



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEASING OF ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the leasing of ‘poles and wires’

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 May 2015

A new Upper House committee has been established to inquire into the leasing of electricity infrastructure, the ‘poles and wires’ currently owned by the NSW Government.

Committee chair Reverend Hon Fred Nile MLC said that the committee “will examine the Government’s proposal to lease up to 49 per cent of the electricity network, including Ausgrid, TransGrid and Endeavour Energy”. The Government has announced its intention to use the proceeds of the transaction to fund key infrastructure projects across the state.

The committee will look at the likely implications of the transaction on electricity network pricing, as well as the regulatory framework and newly proposed role of the Electricity Price Commissioner. Expert reports into the proposal, such as those produced by UBS, Deloitte and Ernst & Young will also be considered.

The committee will call Premier Mike Baird as a witness, as well as the current Treasurer, the Hon Gladys Berejikilian MP. The inquiry will also hear from union and consumer representatives, as well as other key government and community organisations.

Reverend Nile stated “This inquiry will be important in examining the likely impacts of leasing the states ‘poles and wires’, including concerns that electricity bills will rise and people will lose their jobs”. The committee welcomes submissions from interested parties, which must be received by 14 May 2015. Submissions can be lodged via the parliamentary website www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/electricityleasing or via email electricityleasing@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Hearings for the inquiry will be held on 11, 15 and 18 May 2015, with the committee due to table its final report by 2 June 2015. For more information, including terms of reference and guidelines for making a submission, please contact the committee secretariat on 9230 2739.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair Reverend Hon. Fred Nile MLC, on 9230 2478.