

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## HOUSE IN REVIEW

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*Sitting period  
8 to 10 August 2017*



The *House in Review* provides regular updates of the activities of the New South Wales Legislative Council. Clicking on a hyperlink will take you to the relevant webpage. For further information refer to the NSW Parliament website [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au) or contact the Procedure Office on (02) 9230 2431. To be placed on the email distribution list of the *House in Review*, please contact us on [council@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

### Overview

In a busy week for the Legislative Council seven government bills were considered, in addition to two disallowance motions and one item of private members' business. Unusually government business took precedence of general business for much of Thursday, which enabled the House to rise before midnight on Wednesday and complete consideration of the remaining government bills the next day. On Wednesday a joint sitting was held at which Mr Wes Fang was elected to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of the Hon Duncan Gay. The House stands adjourned until Tuesday 12 September 2017.

### Death of former President – the Hon 'Johno' Johnson

On Wednesday 9 August the President reported to the House the death of the Hon John 'Johno' Johnson, aged 87 years. Mr Johnson was a member of the House from 1975 to 2001 and President of the House from 1978 to 1991. Members and officers stood as a mark of respect.

The Minister (Mr Harwin) subsequently moved a condolence motion that the House place on record its deep sense of the loss sustained to the state and the House by the death of Mr Johnson, and that this resolution be communicated by the President to his family. The motion was adjourned until Tuesday 12 September to enable members to reflect on their contributions to the upcoming debate.

### Election of a new member – Mr Wesley Fang

On Tuesday 8 August 2017, the President reported receipt of correspondence from His Excellency the Governor advising of the resignation of the Hon Duncan Gay (The Nationals) as a member of the Council on 31 July 2017. The President subsequently announced receipt of a message from His Excellency convening a joint sitting of the two Houses for the following day to elect a member to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Gay.

The next day the two Houses convened for the joint sitting in the Legislative Council chamber and elected Mr Wesley (Wes) Fang to fill the vacant seat. Mr Fang will commence his duties in the next sitting week after he is sworn in.

### Motion to disallow Water Management (General) Amendment (Floodplain) Regulation 2017

On 9 August 2017 Mr Secord (ALP) moved a motion to disallow the [Water Management \(General\) Amendment \(Floodplain\) Regulation 2017](#). The Regulation declares certain land to be the Barwon-Darling Valley Floodplain for the purposes of the *Water Management Act 2000* (the Act).

Speaking to the motion, Mr Secord argued that the regulation was created by the Minister for Regional Water (Mr Blair) to retrospectively legalise alleged illegal water extraction in the Barwon-Darling basin, as reported in the media. Mr Secord referred to the significant adverse impacts of the alleged illegal water extraction, noting that regional communities such as Broken Hill had been subject to severe water restrictions. Mr Secord emphasised the importance of the disallowance process in allowing the House to scrutinise the activities of Executive Government and function as a House of Review.

Opposition members acknowledged that the regulation in itself had beneficial and important elements relating to floodplain management, but stated that the regulation should be disallowed when it was considered in the context of the allegations raised about potential manipulation of water sharing plans in the Barwon-Darling Valley to benefit certain irrigators.

The Greens supported the disallowance motion. Mr Buckingham expressed concern about the alleged illegal water extraction as well as floodplain harvesting licences, and the adverse impact on regional communities, tourism and agriculture. Mr Buckingham called on the Minister to respond to allegations about retrospective approval of floodplain works undertaken by certain irrigators.

The Minister (Mr Blair) opposed the motion, explaining that it is necessary to declare certain land to be the Barwon-Darling Valley floodplain in order for a floodplain management plan to be made under the Act. Mr Blair stated that the main purpose of floodplain management is to manage the risk to life and property from possible flooding. He said that the floodplain management plan outlines the type of flood works that may be approved, assessment criteria for flood work applications and rules for granting or amending flood work approvals, including advertising requirements, but that it does not provide additional water access licences or floodplain harvesting licences. Mr Blair outlined the consultation process to develop the floodplain management plan, and the area proposed to be declared the Barwon-Darling Valley by this regulation. He rejected any assertion that proper processes had not been followed.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party did not support the motion, noting that there would be far-reaching implications should the regulation be disallowed. Mr Brown pointed to the current inquiry by Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport into water augmentation, and said that there may be potential to extend the scope of the inquiry to examine the issues of water management raised in debate. The Christian Democratic Party supported the contribution made by Mr Brown.

