



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Housing and Productivity Contributions) Bill 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 June 2023

A new parliamentary inquiry has been established to examine proposed changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* by the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment \(Housing and Productivity Contributions\) Bill 2023](#). These changes would replace the existing special infrastructure contributions system with a new housing and productivity contribution to be imposed on certain developments. Contributions would be used to facilitate the provision of infrastructure such as roads, parks, hospitals and schools in four 'regions' across the State: Greater Sydney, Illawarra-Shoalhaven, Lower Hunter and the Central Coast. The changes are intended to commence on 1 October 2023.

Two funds are to be established for housing and productivity contributions under the bill: the Strategic Biodiversity Contributions Fund and the Housing and Productivity Fund.

Ms Sue Higginson MLC, Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee, explained, "The committee is keen to conduct a thorough examination of the changes proposed by this bill. We want to ensure that the implications of any amendments are well understood, including whether they will effectively achieve their stated purpose".

Ms Higginson continued: "The committee is particularly interested to understand how the Strategic Biodiversity Conservation Fund will be used to benefit biodiversity in each of these regions, to ensure development does not occur at the expense of the environment".

Submissions close on Wednesday 7 June and may be lodged via the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

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