, utilities, and services industries, including transport, roads, water, energy, telecommunications, waste, recycling, renewables, housing and local government.

Ken has served as a board member and chair on national policy bodies, statutory authorities, industry bodies and community organisations. Ken holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Business, is a Fellow of CPA Australia and the Australia New Zealand School of Government, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course and the Melbourne Business School Advanced Management Program.



Dianne Leeson

Dianne Leeson is a former senior executive of the NSW Public Service and urban planner whose extensive experience includes providing high level and strategic advice on major infrastructure strategy and delivery and urban renewal projects.

Dianne is a qualified town planner with a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning (University of Sydney). She is currently a Board Member of Infrastructure Australia and of Health Infrastructure NSW, and member of audit

and risk committees for Fire & Rescue NSW (chair), Infrastructure Australia, and Infrastructure NSW. Dianne is also a member of the Communities Plus Advisory Panel (Land and Housing Corporation NSW) and of Sydney University's Building and Estates Committee.



Wendy Lewin

Wendy Lewin is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects and currently heads her own architecture studio. Since graduating in architecture from the University of Sydney she has held leading positions in private practice and is the recipient of State, National and International awards for her built work and contribution to architecture, education, and the profession. She contributes to the public discourse on Architecture through her varied advisory and curatorial roles, national symposiums, and national and international exhibitions. Wendy is committed to design education and for over 35 years has taught at various universities including the University of Sydney, UNSW, UTS, was a visiting Professor at Hong Kong University and has chaired and participated in numerous State, National and International architectural design competition juries.

Wendy is a member of the Design Integrity Panel for the Powerhouse Parramatta project and is an independent consultant to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.



Professor Helen Lochhead

Professor Helen Lochhead is former Dean, Faculty of Built Environment, at UNSW Sydney. An architect, landscape architect and urban designer, she combines teaching, research, practice and advisory roles.

Helen's career has focused on the inception, planning, design and delivery of complex multidisciplinary projects ranging from a city-wide improvements programs to major urban regeneration projects.

Helen has held senior roles in the NSW government, including Deputy Government Architect, and Executive Director roles at Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

Notable appointments include the National Board of the Australian Institute of Architects, the AIA Foundation, Central Sydney Planning Committee, the ACT Planning and Land Council, the NSW Heritage Council and competition juries and Design Review Panels across Australia.



Tony McAvoy SC

Tony McAvoy graduated in law from Queensland University of Technology and was admitted as a solicitor in 1988. He was called to the Bar in NSW in 2000 and appointed as Senior Counsel in 2015.

Tony's expertise is law and heritage. He has a thorough understanding of planning legislation and policies and has demonstrated strong decision-making skills as a Senior Counsel and, previously, in his former role as part-time Acting Commissioner on the NSW Land and Environment Court. As Manager, Heritage and Natural Resources Branch, NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Tony advised the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and NSW Government in relation to native title, planning and natural resource and heritage management.

Tony chairs professional committees in NSW and nationally, including with the Law Council of Australia and NSW Bar Association. He has represented many successful native title claimants and been an adviser and negotiator in relation to many Indigenous land use agreements. He is a Wirdi man from central Queensland and also a native title holder in his grandmother's country around Thargomindah in south-west Queensland.



Alison McCabe

Alison McCabe has over 40 years of experience in statutory and strategic planning for state and local government and private practice. Alison has been a Director of SJB Planning since 2005. Prior to this, she was Director of Environmental and Community Management for Leichhardt Council and has worked in a number of local government organisations and at the then Department of Urban Planning.

Alison is experienced in all facets of urban and regional planning, including local government administration, statutory and strategic planning processes, policy development, public participation, appeals and conflict resolution. She is currently the chair of the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel and Canada Bay and City of Ryde Local Planning Panels.



Professor Richard Mackay AM

Professor Richard Mackay AM has worked in cultural heritage management for more than 30 years. He was a founding Partner of GML Heritage Pty Ltd, and is currently Director of Possibilities at Mackay Strategic Pty Ltd and an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University.

Richard is currently an ICOMOS cultural advisor to the World Heritage Committee and immediate past Chair of the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee. He was responsible for the 'Heritage' theme of the 2016 and 2011 Commonwealth State of the Environment reports.

Richard is a member of the National Executive Committee of Australia ICOMOS, and former member of the Heritage Council of NSW. He received the Australian Heritage Council 'Sharon Sullivan Award' for his contribution to Australia's national heritage and is a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for services to archaeology and cultural heritage.



Duncan Marshall AM

Duncan Marshall is a heritage architect and consultant with a long experience in heritage conservation, including with the Australian Heritage Commission, the National Trust and in private practice.

Duncan was Chair of the ACT Heritage Council in 2012-15 and was again appointed Chair in 2023. In 2015 Duncan was awarded the inaugural Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medal. In 2020 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, for significant service to heritage conservation.



