



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OF THE TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 March 2021

A parliamentary committee will soon be examining the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry. It will also consider the role of Forestry Corporation and other government agencies in supporting the industry.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC said: "The timber industry in New South Wales is under immense pressure. Demand for timber is high, and having adequate supply to meet demand is crucial, and the industry has been significantly impacted by bushfires and the pandemic. Given the timber industry generates more than \$2 billion each year, and is a large employer in our state, it is important that we take a close look into what's happening and how we can ensure this industry is sustainable in the long term".

Among a range of issues, the inquiry will consider:

- the role of government in addressing key economic, environmental and social challenges to the industry and whether opportunities exist to further support the industry
- relationships between manufacturers, retailers, exporters and logistics companies and opportunities to enhance supply chains
- projections for softwood and hardwood supply and demand over the next 30 years and data reporting in relation to timber supply
- the impact of external influences on industry, including the effects of drought, water and fire, habitat protection, and policies regarding climate change and plantation establishment
- the environmental impact and sustainability of native forest logging
- best practice in other jurisdictions in relation to the sustainability of the timber and forest product industry.

Submissions are open until 28 May 2021 and can be lodged online. For information about the inquiry, including committee membership, and terms of reference, please visit the [inquiry webpage](#).

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For further information, please contact the Committee Chair's office, Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, on (02) 9230 2573.