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MEDIA RELEASE

Committee to Inquire Into Infrastructure Provision in ‘Sea Change’ Areas

The NSW Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, resolved on 23 February 2005 to inquire into the provision of infrastructure in coastal growth areas in NSW.

The Committee will investigate the effects of population growth on coastal areas and will examine planning and management methods for meeting the short and long term infrastructure needs of growing coastal communities.

“Many metropolitan residents, particularly retirees and young families, have chosen to ‘sea change’ or shift to coastal areas, over the past decade”, said Mr Kevin Greene, Chairman of the Committee.

“Coastal areas still offer affordable and more relaxed lifestyles, so it is expected that the population increase along the coast will continue in the future,” Mr Greene said.

The population growth, together with the increased residential and commercial development along the coast, has placed significant demands on coastal communities.

There are requirements for improved infrastructure (roads, power, water and sewerage) and human services infrastructure (hospitals, schools, aged care centres).

“Governments are challenged with addressing the needs of growing coastal areas through planning and development, now and in the future,” said Mr Greene.

“This inquiry will examine how planners and policy makers can respond to the current infrastructure needs, as well as how we can direct and guide future growth to ensure more sustainable coastal communities,” said Mr Greene.

The Committee invites submissions from interested individuals and organisations. The closing date for submissions is Friday 6 May 2005 and public hearings will be held after this date. For information on how to make a submission to the inquiry, please contact the committee secretariat on 02 9230 3054.

For further comment please contact Mr Kevin Greene MP, Committee Chairman on 9580 9349 or 0407 291 872.