



SELECT COMMITTEE ON PFAS CONTAMINATION IN WATERWAYS AND DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES

- (1) That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies throughout New South Wales, and in particular:
- (a) the adequacy and extent of monitoring and data collection on PFAS levels in waterways and drinking water sources
 - (b) the adequacy of the reporting and disclosure requirements to the public of monitoring and findings on PFAS contamination of water
 - (c) the identification of communities at risk from PFAS contamination
 - (d) the adequacy and effectiveness of government engagement with and support for communities disproportionately affected by PFAS contamination, including First Nations communities
 - (e) sources of exposure to PFAS, including through historic and current firefighting practices
 - (f) the health, environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of PFAS
 - (g) the impacts, monitoring and mitigation of contamination on livestock, domestic animals and wildlife, including water birds, fish and other aquatic life
 - (h) the structure, capacity, capability and resourcing of New South Wales Government agencies and water utilities to detect, monitor, report on, respond to and mitigate against PFAS contamination of water supplies, including the adequacy of infrastructure and resources
 - (i) the adequacy and effectiveness of New South Wales's legislative and regulatory framework in testing for, monitoring, mitigating and responding to PFAS contamination, including the adequacy of health-based guidance values, as compared to the standards and practices of other Australian and international jurisdictions
 - (j) public sector resourcing and coordination amongst relevant agencies in preventing controlling and managing the risks of PFAS to human health and the environment
 - (k) international best practices for water treatment and filtration, and the environmentally sound management and safe disposal of PFAS
 - (l) the effectiveness of remediation works on specific sites and international best practices for remediation and management of contaminated sites
 - (m) areas for reform, including legislative, regulatory, public health and other policy measures to prevent, control and manage the risks of PFAS in water supplies

- (n) the impact of taking contaminated water sources offline on water security, including the effects of diverting water between communities; the social, economic and logistical implications of such diversions, and the challenges posed by PFAS contamination to water availability, drought management and emergency supply planning, and
 - (o) any other related matters.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of seven members comprising:
- (a) three government members
 - (b) two opposition members, and
 - (c) two crossbench members, being Ms Faehrmann and Mr Martin.
- (3) That the Chair of the committee be Ms Faehrmann and the Deputy Chair be Mr Martin.
- (4) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
- (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales
 - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration
 - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential
 - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement
 - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between Opposition, crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each
 - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published
 - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness
 - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and
 - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.
- (5) That the committee report by 20 June 2025.

[Resolved 25 September 2024, Minutes No 72, Item 36]