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PRESS RELEASE

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN HOMES ESSENTIAL

The State Government must continue and build on its initiatives to improve energy efficiency in home building if it is to effectively manage the demands for new energy infrastructure, a NSW Parliamentary inquiry recommended today.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Public Works recommends various strategies to address increased energy consumption in homes and improve overall sustainability.

The Committee has conducted an inquiry into energy consumption in residential buildings over the last 6 months. It sought views on why energy consumption habits in homes were changing in light of a predicted \$8 billion dollars needed in electricity infrastructure investment over the next 10 years.

Committee Chairman, Member for Georges River, Mr Kevin Greene MP said the report makes recommendations for improvements for both new home developments and existing homes.

“We must focus on improving energy efficiency in the existing 2.3 million homes, as well as influencing new home developments that come on line each year” said Mr Greene.

Planning mechanisms, building design standards and consumer education were all areas the Committee proposes can be further developed to drive energy efficiency in homes. The Committee canvassed recent initiatives by the NSW Government that should generate improvements in the near future. In particular, the introduction of BASIX, a new development application tool, will require new homes to generate energy and water savings.

The Committee also proposes that more information and systems be considered so consumers can be better informed at the time of purchase about the energy efficiency characteristics of the products and even the homes that they buy.

The Committee report was tabled in Parliament today and copies of the report are available online from the Committee’s web site at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ or ph 9230 3054.

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