

New South Wales

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1965

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION:**—The House met at Twelve o'clock at Noon, pursuant to a Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, bearing date the fourteenth day of July, 1965.

Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

Mr. Speaker offered the Prayer.

The Clerk, by direction of Mr. Speaker, read a copy of the said Proclamation, as follows:—

"NEW SOUTH WALES,
"TO WIT.
"(L.S.)
"E. W. WOODWARD,
"Governor.

By His Excellency Sir ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Knight of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Lieutenant-General on the Retired List of the Australian Military Forces, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

"WHEREAS the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of the State of New South Wales now stand prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of July, 1965: Now I, Lieutenant-General Sir ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, in pursuance of the power and authority in me vested as Governor of the said State, do hereby further prorogue the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly to Tuesday, the twenty-fourth day of August, 1965; And I do further announce and proclaim that the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly shall assemble for the despatch of business on the aforesaid twenty-fourth day of August, 1965, at 12 o'clock at noon, in the buildings known as the Legislative Council Chambers situate in Macquarie Street, in the City of Sydney: And the Members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly respectively are hereby required to give their attendance at the said time and place accordingly.

"Given under my Hand and Seal, at Sydney, this fourteenth day of July, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, and in the fourteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

"By His Excellency's Command,

"R. W. ASKIN.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!"

24 August, 1965

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR:—The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered the following Message:—

"Mr. Speaker,—

"I have it in command to inform you that it is the pleasure of the "Lieutenant-Governor that this Honourable House do attend His Excellency "immediately in the Legislative Council Chamber."

The House went, and being returned,—

Mr. Speaker left the Chair at Five minutes before One o'clock, p.m., until Half-past Two o'clock, p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair at the hour named.

3. ASSUMPTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SIR KENNETH STREET, K.C.M.G., K.St.J., LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES:—

- (1.) Mr. Speaker reported the following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:—

K. W. STREET,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Message No. 1.

The Honourable Sir Kenneth Street, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New South Wales, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that, consequent on Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward ceasing to be Governor of New South Wales on the 31st July, 1965, he this morning took the Oath of Allegiance and the Official and Judicial Oath before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and assumed the administration of the Government of the State.

*Government House,
Sydney, 3rd August, 1965.*

- (2.) Mr. Askin moved, That the following Resolution in acknowledgement of His Excellency's Message be adopted by this House, and transmitted to His Excellency:—

That this House desires to express its thanks to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for his Message of 3rd August, 1965, informing Members that, consequent on Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward ceasing to be Governor of New South Wales on 31st July, 1965, he had assumed the administration of the Government of New South Wales on 3rd August, 1965.

The Motion having been seconded by Mr. Renshaw,—

Question put and passed.

4. VACANCY IN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE STATE IN THE SENATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA:—

- (1.) The following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was delivered by Mr. Askin, and read by Mr. Speaker:—

K. W. STREET,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Message No. 2.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly copy of a despatch dated 21st July, 1965, from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia notifying that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the State of New South Wales in the Senate of the Commonwealth through the resignation of Senator the Honourable Sir William Henry Spooner, K.C.M.G., M.M.

The Lieutenant-Governor also desires to inform the Legislative Assembly that on the 4th August, 1965, with the advice of the Executive Council, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 15 of the Commonwealth Constitution, he appointed Robert Carrington Cotton, Esquire, to hold the place in the Senate of the Commonwealth rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable Sir William Henry Spooner until the expiration of fourteen days after the beginning of the next session of the Parliament of the State of New South Wales or until the election of a successor, whichever first happens.

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Pursuant also to Section 15 of the Commonwealth Constitution the Lieutenant-Governor has certified the name of the said Robert Carrington Cotton, Esquire, to His Excellency the Administrator as having been appointed as aforesaid.

*Government House,
Sydney, 10th August, 1965.*

*Government House,
Canberra, A.C.T.
21st July, 1965.*

My dear Governor,

On 14th July, 1965, Senator the Honourable Sir William Henry Spooner, K.C.M.G., M.M., a Senator for the State of New South Wales, resigned his place in the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and that place therefore becomes vacant. Sir William Spooner's term of service had been due to expire on 30th June, 1968.

In accordance with Section 21 of the Constitution I write to notify you that the vacancy has happened. In doing so, may I invite your attention to the provisions of Section 15 of the Constitution relating to the choosing or appointment of a person to replace a Senator whose place becomes vacant before the expiration of his term of service.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY ABEL SMITH.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.,
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., K.St.J.,
Government House,
Sydney. N.S.W.

