



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 – INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT

MEDIA RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO THE DAIRY INDUSTRY REPORT RELEASED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 December 2018

The New South Wales Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No 5 has released its report into the sustainability of the dairy industry in New South Wales.

Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC said, 'Dairy farming has thrived in New South Wales for generations. However, it is clear to the committee that in recent years the market has failed farmers and the industry could be brought to collapse if urgent action is not taken.' He said that, 'Dairy farming businesses are struggling to survive and this committee is greatly concerned both for the sustainability of the industry and for the wellbeing of farmers'.

Mr Brown continued, 'More must be done to stop the devaluation of dairy products and to ensure that a greater portion of the profit along the dairy value chain finds its way to farmers—before it is too late'.

The final report includes 4 findings and makes 10 recommendations to the NSW Government, including:

- The establishment of an independent NSW Commissioner for Dairy,
- Measures to improve farmers ability to negotiate a fair price for their milk supply, and
- An update to the NSW Dairy Industry Strategic Action Plan, including a dairy export plan.

Mr Brown said that the recommendations, 'if acted upon immediately by the NSW Government, will assist with the sustainability of the New South Wales dairy industry'.

Given the short timeframe available to the committee to conduct the inquiry before the end of the parliamentary term, the committee has also recommended that the Legislative Council reopen the inquiry in the new Parliament in 2019.

The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's [webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further comment please contact the Hon. Robert Brown MLC
Committee Chair, on 9230 2573*