



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **CANNABIS COMMITTEE TABLES FINAL REPORT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friday 20 June 2025**

An Upper House committee has released its final report into the impacts of the regulatory framework for cannabis in New South Wales. The committee tabled its first report in October last year, which included findings and recommendations for the 2024 Drug Summit.

This final report recommends immediate implementation of some of the recommendations of the first report, and makes a number of further findings and recommendations to the Government in relation to cannabis regulation.

Chair of the committee, the Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC commented: 'The first report and this final report are a culmination of evidence received during this inquiry from academics, legal and medical experts, associations, non-government organisations, medicinal cannabis producers, the Government, and crucially, people with lived experience. It is abundantly clear that current cannabis regulation is causing significant harm to the community. Changes to our laws are needed.'

Mr Buckingham continued: 'The committee has recommended a staged approach to cannabis law reform. To start, the Government should remove draconian custodial sentences for possession of small quantities of cannabis. Then, we recommend decriminalisation of cannabis use and possession, and ultimately a move towards a safe, regulated, legalised cannabis market. This can be accomplished in a way which will significantly reduce the harms of the current regime.'

The committee found that Canada offers a useful model for legislation of cannabis that the Government could assess when crafting a model in New South Wales.

The committee also made recommendations about the federally regulated medicinal cannabis industry. It recommended that the NSW Government advocate to the Commonwealth Government to implement incentives, programs and supports to prioritise local producers of cannabis over importers. It also considered the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Regulation of Personal Adult Use of Cannabis) Bill 2023, and recommended the Government prioritise this legislation.

Mr Buckingham commented on cannabis use and driving: 'The continued criminalisation of medicinal cannabis users who drive unimpaired is unacceptable – particularly when the committee found that the presence of cannabis in a person's system does not necessarily indicate that they are impaired.'

Mr Buckingham concluded: 'Thank you to all participants of this inquiry, particularly those individuals with lived experience who gave us crucial insights into their experience of cannabis laws. We hope this report and its recommendations will move New South Wales towards a sensible, clear and effective model of cannabis regulation'.

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

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC, on 9230 2651*