



The text of these
notices is subject to
change.



The Hon. Rachel Merton MLC

Member of the NSW Legislative Council

Notice of Motion

IOC BANS TRANS WOMEN

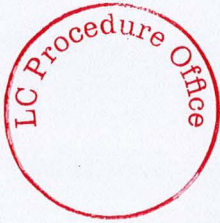
The Hon. RACHEL MERTON:

Mr PRESIDENT: I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

1. That this House notes the International Olympic Committee's recent decision to ban transgender women from competing in female Olympic events, following a scientific review confirming permanent physical advantages from male puberty, including up to 30% greater strength and 10-50% higher aerobic capacity retained post-hormone therapy.
2. That in New South Wales, where over 1.2 million women participate in community and elite sports annually, a similar ban would safeguard opportunities for female athletes, where transgender inclusion has raised safety risks.
3. That this House calls on the NSW Government to:
 - a) Endorse the IOC ban by reviewing state sports policies to ensure sex-based categories, prioritising fairness for female athletes.
 - b) Direct Sport NSW to audit transgender inclusion guidelines, mandating evidence-based assessments of physical advantages to prevent ideological overreach.
 - c) Recommend the NSW Minister for Sport to legislate protections for female-only categories in schools and community leagues, fostering family-oriented participation.

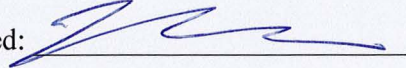
 Signed

13/11/25. Date



I request that this item be called over for formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: 

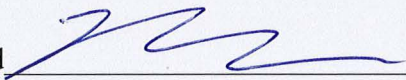
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Conduct of Business - Suspension of Standing Order 34—Hard Adjournment on Tuesday 18 November 2025

Ms Sharpe says—

Mr PRESIDENT: I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

That standing order 34 relating to the hard adjournment at 10.00 pm be suspended for Tuesday 18 November 2025 only.

Signed 

Dated 13/11/25



I request that this item be called over for formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: _____

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Dr Cohn says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

1) That this House notes that:

- a) General practitioners (GPs) play a vital role in keeping our communities healthy, delivering more than 170 million services across Australia last year, and ensuring that 99% of people were able to access care when they needed it;
- b) The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' 2025 Health of the Nation Report shows that:
 - i) GPs are managing more complex and time-intensive care than ever, including conditions that would otherwise be treated by specialists or in hospitals;
 - ii) GPs are the first point of contact for many people experiencing mental ill-health, providing holistic, whole-of-person care; and
 - iii) In rural and remote areas, where workforce shortages remain acute, general practice is often the only available point of care for entire communities.
- c) This essential work is being done under increasing pressure, with per-person government spending on GP care remaining flat for a decade, while costs to patients have risen; and
- d) More people, particularly young people and people in regional areas, are delaying or foregoing GP care due to cost.

2) That this House expresses its thanks to GPs and their teams across New South Wales for their commitment to their patients and communities, despite chronic underfunding, workforce shortages, and escalating workloads.

3) That this House calls on the Government to:

- a) Work with the Commonwealth to increase Medicare rebates for longer and more complex consultations;
- b) Support and strengthen primary care in New South Wales as the most effective way to prevent illness, reduce hospital demand, and deliver equitable access to healthcare.

Signed _____

Dated _____

13 Nov 2025



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Dr Cohn says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

(1) That this House notes that:

a) In February 2023, NSW Health entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sheba Medical Center in Israel for a period of 5 years, for the stated purposes of:

- i) Strengthening the relationship between the State of Israel and NSW, as well as the relationship between the Sheba Medical Center and NSW Ministry of Health, and
- ii) Encouraging cooperation in facilitating advances in health and medical research translation and communication to improve patient care, and
- iii) Broadening the scope of joint research activities and academic exchanges on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

b) In answers to Questions on Notice, the Minister for Health has stated that there have been no tangible undertakings under this MoU to date, as of 9 July 2025, and that conversations have been exploratory in nature.

c) The MoU may be terminated by either participant at any time.

c) The Sheba Medical Center provides rehabilitation for injured Israeli Defence Force soldiers and training for IDF medical staff.

d) A UN Special Commission of Inquiry has found that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute a genocide, concurring with earlier determinations by many genocide scholars and human rights organisations.

