

5 June 2012



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on State Development**

**SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO IMPROVE WATER
STORAGES ACROSS NSW**

Inquiry to examine the adequacy of water storages in NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Balancing water needs for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental purposes will be the focus of a new inquiry announced by the Standing Committee on State Development. The inquiry will examine the capacity of existing water storages and models for determining water requirements for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental needs. The inquiry will also examine proposals for the construction and/or augmentation of water storages in NSW. Submissions from interested individuals and organisations are due by Friday 3 August 2012.

“Access to and security of water resources is one of the most important concerns for many communities and industries throughout NSW. Without secure water storages, these communities and industries may be unable to develop and may, in some cases, struggle to survive,” said Chairman of the Committee the Hon Rick Colless, MLC.

“Over the last 15 years there have been many changes to the demands placed on water, particularly with the implementation of environmental flows resulting in significant changes to storage management procedures and water pricing structures. It is important that these issues be carefully examined when making recommendations in relation to the adequacy of water storage capacities,”

“We want to explore the capacity of water storages in NSW to meet the needs of all water users now and into the future. 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 can improve water storages in NSW.”

The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Industries. Given the scope of the inquiry, the Committee hopes to report its findings in mid 2013.

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 3081.

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*

MEDIA RELEASE



Inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on the adequacy of water storages in NSW, and in particular:

- a) the capacity of existing water storages to meet agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental needs,
- b) models for determining water requirements for the agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental sectors,
- c) storage management practices to optimise water supply to the agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental sectors,
- d) proposals for the construction and/or augmentation of water storages in NSW with regard to storage efficiency, engineering feasibility, safety, community support and cost benefit,
- e) water storages and management practices in other Australian and international jurisdictions,
- f) any other matter relating to the adequacy of water storages in NSW.

Committee membership

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