



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE WAMBELONG FIRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 September 2014

The Upper House committee examining the causes and management of the Wambelong fire that occurred in January 2013 has put back the completion date for its inquiry and will now report by 20 February 2015.

The chair of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5, the Hon Robert Brown MLC said, “The committee has decided that it will delay the completion of its inquiry until after it receives the transcripts of the coronial investigation of the fire. We understand that the second round of coronial hearings will take place from 10-14 November 2014. The committee wants to take into account all relevant information before we finalise and hand down our report.”

The committee held its second and final public hearing this week, on Monday 15 September 2014. On 3 and 4 September it travelled to Coonabarabran to inspect the Warrumbungle National Park and surrounding properties affected by the fire, and held a public forum and public hearing.

“The committee learnt a great deal when we travelled to Coonabarabran and talked with many people affected by the Wambelong fire. People are gradually putting their lives back together, but it is very important to them, and to the committee, that the recommendations coming out of our inquiry ensure better prevention and management of future bushfires in New South Wales.”

More information regarding the inquiry, including its terms of reference, submissions and hearing transcripts, is available on the Committee’s website – www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5.

*For further information please contact the committee chair,
the Hon Robert Brown MLC, on (02) 9230 3059*