The motion was negatived (Division 16:20).

### **Motion to disallow National Energy Retail Law (Adoption) Amendment (Deregulation) Regulation 2017**

On Wednesday 9 August 2017 Mr Buckingham (Greens) moved a motion to disallow the **National Energy Retail Law (Adoption) Amendment (Deregulation) Regulation 2017**, which amends the *National Energy Retail Law (Adoption) Act 2012* and the *National Energy Retail Law (Adoption) Regulation 2013* in relation to retail gas prices. The amendments include the omission of requirements for suppliers to offer regulated prices to small customers, and the introduction of provision for the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to monitor the competitiveness of the gas market for such customers.

In speaking to the motion, Mr Buckingham referred to the impact of the high and rapidly escalating cost of electricity on consumers. He argued that the motion would allow for the reintroduction of IPART's former role in setting a benchmark price for retail gas which was abolished by legislation some years ago. He stated that the privatisation of the energy sector in recent years has resulted in dramatic price rises which could be addressed by allowing IPART to set regulated caps.

The Government opposed the motion pointing out that as the Parliament has passed legislation to implement gas deregulation there is no longer a head of power for IPART to set a regulated price. The minister stated that the motion would not reduce gas prices and would remove IPART's role as independent market monitor which is a benefit to consumers.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and the Opposition did not support the motion, arguing that it would not restrain price increases. The Opposition also noted that the motion would remove the monitoring work currently done by IPART. The Animal Justice Party advised that while it respected the mover's intent it did not support the motion as it is necessary to address the regulation of all energy sources rather than a particular aspect. The CDP and another government member also spoke against the motion.

The motion was negatived.

## **Government business**

**Note:** Government business includes Government bills introduced or carried by ministers in the Council.

### **Sydney Public Reserves (Public Safety) Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly.

The bill was introduced in response to the establishment of a campsite including tents and a kitchen in Martin Place which is Crown land managed by the City of Sydney. The bill authorises police officers to exercise powers with respect to the occupation of Martin Place and other declared public reserves in the City of Sydney.

The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Farlow) stated that while the Government currently has power to deal with the occupation of Martin Place under the Crown Lands Act this would involve a court warrant which is an extreme measure for dealing with vulnerable homeless people. The bill therefore empowers police to direct people to move-on, and remove items, if the police officer reasonably believes the occupation materially interferes with the public's rights or is unlawful. The move-on power will not apply to industrial disputes or authorised demonstrations and protests. Where items are removed police will have a discretion whether to return the item to the person, dispose of the item in accordance with Police directions, or deliver the item to the local council. Two new offences will apply where a person refuses to comply with a direction without reasonable excuse or obstructs the removal of a thing. The bill may also be applied to other public reserves in the City of Sydney by proclamation in certain circumstances.

The Opposition opposed the bill arguing that the government already has powers to remove persons unlawfully occupying land and that the bill is not an appropriate response to the problem of homelessness. The Greens characterised the bill as a heartless response to a pressing social issue and argued that it is framed in unnecessarily broad terms. The Animal Justice Party opposed the bill for similar reasons. The CDP did not oppose the bill, on the basis that it is unacceptable to have people sleeping outside on concrete in winter in Martin Place, but called on the government to put more money towards finding solutions to the problem of homelessness. The second reading was agreed to on division (18:15).

During consideration in committee of the whole the Greens moved four amendments which sought to reduce the penalty for obstructing the removal of an item by police, require police to return seized items to the owner, limit the circumstances in which a move-on direction may be given, and provide for the repeal of the Act after two years. These amendments were supported by the Opposition but were ultimately defeated on division (15:17, 15:17, 15:18, 14:18). The bill was read a third time and returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Environmental Planning and Assessment and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Planning Panels and Enforcement) Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly.

