

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 55/16

*Sitting period
22 to 24 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

This was the last sitting week of the Council for 2011. In total, the Council has sat 59 sitting days over 15 sitting weeks this year. These numbers are consistent with previous sitting years, despite the fact that the Parliament did not start sitting this year until 3 May following the election in March.

As reported in recent editions of *House in Review*, over the last few sitting weeks the House has dealt with a large volume of Government legislation. This sitting week saw the House pass a further four Government bills, including the controversial Police Amendment (Death and Disability) Bill 2011, and two new bills introduced in the Council: the Valuation of Land Amendment Bill 2011 and the Director of Public Prosecutions Amendment (Disclosures) Bill 2011. The introduction of these two bills required the bills to be declared urgent, as they came after the 21 October 2011 cut-off date for the introduction of bills in the sitting period before Christmas. In addition, the House chose not to insist on its previous amendment to the Clubs, Liquor and Gaming Machines Legislation Amendment Bill 2011, while a further three bills were introduced in the Council and set down for consideration in 2012.

The House also considered one private members' bill: the Constitution Amendment (Restoration of Oaths of Allegiance) Bill 2011. This is the third private members' bill to pass the Legislative Council this year.

The House sat until late Thursday evening, breaking one day earlier than the scheduled Friday rising. The final act of the House prior to the adjournment debate on Thursday was the giving of thanks to members and staff and season's felicitations. The House then adjourned until Tuesday, 14 February 2012, unless recalled earlier.

Finally, I would like to welcome the appointment of the new Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council. Mr Steven Reynolds has been an officer of the Legislative Council since May 1999, and has a wealth of experience in both the Committee and Procedure Offices of the Council. Steven has been the Usher of the Black Rod and Clerk Assistant – Committees since mid-2005.

Condolence motion – Quakers Hill Nursing Home

On Wednesday, 23 November 2011, the Leader of the Government in the House, Mr Gallagher, moved that the House offer its profound condolences to the residents of the Quakers Hill Nursing Home partially destroyed by fire, together with their family and friends. The motion also commended the heroic efforts of staff and emergency service workers in assisting the victims of the fire, together with the staff of NSW Health. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Members and officers stood as a mark of respect.

Reference to the Independent Commission Against Corruption

Under section 73(1) of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*, both the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly may, by resolution of either House, refer a matter to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for inquiry and report.

On 23 November 2011, the Legislative Council agreed to a message from the Legislative Assembly referring to the ICAC the circumstances surrounding the granting of a coal exploration licence to Doyles Creek Mining Pty Ltd in 2009.

This is the first time that the Houses have together referred a matter to the ICAC under section 73(1). On 23 November 2011, the Commissioner of the ICAC, the Hon David Ipp AO QC, indicated that in accordance with section 73(2) of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*, the ICAC would fully investigate the matter referred.

It is noted that some of the matters referred to the ICAC were the subject of questions in the Legislative Council during the previous Parliament, and that an order for papers concerning NuCoal Resources NL, proprietors of Doyles Creek Mining, was passed by the Council on 23 June 2010. The return was received on 7 July 2010 and reported to the House on 31 August 2010.

Conduct of business in 2012

As reported in the last edition of *House in Review*, in 2012, the Council will revert to a more traditional three-day sitting week, but with more sitting weeks than in recent years.

In anticipation of this change, on Wednesday 23 November 2011, the House adopted sessional orders setting out new times for the meeting of the House, the conduct of Question Time, debate on committee reports and the adjournment of the House.

A small amendment to the proposed sitting pattern for 2012 was agreed to by both Houses on 24 November 2012. A revised sitting pattern for 2012 is available on the Parliament's website.

The scope of parliamentary privilege

On 23 November 2011, the Chair of the Privileges Committee, Mr Khan, tabled Report No. 57 of the Committee entitled 'Statements made by Mr David Shoebridge'. The report found that statements made in the House by Mr Shoebridge on 15 September concerning the actions of the Commissioner of Police did not amount to an abuse of the privilege of freedom of speech.

