



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

### HOW CAN WE IMPROVE REGIONAL PLANNING IN NSW?

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

A new Upper House inquiry into regional planning processes in NSW has been launched.

‘The committee is exploring opportunities to stimulate regional development under the planning framework, including through legislation, policy, strategy and governance. This will involve examining the effectiveness of environmental planning instruments and considering government-led incentives to promote regional development’, said Greg Pearce, Chair of the State Development Committee.

Mr Pearce continued ‘The committee will be considering the suitability of a stand-alone regional planning Act. In addition we are looking to identify any constraints to regional development imposed by the planning framework and are interested in hearing solutions to these barriers’.

‘The committee will be exploring opportunities for strategic planning to assist in responding to challenges faced by regional communities as well as pathways to improve decision making processes for regional development proposals’ stated Mr Pearce.

Mr Pearce concluded ‘The committee will consult extensively throughout the inquiry, including in regional areas. We strongly encourage submissions from interested individuals, groups and organisations’.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 11 December 2015. Submissions should be lodged online at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment). The committee will hold a public hearing in Sydney on 4 March 2016 with regional hearings to be held later in 2016.

For more information, including terms of reference and guidelines for making a submission, please visit the committee’s website.

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*For further comment please contact the Hon Greg Pearce MLC,  
Committee Chair, on 9230 2328*