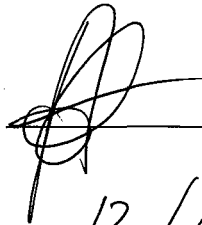
e) As a party to the Genocide Convention, Australia is required under international law to act to prevent genocide.

f) Polling released on 6 October 2025 found that a clear majority of the Australian public agree that there is a genocide happening in Gaza, that Israel should stop its attack on Gaza, and that Australia should impose sanctions on Israel similar to those imposed on Russia for its actions in Ukraine. Specifically, 58% agreed that Australia should stop all arms trade and agreements with Israel.

- (2) That this House calls on the Minister for Health to terminate the MoU between NSW Health and Sheba Medical Center.

Signed

Dated


13/11/25



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

I request that this item be called over for formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: _____

Dr Cohn says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

That this House notes the resounding and historic victory of Zohran Mamdani in the New York City mayoral election on a democratic socialist platform including commitments to:

- (a) Taxing millionaires more,
- (b) Freezing rents,
- (c) Providing free child care,
- (d) Providing free buses, and
- (e) Opening city-owned grocery stores.

Signed _____

Dated _____

13/11/2025



I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized letters, written over a horizontal line.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Buttigieg says—

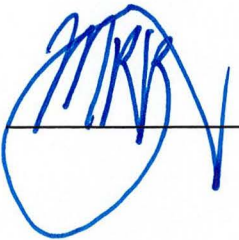
Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move that:

1. This House notes with great sadness the passing of Isaac Wattenberg at the age of only 25.
2. This House acknowledges:
 - a. Isaac was a staunch trade unionist with the Australian Services Union (ASU) a social worker and student activist.
 - b. Most notably, Isaac was one of the founding leaders of the Students Against Placement Poverty campaign which sought to end the practice of unpaid student placements. This campaign was informed by his experience working in an unpaid placement at Concord Mental Health Ward. He led the campaign whilst working at Unions NSW and with the support of the ASU, where he had also previously worked.
 - c. It was Isaac's fierce and constant activism and leadership which lead to the formation of a coalition with the Australian Council of Heads of Social Work and the ASU, again supported by Unions NSW. His relentless advocacy and hard work led to the Federal Government introducing a form of "paid pracs" for teachers, nurses and social workers.
3. That this House further remembers:

- a. Isaac was deeply passionate and committed to helping people and dedicated his life and his work to fighting for justice.
- b. Isaac will be remembered as an immensely loving and caring person with the best sense of humour. He will be missed dearly by his fellow unionists at the ASU and Unions NSW, his loving girlfriend Siena (who I note is here with us today) and all his friends and family.

4. Vale Isaac Wattenberg.

Signed  _____

Dated 13 Nov 2025



I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Overall".

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mrs Overall says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

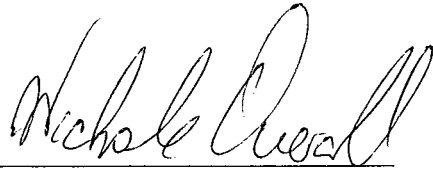
(1) That this House notes:

- (a) *at the Parliamentary Friends of Tourism NSW event on 12 November 2025, held in the Speakers Garden at the NSW Parliament House the township of Bungendore received a deserved mention for having been awarded Gold in the Top Tourism Town awards, underscoring its role as a tourism leader for New South Wales.*
- (b) *located in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area, Bungendore was received Gold in the "Small Tourism Town" category at the 2025 Awards held at Parliament House, Canberra on 3 September 2025,*
- (c) *the award recognises Bungendore's strong visitor-economy credentials with its heritage village setting, cool-climate wineries, paddock-to-plate dining, artisan makers and galleries, boutique shopping and committed local hospitality,*
- (d) *the award provides a platform to support regional tourism growth, with marketing initiatives such as "Meet You in Bungendore" and curated visitor itineraries designed to encourage longer stays and deeper engagement with local producers and venues.*
- (e) *Bungendore's success at the national level highlights the importance of regional towns in Australia's tourism ecosystem, and*

(2) That this House:

- (a) congratulates the local community of Bungendore including the Bungendore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the business and creative sector, and all those who have contributed to putting Bungendore on the national tourism map.
- (b) calls on the NSW Government continues to support and *amplify the unique cultural, artisan and natural assets of regional towns to assist build long-term regional economic and employment outcomes, and*
- (c) *ensure promotion and pathways for best-practice insights from small-town tourism successes to help develop other regional communities in tourism opportunities.*

Signed



Dated

13/11/25



I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☐ Yes

Signed: _____

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mrs Overall says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

