



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO FRESH FOOD PRICING – REPORT RELEASED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 October 2018

An Upper House committee has tabled its report on fresh food pricing in New South Wales.

The Chair of the Committee, Reverend the Hon Fred Nile MLC said, 'This inquiry examined from a holistic perspective the important but often overlooked policy issue of fresh food pricing.'

'We all know that consumption of fresh food is essential to good health, but consumption isn't nearly as high as it should be. The committee was concerned by the evidence before us that lower consumption of healthy foods has serious flow on effects on people's day to day lives and opportunities, as well as the health and opportunities of their children. We were also very troubled by the evidence that food insecurity is increasing,' stated Reverend Nile.

He continued, 'The committee heard that improving fresh food consumption will not only improve people's lives, it will also benefit our food producers and other industry. It is clear from the evidence before us that government needs to take a multifaceted approach to achieve this.'

Reverend Nile said, 'The committee has made 14 recommendations. First we recommend a number of strategies focused on industry and planning. These range from developing a comprehensive approach to data collection on food pricing and food security, to pursuing mechanisms for greater transparency in supply chains, to improving rail and road corridors for industry. We also recommend that government consider how to further embed health and wellbeing outcomes into the regional planning system, and that government agencies work together to ensure the protection of high quality agricultural land in peri-urban metropolitan and regional communities.'

'Next, we recommend a range of strategies focusing directly on individuals and families. These include the introduction of a comprehensive school breakfast program targeting schools in disadvantaged communities, investigation of the need for school lunch programs, action in respect of healthy school canteens, and greater funding for food subsidy programs around New South Wales. I look forward to the government's response to our recommendations.'

For more information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee's website at: bit.ly/freshfoodinquiry.

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*For further information please contact the Committee Chairman,
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