- (2.) Mr. Askin moved, That this House meet the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable Sir William Henry Spooner.

The Motion having been seconded by Mr. Renshaw,—

Question put and passed.

- (3.) Mr. Askin moved, That the following Message be forwarded to the Legislative Council:—

Mr. PRESIDENT,—

The Legislative Assembly having resolved to meet the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable Sir William Henry Spooner, requests the Legislative Council to name the place and hour for such meeting.

*Legislative Assembly Chamber,
Sydney, 24th August, 1965.*

Question put and passed.

5. ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES:—

- (1.) Mr. Speaker reported the following Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:—

K. W. STREET,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Message No. 3.

In pursuance of section seven of the Constitution (Legislative Council Elections) Act, 1932-1961, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to inform the Legislative Assembly that he has this day, with the advice of the Executive Council, issued under that Act a Writ for the election of a Member of the Legislative Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Honourable Michael Thomas Leslie Quinn.

The Writ is directed to Major-General John Rowlstone Stevenson, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., Clerk of the Parliaments of the State of New South Wales, Returning Officer for the Election of Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

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This Message is accompanied by a copy of the Writ.

In order that both Houses of Parliament may be duly informed of the issue of the Writ, a like Message is this day being addressed by the Lieutenant-Governor to the President of the Legislative Council.

*Government House,
Sydney, 24th August, 1965.*

Mr. Speaker announced that the Message was accompanied by a copy of the Writ.

Mr. Speaker then directed the Clerk to read the Writ, which was as follows:—

WRIT FOR THE ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

*"Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Australia
"and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth,
"Defender of the Faith,*

*"TO MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN ROWLSTONE STEVENSON, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.,
"Clerk of the Parliaments of the State of New South Wales, Returning
"Officer for the Election of Members of the Legislative Council of Our
"State of New South Wales—*

"Greeting:

*"WHEREAS the Honourable MICHAEL THOMAS LESLIE QUINN was duly elected
"a Member of the Legislative Council with a term of service expiring on the
"twenty-second day of April, one thousand nine hundred and seventy; AND
"WHEREAS the seat of the said Honourable MICHAEL THOMAS LESLIE QUINN
"has become vacant by reason of his death on the twelfth day of July, one
"thousand nine hundred and sixty-five: NOW, THEREFORE, WE, with the advice
"of the Executive Council and by virtue of the powers vested in Us, do, in and
"by this Our Writ, direct you, JOHN ROWLSTONE STEVENSON, to conduct in
"the manner by law provided an election of a Member to Our Legislative
"Council to fill the seat which has thus become vacant.*

*"AND We do hereby appoint the first day of September, one thousand
"nine hundred and sixty-five as the day on or before which all nominations
"of candidates at the election shall be made and the ninth day of September,
"one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five as the day upon which sittings of
"the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly shall be held for the
"purpose of taking the votes: and that the taking of votes at such sittings shall
"commence at eleven o'clock in the forenoon and shall terminate at one o'clock
"in the afternoon.*

*"AND We do further direct and appoint that this Our Writ shall be
"returnable to Our Lieutenant-Governor upon the twenty-third day of Septem-
"ber, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five.*

*"IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused this Our Writ to be sealed
"with the Public Seal of Our said State.*

*"WITNESS Our Trusty and Well-beloved the Honourable SIR KENNETH
"WHISTLER STREET, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order
"of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight of Grace of the Most
"Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Lieutenant-Governor of the
"State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth
"of Australia, at Sydney, in Our said State, this twenty-fourth day of
"August, in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, and in
"the fourteenth year of Our Reign.*

*"K. W. STREET,
"Lieutenant-Governor.*

*"By His Excellency's Command,
"R. W. ASKIN."*

- (2.) Mr. Speaker directed that the taking of the votes of Members in the Legislative Assembly for the Election of a Member of the Legislative Council be set down as an Order of the Day for the day of the ballot appointed in the Writ mentioned in His Excellency's Message of 24th August, 1965, viz., 9th September, 1965.

Mr. Speaker intimated that on such day the taking of the votes would take precedence of all other business.

