



Inquiry into NSW Government's use and management of consulting services

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That the Public Accountability and Works Committee inquire into and report on the use and management of consulting firms by NSW Government agencies, including:
 - (a) the setting and enforcement of procurement policies,
 - (b) the transparency of work undertaken by consultants, and the accountability of consultants for this work,
 - (c) the adequacy of agency classification, reporting on and disclosure requirements for the use of consultants,
 - (d) whether consultants are being used strategically and in a way that delivers value for money,
 - (e) the management of and measures to prevent conflicts of interest, breaches of contract or any other unethical behaviour,
 - (f) the impact on the capacity and future development of the NSW public service as a result of the increasing reliance on the use of consultants,
 - (g) integrity and transparency obligations of NSW Government agencies in relation to their use of consultants,
 - (h) the use of 'consultant shopping' and the poor public policy outcomes that have arisen from such practices,
 - (i) enforcement actions that have been taken previously, and the adequacy of existing legislation to support integrity agencies to investigate and enforce penalties,
 - (j) the process and timing for releasing reports unfavourable to government policy priorities and initiatives, and
 - (k) any other related matter.
2. That the Committee report by 31 May 2024.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 31 May 2023.¹

Committee membership

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Mark Latham MLC	Independent	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC	The Nationals	

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 31 May 2023, pp 157-158.