



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND A GLOBAL SYDNEY REPORT TABLED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 JUNE 2018

An Upper House committee inquiring into regional development and a global Sydney today tabled its report, making a number of recommendations to grow, improve and support regional New South Wales.

The Chair of the State Development Committee, the Hon Taylor Martin MLC, said: "Stakeholders felt there needs to be a more consistent approach to defining regional boundaries. Currently boundaries vary considerably between different state government departments and the Australian Government. This inconsistency makes it difficult for businesses and local councils to discern if they are eligible to apply or receive funding under particular programs. A key recommendation is for the NSW Government to work with local governments and the Australian Government to consider proposals through which greater consistency in defining the regions can be achieved".

The committee also heard of a need to improve the interface between local and state government and stakeholders to identify local priorities, facilitate regional development and therefore the capacity of the regions to benefit from Sydney's global position. Mr Martin said, "A number of stakeholders from across regional New South Wales spoke of a need for improved communication, collaboration and alignment for targeted funding and regional planning priorities. The committee acknowledges the NSW Government's current interlinked initiative of the Regional Economic Development Strategy and Functional Economic Regions as a promising enterprise to drive growth and create a globally competitive regional New South Wales economy".

The committee recommended that the NSW Government review business taxes applicable in regional New South Wales with a view to lessen the burden on New South Wales businesses. The committee heard that the savings to business from reducing payroll tax could be used to expand business operations and increase staffing levels. Mr Martin said, "For 85 per cent of businesses, payroll tax has an impact on staffing decisions, whether this is hiring additional staff, offering extra hours to existing staff or even increasing wages."

Mr Martin said, "We recognise that there a number of ways that Sydney's profile as a global city can benefit regional New South Wales. The government will now consider our 22 recommendations in its response to the report."

The Chair of the committee will hold a press conference on **Friday 8 June at 1.45 pm on the Parliament forecourt.**

For a full copy of the committee's report and other inquiry documents please visit the committee's webpage: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Taylor Martin MLC, on 9230 2985.