

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

New parliamentary inquiry into the infrastructure contributions reforms

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Infrastructure contributions are the focus of a new parliamentary inquiry.

The Upper House inquiry will examine proposed amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as part of the NSW Government's broader reforms to the infrastructure contributions system, which is due to be in implemented and in place by 1 July 2022.

The proposed amendments, outlined in the <u>Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment</u> (<u>Infrastructure Contributions</u>) <u>Bill 2021</u>, will include the following reforms:

- a regional infrastructure contributions system to collect levies on development in Greater Sydney,
 Central Coast, Hunter and the Illawarra Shoalhaven while preserving existing special infrastructure contribution arrangements
- requiring owners who benefit from their land being rezoned for development to contribute towards the provision of land for local infrastructure when their land is either sold or developed
- greater transparency and accessibility for Planning Agreements
- incentives for councils to fund infrastructure upfront, allowing councils to borrow and pool their funds.

Chairing the Planning and Environment Committee's inquiry is Cate Faehrmann MLC, who said the inquiry will "gather evidence from key stakeholders on the implications of each amendment under this Bill. It will enable us to determine if the amendments are appropriate and whether they will in fact enhance the infrastructure contributions system. We encourage all interested stakeholders to make a submission to this inquiry."

Submissions are open until Sunday 11 July 2021 and can be lodged via the committee's website <u>here</u>. Further details about the reforms to the infrastructure contributions system and the implications of the Bill can be found on the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website <u>here</u>.

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