



MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the Management of Domestic Wastewater

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The NSW Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Regulation is conducting a hearing in relation to its inquiry into the management of domestic wastewater.

The inquiry has received thirty submissions dealing with a range of matters about the threats posed by faulty onsite sewage management systems, and the potential for effluent discharge. In particular, many submissions addressed the risk of contamination to local horticulture and aquaculture, especially to the oyster industry, and subsequent issues relating to food safety.

The submissions also addressed concerns with regulatory oversight, inspection procedures and incident notification requirements.

Chair of the Committee on Environment and Regulation, Mr Chris Patterson, Member for Camden, said: "The Committee is pleased to have received a broad range of submissions from individuals, councils, stakeholders and government agencies, demonstrating the extent of the concern across the community".

"This hearing will give the Committee an opportunity to further scope out the issues and ask important questions of those individuals and organisations appearing."

Mr Patterson continued: "In my time on Camden Council, the operation of onsite sewage management was brought up on a number of occasions. I am pleased as Chair of the Committee of the response we have received from the community in relation to this important issue of public concern".

The hearing will commence at **9:15am on Thursday, 22 March 2012** at Parliament House, Sydney. A program of the day's proceedings is attached.

Further information, including the terms of reference, can be obtained by visiting the Committee website at <http://parliament.nsw.gov.au/environmentandregulation> or by contacting Mr Jason Arditi, Inquiry Manager, on (02) 9230 2096.

20 March 2012

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