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6. **SPEAKER'S COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE:**—Mr. Speaker reported that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to issue a Commission, under the Public Seal of the State, empowering him, as Speaker, to administer, from time to time as occasion may require, to any Member of the Legislative Assembly to whom the same shall not have been previously administered, the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, which Commission was as follows:—

"By His Excellency Sir ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Knight of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Lieutenant-General on the Retired List of the Australian Military Forces, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

"TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,

"Greeting:

"IN pursuance of the authority in me vested in that behalf, I, Lieutenant-General Sir ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, as Governor of the State of New South Wales, do, with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, hereby authorise the Honourable KEVIN ELLIS, LL.B., B.Ec., M.L.A., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the said State, to administer, from time to time as occasion may require, to any Member of the said Legislative Assembly to whom the same shall not have been previously administered, the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, required by law to be taken or made and subscribed by every such Member before he shall be permitted to sit or vote or sit and vote as the case may be in the said Legislative Assembly.

"Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the State, at Sydney, in the State of New South Wales aforesaid, this thirtieth day of July, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, and in the fourteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

"E. W. WOODWARD,
"Governor.

"By His Excellency's Command,
"R. W. ASKIN."

7. **DEPUTY-SPEAKER'S COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE:**—Mr. Speaker reported that he had received a Commission, under the Public Seal of the State, signed by His Excellency the Governor, empowering Geoffrey Robertson Crawford, Esquire, Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly, in the absence of the Honourable the Speaker, to administer from time to time as occasion may require, to any Member of the Legislative Assembly to whom the same shall not have been previously administered, the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, which Commission was as follows:—

"By His Excellency Sir ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Knight of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Lieutenant-General on the Retired List of the Australian Military Forces, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

"TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,

"Greeting:

"IN pursuance of the authority in me vested in that behalf, I, Lieutenant-General Sir ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, as Governor of the State of New South Wales, do, with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, hereby authorise GEOFFREY ROBERTSON CRAWFORD, Esquire, M.L.A., Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of the said State, in the absence of the Honourable the Speaker of the said Legislative Assembly, to administer, from time to time as occasion may require, to any Member of the said Legislative Assembly to whom the same shall not have been previously administered, the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, required by law to be taken or made and subscribed by every such Member before he shall be permitted to sit or vote or sit and vote as the case may be in the said Legislative Assembly.

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"Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the State, at Sydney, in the
 "State of New South Wales aforesaid, this thirtieth day of July, in the
 "year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, and in the
 "fourteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

"E. W. WOODWARD,
 "Governor.

"By His Excellency's Command,
 "R. W. ASKIN."

8. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES:—Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order No. 28A, nominated,—

Evelyn Douglas Darby, Esquire,
 Leon Ashton Punch, Esquire,
 James Bernard Southee, Esquire,
 John Lloyd Waddy, Esquire, and
 William Ernest Wattison, Esquire,

to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees during the present Session.

9. NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS:—Mr. Speaker called on Notices of Motions and Questions.

10. PAPER:—Mr. Morris laid upon the Table:—Report of the Committee appointed by the Governments of New South Wales and of the Commonwealth of Australia to inquire into New South Wales Intrastate Air Routes.

Ordered to be printed.

11. DEATH OF THE HONOURABLE ROY STANLEY VINCENT, A FORMER MINISTER OF THE CROWN:—Mr. Askin moved, That this House extends to Mrs. Vincent and family the sympathy and sorrow of Members of the Legislative Assembly in the loss they have sustained by the death of the Honourable Roy Stanley Vincent, a former Minister of the Crown.

The Motion having been seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and supported by Mr. Cutler, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Weiley,—

Question put and carried unanimously,—Members and Officers of the House standing.

12. DEATH OF THE HONOURABLE DAVID HENRY DRUMMOND, A FORMER MINISTER OF THE CROWN:—Mr. Askin moved, That this House extends to Mrs. Drummond and family the sympathy and sorrow of Members of the Legislative Assembly in the loss they have sustained by the death of the Honourable David Henry Drummond, a former Minister of the Crown.

And the Motion having been seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and supported by Mr. Hughes, Mr. Heffron, Mr. Bruxner and Mr. Cutler,—

Question put and carried unanimously,—Members and Officers of the House standing.

13. DEATH OF DONALD STEWART FRASER, ESQUIRE, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—Mr. Askin moved, That this House extends to Mrs. Fraser the sympathy and sorrow of Members of the Legislative Assembly in the loss she has sustained by the death of Donald Stewart Fraser, Esquire, a former Member of this House.

And the Motion having been seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and supported by Mr. Jago, Mr. Landa, Mr. McCaw, Mr. Stephens and Mr. Brown,—

Question put and carried unanimously,—Members and Officers of the House standing.

