

8 July 2011



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on State Development**

**SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL WEST COMMUNITIES**

Inquiry to examine factors restricting development across the central west

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finding ways to help improve the economic and social outlook of communities in central western NSW will be the focus of a new inquiry announced today by the Standing Committee on State Development. The inquiry will examine the provision of health, education, cultural and transport services to the area, as well as ways to encourage development of local enterprises and the potential of the region overall. Submissions from interested individuals and organisations are due by Friday 26 August 2011.

“The central west is a marvellous, diverse area, but population decline in many small country towns has been a long standing problem, and we want to find ways to retain and attract people to these communities,” said Chairman of the Committee the Hon Rick Colless, MLC.

“It’s a sad fact that in remote and rural communities many young people have to leave for education, training or employment opportunities and unfortunately they don’t come back. On behalf of the Committee I’d like to encourage all interested persons and organisations to engage with this inquiry and help us identify solutions that could help turn communities around.”

The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Hon Kevin Humphries MP, Minister for Western Sydney. Given the scope of the inquiry, the Committee will report its findings in the first half of 2012.

For further information, including guidelines for making a submission and copies of the terms of reference, visit the NSW Parliament website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment or contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 9230 2412.

A full copy of the terms of reference is attached to this release.

*For further comment please contact the Hon Rick Colless MLC,
Committee Chairman, on (02) 9230 2344*



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

Inquiry into economic and social development in central western New South Wales

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on the factors restricting economic and social development in central western New South Wales, and in particular:

- a) the provision of health, education and cultural facilities,
- b) the reasons for population decline or growth in different areas,
- c) the adequacy of transport and road infrastructure,
- d) ways to encourage development of local enterprises and the potential of the region overall,
- e) the comparative level of government business activity located within the region,
- f) methodologies for local government to collectively cooperate to achieve increased infrastructure funding and economic growth,
- g) any other factor restricting economic and social development in central western New South Wales.

Committee membership

The Hon Rick Colless MLC	The Nationals	<i>(Chair)</i>
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party	<i>(Deputy Chair)</i>
The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Paul Green MLC	Christian Democratic Party	
The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Dr Peter Phelps MLC	Liberal Party	