The bill amends the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to require the constitution of local planning panels for councils in the Greater Sydney Region and the City of Wollongong. The bill provides for local planning panels to advise on planning proposals and act as the consent authority for development

applications. The bill also amends the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* and the *Local Government Act 1993* regarding the enforcement of local government election requirements.

In his second reading speech the Minister (Mr Harwin) noted that at least 15 councils in New South Wales currently have Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels, and feedback from stakeholders has indicated that these panels are working well. Independent and expertly qualified panels reduce conflict of interest risk and assist in depoliticising planning decisions. The Minister stated that there is a need to strengthen the use of these panels and to build additional safeguards into planning decisions. In addition, he acknowledged concerns that existing panels may be abolished by newly elected councils after September.

The Opposition supported the bill stating that it opposed corruption in all its forms. However it argued that the bill had a number of flaws which it would seek to address in the committee stage. The Opposition was concerned that the bill only provided for fixed panels that cannot rotate for three to six years in a particular geographic area and did not include provisions for panel meetings to be open to the public in the same way as Council meetings.

The Greens strongly opposed the bill, expressing concern that the Minister for Planning will be responsible for appointing persons to planning panels. The Greens argued that corruption by politicians at a local government level is not removed by centralising power in the Minister at a state level.

The Christian Democratic Party considered that the introduction of planning panels would reduce the risk of corruption as decisions will be made by experts who are independent of councils. The CDP stated it would support the bill on the proviso that some of the Opposition's proposed amendments were agreed to in committee.

The second reading was agreed to on division (29:6).

In committee, the Greens moved seven amendments to remove entirely from the bill the provision for planning panels. The amendments were negatived. The Opposition moved 10 amendments, seven of which were agreed to. These amendments clarified the eligibility of members to be on a planning panel, clarified that ICAC has the power to investigate members of planning panels and increased the transparency and accountability of panel meetings.

The bill was reported to the House, read a third time and returned to the Assembly with the amendments.

### **Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Staged Development Applications) Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly.

The purpose of the bill is to restore the procedures for staged development applications in Sydney. Staged development applications are often lodged for complex developments to obtain 'in principle' approval which sets out key planning parameters like use, shape and scale upfront, allowing the finer-grained details and operational impacts of a proposal to be spelled out in future applications when those more detailed aspects are fully developed. Staged development applications are particularly important in the City of Sydney where a concept proposal is required for new or expanded buildings in central Sydney.

In June 2017, however, a staged development application for an integrated performing arts and cultural precinct in Walsh Bay was struck down by the Court of Appeal, putting the staged development application model in doubt.

The purpose of the bill is to restore the procedures prior to the Court of Appeal's decision. The bill replaces the current staged development application provisions with new provisions for concept development applications. These provisions include two significant changes: a concept development application may be followed by only a single application for the whole development site; and consent authorities may decide the most appropriate time to assess construction-related and operational impacts.

Minister (Mr Harwin) made initial comments noting that the bill will not validate the second stage development application for the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct proposal. Rather the bill addresses the wide-ranging implications of the Court of Appeal's decision. The speech indicated that the Court of Appeal's decision creates uncertainty for a number of complex development proposals under assessment, or recently approved, and the bill will restore the law to the way it previously operated and was understood.

The Opposition opposed the bill arguing that the consent authority should consider the impacts of construction at the outset and that local businesses and residents should be adequately informed and consulted from the start of the process. The Greens also opposed the bill stating that it provides the same powers to private property developers as it provides to government projects. The Opposition was also concerned that concept approvals can be granted for a long term 10 year project that ignores construction-related impacts.

The Christian Democratic Party did not oppose the bill, but encouraged the Government to be mindful that hard working small businesses should not be adversely impacted by large developments.

