



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.4 - INDUSTRY

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **MORE WORK REQUIRED TO FULFIL THE NSW CHIEF SCIENTIST'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COAL SEAM GAS ACTIVITIES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**27 February 2020**

A NSW Upper House committee inquiring into the implementation of the recommendations contained in the NSW Chief Scientist's Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in New South Wales, today tabled its report.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, said: "This inquiry has been an important check and balance on the government's implementation of the NSW Chief Scientist's 16 recommendations since 2015. While the committee acknowledges the efforts of the government to date in implementing these recommendations there is clearly more work to be done."

The committee identified a number of the Chief Scientist's recommendations that have not been fully implemented by the government despite government claims that all recommendations, except for two which are considered as 'in progress', are complete. The committee therefore urges the government to implement all outstanding aspects of each of the 16 recommendations as identified by the committee.

"In the five years since the Government released the NSW Gas Plan in response to the NSW Chief Scientist's final report, the recommendations have not been implemented fully or, in some cases not at all", added Mr Banasiak.

Mr Banasiak continued "During the inquiry, it also became apparent that public communication and access to information about coal seam gas activities has not improved despite assurances from the government. The committee has recommended that the NSW Government commit to further improving the accessibility and transparency of information relating to coal seam gas and the wider gas sector through the SEED portal, and through regular updates and accessible links to information on the EPA website."

Mr Banasiak said: "We call on the government to implement the recommendations as a matter of priority."

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, on 9230 3511.*