

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 55/15

*Sitting period
8 to 11 November 2011*

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 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.

Overview

As reported below, the week commenced with the House debating a condolence motion on the passing of the Hon Elaine Nile, a member of the House from 1988 to 2002, and wife of Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC.

Subsequently, as with the previous sitting week of 18 to 21 October 2011, the week was marked by the passage of a large volume of Government legislation through the House. As detailed below, in total the House passed 9 bills, with one new bill introduced: the Police Amendment (Death and Disability) Bill 2011. The introduction of this bill required urgency, as it came after the cut-off date of 21 October 2011 for the introduction of bills in the sitting period before Christmas.

On Friday the House also debated four private members' bills, even though the sitting day was truncated by members' attendance at Remembrance Day services.

The week was also notable for the tabling of a large number of annual reports from Government agencies, this being annual reporting season, and the tabling of the Government's proposed sitting pattern for 2012, now available on the Parliament's website. Next year the Council will be returning to a more traditional three-day sitting week, but with more sitting weeks in the year than has been seen in recent years.

Remembrance Day

On Friday, 11 November 2011, the House rose at 10.15 am on a long bell until 12 noon to allow members to attend Remembrance Day services.

Condolence motion – The Honourable Elaine Blanche Nile

On 18 October 2011, the President reported to the House the passing of the Hon Elaine Blanche Nile, aged 75 years, a member of the House from 1988 to 2002, and wife of Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC, the longest serving current member of the House.

Subsequently, on 8 November 2011, the Leader of the Government, Mr Gallacher, moved that the House place on record its deep regret at the loss sustained to the State by the death of Mrs Nile, and that the resolution be

communicated by the President to Revd Mr Nile and his family. Members from all sides of the House spoke in support of the motion, citing Mrs Nile's Christian beliefs, her commitment to family life, her record of service to the Parliament, and her partnership with Revd Mr Nile. Revd Mr Nile spoke last to the motion, thanking the House and attendees in the public gallery, and reflecting on his nearly 60 years with Elaine and her strong Christian faith. Revd Mr Nile concluded by citing the words of Elaine in her valedictory speech.

The motion was agreed to unanimously. Members and officers of the House stood as a mark of respect.

Government business

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

Police Amendment (Death and Disability) Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill terminates the existing scheme for death and disability payments to police officers injured at work or off-duty and replaces it with entitlements to death and disability payments under a new insurance policy. The bill also removes the jurisdiction of the Industrial Relations Commission to make or vary industrial instruments that provide for death and disability payments to police officers.

Proceedings: Leave was given to bring in the bill (Division 21:18). The bill was introduced and read a first time (Division 21:18). Having reached the Council after the cut-off date of 21 October 2011 for the introduction of bills this sitting period, the bill was declared urgent (Division: 21:18), allowing it to proceed.

In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gallacher) argued that the costs of the NSW Police Force's death and disability and workers' compensation schemes are increasing at an unsustainable rate requiring urgent reform. In 2010-11, the death and disability scheme alone cost \$288 million – more than 10 times its anticipated cost in 2005. When added to \$463 million in workers' compensation costs, the two schemes will cost \$762 million in 2010-11, which is approaching 50 per cent of total NSW police salaries. The reforms in the bill focus

on getting police officers back to work, and are expected to reduce the combined cost of the death and disability and workers' compensation schemes to around \$200 million per annum.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