14. *Pro formâ* BILL—LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL:—Mr. Askin presented a Bill, intituled "*A Bill to amend the law of evidence.*" and moved *pro formâ*, That this Bill be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

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15. **THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH:**—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had this day attended the Lieutenant-Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to deliver an Opening Speech to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, he had obtained a copy, which he laid upon the Table of the House, and ordered that it be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*, as follows:—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

It is my pleasure and privilege to address you today at the opening of the Second Session of the Forty-first Parliament of New South Wales.

After a period of eight years in office, Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward relinquished his office as Governor on the 31st July, last.

During these eight years, Sir Eric served the State as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen with dignity and distinction and carried out the duties and functions of his high office with a keen sense of responsibility and great ability.

I am sure that Honourable Members and all the people of New South Wales join with me in extending to Sir Eric and Lady Woodward our best wishes for their health and happiness in their retirement.

The General Election held earlier this year resulted in a new Ministry assuming office. My Ministers are deeply conscious of the trust which has been reposed in them by the people of this State and their efforts will be resolutely directed towards ensuring the general welfare of the people and the continued progress and development of the State. It is their firm intention to give effect to the policies on which they were elected as quickly as practicable.

To those Members who have been newly elected to the Legislative Assembly I extend my congratulations on the opportunity afforded them of devoting their talents and energies to the service of the community in the Parliament of this State.

Since the last meeting of this Parliament in May the deaths have occurred of the Honourable Michael Thomas Leslie Quinn and the Honourable Leon Samuel Snider, Members of the Legislative Council. We mourn the passing of these Members who rendered devoted and valued service in the public affairs of the State.

While employment and activity within the State in the fields of commerce and secondary industry have generally continued at a satisfactory level, widespread drought conditions which have been experienced over many months have had a serious effect on primary industry.

No less than 44 of the 59 Pastures Protection Districts throughout the State have been declared drought stricken areas. This clearly indicates the extent and seriousness of the drought conditions which have existed and which still exist in most districts.

Due to these conditions it is anticipated that the State's wheat harvest is likely to be less than one-half of last season's yield.

Many pastoralists have been involved in heavy stock losses and in meeting the costs of transporting fodder and stock over long distances.

The Government has taken a number of special measures to assist with drought problems. These include the provision of substantial subsidies for the conveyance of stock for agistment to more favourable areas and also for the carriage of fodder from interstate and local sources. Arrangements have also been made for the purchase by farmers in necessitous circumstances of wheat on terms for stock feeding and also for the provision of finance at concessional rates of interest to assist dairy farmers with their special problems.

The effects of the drought have not only been felt by the primary producers directly concerned, but must be reflected in the economy generally and the impact on State finances in the current financial year will be considerable.

The Government is not only faced with the necessity to provide for costly freight concessions and other relief measures, but at the same time must anticipate that its revenues, including railway revenue and port charges, will be adversely affected.

These difficulties have arisen at a time when general economic conditions are being affected also by the need for greater Commonwealth expenditure on defence and by various external factors which are influencing Australia's balance of payments position.

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Since they assumed office a little over three months ago, my Ministers have implemented several of their undertakings and have initiated action in respect of many more.

Problems associated with law reform have received close attention and a full-time Law Reform Commission has been established.

In addition to reporting on draft legislation, the Commission will consider such questions as the provision of reasonable rights of appeal for individuals who have been harshly or unjustly treated by executive or administrative decision and the reduction of the age of legal disability below twenty-one.

My advisers regard the establishment of the Commission as an important step towards ensuring the preservation of basic human rights and freedoms.

It is proposed also to provide for the payment, in appropriate cases, of the costs incurred by an accused person in defending a charge on which he is subsequently acquitted and an additional Public Defender has been appointed to assist in the representation of accused persons in criminal matters.

The vital role of primary industry in the economy is recognised by the Government and considerable activity in this field is planned.

The prevailing drought conditions have emphasised the importance of pasture improvement and fodder conservation and special attention will be given to these aspects in the extension work of the Department of Agriculture.

It is proposed to make the extension services of the Department available to landholders in the Western Division of the State and appropriate officers will be stationed at Bourke.

Plans for achieving effective control of noxious weeds are under review whilst increased attention is to be given to animal production research, cotton breeding, control of fruit fly, and the many aspects of research into pastoral and agriculture problems at the various Research Stations conducted by the Department.

