



MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT ON STATE PLAN

Paul McLeay MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, today tabled the Committee's Report on State Plan Reporting.

"The Committee's Report stresses the importance of increased public participation and involvement in shaping the State Plan and for improved parliamentary accountability for State Plan objectives," Mr McLeay said.

"The State Plan represents a major reform in public sector performance management based on identified community priorities. This has the potential to significantly improve service delivery in NSW" Mr McLeay said.

"However, this system also has the potential to create perverse incentives or result in bureaucrats trying to deliver a target instead of the service."

"Keys to getting the huge benefits the State Plan offers and avoiding the pitfalls include real ongoing community engagement, parliamentary accountability, and robust auditing."

"The Government has made an excellent start with the State Plan by trying new ways of consulting with the community, setting clear priorities and identifying Ministers and CEOs who are responsible for delivering targets. It now needs to move to the next level. This includes broader and more accessible community engagement for the review of the Plan next year, submitting its performance under the Plan to close scrutiny by the Parliament, and continuing to develop the audit procedures already established for the Plan," Mr McLeay said.

The Committee also focussed on providing for the distinct needs of different regions and groups in a Plan aimed at the State as a whole. This highlighted the need to ensure that engagement includes broad community representation throughout the regions of NSW.

"The State Plan provides a good framework for setting priorities, improving coordination and driving performance in the public sector. Additional work is needed to ensure that it keeps driving performance in the directions the community wants. This can be achieved by accountability and engagement: by keeping the community informed of its performance and keeping negotiations open with the community about what it wants."

"The Public Accounts Committee is a bi-partisan committee focussed on improving performance in the public sector. I am sure the Government will give the Committee's recommendations favourable consideration," Mr McLeay said.

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