Summary: The bill requires the immediate notification of a pollution incident that causes or threatens material harm, and of any further information that later becomes known. Currently, notification of such incidents is only required 'as soon as practicable'. The bill also doubles the maximum penalty for the offence of failing to immediately give notice of pollution incidents to \$2,000,000 (for corporations) and \$500,000 (for individuals), and imposes additional duties upon the holders of environmental protection licences to prepare and implement pollution incident response management plans. Finally, the bill makes a number of changes to the governance, role and responsibilities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including the reconstitution of its Board and the creation of the office of Chairperson.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 October 2011 and read a first time. Debate resumed on 8 November 2011. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Ajaka) indicated that the bill was the Government's response to the Orica – Kooragang Island chemical leak near Newcastle on 8 August 2011 and the subsequent recommendations made by Mr Brendan O'Reilly in his review of the incident. Mr Ajaka argued that the bill improves the requirements for the notification of a pollution incident, provides stronger incentives for industry to comply with those requirements, and better equips the EPA to regulate high risk industries.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill but foreshadowed that it would move amendments that it argued would make the bill more aligned to the findings of the O'Reilly review. The Greens supported the bill and commended the Government for taking quick action to redress the deficiencies in the current legislation. Ms Faehrmann noted in particular that the bill incorporated entirely the provision of a previous bill, the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Notification of Pollution Incidents) Bill 2011, that she introduced into the House on 9 September 2011 (see Vol 55/10 of *House in Review* for debate). However, the Greens expressed some concern about the proposed composition of the EPA Board. The Shooters and Fishers Party expressed broad support for the bill while foreshadowing some amendments. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition moved amendments, supported by the Greens, seeking to increase the membership of the reconstituted Board of the EPA. The amendments were negative. However, an Opposition amendment to insert a statement that the Board is not subject to the control and direction of the Minister was agreed to (Division 21:16). Opposition amendments to facilitate the presentation of the annual

statement of the Board (Division 21:16), and for the annual statements to include recommendations for improving performance (Division 21:16) were also agreed to. By comparison, Opposition amendments requiring comparative assessment to 'world's best practice' and assessing community engagement were both negated. Finally, Greens' amendments to increase the amounts of fines applicable to the publication and veracity of pollution monitoring data were negated.

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

Children Legislation Amendment (Child Death Review Team) Bill 2011

Summary: The Child Death Review Team was established in 1996 with the primary objective of preventing or reducing the incidence of child deaths in NSW. It does this by identifying trends and patterns relating to the causes of child deaths, and then making recommendations on legislation, policies, practices and services to government and non-government agencies and the community for the prevention of further child deaths.

In April 2009, following receipt in 2008 of the report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW conducted by Justice James Wood, the Parliament passed legislation transferring responsibility for the Child Death Review Team from the Commission for Children and Young People to the NSW Ombudsman.

This bill makes further amendments to ensure the independence of the Child Death Review Team in carrying out its functions, as convened by the NSW Ombudsman. Of note, the bill transfers the legislative provisions regarding the Child Death Review Team from the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* to the *Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993*. This will mean that the Ombudsman's functions in relation to the Child Death Review Team, and in relation to community services and reviewable deaths, will now all be contained in the same Act. Amongst other changes, the bill also alters oversight of the Child Death Review Team from the Parliamentary Committee on Children and Young People to the Parliamentary Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 October 2011 and read a first time. Debate resumed on 10 November 2011. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Ajaka) argued that the bill delivers on the Government's election commitment to support the Ombudsman's role in independently reviewing child deaths in NSW. He also argued that the bill completes the transfer of the Child Death Review Team to the oversight of the Office of the Ombudsman only half-heartedly done by the previous Labor Government. This move follows a 2010 report from the Ombudsman entitled *Unresolved Issues in the transfer of NSW Child Death Review team to the Office of the NSW Ombudsman*.

The Opposition opposed the bill, arguing that it is against the interests of children and young people in

NSW to remove oversight of the Child Death Review Team from the Parliamentary Committee on Children and Young People to the Parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman. The Opposition noted the expertise and experience of the Committee on Children and Young People in overseeing child protection services. The Greens supported the bill for finally implementing all the recommendations of Justice James Wood in 2008, while noting the huge challenge of preventing child deaths from causes such as suicide and accidents.

The second reading (Division 26:13) and third reading of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

Water Industry Competition Amendment Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The *Water Industry Competition Act* was enacted in 2006 to enable new market entrants to access existing water industry infrastructure, with the objective of involving private sector providers in the delivery of NSW water and sewerage systems. Since the Act commenced in 2008, seven schemes have been licensed: five recycled water schemes, one drinking water scheme in Sydney (the Sydney Desalination Plant) and one sewerage scheme in northern NSW.

