



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## From trailblazing women to the rise of the crossbench: new seminar series dives into NSW Upper House milestones

On April 18, NSW Parliament is hosting an exciting evening conversation exploring the ground-breaking milestones and change-making trailblazers across two centuries of the NSW Legislative Council.

**Then & Now: People, Power and Representation** will bring together former and current members of the NSW Legislative Council for an entertaining conversation unpacking the turning points and human stories behind the Council's colourful history. The event is the first in a special Bicentenary Seminar Series to mark this year's 200th anniversary of Australia's very first legislature.

President of the NSW Legislative Council The Hon Ben Franklin MLC said the Bicentenary offers a valuable opportunity to engage the broader NSW community in the stories, people and events that have shaped today's Council.

"The Council has come a long way since its origins as a five-member appointed advisory council to the Governor to become the democratically-elected, 42-member-strong, robust House of Review we know today. It's a journey that's had its challenges and complexities, including several attempts to abolish the Council.," President Franklin said.

"This seminar will uncover the incredible stories, achievements and people that contributed to the Council we can all feel proud of today – a valuable institution of parliamentary democracy in NSW. Reflecting on our past inspires us to imagine how we can continue forging a diverse, representative and effective Upper House of the future."

The panel discussion will be chaired by current President, Ben Franklin and will feature former and current Council members from across the political spectrum to share their fascinating stories, experiences and aspirations.

- **Dr Meredith Burgmann**, former President of the Legislative Council (Labor)
- **Dr Peter Phelps**, former Member of the Legislative Council (Liberal)
- **The Hon Robert Borsak MLC** (Shooters Fishers Farmers)

- **Ms Abigail Boyd MLC** (The Greens)
- **The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC**, Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources (Labor)
- **The Hon Chris Rath MLC** (Liberal)

The event takes place on Thursday 18 April, 6:00-7:30pm at NSW Parliament House, 6 Macquarie St, Sydney. Bookings are essential. Tickets are \$20 – register to secure your spot: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/seminar-then-now-people-power-and-representation-tickets-870790286187>

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