



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

## MEDIA RELEASE

# CYBER SECURITY INQUIRY RELEASES REPORT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 March 2021

A parliamentary committee has today published its report into cyber security in New South Wales. The report details the cyber attack on Service NSW in 2020 and recommends a range of improvements to enhance cyber security and cyber awareness throughout the state.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, said: 'The serious cyber attack on Service NSW last year resulted in the personal information of over 100,000 people being stolen. The committee has made a range of findings that this shocking incident was enabled by practices and systems within Service NSW that did not accord with best practice cyber security measures.'

The Chair continued: 'Compounding this incident, Service NSW was aware of the risks that led to the attack some 12 months earlier but had not acted sufficiently to address them. Further, following the attack, the agency took too long to notify those impacted and did not provide them with sufficient information, support and direct assistance throughout the process.'

The Chair added: 'The cyber attack on Service NSW is proof that the Government needs to be doing more in the cyber security space to protect citizens and their personal information. Proactive, robust and resilient cyber security measures are critical now more than ever. Failing to get cyber security right not only puts citizens at risk, but it undermines trust in government and negatively impacts the State's economy and business community.'

The Chair concluded: 'The committee has therefore made a range of recommendations to the NSW Government for it to holistically address these cyber security shortcomings. This includes strengthening the NSW Government Cyber Security policy, enhancing the role and mandate of Cyber Security NSW and enhancing cyber security education for public officials and cyber security professionals. In addition the committee has also made recommendations regarding mandatory notification of data breaches, sovereign cyber security capability as well as clearer requirements for cyber security standards in government agencies.'

The report along with all other committee documents are available on the committee's website: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/portfoliocommittee1>.

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, on 0439 393 839*