



**29 October 2008**

**Legislative Council  
Standing Committee on State Development**

**FINAL REPORT:  
INQUIRY INTO NANOTECHNOLOGY  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Chair of the New South Wales Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development, the Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC, today released the report of the Inquiry into nanotechnology in New South Wales.

"This report shows that the word nanotechnology refers to a broad range of technologies that involve the manipulation of matter at the nanoscale to create new materials, structures and devices. The area of nanotechnology is as broad as science itself. Products developed using nanotechnology can range from invisible sunscreens to revolutionary construction materials to the potential for repairing damaged spinal cords."

"With any new technology there are concerns over human health and environmental safety and over the responsible use of products made using that technology. The question of how nanomaterials can best be regulated over their life cycle is receiving considerable attention both nationally and internationally, and was a main area of examination during the Inquiry."

Mr Catanzariti said that any new regulations for the management of nanomaterials over their life cycle will be most effective if they are implemented nationally and applied consistently at the State and Territory level.

"Where the Committee has made recommendations relating to regulatory issues – such as labelling and reporting – it has recommended that New South Wales in the first instance work with the relevant federal agencies to develop national initiatives."

Mr Catanzariti said that new information and scientific knowledge regarding nanotechnology is constantly coming to hand and it was important that consumers, workers, companies and government agencies be able to easily access up to date, factual and balanced information.

"The Committee has made a number of recommendations with regards to coordinating issues relating to nanotechnology and raising awareness of its potential benefits and risks, including the publication of a comprehensive statement on nanotechnology and the establishment of a NSW Nanotechnology Unit."

"On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank everyone who participated in or attended the public hearings and site visits, and all those who made a submission. Their contribution to the Inquiry has been invaluable and we are grateful for their time and effort."

The report, which includes 18 recommendations, is available on the Committee's website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment).

*For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on 9230 3464 or for comment, please contact Tony Catanzariti MLC, Chair of the Committee on (02) 9230 2837*