



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – CUSTOMER SERVICE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MEDIA RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE RELEASES ITS REPORT INTO THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OF THE TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 September 2022

The Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Customer Service and Natural Resources has today handed down its report into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry.

The broad-ranging inquiry examined the many complex aspects of the timber and forest products industry, with the committee undertaking numerous hearings and several site visits to native forests, plantations and timber-mills to gain a greater understanding of the industry and its challenges. The committee also met with various communities across the state.

Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC stated: "While the committee received extensive evidence, at times competing in its view about the future and long term sustainability of the industry, there was a consensus that the demand for timber and forest products is growing and cannot be met with existing supply".

"Over the years, there has been a progressive loss of timber supply, particularly of native hardwood timber, which has only been exacerbated by recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating 2019/20 bushfires", Mr Banasiak continued.

"The committee has seen firsthand how the timber and forest product industry has suffered from a lack of long term vision over successive governments to address supply issues, industry needs and community expectations. The impact of this cannot be overstated. Indeed, the inquiry was informed by those in the industry who face ongoing uncertainty because of the current timber shortage. Their views reflect the importance of immediate action from the NSW Government. I therefore urge the NSW Government to carefully consider the findings and recommendations of this report," said Mr Banasiak.

The final report makes 24 recommendations and 11 findings addressing the current state of the industry and its long term sustainability and future, centring on securing timber supply primarily through an expansion of hardwood and softwood timber plantations amongst other actions moving forward.

A copy of the report and its recommendations, along with the evidence gathered during the inquiry can be found on the committee's website.

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For further information please contact Committee Chairman, Mark Banasiak, on 9230 3511