This bill introduces three new licensing principles to be considered by the Minister when deciding whether to grant a water licence: first, the Minister is to have regard to relevant government policies, such as the Metropolitan Water Plan; second, the Minister is to have regard to the potential for adverse financial implications for small retail customers; third, the Minister is to ensure the equitable sharing of the cost of water industry infrastructure.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed from 20 October 2011 (see Vol 55/13 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). On the resumption of the debate, the Opposition expressed concerns about the bill, arguing that it may be an attempt to improve the attractiveness of the Sydney Desalination Plant for privatisation, including by forcing a retail supplier to get a certain percentage of its water from the Plant. The Opposition also expressed concern about the perceived relaxation of corporate standards for corporations seeking licences to enter the NSW water market. The Greens raised the same concerns, together with an additional concern that the bill allows water licensees to propose water supply and sewerage systems without submitting a section 68 assessment under the *Local Government Act 1993*, potentially leading to long-term damage to the environment and public health. The Shooters and Fishers Party did not oppose the bill, and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved amendments to remove the ability of the Minister to force retail suppliers to get their water from certain suppliers such as the Desalination Plant, to remove the perceived relaxing of corporate standards for corporations seeking licences to enter the NSW water market, and to maintain the requirement for local government section 68 approval of

water projects. All the amendments were negated, either on the voices or on division (Divisions 18:21).

The bill was reported to the House without amendment, read a third time and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

Redfern-Waterloo Authority Repeal Bill 2011

Summary: The bill repeals the *Redfern-Waterloo Authority Act 2004* and dissolves the Redfern-Waterloo Authority. The bill also transfers the assets, rights, liabilities and certain functions of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority to the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority. Planning consent for developments on the Redfern-Waterloo site of up to \$10 million will be transferred to the City of Sydney.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 18 October 2011 and read a first time. Debate resumed on 10 November 2011. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) indicated that the Redfern-Waterloo Authority is being dissolved in keeping with the Government's other reforms to planning laws in NSW. However, while the Redfern-Waterloo Authority is being dissolved, the Government remains committed to the renewal of this important area of Sydney by giving the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority the necessary powers and capability to continue the work initiated by the Redfern-Waterloo Authority.

The Opposition supported the bill, indicating that it was always Labor's intention to incorporate the Redfern-Waterloo Authority into the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority, and that the change will enable the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority to pursue urban renewal within the area more strategically. The Greens also supported the bill, indicating their long opposition to the Redfern-Waterloo Authority for taking local decision-making powers away from the City of Sydney, and supporting the return to the City of Sydney of greater development authority for the area.

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

Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment (Children in Vehicles) Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* to make it an aggravating factor to be taken into account in sentencing an offender for certain traffic offences if the offence was committed while a child under 16 years of age was a passenger in the offender's vehicle (or if the offence was connected with the driving of a vehicle with such a passenger). The traffic offences concerned include drink driving, drug driving, driving in a police pursuit, dangerous driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and failing to undergo a test for alcohol or drugs.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 9 November 2011 from 20 October 2011 (see Vol 55/13 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). On the resumption of the debate, the Opposition did not

oppose the bill, while expressing scepticism that the bill will make any difference to road safety, noting that the aggravating factors for certain traffic offences nominated in the bill can already be taken into account by the courts. The Greens opposed the bill as an unnecessary complication of an already complex piece of legislation, placing even more challenges before trial judges when weighing up aggravating factors in accidents. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence. The bill was subsequently returned by the Assembly without amendment.

Liquor Amendment (3 Strikes) Bill 2011 (No 2)

Summary: The bill establishes a three strikes disciplinary system for venues with liquor licences at which multiple breaches of the *Liquor Act 2007* have occurred. The bill is a revised version of a bill previously introduced by the Government.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 October 2011 and read a first time. Debate resumed on 9 November 2011. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gallacher) argued that the bill introduces a robust three strikes scheme which targets venues that repeatedly offend against liquor laws. However, following detailed consultation with the industry, a strike against a venue will only be recorded where the courts record a conviction. Given its seriousness, the power to suspend or cancel a licence upon a third strike will rest with the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority. The Minister indicated that the introduction of the bill was a key election commitment of the Government.