- (1) That this House affirms its support for genuine local representation and equitable participation by all councillors across New South Wales;
- (2) That this House notes that:
 - (a) *the NSW Government has introduced new Model Meeting Code of Conduct rules which restrict councillors from attending meetings remotely except in exceptional circumstances,*
 - (b) *these changes disproportionately affect regional and rural councillors who often travel vast distances to attend meetings,*
 - (c) *the Mayor of Wagga Wagga described these changes as “city-centric” and disconnected from the practical realities of regional local government.*
 - (d) *as raised in recent media, local councils and councillors have made efforts to convey this to the Minister for Local Government, however, to quote, “they’ve got nowhere.”, and*

- (e) *the peak body representing local governments and associated members, Local Government NSW, opposed many proposed changes to the Meeting Practice rules, in this regard, highlighting circumstances such as weather events, caring responsibilities not foreseen, employment obligations or where it may simply be impracticable having regard to the anticipated duration of the meeting and travel time;*
 - (f) *as raised in the Local Government NSW submission, "the proposed amendment is likely to disincentivise persons from standing for election, particularly in regional and remote councils where the distance between population centres in the same local government area can be up to 200km..."*
- (3) That this House recognises that:
- (a) *the ability to participate remotely was a crucial measure that enabled regional councillors to balance civic duties with employment, family responsibilities, and geographic challenges,*
 - (b) *the removal of this option risks discouraging participation from regional communities in local government, and*
 - (c) *democracy, whether local, State, or Federal, depends on accessibility and fairness that take into account challenges including geographic.*
- (4) That this House calls on the Government to reconsider these changes to the Model Meeting Code of Conduct and to consult meaningfully with regional councils to develop fairer, more flexible arrangements that reflect the realities of governing outside metropolitan areas.

Signed 

Dated 13/11/25



I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☐ Yes

Signed: _____

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Ms Higginson says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

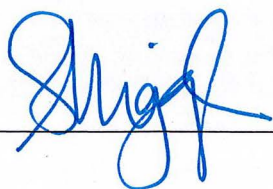
(1) That this House notes that:

- (a) since the 2019-20 bushfires, the Forestry Corporation of NSW has been unable to meet timber commitments from north east NSW, with no post-fire recovery evident in yields,
- (b) the Forestry Corporation's 2024-25 Biomaterial Report shows a 29% decline in total yields from native State forests in north east NSW compared to 2023-24 and a 26% decline for high-quality sawlogs, indicating an ongoing downward trend, and
- (c) over the past three years the Forestry Corporation of NSW has only been able to provide 41% of the timber it claims is available on a sustainable yield basis from north east NSW and has delivered just 78% of high-quality log volumes committed to millers under Wood Supply Agreements, relying on over-cutting plantations to partially bridge the gap,
- (d) the Forestry Corporation of NSW removed its 2023-24 Sustainability Report from its website after publication, hindering public scrutiny of yield performance and plantation over-cutting trends,,
- (e) independent analysis by the North East Forest Alliance of Forestry Corporation's 2024-25 Biomaterial Report shows that the Corporation continues to overstate native forest timber yields by around 28 per cent, repeating and worsening the inflation evident in previous years
- (f) the analysis identifies that Forestry Corporation claimed approximately 63,000 hectares of native forest were logged in 2023-24, while coupe records indicate the actual area logged was closer to 49,000 hectares,
- (g) despite reporting a 29 per cent decline in total yields and a 26 per cent decline in high-quality sawlogs from north east NSW compared to 2023-24,

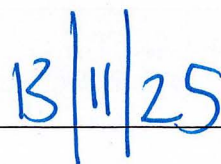
Forestry Corporation still presents projected yields as stable and sustainable, contrary to on-ground evidence,

- (h) Forestry Corporation's reported yields rely on unverified modelling inputs and omit the fact that only 41 per cent of claimed sustainable yield has been achieved in practice over the past three years,
 - (i) the Corporation's reliance on plantation over-harvesting - exceeding sustainable limits by around 200,000 tonnes in 2023-24 - is masking the ongoing shortfall in native forest supply,
 - (j) the removal of Forestry Corporation's 2023-24 Sustainability Report from public access prevents verification of discrepancies between modelled and actual yields,
 - (k) these inflated and unverifiable yield figures have direct implications for Wood Supply Agreement liabilities and the integrity of carbon accounting in establishing the Great Koala National Park, and
 - (l) the inaccurate and inflated yields will result in proportionally significant increases to any compensation claims by the Forestry Corporation and the logging industry when the Government ends the destructive, unsustainable and loss-making logging of public native forests.
- (2) That this House calls on the Government to:
- (a) commission an independent audit of yield estimates by the Forestry Corporation of NSW, Biomaterial Reports, and plantation harvesting against sustainable limits, and table the findings in the House,
 - (b) suspend any new or varied timber supply commitments in north east NSW until the audit is completed and corrective actions are implemented,
 - (c) refuse any compensation proposal for the logging industry unless an independent audit of its value is undertaken to ensure the greatest value for NSW is prioritised, and
 - (d) ensure GKNP planning includes a verified, transparent yield baseline and a binding no-leakage framework to underpin any carbon crediting.

