

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

Inquiry into Sustainability Reporting in the New South Wales Public Sector

On 1 September 2004, the Committee agreed to the following Terms of Reference:

1. That the Committee inquire into and prepare a report on Sustainability Reporting in the New South Wales public sector.
2. The Committee should:
 - a. Review the current requirements for sustainability reporting, whether compliance with these requirements is mandatory and how compliance is monitored;
 - b. Present information on the extent of sustainability reporting within and across NSW government agencies, with particular reference to the 'whole of government' approach to sustainability reporting initiated within the Premier's Department;
 - c. Consider whether sustainability reporting should be linked to other reporting mechanisms to Parliament;
 - d. Consider appropriate processes for auditing or verifying sustainability reports;
 - e. Consider how effectively sustainability reporting is linked to actions within and across agencies;
 - f. Review the adequacy of current central agency tools to assist individual agencies in applying sustainability reporting.
3. In conducting the inquiry, the Committee should:
 - a. Consider sustainability reporting initiatives within the public sector in Australia and in international jurisdictions;
 - b. Study the processes agencies are using to achieve integration between the dimensions of social, economic and environmental sustainability and core principles of sustainability;
 - c. Examine the value of core sustainability indicators across all public sector agencies versus development of indicators which are agency-specific;
 - d. Discuss processes by which sustainability reporting practice is communicated and discussed within and across agencies and to Parliament.