



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
30 AUGUST 2023

A new parliamentary inquiry has been established to inquire into and report on how the planning system can best ensure that people and the natural environment are protected from climate change impacts and changing landscapes.

The Chair of Portfolio Committee No.7, Ms Sue Higginson said: "It is critical that our planning system takes into account the impacts of climate change on communities and the environment, so planning bodies can make appropriate decisions that avoid increasing the risks of harmful effects on the environment through development."

Ms Higginson continued: "This inquiry will look at developments in flood and fire prone areas, areas vulnerable to rising sea levels, coastal erosion or drought conditions, and in areas that are threatened ecological communities or wildlife habitats. The inquiry will also examine the adequacy of planning powers and planning bodies to review development approvals, taking into account the cumulative impacts of development, climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss and changing social, economic and environmental circumstances."

Ms Higginson concluded: "The inquiry will seek to identify what short, medium and long term planning reforms may be necessary to ensure communities are able to mitigate and adapt to conditions caused by changing environmental and climatic conditions. I expect there will be significant public interest in this inquiry because the planning system affects all of us and the way we live every day in our local environments".

The committee is calling for public submissions, which may be lodged via the [committee's website](#) until 3 November 2023.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Sue Higginson MLC, on (02) 9230 2273