



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

Upper House committee recommends TAHE be unwound

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 April 2022

The Public Accountability Committee has today released its report into the Transport Asset Holding Entity recommending that the state owned corporation be unwound due to the negative financial impacts it will cause to the state budget and its inability to credibly make a commercial return.

Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC stated: 'The committee heard alarming evidence about the NSW Government's failure to properly account for TAHE in its pursuit of a favourable budget outcome. The key issues covered in this inquiry were the inadequacy of the government's proposed rate of return, the failure to anticipate and account for a \$20 billion asset write down caused by the establishment of TAHE, concerns about TAHE's independence from the government, disputes over access and licence fees for rail operators and how these fees would impact the state budget, and long term safety concerns with the separation of asset ownership and rail operation.'

The Chair continued: 'The government's mistakes in setting up TAHE are so significant that there is no serious choice other than to unwind the entity before further damage is done.'

The committee's report also dealt with concerns about the conduct of NSW Treasury in its response to this committee, its engagements with external consultants and in the audit process for 2020-2021. In addition, the committee made findings about the importance of the Auditor-General's work and recommended that the NSW Government ensure that the Audit Office is adequately and independently funded.

Report details

The report is available on the committee's website:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2819#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

The Chair will be holding a press conference at 10.30 am, Friday 8 April 2022.

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