The second reading was agreed to on division (17:14), with the Opposition, the Greens and the Animal Justice Party opposing the motion. The third reading was subsequently agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Charitable Fundraising Amendment (Inquiries) Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly

The bill amends the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* (the Act) to strengthen the inquiry powers under the Act and to ensure that current and future inquiries of high significance can be conducted thoroughly. The bill was introduced in light of serious allegations of misconduct by the former directors of the RSL in New South Wales and related entities.

A number of amendments were made to the bill in the Legislative Assembly and the second print was introduced to the Legislative Council on Thursday 10 August 2017.

The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Farlow) in his second reading speech acknowledged serious concerns over the operation of some charitable fundraising organisations and indicated that the bill aimed to increase consumer confidence that the charitable fundraising sector will appropriately account for funds raised. It was argued that amendments to the Act to enable inquiries to be conducted in serious cases were necessary to enhance the accountability of fundraising organisations.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, and indicated that most of its amendments had been previously agreed to in the Legislative Assembly. However, the Opposition did speak to the current inquiry being conducted by Patricia Bergin, SC which is examining the NSW RSL's financial activities connected to their charitable groups, including political donations.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, but indicated some concern over potential misuse of the power to conduct an inquiry, and that the power to recover the of costs of an inquiry from the charitable organisation being inquired into could undermine its viability. The Greens also generally supported the bill and the Opposition's proposed amendment, but questioned whether the bill could result in unjustified inquiries. The Greens noted that powers to inquire into charitable organisations already existed in the *Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983*.

In committee, the Opposition moved an amendment that would require the tabling of inquiry reports in both Houses of Parliament. The Opposition's amendment was negatived (14:20).

The second and third readings were agreed to and the bill returned to the Assembly without amendment.



## **Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly

The bill makes provision for the payment of compensation for damage caused by subsidence arising from coal mining. The previous Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961 contained a statutory scheme of compensation for coal mine subsidence. This bill enacts a new scheme which provides that proprietors of active coal mines are liable to pay compensation for damage arising from subsidence caused by their coal mines and for related preventative or mitigative expenses. The former Mine Subsidence Board is abolished by the bill and a new body, Subsidence Advisory NSW, created.

In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr MacDonald) indicated that the introduction of the bill follows a review of the existing arrangements in a report provided to Government late last year. That review found that the mine subsidence compensation framework was outdated, and was not being administered effectively by the Mine Subsidence Board, which was the subject of an ICAC investigation. The reforms in the bill are designed to provide an increased level of colliery involvement in the claims management process, so that collieries better understand their subsidence impacts and costs, while also ensuring claimants receive faster and fairer compensation.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, indicating that the changes outlined in the bill address the majority of the issues and concerns raised during the ICAC investigation. The Greens also did not oppose the bill, citing the bill as an overdue overhaul of the mine subsidence compensation system. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill. The bill was read a second time.

In committee, the Greens moved various amendments to allow private landholders, councils or other public entities to claim compensation for damage to the environment; to allow claimants to make claims arising out of actions to prevent or mitigate damage; to provide for community consultation regarding procedures for the determination of claims; and to provide for disallowance by the Houses of Parliament of procedures for claims established by Subsidence Advisory NSW. All the amendments were negatived on the voices.

The bill was read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

## **Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly.

The bill amends various Acts relating to courts and crimes and other related matters. The amendments include provisions extending the 'show cause' test for bail to the offence of supplying a firearm to another person without financial gain, giving the Children's Court the discretion to transfer related offences to a higher court where proceedings for a more serious offence have been transferred, requiring a Victim Impact Statement to be read in closed court and with a support person present in certain proceedings, and allowing low-level offenders with cognitive impairment to be diverted into assessment, treatment and support.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill but sought clarification as to the Government's view on the future of specialist courts such as the Children's Court. The Greens supported the bill but sought a commitment from the Government to continue monitoring the impact of the changes to ensure they do not unintentionally result in harsher sentencing for children. The CDP and various Government members also spoke in support of the bill.

