

ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In June 1988, the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament resolved to establish two Standing Committees, the Standing Committee on Social Issues and the Standing Committee on State Development. After the 1995 elections, a third Committee, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, was established as well.

The Standing Committee on Privilege and Ethics, which does not have a Secretariat, was also reconstituted by resolution.

The functions of the State Development Committee, as set out in the Resolutions of the Legislative Council, are to inquire into, consider and report to the Council on:

- options for future policy directions and emerging issues to ensure that opportunities for sound growth and wise development for the benefit of the people in all areas of New South Wales are pursued;
- any proposal, matter or thing concerned with economics and finances, resources and energy, transportation, tourism, public administration, local government, the Olympics, primary industry, industrial and technological developments and environmental issues in New South Wales;
- employment practices, issues and conditions; and
- any proposal, matter or thing concerned with the problems or disadvantages uniquely or predominantly experienced in country areas, including the viability of cities and towns in those areas.

OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

Matters for inquiry may be referred to the Committee by:

- resolution of the Legislative Council
- a Minister of the Crown
- way of relevant annual reports and petitions.

The Committee reports to the Legislative Council. The Committee's reports may include draft Bills designed to give effect to the report's recommendations. The Committee may publish papers and evidence taken in public, as it considers appropriate. In that connection the Committee may prepare and distribute discussion papers as aids to its inquiries.

Committee reports must be laid before the Legislative Council within ten days of their being adopted by the Committee. The reports are given precedence for debate during General Business.

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council is required to respond within six months to any recommendations for Government action that have been set out in Standing Committee reports.

In terms of the Legislative Council resolution establishing the Committee, the Committee may:

- summon witnesses
- make inspections
- call upon the services of government organisations and their staff, with the consent of the appropriate Minister

- accept written submissions concerning inquiries from any person or organisation
- conduct public hearings
- meet and make joint reports with other Committees of the legislatures of the Commonwealth and the States.