



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT**

The Chair of The Public Accounts Committee, Mr Paul Gibson, MP, today tabled the Committee's Report on Environmentally Sustainable Procurement.

The Report makes a number of recommendations to ensure agency purchasing practices match the intention of the Government's sustainability policies.

"The Committee found examples of agencies taking innovative approaches to procurement that resulted in lower costs and better environmental outcomes. However, it was also told agencies often buy the item with the cheapest purchase price, without concern for the long term environmental, economic and social costs. The Committee wants smarter and more effective procurement to become the norm across the Government," Mr Gibson said.

The use of purchasing power to encourage sustainable goods and services is a key policy objective of governments worldwide. The Government's Sustainability Policy makes a number of commitments to achieve that end.

However, mixed messages and inconsistent performance led the Committee to make recommendations for improved communication, training and guidelines.

It also recommended that procurement agencies measure their performance against the UK Sustainable Procurement Taskforce's Flexible Framework.

"The Flexible Framework keeps agencies focussed on continuous improvement in five key areas. It has recently been adapted by the Queensland Government to provide it a roadmap for improved performance. In New South Wales, it could help transform examples of innovation into excellent practice in all government procurement," Mr Gibson said.

"Improving the way the Government spends over \$10 billion procuring goods and services each year will lead to significant benefits for New South Wales. A greater focus on real value for money and on driving innovation in reducing environmental and other costs, as recommended by the Committee, will result in both better services and a healthier environment."

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Paul Gibson, MP, Chair – 0417 223 953

The report is available from <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/publicaccounts>.