In reply the Parliamentary Secretary advised that the Government favours enhancing existing specialist measures for child sexual assault proceedings throughout New South Wales rather than concentrating such measures in only one court. He also advised that if the Children's Court decides to transfer proceedings to a higher court the higher court will deal with the related offences using the jurisdiction of the Children's Court or remit them to the Children's Court if it is in the interests of justice to do so.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Transport Legislation Amendment (Automated Vehicle Trials and Innovation) Bill 2017**

House of origin: Legislative Assembly

The bill amends the *Road Transport Act 2013* to permit the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight to approve trials of highly or fully automated vehicles on the State's roads. The bill provides that it is a function of Transport for NSW to develop policy and facilitate research and testing for the purposes of promoting innovative transport solutions.

The Minister (Mr Blair) stated in his second reading speech that the bill provides a flexible approach to trials of increasing levels of automation in motor vehicles being used on New South Wales roads, including arrangements for the registration and approval for trials of such automated vehicles. The bill also provides safeguards for the public during these trials and prescribes provisions around liability and insurance arrangements for incidents arising from trials of autonomous motor vehicles. Further, the bill also amends the *Transport Administration Act 1988* to provide for the collection and publication of data from such trials for the purposes of promoting innovative transport solutions, including the testing of automated vehicles and digital technologies on the State's roads and road related areas. The Minister also highlighted the benefits of increasing automation of motor vehicles including benefits for the economy.

The Opposition supported the bill along with the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party.

The second and third readings were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Private members' business**

**Note:** Private members' business is business introduced by members of the House other than Government ministers. There are two types of private members' business: private members' bills and private members' motions.

#### *Motions*

#### **Order for papers – Meeting between irrigators and Deputy-Director General, Department of Primary Industries – Water (Ms Sharpe ALP)**

The motion sought the production of documents concerning any meeting between the Deputy Director General, Department of Primary Industries – Water, and any irrigator in 2016.

In speaking to the motion Ms Sharpe noted that a recent ABC program concerning the management of water resources had revealed that a senior public servant had met with a group of irrigators and provided them with confidential information not available to others. Ms Sharpe argued that the motion seeks a small but important group of documents that go to the heart of that issue. Opposition members argued that it is the role of the upper House to use its power to call for documents to shed light on government actions and that the Matthews review will not address the issue of equity between irrigators.

The Government opposed the motion stating that the issues raised by the ABC program are the focus of an independent review by Mr Ken Matthews AO as well as references to ICAC and the Ombudsman. The minister argued that the motion will delay and interfere with the gathering of evidence and jeopardise the timing of the report on the Matthews review.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party supported the motion noting that it is framed in specific terms and did not believe the motion would interfere with the conduct of the Matthews review. The Greens supported the motion as it is in the interests of all citizens to establish whether certain stakeholders have been treated more favourably than others.

The CDP opposed the motion, noting the various investigations and references which are currently on foot, but reserved the right to revisit the issue if the report on the Matthews review is not tabled during this Parliament. Government members argued that now is not the time for such a motion while the review is underway and confirmed that the report on the review will be released in this Parliament.

In reply Ms Sharpe argued that the Matthews review is not a valid reason to oppose the motion as it would not cover all the relevant issues and does not have clear powers. She also stated that the only way to rebuild trust following the revelations in the ABC report is to shine a light on what occurred.

The motion was negatived (Division 17:18).

*Motions taken as formal business*

The following items of private members' business were agreed to as formal business without amendment or debate:

