

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## HOUSE IN REVIEW



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13 to 15 March 2012

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).

### Death of former member

The President reported to the House the death of the Hon Walter John Holt QC, a member of the House from 1972 to 1984. The President further reported that on behalf of the House he had extended to the family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Council in the loss sustained.

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.

#### **Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

**Summary:** In 2009, the Parliament enacted the *Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2009* which introduced a scheme for the declaration of criminal groups by an eligible judge of the Supreme Court on the application of the Commissioner of Police. Under section 9 of the 2009 Act, an eligible judge could make a declaration in relation to an organisation if he or she was satisfied that the members of the organisation were involved in organising, planning, facilitating, supporting or engaging in serious criminal activity and that the organisation represented a risk to public safety. Once an organisation was so declared, the activities of its members could be restricted through control orders issued by the Supreme Court.

In 2010 the constitutional validity of this Act was challenged in the High Court by Mr Derek Wainohu, then president of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, the first organisation against which a declaration was sought. On 23 June 2011 the High Court ruled the Act to be invalid.

This bill re-enacts the 2009 Act with minor changes to address the identified constitutional shortcomings in the former Act by providing that eligible judges will be required to give reasons for their decision to declare an organisation criminal.

**Proceedings:** The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 15 February 2012 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 March 2012. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) said that the bill is part of the Government's response to the threat of organised crime. He argued that the bill was important as it is estimated organised crime costs Australia between \$10 and \$15 billion per year and impacts on public safety.

Members of the Government, the Opposition, the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party all supported the bill. However, the Opposition were of the view that there were still potential legal shortcomings that could bring the constitutional validity of the current bill into question. The Opposition foreshadowed it would seek to address these potential shortcomings in the committee stage.

The Greens opposed the bill arguing that it is an attack on civil liberties and that there are already sufficient powers and laws in place to deal with criminal organisations.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition moved 29 related amendments which it believed would avoid the bill being invalidated. The amendments sought to replace the eligible judge concept in the bill with deputy presidents of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal. The Opposition argued that the High Court is not in favour of members of the Supreme Court acting in other administrative roles and that there is a tension between the standard of reasons required of a Supreme Court judge and the duty of non-disclosure in the bill. The Government and the Greens opposed the amendments arguing that members of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal do not have the same experience as judges of the Supreme Court and that judges are best placed to perform this role and to maintain the confidentiality of the information. The amendments were negated (Division 13:24).

The Greens moved an amendment to make it clear that members of organisations who associate principally for the

purpose of genuine advocacy, protest, dissent or industrial action will not be subject to a declaration under the bill. The Government and the Opposition opposed the amendment arguing that there are sufficient safeguards in the bill to ensure that such organisations will not be the subject of a declaration. The amendment was negated (Division 4:29).

The bill was reported to the House without amendment. The third reading was agreed to (Division 29:4) and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Criminal Procedure Amendment (Summary Proceedings Case Management) Bill 2011**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* to make provision for case management procedures to reduce delays in trial and sentencing procedures before the Supreme Court and the Land and Environment Court. This is achieved by granting those courts the discretion to make orders requiring that certain disclosures be made by the prosecution and the defence before a trial or sentencing hearing. The bill also provides for pre-hearing mechanisms (such as preliminary hearings and preliminary conferences) aimed at achieving a more efficient management and conduct of proceedings.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 21 February 2012 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 March 2012.

In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) said that one of the Government's goals is to improve community confidence in the justice system by, among other things, improving the efficiency of the court system, and that this bill aims to reduce the problems of unnecessary delay and cost in summary criminal proceedings in the Supreme Court and the Land and Environment Court. The Parliamentary Secretary advised that in 2009 case management reforms were enacted for a different type of proceedings – proceedings for indictable criminal offences. This bill will extend the 2009 reforms to apply also to summary criminal matters in the higher courts.

The Opposition supported the bill as an extension of an innovation that it introduced when in Government. It noted the widespread support for the 2009 reforms, which were based on the work of the Trial Efficiency Working Group, which was comprised of members of the judiciary and senior representatives of the legal profession from both sides of criminal practice. The Opposition did not envisage a large number of cases in the two courts would be affected by the bill and, as such, described it as a sensible, albeit minor, extension to what has proven to be an effective scheme.

