

Media Release

NSW Legislative Council

Select Committee on Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform



30 March 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO RURAL HOUSING AND SECOND DWELLINGS REFORM – REPORT TABLED

A NSW Upper House committee has today tabled its final report for its inquiry into rural housing and second dwellings reform.

The report makes six recommendations to the NSW Government, with a primary focus on amending existing statewide planning policies and legislation to ease current restrictions and regulations on second dwellings in rural areas.

The Hon John Ruddick MLC stated, 'The reforms proposed within this report to liberalise the construction of second dwellings on rural and conservation zoned land present an opportunity to make a meaningful difference. By removing unnecessary barriers and providing clear, consistent pathways, the New South Wales Government can enable second dwellings to become a viable and practical solution for many rural landholders. This in turn will help to ease housing concerns and support stronger, more connected communities, while providing significant economic benefits'.

The inquiry received 292 submissions and heard from 30 witnesses over the course of three public hearings, one of which was held in Tweed Heads. The committee also conducted site visits in the Hawkesbury region.

Mr Ruddick said 'I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this inquiry by writing submissions or appearing at hearings. We heard valuable perspectives from landowners, farmers, planning and community organisations, local councils and the NSW Government. It was especially important to hear from individuals with firsthand experience of seeking council approval for a second dwelling. The evidence clearly demonstrates a significant and urgent need for rural housing reform'.

Details concerning the inquiry, and a copy of the final report, can be found by following this link:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=338#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

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