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## PRESS RELEASE

### COMMITTEE REVIEWS VALUER GENERAL'S ACTIVITIES

The NSW Joint Committee on the Office of the Valuer General released its Second General Meeting Report today outlining a review of the NSW Valuer General operations and activities.

The Committee was established in late 2003 and is responsible for reviewing the valuation methodologies and contracting of valuation services, all of which are managed by the NSW Valuer General.

Land valuations determined by the Valuer General are used as the basis for determining council rates and the application of land tax in NSW.

The Committee's role is to put checks and balances in place to keep the system operating in an open and transparent manner and the Report outlines various new tools and systems established by the Valuer General.

"The 2004 land tax changes put the Valuer General's role further in the spotlight and the public is demanding more information be provided about the valuation system. The Committee has emphasised that clear communication about the Valuer General's methodology and objection management is essential to address this need." said the Committee Chair, Ms Kayee Griffin MLC.

The Committee has established a framework where the Valuer General reports on operational targets and the progress of various reforms: some initiated as a result of previous Government reviews; and others introduced by the current Valuer General who has been in the role for almost two years.

A key recommendation by the Committee includes the review of new public information initiatives that have been instigated by the Valuer General. These initiatives include:

- a newsletter for distribution to all property owners, accompanied by greater sales and valuation information for the relevant region;
- a new call centre for queries about valuations, and
- an expansion of web information and data available to the public.

The Committee members include Chair Ms Kayee Griffin MLC, Mr Don Harwin MLC, Mr Steven Pringle MP, Mr Allan Shearan MP and Mr Richard Torbay MP.

The Committee report was tabled in NSW Parliament today. Copies are available online from the Committee's website at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au) or ph 9230 3054

For further information please contact: Ms Kayee Griffin MLC, Committee Chair on 9230 2040 or the Committee Secretariat on 9230 3054.