

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Prohibiting No Grounds Evictions) Bill 2024

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MEDIA RELEASE

New Select Committee commences into the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Prohibiting No Grounds Evictions) Bill 2024

A Select Committee has just been established to inquire into the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Prohibiting No Grounds Evictions) Bill 2024. The Committee will look into the provisions of the bill and in particular the grounds for evictions, enforceability and possible unintended consequences. The committee will also look at how no grounds evictions policies work in other jurisdictions.

The bill aims to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 to prohibit a landlord from ending a fixed-term or periodic lease agreement without reason and would introduce several grounds on which it would be reasonable to evict a tenant.

"I introduced the bill to improve protections for tenants in NSW against the threat and stress of unfair evictions which continue to negatively impact renters. Currently under the law, people can be evicted from a rental property without a reason. The bill aims to change this so that a lease can be terminated if there are genuine and reasonable grounds for doing so", said the Committee Chair and Member for Newtown, Ms Jenny Leong.

"The Committee understands that there is a lot of public support for rental law reform in NSW to correct the power imbalance between landlords and tenants", Ms Leong said. "We will be engaging with policy experts, advocacy organisations, and stakeholders across the community to explore the grounds that should be considered reasonable for an eviction, what evidence landlords must provide to back this up, any penalties for falsely claiming a reasonable ground and any unintended consequences with the proposed changes".

Members of the public are encouraged to have their say on the proposed reforms by completing an online survey on the Committee's website. The Committee will also seek the views of rental advocates, housing and industry bodies, tenancy services, legal experts and government agencies.

More information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference and link to the online survey, is available on the Committee's webpage.

The survey will open until Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

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