During the current financial year every endeavour will be made to expedite work on the major water supply undertakings at Blowering Dam, Wyangala Dam and Burrendong Dam. The latter work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Investigations are currently in hand with a view to the determination of a balanced programme of water storage works throughout the State.

Soil conservation work has been intensified.

Proposals for a substantial expansion of softwood plantings are at present the subject of discussion with the Commonwealth Government.

My advisers place great importance on the need for balanced development of the State as a whole and a new portfolio of Decentralisation and Development has been created.

The establishment of a Rural Development Fund is planned to assist in the establishment or expansion of industries in country centres. It is also proposed to establish a Development Corporation comprising leaders of commerce and industry, to assist the Government with advice on matters affecting the development of the State including the attraction of overseas capital and industry.

Having regard to the wide national implications of the principles of decentralisation, my Ministers plan to intensify efforts to secure the co-operation of the Commonwealth Government in a joint approach to the formulation of a practical programme of decentralisation of population and industry and in the subsequent implementation of the measures agreed upon.

Ministers are adopting a realistic approach to traffic problems. The ineffectual tow-away system in Sydney and Newcastle has been abolished and more appropriate measures adopted to deter the illegal parking of vehicles in city streets.

Bus services are being improved and proposals designed to speed up bus travel are now under review. An investigation into the co-ordination of bus, train and ferry services is also in hand.

The electrification of the Liverpool-Campbelltown railway line will be proceeded with at an estimated cost of £2 million and a high level double track railway bridge will be provided over the George's River at Como. Detailed preparations are proceeding towards providing a railway to serve the Eastern Suburbs.

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My Ministers are gravely concerned with the problem of road safety. More police are being made available for traffic duties and the issue of provisional licences to new drivers and stricter supervision over the sale of vehicles which may be mechanically defective are part of a campaign to reduce the present toll of the road. The Government is determined to pursue all practical means, however drastic, in an endeavour to achieve greater safety on the roads.

Education and public health are receiving special attention.

A new bursary scheme will be introduced for students entering fifth form in secondary schools at the beginning of next year and will carry on into the sixth form. Details of this scheme will be announced shortly.

Action has been initiated to provide free transport for children who have to travel more than two miles to their nearest appropriate school. As a first step, free transport is to be provided for children in all country areas of the State as from the commencement of the 1966 school year.

Other measures to provide better educational opportunities and facilities are planned.

My Ministers propose to undertake a comprehensive review of the hospital services provided in this State with the objective of bringing about the rationalisation and integration of services under which facilities will be centralised and costly duplication of services eliminated. This will involve regional grouping of hospitals which is expected to induce specialists to practise at country hospitals.

The provision of adequate social welfare services is regarded by the Government as one of its essential tasks. Whilst bearing in mind the responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government in this field, it is the intention of my Ministers to improve and extend the range of services available to care for those members of the community who are least able to care for themselves and who are in large degree dependent on assistance available from the Government and the various voluntary social welfare organisations making an invaluable contribution in this area of community service.

Increases in the staff of the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare are proposed so that it may expand its work in the preventive field and provide support and counselling for intellectually handicapped persons and their families.

My Government recognises that adequate housing is a basic community need and emphasis is being placed on the maintenance of the Housing Commission's construction programme at the maximum level consistent with availability of finance and resources.

Slum clearance is being continued and additional long-range re-development projects are proposed.

The Government has already taken action to increase to £4,250 the amount which building societies may lend where they operate with the aid of a Government guarantee.

A programme designed to provide new houses, improved sanitation and other amenities for aborigines will be undertaken.

My Ministers are strongly supporting co-operative activities generally. Credit unions are playing an important role in the community and their promotion will be actively encouraged.

A Royal Commission will shortly be appointed to inquire into the systems of land valuation, the financing of local government services and payment for the provision of essential services.

Other measures designed to strengthen local government and to assist councils in carrying out their functions are planned.

The demand for electricity on the New South Wales system continues to increase.

On the 24th June, 1965, the demand reached a new peak of 2,964,000 kilowatts, an increase of 12.7 per cent on last year's peak figure.

The Electricity Commission has entered into contracts for the supply of sufficient generating plant, transmission and distribution equipment for the augmentation of its supply system in the expectation that the demand for electricity over the next five years will continue to increase at the present high rate.

Other community services are also being expanded and continuing emphasis is being placed by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board and the Hunter District Water Board on the development and augmentation of their water supply and sewerage services.