- (1) 20th anniversary of the Portuguese Ethnographic Museum of Australia (Mr Clarke).
- (2) Second anniversary of the Indian Support Centre (Mr Clarke).
- (3) Greater Western Sydney Netball Team (Mr Clarke).
- (4) Third anniversary of the International Day of Yoga (Mr Clarke).
- (5) Passing of Mrs Vera Wiltshire OAM (Mr Clarke).
- (6) Fifth Annual Serbian Festival of Sydney (Mr Clarke).
- (7) Independence Day of Greece (Mr Clarke).
- (8) Future Movement Sydney Chapter Ramadan Iftar Dinner 2017 (Mr Clarke).
- (9) Dr Reena Mehta (Mr Clarke).
- (10) 350th birth anniversary Celebration of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Festival of Vaisakhi Celebration (Mr Clarke).
- (11) Indo-Australian Bal Bharathi Vidyalaya Hindi School Inc dinner (Mr Clarke).
- (12) 30 anniversary of the Bathurst Ladies' Probus Club (Mrs Maclaren-Jones).
- (13) Indigenous people (Mr Moselmane).
- (14) Passing of Mr Michel Jarjoura OAM (Mr Moselmane).
- (15) Australia Rainbow TV (Mr Moselmane).
- (16) World Scout Day (Mr Borsak).
- (17) Metropolitan Archbishop Paul Saliba (Mr Clarke, Mr Moselmane, Revd Mr Nile).
- (18) Third annual Unity in Diversity festival (Dr Faruqi).
- (19) Twelfth annual Ballina Lions Fun Run (Mr Franklin).
- (20) Computer recognition system of pain in sheep (Mr Pearson).
- (21) Cyberhate symposium (Dr Faruqi).
- (22) South Creek (Dr Faruqi).
- (23) Sexual assault and harassment on university campuses (Dr Faruqi).



## Orders for papers

**Note:** The Council has a common law power to order the Government to produce State papers.

### *Return to order*

- (1) **2017-2018 Budget:** received 13 July 2017, documents from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (2) **2017-2018 Budget Finances:**
  - a. received 13 July 2017, documents from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, including an indexed list from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
  - b. a return identifying documents received on 13 July 2017 as privileged and should not be made public or tabled.

## Petitions

- (1) Establishment of an additional public high school in Sydney's East – 506 signatures (presented Mr Shoebridge).

### *Minister's response*

- (1) From the Honourable Mark Speakman, Attorney General, to a petition presented by Mr Donnelly on 23 May 2017 concerning the opposition to abortion law reform bills.

## Committee activities

### *Committee references*

**Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters:** The House referred to the committee an inquiry into the 'random selection' in counting of preferences in local government elections.

**Select Committee on Electricity Supply, Demand and Prices in New South Wales:** The House established a select committee to inquire into and report on electricity supply, demand and prices in New South Wales.

**Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment:** The House extended the terms of reference for the committee's inquiry into 'Energy from waste' technology to include transport of waste outside New South Wales;

illegal dumping; and impacts of waste and landfill regimes.

### *Committee membership*

**Joint Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission:** The Hon Taylor Martin MLC replaced the Hon Lou Amato MLC.

**Joint Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission:** The Hon Mark Pearson MLC was appointed to the committee.

**Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health and Community Services:** The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC replaced the Hon John Graham MLC.

**Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education:** The Hon John Graham MLC replaced the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC.

**Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport:** The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC replaced the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC.

**Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment:** The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC replaced the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC.

### *Extension of reporting date*

**Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs:** The reporting date for the Committee's inquiry into museums and galleries was extended to 30 November 2017.

### *Committee reports tabled*

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 40/56', dated 1 August 2017.

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 41/56', dated 8 August 2017.

### *Committee reports debated*

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2:** The House concluded the take note debate on Report No. 46 entitled "Child protection", dated March 2017.

**Select Committee on Off-Protocol Prescribing of Chemotherapy in New South Wales:** The House concluded the take note debate on the report entitled "Off-Protocol

Prescribing of Chemotherapy in New South Wales”, dated May 2017.

## **Inquiry activities**

### **Select Committee on Human Trafficking**

The committee has received 28 submissions and will hold its fifth hearing on 11 August 2017.

### **Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

*First review of the Dust Diseases and Lifetime Care and Support schemes*

The committee has received 11 submissions for the review of the Lifetime Care and Support scheme and six submissions for the Dust Diseases scheme. The committee held hearings on 2 and 28 June 2017. The reports for both reviews are currently being drafted.

