

40TH PARLIAMENT



Report 51

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Terms of Reference: Inquiry into the functions, processes and procedures
of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs*

Presented by
Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC (Chairman)
September 2019

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Members as at the time of this inquiry:

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC (Chairman)

Hon Samantha Rowe MLC

Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC

Hon Colin Holt MLC (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Tim Clifford MLC

Staff as at the time of this inquiry:

Alex Hickman, LLB (Advisory Officer (Legal))

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ISBN 978-1-925578-78-2



1 Reference and Procedure

Inquiry pursuant to Standing Order 179

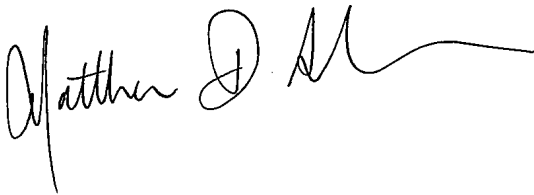
1.1 On 18 September 2019, the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs resolved as follows:

To inquire into the environment and petitions functions of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs to ensure they are best practice and fit for purpose.

1.2 In particular, the Committee will examine:

- (a) the role of petitions in a modern parliament;
- (b) the Committee's practice and procedure in inquiring into petitions referred by the Legislative Council;
- (c) the Committee's practice and procedure in carrying out its environment function;
- (d) the approach of other parliamentary committees in carrying out environment and petitions functions; and
- (e) any other matters considered relevant by the Committee.

1.3 The Committee intends to table its report by the end of the 40th Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Swinbourn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC

Chairman

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Date first appointed:

23 May 2017

Terms of Reference:

The following is an extract from Schedule 1 of the Legislative Council Standing Orders:

'2. Environment and Public Affairs Committee

- 2.1 *An Environment and Public Affairs Committee is established.*
- 2.2 The Committee consists of 5 Members.
- 2.3 The functions of the Committee are to inquire into and report on –
 - (a) any public or private policy, practice, scheme, arrangement, or project whose implementation, or intended implementation, within the limits of the State is affecting, or may affect, the environment;
 - (b) any Bill referred by the Council; and
 - (c) petitions.
- 2.4 The Committee, where relevant and appropriate, is to assess the merit of matters or issues arising from an inquiry in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the minimisation of harm to the environment.
- 2.5 The Committee may refer a petition to another Committee where the subject matter of the petition is within the competence of that Committee.
- 2.6 In this order "environment" has the meaning assigned to it under section 3 (1) and (2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.'



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