



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.5 – JUSTICE AND COMMUNITIES

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO JURY AMENDMENT BILL 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 November 2023

An Upper House inquiry has been established to examine the Jury Amendment Bill 2023 and its proposed changes to the *Jury Act 1977*.

The bill aims to improve the efficiency of jury empanelment, provide enhanced support for jurors to perform their role and reduce the expenditure of resources on trials that are ultimately aborted or result in hung juries.

This bill also implements the single recommendation of the Statutory Review of amendments made to the *Jury Act 1977* by the *Jury Amendment (Verdicts) Act 2006*. The Review recommends reducing the requirement for a jury to deliberate from a minimum of eight hours to four hours, before a majority verdict can be returned by a jury in criminal proceedings.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, said 'The committee is keen to examine the implications of the proposed amendments in full and understand whether they strike the appropriate balance between an individual's right to a fair trial and an efficient justice system'.

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is 17 January 2024, with the committee to hold a public hearing in late January 2024.

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and hearing details (once finalised) can be found on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Robert Borsak MLC, on 9230 2573