### **Standing Committee on State Development**

*Inquiry into regional development and a global Sydney*

The committee has received 34 submissions and has held two hearings in Sydney and Nowra. Further regional visits and public hearings will be held in the coming months.

*Defence industry in New South Wales*

The committee has received 32 submissions and has held two public hearings. The committee will hold further regional visits and public hearings in the coming months.

### **Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health and Community Services**

*Inquiry into road tolling*

The report is currently being drafted. The committee is expected to report by November 2017.

### **Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education**

*Inquiry into students with disability or special needs in New South Wales schools*

The committee has received over 400 submissions and has held six public hearings to date, including three regional hearings. The next hearing will take place at Parliament House on 11 August 2017.

### **Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs**

*Inquiry into museums and galleries*

The committee will hold its eighth hearing in September 2017. The report is due to be tabled by 30 November 2017.

*Emergency services agencies*

The committee has received more than 170 submissions to date. Public hearings will commence in September 2017.

*Fire and emergency services levy*

The closing date for submissions is 26 November 2017.

### **Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport**

*Inquiry into water augmentation for rural and regional New South Wales*

The committee has received 116 submissions and held 10 hearings in Sydney and regional areas. The next hearing will take place in Sydney on 19 September 2017.

### **Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment**

*Inquiry into energy from waste technology*

The committee has conducted three hearings, a further hearing is scheduled for 17 August 2017. The House extended the terms of reference for the inquiry on 10 August 2017.

## **Reports tabled**

**Acting Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption:** ‘Report Pursuant to Sections 57B and 77A Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988: Operation Vesta: Andrew Kelly, Charif Kazal and Jamie Brown Complaints’, dated June 2017.

### **Acting Ombudsman:**

- (1) ‘Report of Reviewable Deaths 2014 and 2015—Volume 1: Child Deaths’, dated June 2017.
- (2) ‘Reporting of fatal neglect in NSW’, dated May 2016.

**Ombudsman:** 'NSW Ombudsman Inquiry into behaviour management in schools: A Special Report to Parliament under s 31 of the Ombudsman Act 1974', dated August 2017.

**Independent Commission Against Corruption:**

- (1) 'Investigation into the conduct of the former City of Botany Bay Council Chief Financial Officer and others', dated July 2017.
- (2) Report entitled 'Investigation into the conduct of a former NSW Department of Justice officer and others', dated August 2017.
- (3) 'Investigation into dealings between Australian Water Holdings Pty Ltd and Sydney Water Corporation and related matters', dated August 2017.

**Mental Health Commission:** 'Towards a just system—Mental illness and cognitive impairment in the criminal justice system: Directions for action', dated July 2017.

**Auditor General:**

- (1) 'ICT in schools for teaching and learning: New South Wales Department of Education', dated July 2017.
- (2) 'The Office of Strategic Lands: NSW Department of Planning and Environment', dated August 2017.

**Inspector of Custodial Services:** 'Prison Greens: The clothing and bedding of inmates in NSW', dated June 2017.

**Adjournment debate**

**Tuesday 8 August 2017**

Wage underpayment (Mr Searle); Electricity prices (Mr Brown); Pilliga Saving Our Species project (Mr MacDonald); Defamation litigation (Mr Moselmane); Coal-fired power stations (Mr Buckingham); Homelessness (Mr Farlow).

**Wednesday 9 August 2017**

Local Government Amalgamations (Mr Primrose); Pig dogging (Mr Pearson); Conservatives for Conservation (Mr Mallard); Water Inquiry (Mr Mookhey); Public safety

legislation (Mr Shoebridge); Country Women's Association (Mrs Taylor).

**Thursday 10 August 2017**

TAFE funding (Ms Walker); Firearms regulation (Mr Borsak); Waste management (Ms Sharpe); Women's services (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); United States of America economic reform (Mr Clarke); Hospital privatisation (Mr Secord).

**Feedback on *House in Review***

We welcome any comments you might have on this publication.

We are particularly keen to know which parts of the *House in Review* you find most useful and whether you have any suggestions for improvement. Please email your comments to

[stephen.frappell@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.frappell@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments