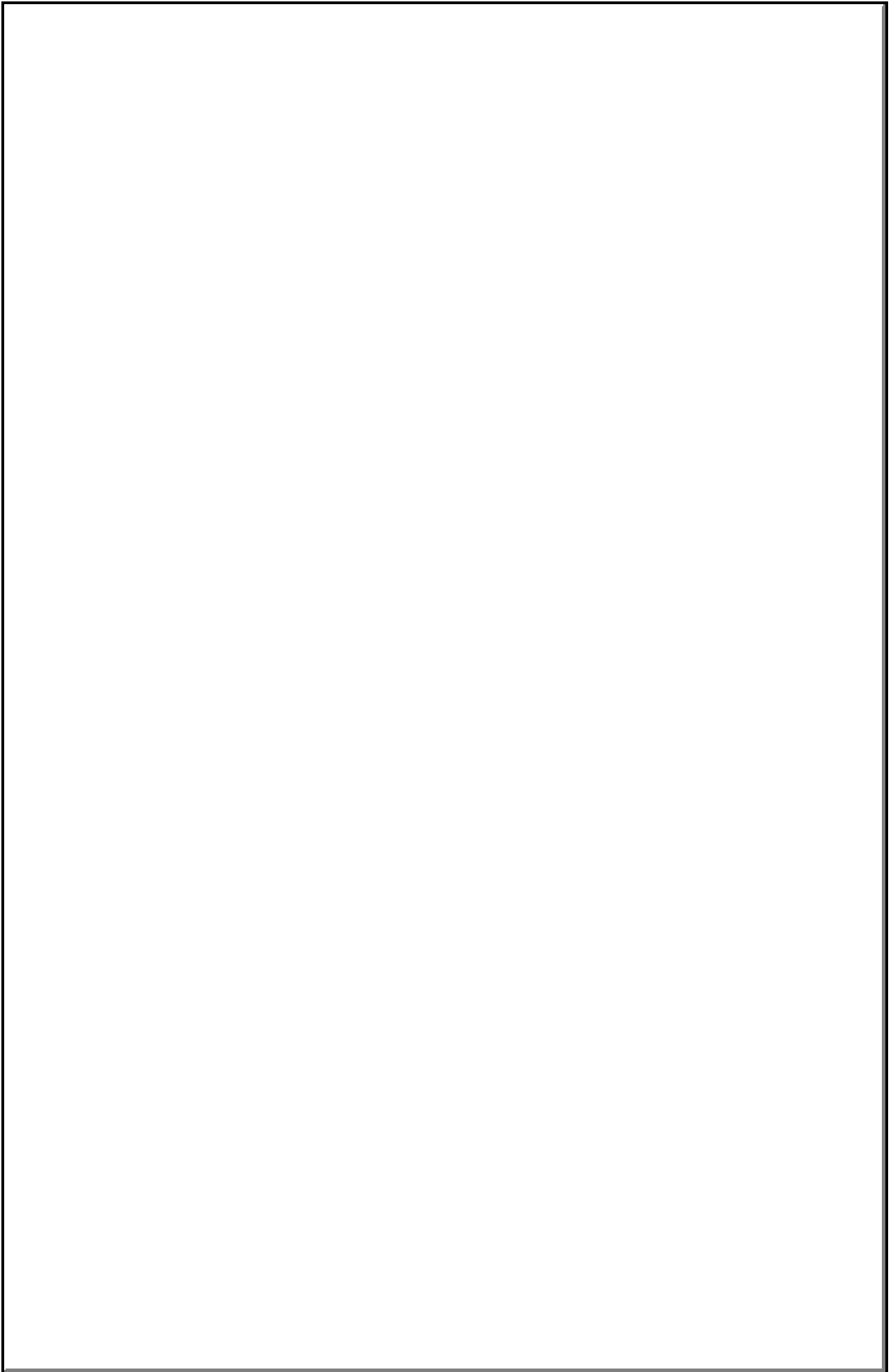




CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The Standing Committee on State Development received the reference for the Advisory Bodies Inquiry on 5 December 1996. This reference brought the total number of references before the Standing Committee at that time to five. To ensure that the Advisory Bodies Inquiry could be given proper consideration, the Standing Committee resolved to form a Sub-committee to deal with the reference and report back to the full Standing Committee prior to tabling its findings.

In late December 1996, the Committee advertised for public submissions. The Committee received a total of 29 submissions from recreational and commercial fishers, environmental groups, and NSW Fisheries. Evidence was also obtained from 16 witnesses during two public hearings held in February 1997.

Chapter One of this report provides background to the Inquiry, with a brief history of fisheries advisory bodies in New South Wales up to the introduction of the *Advisory Bodies Act* and evidence in relation to the role of advisory bodies. Chapter Two outlines the reasons for moving to the new advisory body system, including perceived problems with both the previous advisory bodies and the new structure. Chapter Three describes in detail the major provisions of the *Advisory Bodies Act* and associated Regulations. Chapter Four outlines the views of recreational and commercial fishers, environmental groups, and relevant Government authorities in relation to the composition of advisory bodies. Chapter Five provides a comparison of the various fisheries advisory structures within Australia, while Chapter Six sets out the Standing Committee's conclusions and recommendations arising from the Inquiry.

In my capacity as Chair and on behalf of the Members of the State Development Committee I would like to thank the Secretariat staff involved in the research and preparation of this report. Thanks must go to the Director, Stewart Webster, the Senior Project Officer, Michael Lowry, and the Committee Officer, Annie Marshall.

I would also like to thank all of those individuals and organisations who gave of their time and expertise to lodge submissions and appear before the Committee.

Hon Patricia Staunton, AM, MLC
Chairman