The Opposition supported the bill, arguing that following industry consultation the bill is a significant improvement on the previous version of the bill introduced by the Government. However the Opposition expressed some concerns about venue owners left with investments of reduced value because they have one or two strikes against them, even where they have taken steps to remove the licensee and fix the problem. The Greens also supported the bill for tackling the toll of violence associated with alcohol abuse and commended the improvements in the bill from the previous version, while raising concerns about the lesser penalties for clubs when compared to pubs under the bill. The Christian Democratic Party welcomed the bill as a response to increased alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour. The Shooters and Fishers Party indicated that following consultation with the Australian Hotels Association they would support the bill. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved an amendment to make the penalties for clubs which receive three strikes the same as for pubs; that is, including suspension or cancellation of the licence. The Government, Opposition and Christian Democratic Party did not support the amendment on the basis that clubs are community based and owned and that it would not be appropriate for them to close outright, justifying the different penalties. The amendment was negatived.

The third reading of the bill was agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

Children (Education and Care Services) Supplementary Provisions Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: A national system for the regulation of early childhood education and care services, known as the National Quality Framework, is due to start on 1 January 2012. This national system will regulate long day care, preschools, family day care and out of school hours care, which also includes vacation care.

This bill removes those types of care now to be regulated under the National Quality Framework from the NSW *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. In addition, the bill regulates other types of early childhood care which remain under the State system: occasional care, home based care and mobile services.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 10 November 2011 from 20 October 2011 (see Vol 55/13 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The bill received unanimous support. Members of the Government spoke of the importance of quality education for young children. The Opposition noted that parents rely on different types of childcare services and it is essential that they are effectively regulated. The Greens spoke of the anticipated long-term benefits of the implementation of the National Quality Framework.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

Industrial Relations Amendment (Non-operative Awards) Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* to enable the Industrial Relations Commission to rescind private sector State awards that have no current application to any employer or employee. The bill also specifically removes the requirement created under the *Industrial Relations (Non-operative Awards) Amendment Act 2010* to preserve non-operative private sector State awards and to update them to give effect to any flow-on from a national industrial decision or the making of a State decision. The existence of non-operative private sector State awards is the result of the transfer of the State's industrial relations powers to the Commonwealth effective from 1 January 2010.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 10 November 2011 from 11 October 2011 (see Vol 55/12 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition did not oppose the bill, indicating that the previous Labor Government kept updating non-operative awards as a practical measure for benchmarking fair pay at a time when the industrial relations environment was undergoing significant change. The Opposition also argued that the measure was supported at the time by the then Opposition, now Government. The Greens did not oppose the bill, acknowledging that there no longer appears to be a need to retain and update non-operative awards. However, the Greens noted that

the bill provided the Commission with the discretion, rather than obligation, to rescind future obsolete awards and argued that this discretion should extend to awards previously declared non-operative. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill. The bill was read a second time.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved an amendment to remove the automatic rescission, at the commencement of the Act, of all awards previously declared non-operative by the Commission. The amendment was negatived.

The bill was reported to the House without amendment, read a third time and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2011

Summary: The bill repeals certain Acts and instruments and amends other Acts and instruments in various respects for the purpose of statute law revision. Of note, the bill renames the NSW Police Service the NSW Police Force.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) indicated that the bill is part of the established statute law revision program, which is recognised as a cost-effective and efficient method of dealing with amendments of the kind included in the bill.

The Opposition, Greens and Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill, which was read a second and third time and returned to the Assembly without amendment.

Clubs, Liquor and Gaming Machines Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

Proceedings: This bill was received from the Assembly on 18 October 2011. On 19 October 2011, the House debated and amended the bill. The bill and amendments were then returned by message to the Assembly (see Vol 55/13 of *House in Review* for details).

On 10 November 2011, the President reported a message from the Assembly stating that the Assembly disagreed with the amendment proposed by the Council, giving reasons. Consideration of the Assembly's message in committee of the whole was set down for a later hour.

The exchange of messages between the Houses in this manner is not unusual, with the majority of disagreements between the Houses resolved through the exchange of messages.