Professor Neal Menzies

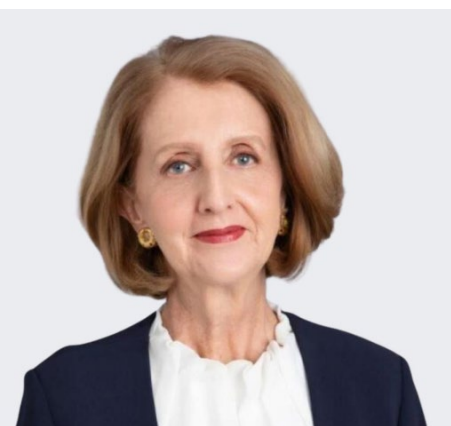
Professor Neal Menzies is currently Dean of Agriculture and leads the School of Agriculture and Food Science at the University of Queensland.

Neal has a passion for agriculture and the environment and has used his role as a teacher and research leader to bring others into this highly rewarding field. He believes that environmental scientists must go further than identifying where human activity is harming the environment and must also deliver workable solutions to problems.

While his research spans a range of agricultural and environmental chemistry issues, he considers himself primarily a soil scientist, and sees soil science as a central discipline in the solution of a broad range of problems.

Neal's main research interests are phyto-toxicity of metals, particularly aluminium, surface charge chemistry, and the management of nutrients in tropical farming systems.

Neal is a past president of the Australian Society of Soil Science and past vice-president of the International Union of Soil Science.



Janett Milligan

Janett Milligan has over 20 years' experience in executive roles in the NSW Public Service including in housing, human services and in the development and management of major sporting venues.

She is a Director of JMM Group, a consultancy firm working with organisations on strategy, policy and governance. She has provided advice to Infrastructure NSW on major projects and proposals and has extensive experience in stakeholder engagement.

Janett has qualifications in Social Science and Business Administration and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a former Trustee of the

NSW Responsible Gambling Trust, Board member of the Western Sydney Parklands Trust, Venues NSW and is the current Chair of Barnardos Australia.



Richard Pearson

Richard Pearson has over 30 years experience as a town planner and senior public service executive, his career spanning state and local government and the private sector.

Richard is currently director of a town planning consultancy providing strategic, policy, rezoning, development and local government reform advice to state government, councils, and the private sector.

Richard was Deputy Secretary of the NSW Planning Department where he had responsibility for the assessment of state significant development projects as well as the development of strategic regional plans. He has also had substantial experience in local government, having been administrator of Inner West Council. Richard has been Chair of the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel and The Hills Local Planning Panel, responsible for determining sensitive and contentious development applications and is a past member of the Central Sydney Planning Committee and Hunter Development Corporation.



Adrian Pilton

Adrian Pilton is an architect and landscape architect with over 45 years' experience in private and public practice. He holds Master's degrees in architecture and landscape architecture and was a founding partner of the multi-disciplinary firm of Johnson Pilton Walker Pty Ltd.

Adrian has worked in Australia and Asia on a broad range of project types for both public and private clients, including major urban developments, highways, parks, and significant national buildings. He is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects and serves as a senior counsellor. He is also a fellow and former national president of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and currently serves on the National Honours Committee and the Finance, Risk Management and Audit Committee.



Clare Sykes

Clare Sykes is the founding principal of a strategy and advisory consultancy specialising in resources and future energy value chains. For over 25 years Clare has developed detailed insights into the workings of operations, listed companies and government. Clare's career has included leading complex multi stakeholder initiatives including resource sector technology and decarbonisation roadmaps, industry regional cluster and international market development, and mission-based innovation programs.

Clare is a Mining Engineer (Hons 1, UNSW), holds a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). Clare is a Churchill Fellow, serves on the Advisory Board of the Newcastle Institute of Energy and Resources (NIER) and is Chair of Resources NSW, an initiative of the NSW Energy and Resources Knowledge Hub.



Elizabeth Taylor AO

Elizabeth Taylor specialises in governance effectiveness and analysis of complex projects and ecosystems. Her career has spanned industry, design and construction, and academe.

She has built extensive Board-level leadership in professional organisations and innovative technology entities. Currently she is Chair of SmartCrete Collaborative Research Centre (focused on concrete) and Chair, Governing Group, and Deputy Chair, Sydney Accord, of the International Engineering Alliance.

Elizabeth has always engaged in diverse pro-bono work. Currently she is Chair of the Cambodian Childrens' Trust Australia. Previously she was Chair of RedR Australia, a humanitarian response agency, and Chair of RedR International.

Elizabeth is an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia, Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Fellow, Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and

has been recognised as one of Australia's 100 most influential engineers. She is Emeritus Professor at Central Queensland University and Member, Engineering External Advisory Committee, Charles Sturt University and has an Honorary Doctorate from UNSW. In 2021 she was awarded Engineers Australia's Peter Nicol Russell Career Achievement Memorial Medal.



Annelise Tuor

Annelise Tuor has qualifications in architecture, planning and mediation. She was a Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court of NSW for 14 years and has previously held senior positions at the Council of the City of Sydney, where she managed the assessment of major development proposals and the preparation of planning policies. Annelise has also worked in various branches of the Department of Planning and began her career as an architect and then a planner in private enterprise.