The report also included some useful commentary concerning the nature of, and paramount importance of preserving, the privilege of freedom of speech of members of Parliament. In addition, the report reaffirmed that communications via social networking mediums, even when made by members of Parliament, fall under the law of defamation and have no protection under parliamentary privilege.

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 a new private 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: The bill was introduced, read a first time and declared urgent on 9 November 2011 (Division 21:18) (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate).

In his second reading speech on 9 November 2011, the Minister (Mr Gallacher) argued that the costs of the NSW Police Force death and disability and workers' compensation schemes are increasing at an unsustainable rate and require 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 cost of NSW Police Force 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.

On the resumption of debate on 23 November 2011, other members of the Government spoke in support of the bill, arguing that the current arrangements are not viable either operationally or financially, and criticised the former Government which introduced the scheme in 2006 for not tackling its unsustainable growth in cost. In particular, members of the Government cited advice from the Auditor General as early as 2007 that the arrangements were unsustainable. In 2010, a total of 1,135 officers were on long-terms sick leave, up from 450 in 2005.

The Opposition opposed the bill on the basis that it significantly reduces long-term assistance for police injured at work and the families of police killed on duty. The Opposition argued that the death and disability protection afforded to police officers is justifiably different to the protection afforded to other employees in recognition that police officers put their life on the line for the community on a day-to-day basis. The Opposition also cited widespread opposition to the bill, highlighting the concerns of the NSW Police Association together with correspondence from individual police officers and the protest by police outside Parliament House on Tuesday, 22 October 2011.

The Greens also opposed the bill, echoing many of the concerns raised by the Opposition that the bill is an attack on the rights of police, and arguing that the bill fails to guarantee even certain minimum payments and benefits. While accepting that the former Government failed to adequately address the rising costs of the death and disability scheme, the Greens argued that the new Government should have negotiated in good faith with the NSW Police Association to develop genuine return to work arrangements for injured police.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, accepting that the death and disability scheme is financially unsustainable. Accordingly, the Party argued that the Government has no choice but to proceed with the bill, while noting that it still allows more generous payments to police officers than are available in other states. The Christian Democratic Party also noted that the Government had already made a number of concessions to address some of its concerns, but foreshadowed further amendments in committee.

Debate on the bill was adjourned on 23 November 2011. Subsequently, on 24 November 2011, in an unusual step, the President left the Chair of the House at 4.49 pm until the ringing of a long bell to allow further behind the scenes negotiations on the provisions of the bill. When the President resumed the Chair at 8.00 pm, debate on the bill was recommenced. Speaking on the bill for the first time, the Shooters and Fishers Party noted the work done by the Minister for Police and the NSW Police Association in seeking to reach a compromise, and that both parties had given various concessions. At the same time, the Shooters and Fishers Party accepted that the

outcome of the bill will not be perfect, and that the scheme will likely need revisiting within the next 12 months. Nevertheless, the Shooters and Fishers Party indicated that it would support the bill amendments to be proposed by the Christian Democratic Party.

In reply, the Minister argued that the bill returns the death and disability scheme to sustainability, while remaining the most generous scheme in the country. The second reading was agreed to, the Opposition and Greens voting against the bill (Division 15:12).

In the committee stage, the Christian Democratic Party moved ten amendments. The amendments related to the level of certain benefits available to injured police and the duration of their availability, the contribution rate of police to the death and disability scheme, the transitional arrangements and retrospective provisions in the bill, and ongoing consultation arrangements between the Police Commissioner and the NSW Police Association concerning the future operation of the scheme. The Opposition supported the amendments for making some small improvements to the bill, while expressing strong opposition to the bill in general, and in particular the way the Government negotiated the changes with the NSW Police Association. The Greens did not oppose the amendments, also accepting them as modest improvements to the bill, while also expressing strong opposition to the bill as a whole. The Shooters and Fishers Party acknowledged that the amendments had been developed without significant time for examination, but accepted them as the best compromise in the circumstances. The amendments were agreed to.

