



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Inquiry into the rationale for, and impacts of, new dams and other water infrastructure in NSW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That Portfolio Committee No.7 - Planning and Environment inquire into and report on the rationale for, and impacts of, new dam and mass water storage projects proposed by Water NSW including Wyangala, Mole River and Dungowan Dam projects, the Macquarie River re-regulating storage project, the Menindee Lakes Water Savings Project and the Western Weirs project, particularly:
 - (a) the need for the projects, including the historical allocation of water and consideration of other options for ensuring water security in inland regions,
 - (b) the economic rationale and business case of each of the projects, including funding, projected revenue, and the allocation and pricing of water from the projects,
 - (c) the environmental, cultural, social and economic impacts of the projects, including their impact on any national or state water agreements, or international environmental obligations,
 - (d) the impacts of climate change on inland waterways, including future projections, and the role of dams and other mass water storage projects in ensuring security of water supply for social, economic and environmental outcomes
 - (e) water infrastructure technologies that may promote enhanced environmental outcomes,
 - (f) any other related matter.
2. That the committee report by 22 March 2021.

Committee membership

Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Mark Pearson MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Ben Franklin MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Shayne Mallard MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party	
