



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 – EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 October 2021

The NSW Upper House's Education Committee has commenced an inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in New South Wales.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, stated, 'Many parents of children in NSW public schools know first-hand the longstanding need for greater investment in classrooms and other school facilities. Schools around the state are shabby looking and overrun with portables; many are simply bursting at the seams with students. Right now, the return to school post-lockdown is highlighting the need for ventilation to protect the health and safety of children and teachers.'

'Many of these issues were documented in the Auditor-General's report on school infrastructure earlier this year. The committee wants to know what the NSW Government is doing now to act on those recommendations and deliver better facilities for every NSW school student,' Mr Latham stated.

'In a previous inquiry this committee examined the school curriculum in detail and provided a road map for improving learning in the classroom across the state. Now it will be shining a spotlight on classrooms themselves and other school facilities as another key way to improve our children's education.'

'The committee will examine the adequacy of the NSW Government's investment in new and upgraded facilities at existing schools, as well as in new school projects. Matched with this, we will scrutinise demographic planning for anticipated school enrolments.'

'The evidence is already clear that areas of high growth and proposed new suburbs suffer from poor planning. We are particularly keen to investigate planning for new schools and increased enrolments in the pressure areas of Western Sydney, the Canada Bay local government area and the Far North Coast.'

Community groups, individuals and organisations are all welcome to make a submission by the closing date of **Friday 11 February 2022**. The committee will hold hearings in the new year and report in October.

For information about the inquiry or on how to make a submission, please visit the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, on 9230 3682.