



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Inquiry report released today

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 February 2015

The Chair of General Purpose Standing Committee No 5, the Hon Robert Brown MLC, today tabled the committee's report on the performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

"The committee has found that, overall, the EPA is performing the majority of its functions in keeping with its objectives. However, there are areas that could be improve", said Mr Brown. "In particular, the committee is concerned about the governance of the EPA, and has recommended that the role of the Chairperson of the EPA Board be independent and separate from the role of Chief Executive Officer."

"The committee also considers that, despite the EPA's efforts to build stronger relationships with stakeholders, it needs to improve its communications with local communities. The committee has made several recommendations that seek to address the need for effective communication and extend the role of community consultation committees", said Mr Brown.

The report contains 17 recommendations in total, including several recommendations arising from the committee's consideration of specific case studies regarding land contamination issues at Botany and Hillsdale, coal dust pollution in the Hunter, the response to groundwater contamination in the Pilliga, the operation of the White Bay cruise ship terminal, and the regulation of forestry practices in Royal Camp State Forest.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc5 or are available from the Committee Secretariat by calling (02) 9230 3081.

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*For further media information please contact Committee Chair,
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