The bill was reported to the House with the amendments. The bill was then read a third time, the Government, Christian Democratic Party and Shooters and Fishers Party voting for the bill, and the Opposition and the Greens voting against the bill (Division 15:12). The bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence. The Assembly agreed to the bill.

Work Health and Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council

Summary: On 3 July 2008, NSW and other States and Territories entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory Reform on Occupational Health and Safety. This subsequently led to the finalisation of a national model Work Health and Safety Act. Earlier this year, the NSW Government sponsored the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* through the Parliament, implementing the national model law, which is expected to commence on 1 January 2012 in most Australian jurisdictions.

This bill amends the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to make further provision for the commencement, administration and operation of that Act, and makes minor and consequential amendments to certain other Acts. Of note, it amends the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to specify that NSW has two occupational health and safety regulators: WorkCover in respect of workplaces generally and the Department of Trade and Investment in respect of mining workplaces.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 22 November 2011 from 20 October 2011 (see Vol 55/13 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). On the resumption of the debate, members of the Government and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, citing the importance of achieving national harmonisation of occupational health and safety laws. The Opposition and the Greens both took the opportunity to restate their concerns, voiced in May this year when the House debated the original Work Health and Safety Bill, about the perceived watering down of NSW OH&S provisions through participation in the national scheme. However the Greens did not oppose the bill, noting that the bill was primarily of a machinery nature. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition moved amendments to retain appeals to the Full Bench of the Industrial Relations Commission against acquittals in OH&S matters. Both the Government and the Greens opposed the amendments, viewing the right of appeal as an anomaly in the criminal law that should not be continued and noting that the appeal right only applies to lesser offences. The amendments were negated (Division 12:25). The Opposition also moved amendments to retain the existing Coal Competence Board out of concern that its abolition could lead to lower standard of safety in the coalmining industry, and also to require that two members of the newly constituted Mining Competence Board be nominated by Unions NSW. Despite the support of the Greens the amendments were negated (Division 17:20). In order to correct an oversight in the bill, the Government successfully moved an amendment to ensure a clear pathway of appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal from convictions imposed by the District Court.

The bill was reported to the House with the amendment, read a third time and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence. The Assembly agreed to the bill.

Valuation of Land Amendment Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The Valuer General is a statutory position established by the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*, responsible for valuing land for rating and taxation purposes. The Act sets out the functions of the Valuer General and prescribes the way in which land is to be valued. Over the years, the Valuer General has established a process for conducting valuations and developed a set of principles for valuing land.

However, two recent court decisions have raised some uncertainty surrounding the Valuer General's processes in two unrelated areas: the valuation of heritage restricted land and the use of a contract valuer or delegate in the process of making valuations.

This bill addresses both issues by clarifying the operation of the Act and confirming the established practices of the Valuer General. Specifically, the bill make it clear that the Valuer General can make a valuation of land for the purposes of a private agreement at the request of a party to the agreement, and it affirms the methodology used by the Valuer General in valuing heritage restricted land.

Proceedings: Leave was given to bring in the bill. The bill was introduced and read a first time. 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, allowing it to proceed.

In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Pearce) noted that the bill confirms rather than changes the practices and functions of the Valuer General. The Opposition supported the bill as a good, sound modernisation of the law. The Greens did not oppose the bill, while suggesting that there is an ongoing need for a thorough and proper review of the valuation process, including heritage valuations. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, recognising the urgency of the matter, and supporting the restoration of the existing principles for valuing land.