Private members' business

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

Bills

Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011 (Revd Mr Nile, Christian Democratic Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Education Act 1990* to repeal the provision (inserted by the *Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010*) that allows special education in ethics as a secular alternative to special religious education at government schools. The effect of the repeal will be delayed until the beginning of the next school year immediately following the commencement of the proposed Act.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 11 November 2011 from 5 August 2011 (see Vol 55/7 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). On the resumption of the debate, the Opposition opposed the bill, arguing that ethics classes were introduced by the previous Labor Government following an extensive trial which showed overwhelming support for ethics classes from parents and the community. The Opposition also noted that the provision of ethics classes by schools is entirely voluntary, as is the decision of parents whether to enrol their children in ethics classes. The Greens also opposed the bill, arguing that it is an attempt by Revd Mr Nile to impose his religious views on parents and children.

Dr Phelps, a member of the Government, subsequently moved an amendment to the question that the bill be read a second time to refer the bill to General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 (GPSC 2) for inquiry and report by 4 June 2012. The Greens opposed the reference to the Committee, on the basis that there is already overwhelming support for ethics classes in the community. Revd Mr Nile supported the reference to the Committee, while rejecting any suggestion that the bill is an attempt to impose religious education on children. The amendment was agreed to and the bill referred to GPSC 2 for inquiry and report.

Constitution Amendment (Restoration of Oaths of Allegiance) Bill 2011 (Revd Mr Nile, Christian Democratic Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill provides that when being sworn in, Members of Parliament and Ministers may take an oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her heirs and successors as an alternative to the current pledge of loyalty to Australia and the people of New South Wales. The current arrangements for a pledge of loyalty to Australia and the people of New South Wales were implemented in 2006.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business (Division 18:16). The bill was introduced and read a first time.

In his second reading speech, Revd Mr Nile indicated that the bill reflects the constitutional position in NSW that the people of NSW are united under the Crown. Revd Mr Nile also noted that the people of Australia previously rejected an Australian republic at a referendum in 1999, and argued that support for a

republic has tended down ever since, including amongst young Australians.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Ecological Consultants Accreditation Scheme) Bill 2011 (Ms Faehrmann, The Greens)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* to establish an accreditation scheme for ecological consultants who prepare or carry out certain assessments, impact statements or surveys under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* or the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The bill also makes it an offence for a person to carry out an ecological assessment without the required accreditation.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed from 5 August 2011 (see Vol 55/7 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). On the resumption of the debate, Ms Faehrmann argued that the proposed accreditation scheme will curb the preparation of suspect ecological assessments by the introduction of a transparent and accountable ecological assessment process. In support, Ms Faehrmann cited various ecological assessments brought to her attention which she argued were suspect or inadequate.

Debate was adjourned for five sitting days.

Coal Seam Gas Moratorium Bill 2011 (Mr Buckingham, The Greens)

Summary: The bill prohibits coal seam gas exploration and mining in the Sydney metropolitan area and in the Sydney Catchment Management Authority's declared special area. In the rest of the State, the bill implements a 12-month moratorium on exploration and mining operations. The moratorium does not apply to existing projects already at the production stage.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced and read a first time.

In his second reading speech, Mr Buckingham argued that coal seam gas exploration and mining is occurring under an inadequate regulatory regime and that a moratorium is necessary to undertake research into the economic, social and environmental impacts of the coal seam gas industry, particularly given its potential expansion. Mr Buckingham also pointed to the increasing concerns being expressed about coal seam gas mining both overseas and amongst a broad cross-section of the NSW community.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Darulfatwa (Mr Moselmane)
- (2) World Diabetes Day (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (3) 71st Greek National Day (Ms Voltz)
- (4) Karwa Chauth Vrat Pooja (Ms Ficarra)

- (5) Leslie Bruce Spence (Mr Moselmane)
- (6) St George Migrant Resource Centre (Mr Moselmane)
- (7) Arncliffe Community Centre (Mr Moselmane)
- (8) 93rd Anniversary of Remembrance Day (Ms Voltz).

