



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Inquiry into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies throughout New South Wales

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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 the committee report by 20 August 2025.¹

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 25 September 2024.²

Committee membership

Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Taylor Martin MLC	Independent	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Greg Donnelly MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Cameron Murphy MLC	Australian Labor Party	

¹ The original reporting date was 20 June 2025 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 25 September 2024, item 36). The reporting date was later extended to 20 August 2025 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 February 2025, item 7).

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 25 September 2024, item 36.