



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE AND THE  
BROADER HUNTER REGION

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY? Inquiry into planning decisions in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 September 2014**

On 16 September 2014, the NSW Upper House appointed a Select Committee to inquire into and report on aspects of the planning processes in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region. The committee will be chaired by Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC of the Christian Democratic Party, and includes representatives of the Liberal Party, the Australian Labor Party and the Greens.

The committee Chairman, Revd Nile said, ‘The committee was established to closely examine a number of projects to develop Newcastle and the broader Hunter region. As these projects will change the face of Newcastle and the Hunter, it is essential that the community has confidence in the decision making processes pursued by public officials and government departments. We want to ensure that the best interests of the community have been at the heart of these significant planning decisions’.

Revd Nile continued: ‘The committee has identified a number of specific projects that we wish to explore. These projects include the decision to terminate the Newcastle rail line at Wickham and any proposal to construct light rail. We will also consider the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Amendment (Newcastle City Centre) 2014, the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy, the Whitebridge development plan in Lake Macquarie, and the Newcastle East End Development.’

‘The committee is keen to ensure the inquiry engages with stakeholders and encourages submissions from interested groups, organisations and individuals,’ Revd Nile said.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 24 October 2014. Public hearings and a public forum will be held in Newcastle on 7 and 21 November, and a third public hearing will be held in Sydney on 24 November 2014. The committee is due to report by 5 March 2015.

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/newcastleplanning](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/newcastleplanning), or call the committee secretariat on (02) 9230 3528.

*For further information please contact Committee Chairman Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC,  
on (02) 9230 3484*