



Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Mr C J Tallentire MLA
Chair
Education and Health Standing Committee
laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Tallentire

INQUIRY INTO THE RESPONSE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2022 regarding the above matter.

I am advised that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) has also provided an update on Recommendation 15 to the Department of Education (DoE).

Improved design of school sites and public school buildings are being promoted at DPLH through the planning and design frameworks. You may be aware that the DPLH commenced a review of its operational policy related to school sites planning in 2019. This review was informed by a collaborative working group comprised of officers from DPLH, DoE, Department of Finance (DoF), and Treasury. I expect to jointly release *Operational Policy 2.4 – Planning for School Sites* with the Minister for Education shortly and expect that many of the new principles promoted within the revised policy, including early engagement with DoE on planning proposals and encouragement of innovative design, will assist in improving site selection and the built form of primary and secondary schools.

The Office of the Government Architect (OGA) has developed a suite of Design Standards for new public building projects to set objective provisions for design quality, including Design Standard 02 – The Design of Education Environments (DS02), which includes strategies that support climate change response. I understand that OGA will be updating DS02 in the near future.

Further, *State Planning Policy 7.0 - Design of the Built Environment* includes performance-based design principles, which provide the means for evaluating the merit of proposed solutions by professionals with appropriate design expertise.

Engagement at early concept design stages of any major education project is key, and welcomed from an OGA perspective. Currently, the OGA offers inter-agency design review and responds to requests from both DoE and DoF to assist with individual projects that may have specific design complexities. The State Design Review Panel also provides independent advice on the design quality of major development proposals, including advice on sustainability measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document and provide feedback on these very important matters.

Yours sincerely

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

03 AUG 2022