



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Upper House committee invites the community to speak at a public forum at Parliament House on 4 October 2022 for the Inquiry into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Culture Is Identity) Bill 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
20 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment is doing an inquiry into the [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage \(Culture is Identity\) Bill 2022](#).

This bill is a private members' bill. It was introduced in the Legislative Council by Reverend the Hon Fred Nile MLC and seeks to provide a new framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and recognise its importance to Aboriginal people. This is separate from the cultural heritage reforms that the Government has been working on over a period of time.

On 4 October 2022 the committee will hold a public forum at Parliament House where members of the public can have their say on the bill. This is an opportunity for community members to share their views and experiences with the committee.

Ms Sue Higginson MLC, Committee Chair, said: "I encourage members of the community to take up this opportunity to have their say on the bill. The committee wants to hear your views on the changes to Aboriginal cultural heritage laws proposed in the bill."

Ms Higginson continued, "There is a short amount of time for the committee to look at this bill and get the community's views on it. The Parliament has told the committee it must publish its report by 8 November 2022. The reason for this deadline is that the NSW Parliament will meet for the last time in mid-November before the state election in early 2023."

If you wish to participate in the forum on 4 October 2022, please register using this [link](#) and provide your name and contact details (including email address and phone number). If you have questions about the public forum, please contact the committee secretariat on **02 9230 2205**.

Members of the community can also have their say on the bill via the [online questionnaire](#) on the committee's webpage. This only takes about 5 minutes. The closing date for online questionnaire is **30 September 2022**.

Further details of the public forum and public hearing will be published on the [inquiry webpage](#) as they become available.



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The hearing and public forum will be broadcast live on the NSW Parliament's [website](#).

A short video with information about the inquiry, the bill and how to engage in the inquiry process is on the committee's [webpage](#) and on the NSW Parliament's [YouTube channel](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Sue Higginson MLC, on 9230 2273