Orders for papers

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

Return to order

- (1) **2011-2012 Budget Finances:** received 31 October, one additional document to previous return.

Petitions received

- (1) Special religious education classes – 626 signatures (presented Revd Nile);
- (2) Religious discrimination – 301 signatures (presented Mr Moselmane);
- (3) Coal seam gas operations – 313 signatures (presented Mr Buckingham);
- (4) Coal seam gas exploration – 105 signatures (irregular, presented Mr Buckingham);
- (5) Moratorium on coal mining and coal seam gas mining – 269 signatures (presented Mr Buckingham).

Debate on budget estimates

The House continued the take-note debate on the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2011-2012.

Committee activities

Committee reference

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2: The House referred to the Committee an inquiry into the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011. See the discussion of the bill under Private Members' Business for more details.

Committee report tabled

Legislation Review Committee: Legislation Review Digest No 7/55, 8 November 2011.

Government response

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1: The House received a response to Report No. 36 entitled 'The Gentrader transactions', received 27 October 2011.

Reports tabled

Audit Office of NSW: Annual report to 30 June 2011.

Auditor General:

- (1) Financial Audit report, Volume Three 2011, October 2011;

- (2) Financial Audit report, Volume Four 2011, focusing on electricity, November 2011;
- (3) Financial Audit report, Volume Five 2011, focussing on superannuation, compensation and housing, November 2011;
- (4) Special report entitled 'Solar Bonus Scheme', November 2011;
- (5) Performance Audit report entitled 'Responding to domestic and family violence: Department of Family and Community Services, Department of Attorney General and Justice, Ministry of Health, NSW Police Force', November 2011.

Children's Guardian: Annual report to 30 June 2011.

Domestic Violence Death Review Team: Annual report to 30 June 2011.

Independent Commission Against Corruption:

- (1) Annual report to 30 June 2011;
- (2) 'Investigation into the misuse of access rights to a Land and Property Management Authority database', November 2011.

Information and Privacy Commission: Annual report to 30 June 2011.

NSW Child Death Review Team: Annual report of the NSW Child Death Review Team, convened by the Ombudsman, to 31 December 2010.

NSW Law Reform Commission: Report No 131 entitled 'Compensation to relatives', October 2011.

Police Integrity Commission: Annual report to 30 June 2011.

Ombudsman: Annual report to 30 June 2011.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 8 November 2011

Movember (Mr Blair); Fifty-fifth anniversary of Karnataka (Ms Fazio); 100-Mile Challenge (Mr Green); Steber International (Miss Gardiner); Tamberlin Inquiry (Mr Roozendaal); Liverpool Plains – coal seam gas exploration (Mr Buckingham); Platypus sighting – Georges River (Mr Secord).

Wednesday 9 November 2011

Local Government Association annual conference – Tribute to councillor Janet Hayes (Ms Westwood); Cudgen Nature Reserve illegal clearing (Ms Faehrmann); Grasslands Society of New South Wales (Mr MacDonald); Not-For-Profit organisations (Mr Veitch); Murray-Darling Basin (Mr Brown); Australian and Chinese reciprocal Years of Culture (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); Murray-Darling Basin (Mr Colless); Berlin Wall anniversary (Dr Phelps).

Thursday 10 November 2011

Murrumbidgee electorate (Mr Moselmane); Respect Project (Ms Barham); Austroads Bridge Conference (Mr Ajaka); Kangaroo hunting (Mr Borsak); Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign (Mr Foley); Covecorp Constructions Pty Ltd (Mr Lynn); Community

sector pay equity (Ms Cotsis); McHappy Day twentieth anniversary (Mrs Mitchell).

Friday 11 November 2011

Remembrance Day (Mr Clarke); Owner-driver contract carriers (Ms Cotsis); Occupy Sydney movement (Mr Shoebridge); Remembrance Day (Ms Voltz); Israel (Revd Mr Nile); Dragons Abreast Festival (Ms Westwood); Our Big Kitchen (Ms Ficarra); Remembrance Day (Ms Gardiner); Remembrance Day (Mr Secord); Legacy Australia (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); Remembrance Day (Mr Foley).

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.

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments