

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## *HOUSE IN REVIEW*



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13 to 15 November 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).

### Overview

At the start of the second last sitting week for the year there were fourteen Government bills on the Notice Paper. By sitting late on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and having Government business take precedence on Thursday, the House was able to finalise consideration of eight bills, three of which originated in the Council. In addition, the Retail Trading Amendment Bill, which had been received from the Assembly in April, was discharged from the Notice Paper.

This was the first sitting week since the 25 October cut-off date for the consideration of Government bills and, notably, no bills were introduced in the House or received from the Assembly. As a result, when the House commences sitting next week, for the last sitting week of the year, the Notice Paper will contain five Government bills.

During the week the House also agreed to its sitting calendar for 2013. The calendar, which sees the House sitting 63 days next year, is accessible from the front page of the Parliament website.

The House also agreed to the dates for the first round of Budget Estimates in 2013, which will take place in August. Interestingly, a number of the Budget Estimates hearing days coincide with sittings of the Legislative Assembly, a practice which has not happened for a number of years.

### Government business

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

### [Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2012](#)

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and other Acts in an attempt to increase the supply of housing, including by clarifying the purpose, status and content of development control plans (DCPs) and how they are to be taken into account during the development assessment process.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 24 October 2012 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 November 2012. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Pearce) indicated that the Government is currently developing new comprehensive planning laws. In the interim, however, this bill seeks to promote housing starts in NSW by ensuring DCPs are applied flexibly and by reforming building certification provisions.

The Opposition opposed the bill, arguing that it will allow developments to progress even where they are inconsistent with the relevant DCP. The Opposition argued that this change is being made without due regard to heritage conservation, without any consultation with local communities, and in contravention of the Government's election promises. The Greens similarly opposed the bill, also arguing that the bill undermines important and meticulously developed DCPs which protect valuable heritage and conservation areas and planning principles. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, arguing that the Minister has consulted extensively on the proposed planning reforms, and that there is a need to promote housing availability. In reply, the Minister argued that the bill will improve consumer protection and confidence in the building certification system and increase housing supply. He also foreshadowed Government amendments to the bill in relation to DCPs. The second reading was agreed to (Division 20:17).

In the committee stage, the Greens moved amendments to omit from the bill those provisions that either rule out or weaken the protections in DCPs, together with associated transitional provisions. The amendments were negatived on the voices or on division (17:20). However, the foreshadowed Government amendments to expressly protect heritage conservation areas and to remove from the bill those provisions that provide that DCPs should be given less weight and significance than environmental planning instruments were agreed to. The amendments were developed by the Government in response to issues raised by the City of Sydney Council and other councils, and in consultation with other interested parties. A further Greens amendment to restrict the bill from

applying to DCPs already in existence was also negated, the Minister arguing that the matter was addressed by the Government's own amendments (Division 20:17). A separate Greens amendment in relation to the retention of public land which is registered in the Government Property Register was also negated.

The bill was reported with the Government's amendments, read a third time (Division 20:17) and returned to the Assembly.

### **Forestry Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill establishes a new framework for the management and use of State forests and other Crown-timber land for forestry and other purposes. The bill constitutes the Forestry Corporation of New South Wales as a statutory State owned corporation and specifies its objectives and functions. The bill also repeals the *Forestry Act 1916* and the *Timber Marketing Act 1977* and makes amendments to certain other legislation.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 13 November 2012 from 24 October 2012 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, stating that modernisation of the *Forestry Act* was overdue and that the bill addresses the present needs and concerns of the industry to manage and use State forests more efficiently.

The Opposition did not support the bill, arguing that it represents the first step in the ultimate privatisation of State forests and will have a negative impact on regional New South Wales. The Opposition said that it had no faith in the Government or the relevant Minister to oversee the corporatisation process without it resulting in further staff reductions and reductions in operational capability.

The Greens opposed the bill, arguing that no case had been made to demonstrate that corporatisation would improve the day-to-day operations of Forests NSW, and that it would simply remove another element of core government business from direct ministerial responsibility and parliamentary oversight.

The second reading was agreed to (Division 19:16).

Consideration of the bill in detail commenced the following day. In the committee stage, the Opposition gained the support of the Government to change the wording of, and in their view make more effective, two of the objectives of the new Forestry Corporation. A Greens amendment to insert into the objectives an overriding requirement to preserve and enhance the environment, while supported by the Opposition, was not agreed to (Division 17:20). The Greens moved three further amendments, which respectively sought to prohibit the issuing of timber licences in respect of flora reserves; and to insert a stronger environmental focus into the long title of the bill and into the stated objectives of forestry area land managers. All three amendments were negated on the voices.

The bill was reported to the House with amendments. The third reading of the bill was agreed to later that day, and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

### **Bail Amendment (Enforcement Conditions) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Bail Act 1978* to enable a court, when granting bail to an accused person, to impose a bail condition (an enforcement condition) that requires the accused person to comply with specified kinds of directions that are given by police officers for the purpose of monitoring or enforcing compliance with another bail condition.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 13 November 2012 from 24 October 2012 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition supported the bill, stating that the contents of the bill appeared to be a moderate and sensible response to the *Lawson v Dunlevy* case, but argued that the lack of monitoring by the Ombudsman on the manner in which directions are applied in practice was a weakness in the bill. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, viewing it as meeting some of the concerns regarding the operations of the *Bail Act 1978*. The Greens did not support the bill, noting concerns expressed by the NSW Law Society and the NSW Law Reform Commission. The Greens stated that they endorsed the position of the Law Society that the legislative overturning of *Lawson v Dunlevy* – albeit with some limitations and protections contained in the bill – was wrong in principle.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens sought to amend the bill to ensure that police officers could only issue enforcement directions that were consistent with the bail enforcement conditions as set by a magistrate. The amendment, while drawing the support of the Opposition, was negated (Division 16:18). An Opposition amendment, supported by the Greens, which sought to establish a monitoring role for the Ombudsman with respect to the provisions of the bills, including reporting to Parliament on the operation of the provisions after a two year period, was also negated (Division 16:18).

The bill was reported without amendment. The Greens opposed the third reading of the bill, which was agreed to on division (28:5). The bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence. The Assembly returned the bill without amendment.

### **Road Transport (General) Amendment (Private Car Parks) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill removes any requirement for Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to disclose the name and address of driving licence holders held on its registers to parties involved in court action relating to the recovery of fees for private car park usage.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 13 November 2012 from 25 October 2012 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Other members of the Government supported the bill, noting that unreasonable letters of demand are being sent to motorists by private car park operators using details discovered from RMS through preliminary discovery processes. The Opposition supported the bill as a reasonable measure to protect consumers, one member of the Opposition citing his own personal experience of being sent fraudulent payment notices by private car park operators. The Greens also supported the bill, expressing concern at the unconscionable conduct of some private car park operators.

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

### **Biofuels Further Amendment Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Biofuels Act 2007* and the *Biofuels Regulation 2007* by clarifying the way in which exemptions from the minimum biofuel requirements can be granted, varied or revoked, increasing the maximum penalties for key offences, clarifying the powers of investigators and establishing minimum biofuel requirements for petrol and diesel fuel sold by volume fuel sellers in New South Wales.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 November 2012. The Minister (Mr Gay) incorporated his second reading speech into Hansard. In it, the Minister stated that the amendments introduced in the bill will enable the Government to more effectively manage longer-term progress toward the biofuels mandates of 6 per cent ethanol and 2 per cent biodiesel, to which it remained committed.

The Opposition supported the bill, stating its strong and continuing support for the biofuels industry. The Opposition noted that it held concerns that under the current E10 requirements many companies were putting only 9 per cent ethanol, not 10 per cent, into their fuel, but that following representations from a major reseller, it would not seek to amend the provision.

The Greens did not oppose the bill but raised serious concerns about the manner in which the policy on biofuels was being implemented, stating that the current bill was the fourth rewrite of the legislation since the *Biofuels Act* was passed in 2007. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill stating that it is a welcome move by the Government to specify a minimum percentage of ethanol in E10 fuel.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved two amendments. The first amendment sought to ensure that members of the expert panel providing advice to the Minister do not receive any direct income or other benefit from the manufacture of biofuels. This amendment did not receive support and was negatived on division (5:30). The Greens withdrew their second amendment regarding pecuniary interest provisions

following advice from the Government during the debate.

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

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2012 (No. 2)**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill makes minor amendments to 23 separate Acts. The form of the bill is similar to that of previous bills in the long-standing statute law revision program. This is the second statute law bill presented this year, with the first being considered in June 2012.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 November 2012. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) incorporated his speech into Hansard. The second reading speech noted that bills of this kind have featured in most sessions of Parliament since 1984 and are recognised as an effective tool for making minor policy changes, repealing redundant legislation and maintaining the quality of the State's statute book. The Parliamentary Secretary noted that if any provision in the bill was a matter of concern and could not be resolved, the Government was prepared to withdraw the provision in question in order not to delay the passage of the bill.

In the committee stage, the Government removed the section of the bill seeking to amend the *Security Industry Act 1997*. This was done in deference to concerns raised by the Shooters and Fishers Party that the effect of one of the proposed amendments would be the ability under the regulations to give official status to any type of communication or publication – with similar problems recently arising in this regard with respect to circulars and memos disseminated by the Firearms Registry. A Greens amendment, arising from concerns expressed to them by the Animal Welfare League, to omit the section of the bill relating to the authorisation conferred by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* on inspectors to enter premises and to seize and dispose of property was also agreed to.