Signed



Dated





I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☐ Yes

Signed: _____

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Ms Higginson says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

(1) That this House notes that:

- (a) in October 2025 the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) released their annual report for 2024-25 with clear recommendations,
- (b) the LECC has had difficulty obtaining information when overseeing a law enforcement agency, the NSW Police's, response to complaints, monitoring critical incident investigations and when conducting its own investigations,
- (c) the LECC has directly asked for a statutory power to obtain information from law enforcement agencies,
- (d) as it stands the Commission may only request information and hope the NSW Police complies,
- (e) the Parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission supports this change and recommends further clarity for the Commission's powers to access NSW Police Force material, including timeframes and types of information, and
- (f) the Commission also seeks removal of the de-identification requirement of agency information because it is time-consuming and undermines the effectiveness of its research.

(2) That this House notes that:

- (a) the Greens have been calling for increased powers and funding for the LECC as far back as 2023,
- (b) these calls were prompted from serious incidents of police misconduct that were not handled appropriately and resulted in a loss of public confidence in the Oversight Commission, including:

- (i) An incident where a NSW Police sergeant received only a warning and a transfer to another command after filming a colleague's genitals and posting the footage to a group chat,
 - (ii) the police killing of 95 year-old aged care resident and dementia patient, Claire Nowland, who was tragically killed following the use of a taser on her by NSW Police,
 - (iii) the police killing of Krista Katch by police firing a bean bag round at her chest after police tortured her for hours and hours by surrounding her home and shining lights into her home when she was simply trying to watch a children's film,
 - (iv) the killing of a woman by her domestic partner in Casino which prompted the Minister for Police to initially call for an independent investigation but later backtrack and launch a critical incident investigation instead, and
 - (v) the killing of Jesse Deacon, who was shot by the NSW Police after they were called to his house for a welfare check.
- (3) That this House calls on the Government to provide the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission with the powers and resources they need to ensure that police are operating with integrity and accountability.

Signed



Dated

13/11/25



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☐ Yes

Signed: _____

Ms Higginson says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on 30 October Australia's first treaty legislation passed through the Victorian Parliament, and on 13 November it has been signed into law,
 - (b) the treaty follows on from the work of Australia's first truth telling body, the Yoorook Justice Commission, which found that Victoria's First Nations people have endured crimes against humanity and genocide following colonisation, and
 - (c) the treaty, to be signed by the Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria includes:
 - (i) enshrining the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to make representations to the Victorian Parliament and Government,
 - (ii) continuing truth-telling and healing processes,
 - (iii) establishing independent oversight of the Government and how it is delivering for First Nations people,
 - (iv) placing truth-telling in school curriculums, and
 - (v) increasing First Nations place names across the state
- (2) That this House acknowledges that:
 - (a) the New South Wales Government has appointed Treaty Commissioners who are undertaking important work to consult with First Nations communities in establishing a formal agreement-making process, and
- (3) That this House calls on the Government to:
 - (a) fulfil their 2023 election commitment, and publicly and unambiguously continue to commit to treaty processes for the First Nations communities of New South Wales, and

- (b) without capitulation to racist and regressive politics, build ongoing public awareness and support for First Nations treaty-making and truth telling processes

Signed



Dated

13/11/25



I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: _____

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr (member's surname) says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

1. That this House notes with approval Bill Gates' ^{change} ~~welcome~~ pivot on climate change, acknowledging it "will not lead to humanity's demise" and urging a shift from doomsday emissions targets to ~~alleviating poverty and disease~~ ^{when he recently} ~~any~~ ^{from}.

a. That Mr Gates ^{had long} historically championed alarmist views, warning in 2021 ["] "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster" that equatorial regions could become "essentially unlivable by the end of the century" without urgent zero-emissions action.

b. That in 2015 ^{Mr Gates} he launched Breakthrough Energy, investing over \$2 billion in clean tech like nuclear fusion and carbon capture, declaring innovation essential as "the idea that it can be done by brute force, there's just no chance", yet global disaster deaths fell 90% last century, thanks to resilient infrastructure.

c. That NSW households face \$1,200 annual renewable levies under Net Zero policies, diverting funds from real priorities like cost of living pressures.

