



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY IN NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 August 2020

An Upper House committee has commenced an inquiry into the sustainability of the dairy industry and the role of the Department of Primary Industries and other government agencies in supporting the industry.

The Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, Committee Chair, said: "An Upper House inquiry into the dairy industry was conducted in 2018 and found that dairy farmers were under extreme farm stress. With limited time this inquiry was unable to consider the magnitude of the issues that needed to be addressed. Therefore, this new inquiry has been established to undertake a thorough review of the issues plaguing the industry and to see if any progress has been made since the last inquiry."

"This inquiry will look again into the nature of, and relationship within, the value chain between farmers, processors, logistics companies and retailers and their respective influence on price. It will also consider again the impact of external influences and previous policy on the dairy industry, and the role of government in addressing key economic challenges facing the industry."

The Chair continued: "The first inquiry called for the establishment of an independent Commissioner for Dairy following support from stakeholders that such an advocate or commissioner would provide much needed advocacy and support services directly to dairy farmers. The NSW Government's Fresh Milk and Dairy Advocate and the Dairy Industry Advisory Panel have since been appointed and this committee will be examining their operation and effectiveness. The committee will also be looking into the operation, effectiveness and outcomes arising from the Australian Government's Mandatory Dairy Code of Conduct, including whether additional protections, legislation or regulation are required in New South Wales to better support our dairy farmers."

The Chair concluded: "It is important that we re-consider the outcomes of the last inquiry and if any improvements have been made since to better support dairy farmers who were struggling to keep their businesses afloat. We want to ensure the dairy industry is sustainable and that dairy farmers are supported by the government."

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is 2 October 2020 with public hearings to take place at a time to be confirmed. For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and hearing dates and locations, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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For further information, please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, on (02) 9230 3511.