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

Director of Public Prosecutions Amendment (Disclosures) Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1986* to ensure that police officers investigating alleged indictable offences are not required to disclose to the Director of Public Prosecutions information, documents or other things obtained during the investigation that are the subject of a *bona fide* claim of privilege, public interest immunity or statutory immunity. In such cases, police officers will only have a duty to inform the Director of Public Prosecutions that they have obtained information, documents or other things of that kind. The bill temporarily suspends the effect of the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in *R v Lipton* [2011] NSWCCA 247 to enable the continuation of the current disclosure arrangements while a review of the proper scope of the duty of disclosure is carried out. The amendment ceases to have effect on 1 January 2013.

Proceedings: Leave was given to bring in the bill. The bill was introduced and read a first time. 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, allowing it to proceed.

In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) indicated that the bill is an urgent response to the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in *R v Lipton* which has thrown into doubt the disclosure practices currently operating between NSW Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Opposition supported the bill, noting that the bill provides a window of legislative certainty while the new Director of Public Prosecutions has an opportunity to examine the issue in more detail. The Greens and Christian Democratic Party also 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 Assembly agreed to the bill.

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 accompanying amendment 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.

The Assembly's message was considered in committee of the whole on 22 November 2011. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) moved that the House not insist on its amendment to the bill. Mr Mason-Cox argued that the amendment would impose a significant cost on clubs by requiring forfeiture of gaming machines when machine entitlements are transferred between related clubs in different areas.

The Opposition indicated that it would support the Government's motion, following assurances from the Minister and Clubs NSW concerning the operation of the new provisions. Labor accepted that there were unintended consequences of the amendment previously agreed in the Council, and indicated that it had assurances that terms and conditions of employment for club workers at de-amalgamating clubs would be protected.

The Greens opposed the motion, arguing against the increased concentration of gaming machines in areas where they are more profitable, and criticising the Government and Opposition for failing to combat the damage done to families by poker machines.

The motion was agreed to and a message forwarded to the Assembly that the Council did not insist on its amendment to the bill.

Marine Pollution Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to protect the State's marine and coastal environment from pollution by oil and other marine pollutants discharged from ships. The bill repeals and re-enacts the Marine Pollution Act, and implements additional provisions of the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973* (known as MARPOL).

Proceedings: The bill was introduced on 23 November 2011 and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down as an order of the day for the first sitting day in 2012.

Criminal Case Conferencing Trial Repeal Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The *Criminal Case Conferencing Trial Act 2008* established a trial criminal case conferencing scheme which commenced in May 2008. The scheme encouraged early plea negotiations in certain criminal cases heard in

certain courts, before committal for trial, by providing for sentencing discounts for guilty pleas.

This bill repeals the Act, and thus discontinues the trial scheme, while preserving any entitlement or application under the scheme made before the repeal date.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down as an order of the day for the first sitting day in 2012.

Government Information (Public Access) Amendment Bill 2011

The bill originated in the Legislative Council

Summary: The bill makes miscellaneous amendments to the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* and certain other legislation. Among other things the bill confirms that access to information is to be provided in a manner that has due regard to copyright issues and confirms that an agency may require proof of identity from an applicant before providing access to government information in certain circumstances.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down as an order of the day for the first sitting day in 2012.

Agricultural Tenancies Amendment Bill 2011

Summary: The bill establishes a new process for resolving agricultural tenancy disputes by the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal. These matters are currently dealt with by the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries under the *Agricultural Tenancies Act 1990*. As the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal already provides dispute resolution services and has extensive experience in tenancy-related matters, it is considered that it would be better suited to the role.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour, and now stands and order of the day for the first sitting day in 2012.

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.

Bill

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 NSW. The current arrangements were implemented in 2006.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business (Division 19:16). Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed from 11 November 2011 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier update).

Members of the Government and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, referring to the wide community support for the constitutional monarchy and for the Royal Family. It was also noted that the bill simply provides an alternative to the current pledge of loyalty to Australia and the people of NSW rather than prescribing that members and ministers take one or the other. The Opposition opposed the bill, stating that it stood by the reforms it implemented in 2006, which, it argued, added meaningful substance to the wording of the oath of allegiance taken by new members. It argued that the issue of the oath of allegiance was not, and should not be taken as, a proxy for the wider republic versus monarchy debate. The Greens also opposed the bill, arguing that the oath of allegiance should be directed to Australia and the people of NSW that members are elected to represent.

