



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, WATER AND AGRICULTURE

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMITTEE TO VISIT REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AS PART OF TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 February 2022

The Upper House committee examining the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry will be visiting a number of regional communities across the state, beginning with the Riverina on 7 and 8 February 2022. The committee is planning to use the visits to meet with local stakeholders and explore the inquiry's various issues first-hand.

Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC said, 'The committee recognises that there are a range of factors placing significant pressure on the timber and forest products industry, including the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires as well as the ongoing pandemic. We have gathered evidence on the issues from the many submissions received and the Sydney-based hearings held to date. We are now looking to go out into the regions to meet and listen to the people who work with timber and forest products everyday'.

Mr Banasiak shared the committee's intention to visit other areas, stating, 'We are planning further regional visits, including to the south and north coast of New South Wales, where we also hope to hold hearings, to gain a greater understanding of the industry first hand and to facilitate input from those who know the issues well'.

Mr Banasiak noted that for the current site visit, the hearing scheduled on 8 February will not be physically open to the public, however, he encouraged people to view the hearing at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx. 'A live webcast of the hearing will available on the NSW Parliament website, where you can also find further information on the inquiry. I encourage people to continue to engage in this important inquiry', Mr Banasiak said.

For further 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.