



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 – INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT

MEDIA RELEASE

WATER INQUIRY RECOMMENDS LONG-TERM WATER EQUATION FOR THE STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 May 2018

An Upper House committee inquiring into the augmentation of water supply for rural and regional New South Wales today tabled its report, urging the NSW Government, as a matter of urgency, to develop a long-term water equation for the state.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Brown MLC, said: “Water is an essential resource that is vital to the lives and livelihood of our citizens. A long-term water equation for supply and demand is critical in allowing New South Wales to strategically plan for the future. The state’s population and the global population will continue to grow. Water is required not just for drinking purposes, but also to ensure that agricultural production is sustainable and meets the increasing demand for food. I urge the NSW Government to undertake the work required to secure our water supply for the next 50 years”.

The report examines: projects to secure water for the future including the Broken Hill pipeline; stakeholder views on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and its impacts on agricultural production and socio-economic development of regional communities in New South Wales; and managed aquifer recharge as a potential scheme for the augmentation of water. Other issues considered include: the allocation of water, the water market and water pricing; flood mitigation tools; the environmental impacts of cold water pollution and bank slumping; and international case studies that look at how other countries are addressing water supply issues.

The Chair said, “The committee has made 51 recommendations to government which reflect twenty-six months of hearings, deliberations, case studies, and the consideration of around 118 submissions to the inquiry”.

Mr Brown continued: “The recommendations contained in this report all seek to improve the availability, reliability and affordability of water for the citizens of New South Wales”.

For a full copy of the committee’s report and other inquiry documents please visit the committee’s webpage: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/waterinquiry.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC, on 9230 2573.