In reply, Revd Nile argued that the removal of the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen in 2006 was part of a broader anti-monarchist movement by the former Government and reiterated that NSW was a constitutional monarchy with its people united under the Crown. The second reading was agreed to (Division 21:18).

In the committee stage, the Greens moved amendments that would require new members of Parliament to take the pledge of loyalty to Australia and the people of NSW, but then also allow them to take an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen. The Opposition did not support the amendments, opposing any diminution of the status quo. The amendments were negatived (Division 5:32).

The third reading of the bill was agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Legislative Assembly for concurrence.

Motion

Select Committee on the Provisions of the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Bill 2011 (Mr Whan, Labor Party)

Summary: The motion called on the House to appoint a select committee to inquire into and report on the provisions of the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Bill 2011. This bill, which originated in the Assembly, was introduced into the Council on 12 October 2011, and its second reading currently stands an order of the day on the Notice Paper. The motion stipulated that the committee is to consist of nine members: four Government, three Opposition and two cross-bench members (Mr Borsak and Dr Kaye); and that Dr Kaye is to Chair the committee. The notice also stipulated a reporting day of 1 February 2012.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. The motion was moved and debated. The Opposition, the Shooters and Fishers Party, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported the motion. Various speakers argued that the

bill was complex and required public examination and evidence as to its impact on political donations. The Government opposed the motion, arguing that election funding and political donations law had been the subject of two recent comprehensive committee inquiries and that the proposals encapsulated by the bill were an election commitment endorsed by the people at the last State election.

The House agreed to an amendment to the motion to remove a provision stipulating that the second reading of the bill not proceed until the committee had reported. A further amendment by the Shooters and Fishers Party to change the reporting date of the committee from 1 to 15 February 2012 was also agreed to. The motion, as amended, was agreed to (Division 20:15).

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Broken Hill/Bankstown Sister City relationship (Ms Westwood)
- (2) Exercise Your Mood Week (Ms Westwood)
- (3) R U OK? Day (Ms Westwood)
- (4) Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital bicentenary (Ms Fazio)
- (5) International Day of People with a Disability (Ms Fazio)
- (6) Mens and Mixed Netball Championships (Ms Ficarra)
- (7) Kujawy-Sydney Polish Folkloric Dance Ensemble (Mr Clarke)
- (8) Mrs Pam Hall (Ms Ficarra)
- (9) Riverina Citrus (Mr MacDonald)
- (10) Mrs Neita Matthews OAM (Ms Ficarra)
- (11) Retirement of Consul-General for the Sultanate of Oman to Australia (Ms Ficarra)
- (12) Granville Station commuter car park (Ms Voltz)
- (13) Plane crash in Papua New Guinea (Ms Voltz)
- (14) Chinese Heritage Association of Australia (Mr Moselmane)
- (15) Ron Rathbone Local History Prize of Rockdale City (Mr Moselmane)
- (16) Australian Fuqing Association (Mr Moselmane)
- (17) Ecumenical prayer service for Coptic Christians in Egypt (Ms Cotsis)
- (18) Hurstville Chinese New Year Festival (Mr Moselmane)
- (19) Lebanon's Independence Day (Mr Moselmane)
- (20) Mr George Kellett (Mr Moselmane)
- (21) 23rd Annual Ethnic Business Awards (Ms Ficarra)
- (22) His Majesty, Emperor Akihito (Mr Moselmane)

- (23) Jindabyne Community Stage (Mr Whan)
- (24) Chinese Australian Forum (Mr Moselmane)
- (25) Australia-Korea Year of Friendship (Ms Fazio)
- (26) Charter for the NSW Community Sector (Ms Fazio)
- (27) Ms Joan Pappayani (Ms Fazio)
- (28) Bob Fenwick Memorial Mentoring Grants Program (Ms Fazio)
- (29) Sir David Attenborough (Ms Faehrmann)
- (30) Netball NSW Awards (Ms Ficarra)
- (31) Club Italia – Fogolar Furlan Sydney (Ms Ficarra)
- (32) Inaugural Transforming Sydney Lunch (Ms Ficarra)
- (33) Ecumenical prayer service for Coptic Christians (Ms Ficarra)
- (34) White Ribbon Day 2011 (Ms Ficarra).