Annelise is currently Chair of the NSW Coastal Council. She is also the Chair of Woollahra and Randwick Local Planning Panels and an expert member on a number of regional and local planning panels.

Annelise's experience in planning and environmental management is wide ranging, with particular expertise in statutory and strategic planning, urban design, heritage, planning law, as well as management, decision making and dispute resolution.



Dr Peter Williams

Dr Peter Williams holds degrees in geography, environmental planning, public policy, and law; he also has a doctorate in environmental law.

After 14 years' experience in planning policy and law in the private and public sectors, Peter joined the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of New South Wales in 1993. There he taught a number of environmental and planning law subjects and was Head of the Planning Program at UNSW between 2009 and 2012. Peter joined the Sydney Law School at the University of Notre Dame Australia at the beginning of 2017.

For over 25 years he has contributed to research in the field and has served on several State and local government committees. Peter is a member of the Specialist Accreditation Planning and Environment Law Advisory Committee of the Law Society of NSW and a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.



Chris Wilson

Chris Wilson has over 29 years' professional experience in both the private and public sectors and currently runs his own planning consultancy.

Chris is an experienced planner with a strong record for delivering to Government, industry and the wider community strategic advice on major projects, environmental impact assessment and land use planning matters.



Michael Wright

Michael has more than 25 years' executive leadership experience in the NSW public service including as agency head, chief executive officer and deputy secretary.

As Deputy Secretary of the NSW Independent Flood Inquiry, Michael led the Flood Inquiry Secretariat. As Group Deputy Secretary of the Housing and Property Group of the Department of Planning and Environment, Michael was accountable for the leadership of 1600 staff across six business streams comprising Land and Housing Corporation, Aboriginal Housing Office, Property and Development NSW, NSW Crown Lands, Valuer General NSW and Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW. Michael is a graduate of the company directors course program of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

7.3 List of cases completed in 2023-24

Case	Primary LGA	Date of completion
REQUESTS FOR ADVICE		
34-36 Flood Street, Bondi PP - heritage listing advice	WAVERLEY	13 March 2024
MINING AND PETROLEUM GATEWAY PANEL		
Cadia Valley Operations Gateway Application	BLAYNEY	16 August 2024

Case	Type	Capital Investment Value (\$AUD)	Construction jobs	Operational jobs	Primary LGA	Decision	Date of decision
ROUTINE DETERMINATIONS							
Mixed-use development at 242 – 244 Beecroft Road Epping	Urban Metro	\$143,156,000	275	30	PARRAMATTA	Approved with conditions	19 September 2023
Airly Mine Mod 5	Resource	-	0	35	LITHGOW	Approved with conditions	21 December 2023

Talavera Road Data Centre Campus Expansion	Infrastructure	\$289,731,682	1200	49	RYDE	Approved with conditions	19 January 2024
Mayfield Cargo Storage Facility Mod 2	Industrial	\$20,000	0	0	NEWCASTLE	Approved with conditions	8 February 2024
Neringah Seniors Housing & Hospital	Hospital and Health	\$82,690,000	89	15	KU-RING-GAI	Approved with conditions	12 February 2024
Greenwich Hospital Redevelopment - detailed design and concept modification	Hospital and Health	\$191,531,697	300	174	LANE COVE	Approved with conditions	28 March 2024
Novus Build-to-Rent 39-43 Hassall Street, Parramatta	Urban Metro	\$113,600,000	329	66	PARRAMATTA	Approved with conditions	5 April 2024
Dubbo Firming [Squadron gas power station]	Infrastructure	\$190,000,000	150	6	DUBBO	Approved with conditions	13 May 2024
Lidsdale Siding Mod 5	Resource	-	0	0	LITHGOW	Approved with conditions	17 May 2024
Clarence MOD 10	Resource	-	0	0	LITHGOW	Approved with conditions	17 May 2024

Case	Type	Capital Investment Value (\$AUD)	Construction jobs	Operational jobs	Primary LGA	Decision	Date of decision
DETERMINATIONS WITH PUBLIC MEETINGS							
Oxley Solar Farm	Renewable	\$370,895,000	300	5	ARMIDALE DUMARESQ	Approved with conditions	11-Dec-23
Glenellen Solar Farm	Renewable	\$257,334,437	200	10	GREATER HUME	Approved with conditions	15-Dec-23
Deep Creek Quarry	Resource	\$13,453,562	18	10	MID COAST	Approved with conditions	24-Jan-24
Glanmire Solar Farm	Renewable	\$152,239,345	150	3	BATHURST REGIONAL	Approved with conditions	30-Jan-24
Bowmans Creek Wind	Renewable	\$569,430,000	150	15	SINGLETON	Approved with conditions	06-Feb-24
Thunderbolt Wind Farm	Renewable	\$373,700,000	190	10	TAMWORTH REGIONAL	Approved with conditions	08-May-24

For more information, please contact the Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW

ipcn.nsw.gov.au

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