



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

17 February 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry announcement and call for submissions

Will water buybacks affect you?

How will water buybacks affect your community? Will floodplain harvesting help manage unlicensed take of water? How can government do better in providing funding to communities who rely on the Murray-Darling Basin?

These are some of the issues the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development are looking into as part of its inquiry into the impacts of the *Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Act (Cth) 2023* on regional NSW communities.

The Committee will look into major changes from recent [federal legislation](#), such as

- the impact of reintroducing buybacks
- risks to achieving legislative outcomes, such as reducing unlicensed take of water
- the impact of environmental water rules and rules-based changes in NSW
- options to improve government programs aimed at offsetting the impacts of buybacks.

'We want to understand how the new federal water legislation affects local communities, businesses, and environments, especially those who depend on water the most' said Mr Roy Butler MP, Chair.

'Changes to water use, such as buybacks and rules-based changes affect regional communities that rely on water allocation for business, tourism, town water supplies and the environment. It's important to understand how changes will impact regional communities and identify any risks posed by the legislation'.

'The sustainability of communities who rely on the Murray-Darling Basin is vital to NSW. That's why we are asking local communities to tell us what worked and what didn't in the past.' Mr Butler said. 'Community feedback will help us design better policies such as next rounds of the Sustainable Communities Program while considering water policy.'

The Committee is inviting submissions from industry, businesses, academics, community organisations, government agencies and the public. More information, including the inquiry's terms of reference, and how to make a submission, is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Submissions close on **14 April 2025**.

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