2. That this House thanks Mr Gates for this evidence-based recalibration, aligning with libertarian values of free enterprise over coercive mandates, and calls on the NSW Government to:

a. Review Net Zero targets for cost-benefit scrutiny, ^{Royal Commission to study} ~~prioritising family relief~~.

b. ^{launches a} ~~comprehensive study to assess~~ ^{whether or not, global warming is actually} ~~whether or not, global warming is actually~~ ^{happening.}

Signed _____

Dated _____

13.11.25

[Signature]

have tens of
reference that
explicitly set a diversity
of scientific views be heard

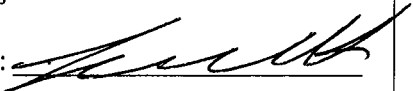


LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Ruddick says—

I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

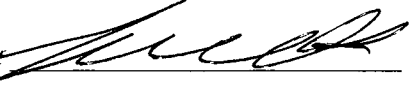
☒ Yes

Signed: 

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

1. That this House notes with concern Northern Beaches Councillor Ethan Hrnjak claimed \$870 in travel, accommodation, and registration expenses to attend the “Rising Tide” protestival in Newcastle—an event resulting in 138 arrests for breaching marine safety laws.
2. That this House further notes Councillor Hrnjak has claimed nearly \$32,000 in expenses since his election, including travel to a climate conference in the Northern Territory and voted in favour of a 25.2% rate increase affecting all Northern Beaches households.
3. That this House acknowledges that while Northern Beaches Council has declared a climate emergency, such declarations fall outside the core responsibilities and jurisdiction of local government, and do not justify the use of ratepayer funds for out-of-area political activism or events involving unlawful conduct.
4. That this House affirms that councillors are elected to represent and serve their local government area, and that professional development and official engagements funded by ratepayers should be directly relevant to the needs and interests of their local community.
5. That this House calls on the Minister for Local Government to:
 - a. Review and strengthen guidelines governing councillor expenses across NSW, with a focus on restricting claims for out-of-area events unless demonstrably linked to local government responsibilities and;
 - b. Ensure greater transparency and public reporting of councillor expense claims; and
 - c. Encourage councils to adopt expense policies that prioritise local engagement, infrastructure, and service delivery over political travel.
6. That this House acknowledges that when it comes to local government, the Libertarian Party believes in roads, rubbish, and reducing rates—not subsidising activism beyond council borders.

Signed 

Dated 13.11.25



I request that this item be called over for formal business on the next sitting day.

☐ Yes

Signed: _____

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Order for Papers - Prohibited Weapons Silencer Permit fact sheets

Mr Ruddick says—

Mr PRESIDENT: I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

That, under standing order 52, there be laid upon the table of the House within 21 days of the date of passing of this resolution the following documents created since 1 January 2024 in the possession, custody or control of the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and Minister for the Hunter or NSW Police Force relating to Prohibited Weapons Silencer Permit fact sheets:

as the motion is lengthy, I say

- (a) all correspondence relating to the Prohibited Weapons Silencer Permit fact sheets version 1.8, January 2024 or version D/2025/746599, June 2025, sent to or received from the following:
- (i) the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and Minister for the Hunter,
 - (ii) NSW Firearms Registry,
 - (iii) NSW Police Force Office of General Counsel,
 - (iv) Police Prosecutions & Licensing Enforcement Command (PPLEC),
 - (v) Legislation and Policy Branch of PPLEC,
 - (vi) Deputy Police Commissioners,
 - (vii) Governance Command, NSW Police Force,
 - (viii) Commissioner's Executive Team (CET),
 - (ix) Assistant Police Commissioners,
 - (x) NSW Police Force Chief Auditor,
 - (xi) Firearms Registry Consultative Council,
 - (xii) Australian Gun Safety Alliance,
 - (xiii) Alannah and Madeline Foundation, and
- (b) any legal or other advice regarding the scope or validity of this order of the House created as a result of this order of the House.