The Greens supported the bill describing it as a carefully drafted piece of legislation that properly balances the rights of defence in a trial against the need to avoid a culture of trial by ambush. The Greens noted that the bill is building

on a set of reforms that has been found to work in practice, and that, importantly, there remained provision for judges to waive the management procedures when in the interests of justice.

In his reply the Parliamentary Secretary, in commanding the bill to the House, said the bill represents the Government's commitment to a form of justice in which the real issues in dispute in a trial are determined without undue delay or expense.

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

### **Education Amendment (Record of School Achievement) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Education Act 1990* to replace the School Certificate with a Record of School Achievement. The examinations or other assessments for the new credential will be conducted by individual schools, but will be moderated on a State-wide basis. The bill also provides for a more extensive record of student results and other activities during Years 10, 11 and 12.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 February 2012 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 March 2012.

In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Ajaka) argued that the introduction of the Record of School Achievement in place of the former School Certificate represents the most significant change to NSW secondary school credentialing in more than a decade, and comes after substantial consultation with educators, employers and the community.

The Opposition supported the bill, noting that NSW was the only State to still have mandatory external testing at Year 10, and that the increase in the school leaving age to 17 by the previous Labor Government had increased the need to have a credential system that captures more of what a student has achieved up to the point at which he or she leaves school. The Greens supported the bill while raising certain concerns such as the increased workload on teachers and the Federal Government's online NAPLAN tests. The Christian Democratic Party strongly supported the bill as a very welcome reform. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved two amendments, to which the Opposition indicated support, to allow those students who leave school and complete their Year 10 qualifications at a TAFE college to be able to obtain a Record of School Achievement. The amendments, which were not supported by the Government, were negated.

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

## **Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Offender Nomination) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

**Summary:** When a camera records a traffic offence the offender is taken to be the registered operator of the vehicle unless the operator formally nominates the driver who committed the offence. It is an offence to falsely nominate a driver or, in the case of a company, not to nominate.

This bill amends the *Road Transport (General) Act 2005* to make further provision with respect to the nomination of offenders for certain traffic and parking offences and to make consequential and other minor amendments to the *Fines Act 1996* and the road transport legislation. Amongst other things, the bill increases the fines for companies that fail to nominate a driver who commits an offence; reduces from 21 to 7 days the period of presumed service for penalty notices delivered by mail; requires a registered owner to provide additional information, when needed, to establish the identity of the responsible driver; and provides that only one statutory declaration is required relating to multiple offences detected by the one camera image.

**Proceedings:** Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 March 2012 from 22 February 2012 (see Vol 55/19 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill.

In supporting the bill the Opposition noted that it builds on reforms that the previous Labor Government started in 2010. The Opposition commended the Government for taking on board their concerns regarding the proposed inclusion of drivers whose licence had expired within the definition of special category drivers (to whom a blood alcohol level of 0.02 applies). However, the Opposition did take the opportunity to argue that the Government should have also moved to address other existing loopholes with respect to misuse of statutory declarations.

The Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported all provisions of the bill particularly those that will make it more difficult for companies to shield offending drivers.

In reply the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Ajaka) congratulated the Shadow Minister for Transport for his negotiations regarding the bill which gave rise to the development of an amendment which the Government would move in the committee stage. In conclusion, the Parliamentary Secretary commended the bill for its anticipated effect in stopping companies from choosing not to nominate offending drivers.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Government moved an amendment to the proposed definition of special category drivers so that it included drivers whose licence has been expired for a period of more than six months. The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was reported to the House with an amendment. The bill was read a third time on 15 March 2012 and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

## **Children (Detention Centres) Amendment (Serious Young Offenders Review Panel) Bill 2011**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

**Summary:** The bill establishes the Serious Young Offenders Review Panel under the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*. The panel will be comprised of between three and six members, appointed by the Minister for Justice. The role of the panel is to provide advice and make recommendations with respect to serious young offenders and certain other detainees under the Act.

**Proceedings:** The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 February 2012 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 March 2012.

In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) said that the bill will enshrine the constitution, functions and powers of the Serious Young Offenders Review Panel in legislation. The panel was initially established in 1998 for a 12 month trial period and continued for a further 12 years without being provided for in legislation. Mr Clarke argued that establishing a legislative basis for the panel brings it in line with the Corrective Services' Serious Offenders Review Council which carries out an equivalent function for adults.

The Government members and the Greens supported the bill, arguing that the panel has operated effectively over the past 12 years and it is appropriate that it be codified in legislation. The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that the panel was an initiative of the previous Labor Government.

