



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REGULATION COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT TABLED ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS (SEPPS)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 August 2021

The Upper House Regulation Committee has today tabled its report into State environmental planning policies, or SEPPs. The committee examined how SEPPs are made and whether they should be subject to more scrutiny by Parliament.

The inquiry follows on from the committee's work in 2020 examining the role and prevalence of delegated legislation as the principle form of law-making in New South Wales.

Committee Chair, the Hon Mick Veitch MLC, highlighted three key areas the committee addressed in its report, stating: 'First, consultation and communication were raised by most stakeholders, and it was clear consultation mechanisms must be enhanced. Secondly, while the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* contains a number of provisions relating to scrutiny and transparency of SEPPs by government, there are no statutory requirements that make SEPPs subject to scrutiny by Parliament. Thirdly, the committee considered the issue of disallowance mechanisms for SEPPs.'

The Chair continued: 'The committee made a number of recommendations in its report to improve consultation, including mandatory requirements for consultation and making more information available online. The report also made key recommendations to improve parliamentary scrutiny of SEPPs, including making all new SEPPs subject to a sunset clause, biannual reporting to Parliament on SEPPs, and a mechanism for this committee to more systematically review SEPPs. While the committee did not ultimately recommend that SEPPs be made disallowable, I suggest there should be further discussion on disallowance in future.'

Further information about the inquiry, including the committee's final report, is publicly available on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mick Veitch MLC, on 9230 2714