



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO BILL AMENDING THE BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SCHEME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
23 AUGUST 2024

An upper house inquiry has been established to examine the Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024.

The bill introduces a range of amendments to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. This scheme, established in 2016, provides a mechanism to avoid, minimise and offset the impacts of development and some types of clearing on biodiversity in New South Wales. The bill is intended to amend the scheme by increasing transparency and fairness, providing clearer guidance for industry, reducing regulatory burdens for low-risk local development, and requiring the scheme to deliver overall net positive outcomes over time.

Chair of the committee, Ms Sue Higginson MLC, said: 'The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme is an important component of the environmental protection framework in New South Wales. However, several reports – including one by this committee two years ago – have found there are serious failures with the scheme. The committee will be carefully looking at whether this bill makes the right changes to ensure the scheme truly meets its objective of protecting biodiversity in New South Wales'.

Have your say

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders, which can be lodged on the committee's [website](#). An [online questionnaire](#) is also available for members of the public to contribute their views on the bill. The submission portal and online questionnaire will both close on Friday 6 September 2024, with the committee to hold a public hearing in mid-September.

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be found on the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Sue Higginson MLC, on 9230 2273