



MEDIA RELEASE

FIT FOR THE COMMUNITY? Inquiry into the 'Fit for the Future' reform agenda

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 May 2015

General Purpose Standing Committee No 6 has commenced an inquiry into local government in New South Wales. The committee will be chaired by the Hon Paul Green MLC of the Christian Democratic Party, and includes representatives of the Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party and the Greens.

The committee Chair, Mr Green said, 'The inquiry was established to closely examine the New South Wales Government's 'Fit for the Future' reform agenda for local government in this state, including the financial sustainability of the local government sector. We are aware of real concerns relating to potential council amalgamations and further cost shifting, so this inquiry is timely and essential to give local government and communities the opportunity to discuss these significant reform proposals.'

Mr Green continued: 'The committee has identified a number of aspects of the Fit for the Future agenda that we wish to explore in detail. These include the potential impact of forced mergers on rates, as well as on local infrastructure investment and maintenance. We also wish to examine how any forced amalgamations may affect the needs of regional and rural councils and communities, especially in terms of the impact on local economies and the reality of having local issues addressed.'

'The committee is keen to engage with as many stakeholders as possible and strongly encourages submissions from interested groups, organisations and individuals. We are optimistic that the recommendations contained in our final report will assist to deliver strong local government and strong communities,' Mr Green said.

The closing date for submissions is Sunday 5 July 2015. The committee anticipates holding public hearings in Sydney and regional New South Wales shortly thereafter.

For further information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference, or for more on how to make a submission, please go to our website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc6, or call the committee secretariat on (02) 9230 3534.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Paul Green MLC, on (02) 9230 3484