



Inquiry into the augmentation of water supply for rural and regional New South Wales

Terms of reference

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport inquire into and report on the performance or effectiveness of the NSW government agencies that are responsible for the augmentation of water supply for rural and regional New South Wales, and in particular:
 - a) investigate the requirement for a water equation (demand and supply out to the middle of this century) for rural and regional New South Wales
 - b) examine the suitability of existing New South Wales water storages and any future schemes for augmentation of water supply for New South Wales, including the potential for aquifer recharge
 - c) review the NSW Government's response to the recommendations of the June 2013 report by the Standing Committee on State Development on the adequacy of water storages in New South Wales
 - d) examine the 50 year flood history in New South Wales, particularly in northern coastal New South Wales, including the financial and human cost
 - e) examine technologies available to mitigate flood damage, including diversion systems, and the scope of infrastructure needed to support water augmentation, by diversion, for rural and regional New South Wales
 - f) examine social, economic and environmental aspects of water management practices in New South Wales and international jurisdictions, including the following case studies:
 - i. Broken Hill town water supply/Menindee Lakes system
 - ii. South Western NSW water management practices
 - iii. North Western NSW water management practices
 - g) the efficiency and sustainability of environmental water being managed by different State and Federal Government departments and agencies

- h) the management, appropriateness, efficiency and reporting of:
- i. inter-valley transfers
 - ii. conveyance and loss water
 - iii. carryover
 - iv. the management and reporting of the water market, and
- i) any other related matter.
2. That the committee report by 30 March 2018.

Committee membership

The Hon Robert Brown MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Mr Jeremy Buckingham MLC*	The Greens	
The Hon Rick Colless MLC	The Nationals	
Mr Scot MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Greg Pearce MLC*	Liberal Party	
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC*	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Paul Green MLC*	Christian Democratic Party	
The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* Mr Jeremy Buckingham MLC is substituting for Dr Mehreen Faruqui MLC for the duration of the inquiry.

* Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC is substituting for Hon Greg Pearce MLC for the duration of the inquiry.

* Hon Paul Green MLC and Hon Penny Sharpe MLC will be participating for the duration of the inquiry.

¹ The original reporting date was 27 October 2017 (*Minutes*, Legislative Council, 23 March 2016, p 810). The reporting date was later extended to 30 March 2018 (*Minutes*, Legislative Council, 31 May 2017, p 1683).