PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## CANNABIS COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARINGS AT THE NSW PARLIAMENT AND LISMORE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 16 AUGUST 2024

The Upper House committee tasked with inquiring into the impact of the regulatory framework for cannabis in New South Wales will hold its second and third hearings on Monday 19 August at the NSW Parliament and Tuesday 20 August at Invercauld House, Goonellabah.

At the Monday hearing, the committee will hear from various legal bodies, medical experts, academics, medicinal cannabis companies and Uniting NSW/ACT.

The Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC, Committee Chair, said: 'The committee looks forward to hearing from a range of experts concerning cannabis regulation. It is clear from the evidence so far that our current laws have not worked in the past, and are not working now. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses on how cannabis regulation can be fair, practical and reasonable for all the community.'

The committee will then travel to Lismore on the Tuesday where it will hear from a cultivator and manufacturer of medicinal cannabis, academics, activists, a legal service, Ted Noffs Foundation, and importantly, people with lived experience.

Mr Buckingham continued: 'People with lived experience of the unfair impacts of cannabis laws are critical to this inquiry. We have heard about barriers to accessing medicinal cannabis, driving laws that negatively impact people who require medicinal cannabis, and the unfair application of the Cannabis Cautioning Scheme. It is important that the committee hear directly from regional stakeholders who can provide personal insights into this important issue.'

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearings in-person or watch via the broadcast live on the NSW Parliament's <u>website</u>.

More information about the inquiry can be found at the inquiry webpage.

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