



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation

21 September 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

New Joint Select Committee commences inquiry into protecting local water utilities from privatisation

A Joint Select Committee has been established to inquire into ways local water utilities and their assets can be best protected against privatisation, forced amalgamations and sell-offs.

On 1 June 2023 the NSW Parliament passed the Constitution Amendment (Sydney Water and Hunter Water) Bill 2023, which amended the *Constitution Act 1902* to ensure continued public ownership of Sydney Water Corporation and the Hunter Water Corporation.

Committee Chair, the Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC, said the inquiry will focus on local water utilities providing services to areas of New South Wales that are *not* serviced by Sydney Water or Hunter Water.

"This will be a very important inquiry to the 1.8 million people in regional communities who depend on local water utilities for safe and affordable water supply and sewerage services," Mr Lawrence said.

"The Committee will be guided by regional communities and their representatives as to how water assets and services can be secured into the future.

"We will be consulting widely over the coming months and hope to hear evidence from local water utility operators, local councils, representatives of the broader water sector, academics and members of the public.

"Ultimately, our recommendations to the NSW Government will be informed by voices on the ground in these communities, so I encourage anyone who's interested to make a submission."

Submissions can be made via the Committee's [webpage](#) until Sunday 29 October.

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