



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2019

Department of the Legislative Council

Key Projects for 2018-2019

## OVERVIEW

The Parliament of New South Wales consists of two Houses, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. Their members are directly elected by and accountable to the people of New South Wales.

The Legislative Council performs the traditional role of an upper house as a House of Review, acting as a check and balance on Executive Government.

The core business of the Department of the Legislative Council is to provide advisory, research and support services to the House and its committees.

This Strategic Plan 2015-2019 is based upon the six strategic objectives for the Parliament. The department undertakes a range of longer term projects with the aim of continually improving our ability to deliver our core work. Our key projects for 2015-2016 are set out in this document.

## OUR PURPOSE

The outcome for the people of New South Wales that we strive to achieve is for the Legislative Council to fulfil its role as a representative and legislative body. In order to achieve this result, the department will provide services to ensure:

1. The effective functioning of the House and its committees
2. Members of the Legislative Council are supported to fulfil their parliamentary roles
3. The community has access to the Legislative Council and is aware of the role and functions of the Council and the Parliament.

Underpinning the provision of these services is a commitment by us to ensure the development of a workforce with the capacity to provide professional and high quality service to members, staff and other client groups, and to working in collaboration with our colleagues in the departments of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Services.

## OUR VALUES

Legislative Council staff take pride in serving the Parliament of New South Wales. We believe in the importance of parliamentary institutions and the democratic process and we work to strengthen and foster respect for them.

We make great efforts to preserve the corporate memory and ensure institutional continuity, while continuing to innovate. We work together to provide professional, responsive and impartial support to the members of the Legislative Council and to other stakeholders.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND MAJOR INITIATIVES

## KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2018-19

### **Respond to the evolving role of members and the parliamentary institution by:**

Undertaking consultation and analysis of members' support requirements, providing effective infrastructure, systems and services to respond to the needs of members and the institution, improving timely information delivery to members through technology, and promoting professional development opportunities for members.

- Manage outgoing members, induction of new members and staff, opening of parliament
- Review of procedural support materials for members, ie Chairs/Presidents Ruling, review of online training modules, Precis of Business
- Report on trial committees - Selection of Bills, Regulation Committee, Public Works Committee and Public Accountability Committee
- Four- yearly review of resolutions establishing committees, sessional orders, review of the resolutions of continuing effect, particularly broadcasting resolution
- Complete the second edition of *New South Wales Legislative Council Practice* ready for publication in 2019.
- PIMS - Work with other parliamentary departments in the implementation of PIMS including upgrade to existing user interfaces to provide functionality for prorogation; further development of outstanding modules including Tabled Papers, House Papers, Q & A database and ministerial portal
- Publish on-line the *Annotated Standing Orders*
- Prepare a records management plan incorporating a project to enhance the metadata for digitised and historic records of the Parliament
- Publish and launch volume 4 of the Oral History project: the Cross Bench.

### **Increase involvement and awareness of NSW citizens about the Parliament and the parliamentary process by:**

Enhancing our community engagement strategy including use of social media and emerging technologies to communicate information, continuing to enhance the experience of visitors to Parliament House, enhancing outreach and education services, enhancing electronic access to parliamentary information, and fostering scholarship on the Parliament and parliamentary process.

- Implement and review the social media strategy
- Contribute with other Departments to the 2018 ANZAC exhibition
- In co-operation with DPS, develop a Diversity and Inclusion Plan, incorporating improved accessibility to committee inquiries by those with a disability
- Investigate opportunities to further build our partnership with NCOSS, including reaching regional communities and a workshop for Indigenous people.

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### **Better engagement with stakeholders by:**

Developing targeted education programs for public sector agencies and other major stakeholders, and continuing to enhance Executive Government awareness and understanding of parliamentary proceedings.

- Implement secondment program
- Investigate delivery of seminars on parliamentary privilege.

### **Promote strong stewardship and robust organisational resilience by:**

Continuing to advocate for appropriate funding as an independent entity consistent with the separation of powers, implementing strong fiscal discipline following reductions in operational funding, continuing to examine innovative and cost effective ways to deliver services to members, and enhancing our corporate risk management and resilience in a changing environment.

- Review of Department structure including updating all job descriptions
- Support the implementation of the Parliament's ethics regime changes arising from the current review of the Members' Code of Conduct.

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## KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2018-19

### **Optimise the Parliament's physical infrastructure by:**

Continually assessing security risks and improve systems, infrastructure and culture to ensure a secure environment while maintaining public accessibility, effectively managing a capital works program for Parliament House and other offices to function effectively as contemporary, safe and accessible workplaces, preserving, restoring and enhancing of the heritage of Parliament House, and continuing to innovate and adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

- Work with the other two Departments to identify emerging needs for inclusion in the annual review of the Masterplan.

### **Development of inter-parliamentary relationships and education by:**

Continuing our relationship, including capacity building with the National Parliament of the Solomon Islands and the Bougainville House of Representatives, as well as sharing our experience to advance parliamentary institutions generally, and supporting sister-state relationships and NSW trade opportunities through parliamentary diplomacy.

- Continue to pursue Twinning funding opportunities and further our relationships with the Bougainville House of Representatives and the National Parliament of Solomon Islands
- Develop a detailed strategic plan for Twinning in conjunction with the two twinned Parliaments.



## Department of the Legislative Council

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Preserve Corporate Memory • Ensure Institutional Continuity • Continue to Innovate