However, both the Opposition and the Greens did raise concerns that the bill does not provide for specific community groups to be represented on the panel, particularly a representative of the Aboriginal community. In reply, the Parliamentary Secretary argued for the bill in its current form stating there needs to be flexibility in the make-up of the panel. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved an amendment to ensure that at least one member of the panel is a member of the Aboriginal community. The Greens argued that given 27% of young offenders coming before the panel are Aboriginal it was important to ensure that there was at least one panel member who understood the cultural needs of young Aboriginal persons. The Opposition supported the amendment stating that it would not affect the flexibility of the constitution of the panel. The Government disagreed, highlighting the need for greater flexibility as there are other culturally diverse groups also heavily represented in the system. The amendment was negated (Division 16:19).

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

## **Road Transport (General) Amendment (Vehicle Sanctions) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Road Transport (General) Act 2005* by including in the vehicle sanctions scheme certain high range speeding and police pursuit offences and by enabling the confiscation of number plates from motor vehicles as an additional sanction to impounding. The bill also repeals the provisions in the Act relating to the wheel clamping of vehicles.

*Proceedings:* Leave was granted to bring in the bill on 13 March 2012. The bill was presented, read a first time and printed. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gallacher) argued that the bill provides key improvements to the current vehicle sanctions scheme, which to date has been primarily designed to target 'hoon-type' offences. He stated that including high-range speeding and police pursuit offences in the scheme is important as in 2011 speed was a factor in 150 of 376 recorded road deaths. There were also 1,781 police pursuits in 2011. Mr Gallacher argued that the proposal to include number plate confiscation as an alternative vehicle sanction for police will have the same effect as vehicle impounding but will be a quicker, easier and less costly sanction for police to apply. The bill removes the provisions relating to wheel clamping as this had not proven to be an effective sanction due to practical issues regarding the need for police to rely on third-party contractors. In a 12 month trial period, only 12 vehicles were wheel clamped, while 219 were impounded. Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

## **Courts and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2011**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill makes miscellaneous amendments to various courts and crimes-related legislation.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 February 2012 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 March 2012.

In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) indicated that the bill comes as part of the Government's regular legislative review and monitoring program to improve the efficiency and operation of the State's courts and tribunals and criminal laws.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, while the Greens supported it. There was a consensus that the regular legislative review and monitoring program operates regardless of which government is in office or the nature of the political parties constituting the government.

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

## **Noxious Weeds Amendment Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* to improve the management of noxious weeds and to better protect landowners, the community and the environment from these weeds. The bill makes provisions for improved regulatory powers, including granting greater powers to local control authorities and inspectors, to help minimise the risk of new noxious weeds.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 March 2012 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting.

## **Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Amendment Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983* by: extending the maximum term of a lease over Trust lands that the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust may enter into; extending the power of the Trust to delegate its functions to authorised persons; and allowing the Trust to conduct its business without the necessity for a formal meeting.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 14 March 2012 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting.

## **Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transaction) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill authorises and facilitates the sale of the State's electricity generator assets to the private sector. It also authorises the transfer of employees of the electricity generators to other public sector agencies for the purposes of the sale. The bill requires that the proceeds of any sale, after deductions for debt repayments and payments of expenses, be paid into the Restart NSW Fund.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 14 March 2012 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting.

## **Coroners Amendment Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Coroners Act 2009* to improve the operation and effectiveness of the New South Wales Coroner's Court by making further provision with respect to the conduct of coronial proceedings and post mortem examinations and the publication of matters arising in coronial proceedings.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 14 March 2012 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting.

### **Messages from the Assembly**

The House received the following messages from the Legislative Assembly relating to bills forwarded to the Assembly by the Council in previous sitting weeks.

**Real Property Amendment (Public Lands) Bill 2012:** On 8 March 2012 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill without amendment.

**Mental Health Commission Bill 2011:** On 13 March 2012 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the Council's amendments.

**Government Information (Public Access) Amendment Bill 2011:** On 14 March 2012 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill without amendment.

### **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*

#### **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:** Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 15 March 2012 from 8 March 2012 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members of the Government continued to oppose the bill reiterating their objection to the bill being brought on for consideration at the same time that a parliamentary inquiry is examining the issue. At the same time, the Government is seeking public comment on the recently released draft Strategic Regional Land Use Policy. The Government argued the bill only served to alarm the community and to divert the public's attention from the actions the Government is taking to develop an effective management framework for coal seam gas.

