



## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERWAYS**

- (1) That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on access restrictions to public lands and waterways, including but not limited to Aboriginal land, heritage sites, national parks, crown reserves, state forests, crown land, state conservation areas, wilderness areas, conservation areas, water catchment areas, marine parks and aquatic reserves, travelling stock routes, unallocated crown land, fire trails and management roads, foreshore areas, river beds and riverbanks, local government-managed parks and reserves, and areas under rehabilitation or former mining leases, disused railway lines for rail trails and all forms of access to waterways, bushwalking, hiking, camping, mountain biking, horse riding, fossicking and prospecting, four-wheel-driving, drone and remote observation activities, recreational and subsistence fishing, spearfishing, natural and traditional medicine and remedy gathering, food gathering including mushrooming, bee keeping, scientific research, educational or cultural activities, and cultural or conservation hunting, and in particular:
- (a) the current and projected extent and rationale of access restrictions across public lands, including the balance between environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation and public access
  - (b) the social, economic and recreational impacts of access restrictions on local communities, recreational users and industries such as tourism, forestry and agriculture
  - (c) the adequacy of government investment in maintaining and improving public access and infrastructure on public lands
  - (d) the legislative and regulatory frameworks governing access restrictions, including any inconsistencies, gaps, or areas for improvement
  - (e) suitable alternatives or models for managing public land access that balance conservation objectives with public access, including examples from other jurisdictions
  - (f) the impact of restrictions on diverse user groups, including people with disabilities, Aboriginal communities and rural populations
  - (g) consultation processes and the level of community engagement undertaken when implementing or reviewing access restrictions
  - (h) the role of state and local government authorities and any other relevant entities, in managing and enforcing access restrictions on public lands, and
  - (i) any other related matter.

- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of seven members comprising:
  - (a) three Government members
  - (b) two Opposition members, and
  - (c) three crossbench members, two being Mr Banasiak and Ms Higginson.
- (3) That the Chair of the committee be Mr Banasiak and the Deputy Chair be elected by the committee at its first meeting.
- (4) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
  - (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales
  - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration
  - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential
  - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement
  - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between Opposition, crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each
  - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published
  - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness
  - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and
  - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.

*[Resolved 28 May 2025, Minutes No 102, Item 43]*