



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORKS COMMITTEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### NEW INQUIRY: NSW GOVERNMENT'S USE AND MANAGEMENT OF CONSULTING SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**6 June 2023**

The Upper House Public Accountability and Works Committee has established an inquiry into the use and management of consulting services by NSW Government agencies.

Committee Chair, Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, said: 'This inquiry will examine whether the NSW Government's use of consultants provides the people of New South Wales with adequate transparency, accountability and value for money, and whether sufficient measures are in place to prevent unethical behaviour.'

Ms Boyd continued: 'Among other issues, the committee will consider procurement policies, transparency of work undertaken by consultants and their accountability for this work. It will also investigate the management of conflict of interest and other unethical behaviour and the impact of the increasing use of consultants on the capacity of the NSW public sector.'

The Chair added: 'The committee will also examine the adequacy of existing legislation to support integrity agencies to investigate the use of consultants by government agencies.'

Ms Boyd concluded: 'In recent years we have seen increased outsourcing of functions once performed by public servants to private sector consultants. As we have seen in past inquiries, there needs to be greater transparency around the use of consultants by the NSW Government. This inquiry is an opportunity to examine whether current arrangements for engaging and managing consultants are compatible with public accountability.'

The committee is calling for public submissions until **17 July 2023**. The committee will hold its first hearings in June 2023 and release interim reports during the year. A final report is due on 31 May 2024.

Further information about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, is available on the committee's [website](#).

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Abigail Boyd, on 9230 3676*

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