The Christian Democratic Party were also of the view that the bill's introduction was premature given the ongoing comprehensive parliamentary inquiry. The Opposition did not agree with this proposition.

In reply, Mr Buckingham said the Greens supported the amendments that had been proposed by the Opposition, to have a moratorium pending the outcome of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee's bioregional assessments. Mr Buckingham referred to the increasing amount of new scientific information raising concerns over coal seam gas and to a number of environmental incidents at coal seam gas sites which, he posited, emphasised the

need for an immediate moratorium. Mr Buckingham argued that 75% of the population of the State saw the need for a moratorium and that on that basis the bill should receive the support of the House.

The second reading was negated (Division 16:19).

#### **Crimes Amendment (Possession or Discharge of Firearms in Commission of Offences) Bill 2012 (Mr Borsak, Shooters and Fishers Party)**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

**Summary:** The bill amends the *Crimes Act 1900* by making it an offence to be in possession of a firearm or imitation firearm when committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences, or to aid, abet, counsel or procure the commission of the offence by another person while that person is in possession of a firearm or imitation firearm. The bill also imposes a further offence if the firearm or imitation firearm is discharged or used.

**Proceedings:** Standing orders were suspended and leave was granted to bring in the bill on 15 March 2012. The bill was presented, read a first time and printed. In his second reading speech, Mr Borsak said the Shooters and Fishers have always believed there should be a specific penalty for the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime, and that the party had repeatedly introduced legislation to try to make it law.

Mr Borsak argued the bill recognises the growing public concern about the increased use of firearms in the commission of crimes, by making the possession a separate crime in itself, and not an aggravating offence as the law sees it now. Mr Borsak said it was essential that it is made clear in law that even the threat to use a firearm during a crime is intolerable, and that the addition of a separate sentence to be served cumulatively upon, not concurrently with, any sentence for the crime itself will serve to deter criminals from carrying firearms when they commit crimes.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

#### **Motions**

#### **International Women's Day (Ms Westwood, Australian Labor Party)**

**Summary:** The motion noted that 8 March is International Women's Day, acknowledged the role women play regarding economic prosperity and highlighted the need to remove the barriers women face in achieving economic and social equality. The motion called on the Government and the corporate sector to take action to remove these barriers.

**Proceedings:** Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Debate resumed from 8 March 2012 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate).

In reply, Ms Westwood spoke of the significance of International Women's Day and its importance as a way of seeking to improve the lives of women and to address the economic and social inequities they face. The motion was agreed to.

## **Forests NSW research staff (Mr Whan, Australian Labor Party)**

**Summary:** The motion called on the House to note that the Government has removed 11 out of 33 research staff positions at the Forest NSW research facility at West Pennant Hills resulting in the loss of important specialised skills; and condemned the Government for its action.

**Proceedings:** The motion was called on according to precedence. Debate resumed on 15 March 2012 from 16 September 2011 (see Vol 55/11 of *House in Review* for earlier debate).

The Opposition supported the motion and highlighted the importance of the work of the research staff, particularly research into how bats transmit the Hendra virus. The Opposition argued that the removal of these researchers will result in the loss of at least 20 years of unique and non-transferable knowledge. The Greens also supported the motion, arguing for the need for Australian based research to analyse our own environment.

The Government opposed the motion, arguing that a benchmarking review of the research requirements of Forests NSW considered it appropriate to rearrange funding so that the science and research forestry unit be restructured and refocused to reflect actual needs and deliver critical services. The Government noted that the Department of Primary Industries is leading the research into the Hendra virus and recently formed a cross-border taskforce which will oversee the research. The Government took the opportunity, as did the Shooters and Fishers, to draw attention to the number of Department of Primary Industries offices that were closed during the 16 years of the previous Labor Government.

The debate was interrupted for questions.