Signed

Dated

13/11/25

NM/173.02

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Ms Sharpe to say -

Mr President:

I give notice that at a later hour of the sitting or on the next sitting day I will move:

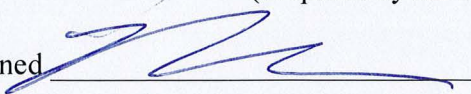
That leave be given to bring in a bill for an Act to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to revoke the reservation status of certain land and amend the functions of the Audit and Compliance Committee; to amend the Water Industry Competition Act 2006 in relation to certain licensees under that Act; to make other miscellaneous amendments of a statute law revision nature; and for related purposes.

(Environment and Water Legislation Amendment Bill)

G. O'Callaghan

(Prepared by the Parliamentary Counsel)

Signed



Dated

13/11/25



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

I request that this item be called over as formal business on the next sitting day.

☒ Yes

Signed: _____

Ms Boyd says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

- (1) That this House expresses deep concern at the current state of affairs in Bangladesh as the nation approaches its next general election in February 2026.
- (2) That this House notes that:
 - (a) there is widespread uncertainty in Bangladesh regarding whether the election will indeed be held in February 2026, with no date yet allocated and the nation experiencing ongoing unrest, violence and institutional failures;
 - (b) for over a decade, Bangladesh's democratic institutions have been systematically dismantled by the former authoritarian regime, with state institutions exploited for political gain, dissenting voices silenced and political activists and leaders persecuted. The ongoing manipulation of law enforcement, judiciary and electoral mechanisms has eroded public faith in Bangladesh's democratic process and denied citizens their fundamental right to political participation;
 - (c) since Bangladesh's independence in 1971, only four of Bangladesh's eleven elections held during this time have been considered free and fair because they were overseen by a caretaker administration, according to human rights and democracy advocates;
 - (d) fair and impartial elections cannot occur under an administration that is still influenced by the deposed authoritarian regime led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, nor can they occur while those responsible for grave human rights atrocities have not been held accountable. In order to restore integrity to Bangladesh's democratic process, it is crucial that these influences are

removed and a genuinely neutral administration capable of delivering a credible, peaceful and participatory election is established;

- (e) according to Human Rights Watch, Bangladesh's interim government has used arbitrary detention to target perceived political opponents,
 - (f) there have been recent media reports of alarming targeted violence against political candidates in Bangladesh, including an incident involving Ershad Ullah, President of the Chittagong Metropolitan BNP and nominated candidate for Chittagong-8, who was shot in the abdomen while distributing leaflets alongside supporters;
 - (g) after Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League party were toppled in the 2024 Monsoon Revolution, Bangladesh authorities have been attempting to reclaim funds allegedly lost to corruption by members of Hasina's regime and allies. Investigators have reported that several powerful individuals and businesses associated with Hasina's party illegally acquired billions of pounds, which are believed to have since been siphoned out of Bangladesh using the unregulated hundi money transfer system;
 - (h) the estimated 15 million Bangladeshis who live in other countries have the legal right to vote in elections from overseas, however complex postal voting procedures have previously prevented this large diaspora from doing so. The Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) has announced it will launch postal ballots, supported by an app called Postal Vote BD, to enable Bangladeshis overseas to cast their vote in the upcoming election; however human rights advocates have expressed concern over the potential risk of electoral interference and fraud involving postal ballots given the current political climate; and
 - (i) on 18 June 2025, Australia became the first partner to support the Bangladesh Democratic General Election Support (BALLOT) Project, a joint initiative implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNESCO which aims to assist Bangladesh to achieve a sustainable political transition, strengthen the institutional, technical and operational capacity of the BEC, and foster a credible and inclusive electoral environment.
- (3) That this House calls on the Australian government to:
- (a) write to Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, urging the interim government to:
 - (i) ensure all administrative, legal and institutional measures necessary to conduct a free, fair and transparent general election are in place;
 - (ii) guarantee the full security, safety and freedom of movement of candidates ahead of the election to enable their active and safe participation in the democratic process, including Mr Tarique Rahman, Acting Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP); and
 - (iii) independently investigate all allegations of corruption, embezzlement and fraud, to ensure that those responsible for committing such crimes

are held accountable and that reclaimed public funds are invested into the reconstruction of Bangladesh's public institutions;

- (b) back international efforts to hold perpetrators of human rights violations to account, including those accused of committing crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings under the former Bangladeshi regime; and
- (c) ensure the safe, secure and democratic implementation of the planned overseas voting system involving postal ballots, to enable all Bangladeshis living overseas to participate in the upcoming general election.

Signed



Dated

13/11/25