



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

# HOUSING AND PRODUCTIVITY CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT TABLED

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 June 2023

The Upper House committee responsible for examining proposed changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* has tabled its report.

The Planning and Environment Committee has completed its inquiry into the [Environment Planning and Assessment Amendment \(Housing and Productivity Contributions\) Bill 2023](#). The bill seeks to introduce a new housing and productivity contribution that would replace the existing special infrastructure contributions scheme. It would also establish a strategic biodiversity contribution fund.

The bill empowers the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to make a ministerial order requiring a housing and productivity contribution from developers which is to be used to fund infrastructure in the same region. Infrastructure is defined to include public amenities or public services, roads, transport, affordable housing, and measures to conserve the natural environment. A project must be in a State strategic plan or the State Infrastructure Strategy to receive money from the Housing and Productivity Fund.

Ms Sue Higginson MLC, Chair of the Planning and Environment committee, stated, 'The reforms proposed by the bill have been well flagged to stakeholders and implement some of the key recommendations made by the NSW Productivity Commission in its 2020 report on infrastructure contributions.'

Ms Higginson continued: 'While stakeholders were generally supportive of the bill, issues were raised about some aspects, including the appropriate time for payment of the housing and productivity contribution. In addition, although stakeholders were pleased to see affordable housing included in the definition of regional infrastructure, there is some concern that the NSW Government does not currently plan to use the contribution fund to build this essential form of housing.'

Ms Higginson also highlighted: 'The committee is aware that there are a number of reviews of state and federal biodiversity legislation currently underway. It is important that the strategic biodiversity contribution fund established by the bill is able to take into account any reforms that result from these reviews.'

The committee recommended that the Legislative Council proceed to debate the bill, addressing the concerns of stakeholders as represented in the report.



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The committee's report and other inquiry related documents may be found on the committee's [webpage](#).

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