### *Motion taken as formal business*

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

- (1) Japanese earthquake (Mr Blair)
- (2) 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2CH (Ms Fazio)
- (3) 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Electoral Lobby (Ms Fazio)
- (4) The FilmLife Project (Ms Fazio)
- (5) Assyrian Parliamentary Friendship Group (Mr Moselmane)
- (6) Neighbour Day (Mr Ajaka)
- (7) Mrs Ellie Kambos (Ms Ficarra)
- (8) Rockdale SES flood response (Mr Moselmane)
- (9) Royal Australian Air Force No. 3 Squadron (Mr Ajaka)
- (10) Australasian Lymphology Association (Ms Ficarra)
- (11) Commonwealth Day 2012 (Ms Ficarra)

- (12) Legal year service at Auburn Gallipoli Mosque (Mr Moselmane)
- (13) KYPRIA 2012 (Ms Ficarra)
- (14) Sing Tao Daily Australia (Mr Moselmane)
- (15) Mrs Elvira Melim (Mr Moselmane)
- (16) Mr Antoine Kazzi (Mr Moselmane)
- (17) Rockdale SES volunteer, Mr Sam Zorbas (Mr Moselmane)
- (18) Emergency services flood response (Mr Veitch on behalf of Mr Whan)
- (19) Councillor Patricia Giles OAM (Ms Ficarra)
- (20) Syria (Dr Kaye).

## **Order for papers**

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

### *Return to order*

**WorkCover prosecutions:** received 14 March 2012, one box public, six boxes privileged.

## **Petitions received**

- (1) NSW Forests Nurseries – 4,483 signatures (irregular, presented Mr Whan)
- (2) Coal seam gas operations – 214 signatures (presented Mr Buckingham)
- (3) Game Council of New South Wales – 39 signatures (presented by Mr Shoebridge).

## **Committee activities**

### *Committee report tabled*

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 12/55', 13 March 2012.

### *Committee reports debated*

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 37 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2011-2012', February 2012.

**Joint Select Committee on the Parliamentary Budget Office:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 1/55 entitled 'Inquiry into the Parliamentary Budget Office', December 2011.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3:** The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 25 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2011-2012', December 2011.

**Standing Committee on Law and Justice:** The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 47 entitled 'Fourth review of the exercise of the functions of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority and the Lifetime Care and Support Advisory Council', December 2011.

### *General Purpose Standing Committees – Portfolio responsibilities*

Mr Gay moved a motion to change the allocation of portfolios to the General Purpose Standing Committees (GPSCs), by moving the portfolio of Trade and Investment from GPSC No. 1 to GPSC No. 3. Ms Fazio moved an amendment to the motion to also move the portfolios of Special Minister of State and the Central Coast from GPSC No. 3 to GPSC No. 5. The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

### *Committee reference*

**Budget Estimates:** Mr Gay moved a motion to refer to the General Purpose Standing Committees the budget estimates and related papers for the financial year 2012-13. Ms Fazio moved an amendment to the motion to make some changes to the initial timetable and to include supplementary hearings. The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

The initial round of hearings will take place in the week beginning 8 October 2012 and the initial round of supplementary hearings will take place the week beginning 26 November 2012. Please refer to the website for more information.

### **Adjournment debate**

#### **Tuesday 13 March 2012**

Public housing staff (Mr Searle); Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters (Ms Westwood); Dams (Mr Brown); Greater Western Sydney Giants AFL team (Mr Lynn); Construction retention funds (Mr Borsak); Tribute to Professor Neville Hacker (Ms Ficarra); Inverell Rotary Conference (Mr MacDonald); Nursing home dental care (Mr Secord).

#### **Wednesday 14 March 2012**

Stand4Marriage (Ms Sharpe); Bago Plateau logging (Mr Shoebridge); Agricultural education (Mr Blair); St Philip's Christian College dynamic alternative learning environment program (Mr Donnelly); Seniors Week (Ms Barham); Northern New South Wales paediatric services (Mrs Pavey).

#### **Thursday 15 March 2012**

New South Wales crime rate (Mr Shoebridge); Wealth inequality (Mr Moselmane); Commonwealth Day (Mr Ajaka); Education reform (Dr Kaye); Tribute to Arthur Beetson (Ms Voltz); Campaign against coalmining (Mr MacDonald).

### **Review of senior management roles**

In the first sitting week of this year, the President informed the House that a review of the Department of the Legislative Council's senior management roles and responsibilities was being undertaken by the Deputy Clerk. The President indicated that he would advise the House of the allocation of responsibilities amongst the senior managers following the conclusion of the review.

This week, the President informed the House that Ms Julie Langsworth had been appointed Clerk Assistant – Committees and Mr Stephen Frappell had been appointed Clerk Assistant – Procedure.

The President further informed the House that the Deputy Clerk, Mr Steven Reynolds, would continue as Usher of the Black Rod for the time being.

### **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.



Steven Reynolds  
Deputy Clerk