24 August, 1965

This financial year, because of the problems brought about by the prevailing dry conditions in its catchment areas, emphasis is being placed by the Metropolitan Board on water supply works, particularly the construction of the second pipeline from Warragamba Dam to Prospect Reservoir.

Despite the accent on water supply works the Board expects this year to make the sewerage service available to an additional 76,000 people.

An increase in the rate of construction of country water supply and sewerage schemes is also planned and a mass aerial survey of seventeen country towns has been authorised to step up the construction of new country sewerage installations estimated to cost more than £3 million.

Coal is of paramount importance to the economy, not only for domestic purposes such as electricity generation and the manufacture of iron and steel, but for the export trade. Plans and policies designed to strengthen and develop this vital industry will be progressively formulated and implemented.

My Ministers intend to stimulate the search for and development of all other forms of mining and prospecting by making increased financial assistance available to companies, syndicates and small mine operators and prospectors throughout the State.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

The budget for the financial year now current will shortly be placed before you and you will be asked to provide for the public services of the State. A carefully planned programme of public works and services has been drawn up and estimates of expenditure and amounts proposed to be voted from the General Loan Account for those works and services will also be submitted for your consideration.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

My Ministers have prepared a comprehensive programme of legislation which will be placed before you during the Session.

Several measures touching upon law reform are proposed, including Bills to establish an Appellate Court and to provide for the abolition of juries in certain cases.

Amendments to the Companies Act are also proposed.

The existing provisions relating to adoptions have been reviewed and you will be asked to consider a Bill to strengthen the present law.

I have referred to the grave concern felt by my advisers about the need for greater safety on the roads, and Bills to implement proposals directed towards a reduction in the number of road accidents will be submitted to you early in the Session.

You will be asked to endorse a Bill to provide for the application of decimal currency to monetary references in State law following the adoption of the decimal system of currency in February, 1966. Amendments to the Stamp Duties Act and other Acts will also be required.

Your approval will be sought to measures designed to encourage decentralisation and development in country areas, including a Bill for the establishment of a Rural Development Fund and the constitution of a Development Corporation.

My Ministers will also ask you to consider Bills relating to the primary industries.

A Bill to provide for the reconstitution of the Grain Elevators Board will be introduced and amendments to the Stock Diseases Act are proposed.

Another measure which my Ministers consider to be of importance will provide for the establishment of a Fish and Wildlife Commission.

You will also be asked to consider a National Parks Bill and a Bill to constitute a Geographic Names Board.

Amendments to the Local Government Act and the Crown Lands Act are also contemplated.

The provisions of the Factories, Shops and Industries Act are being reviewed and a Bill to amend the Act in certain respects will be submitted for your consideration.

Comprehensive amendments to the Industrial Arbitration Act are also being prepared and the Petroleum Products Subsidy Bill will be placed before you.

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You will be asked to consider a Bill to establish a Public Accounts Committee on lines similar to that constituted under the Commonwealth Public Accounts Committee Act.

Your approval will be sought to amendments of the Co-operation Act and the Housing Indemnities Act.

Other measures you will be asked to consider include amendments to the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act; the Landlord and Tenant Act; the Metropolitan and Hunter District Water, Sewerage and Drainage Acts; the Weights and Measures Act; and a number of Superannuation Acts.

Other measures will also be laid before you.

I now leave you to the discharge of your important duties with the earnest prayer that under Divine Guidance your labours may conduce to the welfare and happiness of all sections of the community.

Mr. Cohen moved, and Mr. Duncan seconded the Motion, That the following Address in Reply to the Speech which His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has addressed to both Houses of Parliament on opening this Session of the Parliament of New South Wales be now adopted by this House:—

To His Excellency the Honourable SIR KENNETH WHISTLER STREET, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech, and to assure you of our unfeigned attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person.

2. We beg to assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us, and that the necessary provision for the Public Services will be made in due course.

3. We join Your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

Mr. Renshaw moved, That this Debate be now adjourned.

Question put and passed.

Ordered by Mr. Speaker, That the resumption of the Debate stand an Order of the Day for To-morrow and take precedence of other Business.

16. ADJOURNMENT:—Mr. Willis moved, That this House do now adjourn until To-morrow at Half-past Two o'clock, p.m.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at Four minutes after Six o'clock, p.m., until To-morrow at Half-past Two o'clock, p.m.

ALLAN PICKERING,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

KEVIN ELLIS,
Speaker.