

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Reference: MP06_0220-PA-22

Armidale Regional Council
C/O: Guada Lado
Manager Regional Waste
PO Box 75A
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

28/04/2026

Sent via the Major Projects Portal only

Subject: Armidale Waste Facility - Auditors Approval Request for Independent Environmental Audit

Dear Mrs Lado,

I refer to your request for the Planning Secretary's approval of suitably qualified, experienced, and independent person to conduct an Independent Audit of the Armidale Regional Landfill, submitted as required by Schedule 5, Condition 8 of MP06_0220 as modified (the **Consent**) to NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the **Department**) on 16 April 2026.

After reviewing the information provided by Environmental Property Services (EPS) for Alina Neilson as the proposed Lead Auditor, I am not satisfied that the proposed auditor complies with 3.1.1 (Auditors Competence) of the 2026 IEA Post Approval Requirements. Under the 2018, 2020 and 2026 Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (**IAPAR**), endorsement of an auditor and audit team is dependent on meeting set eligibility criteria at the time of nomination, including current qualifications and recent, relevant audit experience.

I recognise that the auditor previously acted as Lead Auditor for Independent Environmental Audits at Dunmore Quarry (DA470-11-2003) in 2017 and 2020 and that these earlier audits illustrate the auditor's knowledge of the consent framework and audit methodology relevant at the time. However, the most recent audit was conducted six years ago, and the auditor's prior experience is limited to a single quarry and does not extend to landfill sites or public-sector projects.

Accordingly, the Department is unable to endorse the proposed Lead Auditor for the upcoming Armidale Regional Landfill Independent Environmental Audit at this time. This outcome should not be interpreted as an adverse finding in relation to the quality or integrity of the auditor's previous work.

The Department notes that the auditor may be considered for future nominations should evidence be provided demonstrating that the IAPAR eligibility requirements, including qualifications and recent experience, are met at the time of nomination.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Phillip Rose, (Senior Compliance Officer) on 02 6670 8657 or email compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Yours sincerely

Nick Ballard

Nick Ballard
Team Leader – Far North Region
Compliance

As nominee of the Planning Secretary