



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONDUCTS SUSTAINABILITY INQUIRY HEARINGS**

The Public Accounts Committee will take evidence from representatives of a number of NSW government agencies involved in sustainability reporting on Thursday 31 March announced the Committee Chairman, Matt Brown MP.

“The hearings are a key part of the Committee’s major inquiry into sustainability reporting in New South Wales,” said Mr Brown.

Sustainability, or “Triple Bottom Line”, reporting combines information on economic, environmental and social results of activities.

The Committee’s Chairman, Matt Brown, said, “This evidence will provide a practical understanding of the issues and challenges agencies are addressing in their reports on social and environmental aspects of their operations, as well as the economic.”

On Thursday, the Committee will take evidence from Forests New South Wales, Landcom, Sydney Water, Integral Energy and Sutherland Shire Council, widely regarded as world leaders in sustainability reporting.

The hearings will be held in Rooms 814/815 from 9.00am.

In this inquiry, the Committee is reviewing:

- current requirements for sustainability reporting
- compliance with requirements
- the ‘whole-of-government’ approach to sustainability reporting
- processes for auditing or verifying sustainability reports; and
- linkages to other reporting mechanisms to Parliament

The Committee will hold further hearings on 8 April 2005, when evidence will be heard from:

- NSW Treasury
- Premiers Department
- MR Bob Sendt, Auditor General, NSW Audit Office
- Roads and Traffic Authority
- Mr Gary Moore, Council of Social Service of NSW
- Dr Judy Henderson, the Chair of Global Reporting Initiative, an international body which has developed frameworks and indicators for sustainability reporting.