Orders for papers

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

Order made

- (1) **Economic Analysis of Domestic Fuel Heaters (Mr Faehrmann):** The order relates to the economic analysis of policy options for controlling smoke from domestic solid fuel heaters. The motion was agreed to as formal business. Due: 9 December 2011.

Petitions received

- (1) Moratorium on coal seam gas – 328 signatures (presented Mr Buckingham);
- (2) Traffic conditions in Bayway Village and Fern Bay – 735 signatures (presented Mr MacDonald);
- (3) Bus stops in Teralba – 217 signatures (presented Ms Voltz);
- (4) Special religious education classes - 100 signatures (Revd Mr Nile); 11 signatures (presented Mr Colless);
- (5) Opposition to Euthanasia – 30 signatures (presented Revd Mr Nile);
- (6) Dying with dignity – 95 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann);
- (7) The right to die with dignity – 144 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann);
- (8) Support for an open Australia – 87 signatures (presented Revd Mr Nile);
- (9) Adoption laws – 23 signatures (presented Revd Mr Nile).

Committee activities

Committee reference

Select Committee on the Provisions of the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Bill 2011: The House resolved to establish a select committee to inquire into and report on the provisions of the bill (see the discussion under Private Members' Business – Motion for more details). The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Government: Miss Gardiner, Mr Khan, Mrs Maclaren-Jones, Dr Phelps

Opposition: Ms Fazio, Mr Primrose, Mr Whan

Cross bench: Dr Kaye (Chair), Mr Borsak.

Committee membership

Select Committee on the Kooragang Island Orica Chemical Leak: The President informed the House that Mr Brown had replaced Mr Borsak as a cross bench member on the Committee. The President further informed the House that Mr Brown had been elected Chair of the Committee.

Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe): The House resolved that the resolution appointing the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety be amended to change the quorum for a meeting of the Committee from five members to four members.

Committee reports tabled

Privileges Committee: Report No. 57 'Statements made by Mr David Shoebridge', November 2011 (see the discussion under 'The scope of parliamentary privilege').

Procedure Committee: 'Report relating to private members' business, the sitting pattern, Question Time and petitions', November 2011.

Legislation Review Committee: 'Legislation Review Digest No.8/55', 22 November 2011.

Reports tabled

Department of the Legislative Council: Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Department of Parliamentary Services: Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Auditor General:

- (1) Financial Audit report, Volume Six 2011, focussing on Environment, Water and Regional Infrastructure, November 2011.
- (2) Financial Audit report, Volume Seven 2011, focussing on Law, Order and Emergency Services, November 2011.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 22 November 2011

Dr Paul Barach – UNSW dismissal (Dr Kaye); Clarence by-election (Mr Colless); Levine abortion ruling 40th anniversary (Ms Sharpe); Christmas (Mr Green); World Premature Day (Mrs Pavey); Circle sentencing (Mr Secord).

Wednesday 23 November 2011

Dust diseases compensation (Mr Primrose); West Papua (Ms Faehrmann); Hay (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); Ashfield councillor Julie Passas (Ms Fazio); Genetically modified crops compensation (Mr Buckingham); Carbon tax (Mr Clarke); Quakers Hill nursing home fire (Mr Secord).

Thursday 24 November 2011

International Day of People with a Disability (Ms Barham); Perisher Valley Fire Station (Mr Whan); Federal-state relations (Mr Mason-Cox); Dragons Abreast Festival (Ms Westwood); Boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Israel (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