



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 - INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT TABLED ON PROPOSED WATER MANAGEMENT CHANGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

31 July 2020

A NSW Upper House committee has tabled its report examining three water bills: the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocation – Drought Information) Bill 2020.

Two of the bills looked specifically into water transparency and disclosure of water ownership by members of Parliament. The third looked at the incorporation of specific information with regards to creating water sharing plans.

The report recommends that debate on the bills proceed in the Upper House, and that concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in the report be addressed during debate in the House.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, said: 'This inquiry saw a wide range of opinions on the subject of water management'.

'Almost all participants supported a need to improve the level of transparency around water ownership, how that can be achieved, and the level of detail provided in that transparency. In relation to the Opposition Bill, many witnesses cited modelling on the drought of record that subsequently informed water sharing plans as a reason to oppose the bill. A copy of modelling was not able to be provided to committee from any of the witnesses' said Mr Banasiak.

Mr Banasiak continued: 'I would like to thank all who participated in the inquiry, and who provided submissions and attended the public hearing at short notice. I call on the Government and all members to seriously consider the stakeholder views in this report before the bills are debated in the Legislative Council'.

-ENDS-

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