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

### **Local Government Amendment (Conduct) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Local Government Act 1993* by making further and strengthening existing provisions in relation to the conduct and discipline of councillors and council staff, delegates and administrators, including authorising the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to conduct an investigation to determine whether a councillor has engaged in misconduct and to require information or documents from councillors or council staff as part of such investigations.

*Proceedings:* Consideration of the bill in detail commenced on 14 November 2012 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for second reading debate). In the committee

stage, the Government successfully moved an amendment to clarify that a person is not excused from providing information under the Act on the grounds of self-incrimination and while that information may be used in proceedings under the Act it may not be used in any other criminal proceedings against the person. The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all spoke in support of the motion and commended the Government for the consultation it undertook in drafting the amendment.

A Greens amendment to require the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to afford a councillor a reasonable opportunity to be heard in person prior to the Director-General taking disciplinary action was negated on the voices. The Greens also sought to expand the definition of an allowable excuse for failure to comply with a direction to produce documents from 'lawful' to 'lawful or reasonable excuse'. Despite the support of the Opposition, the amendment was negated on division (17:20).

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

### **Liquor Amendment (Kings Cross Plan of Management) Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Liquor Act 2007* and other legislation to implement the first stage of a plan of management for the Kings Cross precinct. The measures in the plan implemented by the bill include: extending until 24 December 2015 the existing freeze on granting liquor licences and other liquor-related authorisations; extending the boundaries of the precinct; excluding small venues from the freeze; and authorising the regulations to impose specific licence conditions relating to premises in the precinct.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 November 2012 from 25 October 2012 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). In reply, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) said the bill focused on effective means to reduce risk of harm from the sale and consumption of alcohol while laying the groundwork for further reforms which will promote individual responsibility and a greater variety of venues. The Parliamentary Secretary pointed out that a draft of the regulations had been made available to members and that the development of the regulations had been informed by past experiences, recent audit information and submissions from venue operators. At the end of his reply the Parliamentary Secretary, by leave, tabled a copy of the Liquor Amendment (Kings Cross) Regulation 2012.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved three amendments. The first, which was negated on the voices, sought to change the definition of small venue in the bill from a venue catering to up to 60 persons to one catering up to 120. The second, which sought to remove the power in the regulations to require the exclusion from licensed premises of persons wearing clothing/articles associated with particular organisations,

was negated on division (5:28). The third sought to include a decision of the Director-General with respect to granting or refusing an exemption from the conditions prescribed under the regulations as a reviewable decision as defined under the *Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007*. The amendment, which was negated on division (17:20) drew the support of the Opposition; and while the Christian Democratic Party acknowledged its merit, rather than support the amendment the CDP called on the Government to review the legislation, and in particular this issue, in due course.

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

### **Retail Trading Amendment Bill 2012**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill seeks to amend the *Retail Trading Act 2008* by easing the restrictions on shop opening hours on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Anzac Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, on the condition that shops electing to open are staffed by persons who have freely elected to work on those days. The bill also makes similar provision with respect to retail banking businesses on the August Bank Holiday.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 3 April 2012 and read a first time. On 13 November, the House, on the motion of the Minister (Mr Pearce), resolved that the order of the day for the second reading of the bill be discharged from the Notice Paper.

A message advising of the House's resolution was forwarded to the Legislative Assembly.

### **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.

**Tattoo Parlours Amendment Bill 2012:** On 25 October 2012 the Assembly advised it had agreed to the bill which it was returning without amendment.

**Marine Safety Amendment (Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Bill 2012:** On 13 November 2012 the Assembly advised it had agreed to the bill which it was returning without amendment.

**Truth in Labelling (Free-range Eggs) Bill 2011:** On 13 November the Assembly advised that 12 months having elapsed since the introduction of the bill, in accordance with Legislative Assembly standing order 105(3) the order of the day for the bill had lapsed.

**Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill 2012:** On 13 November 2012 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill which it was returning without amendment.

**Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Bill 2012:** On 14 November 2012 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill which it was returning without amendment.

## Private members' business

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

### Motions

#### Commonwealth Royal Commission into child sexual abuse (Mr Shoebridge, The Greens)

*Summary:* The motion originally called on the House to note that survivors of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and other organisations have long campaigned for a public inquiry and further called on the House to immediately take steps to establish a Royal Commission into religious and other organisations handling of child sexual abuse. Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 12 November of the establishment of a Commonwealth Royal Commission, the motion was amended to welcome this establishment and to ensure that at the State level all necessary steps are taken to ensure that the commencement and operation of the Royal Commission is cooperative, comprehensive and timely.

*Proceedings:* Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business on 13 November 2012. The motion, as amended by leave, was debated. In speaking to the motion, Mr Shoebridge paid tribute to Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox of the NSW Police and Ms Joanne McCarthy of the *Newcastle Herald* for their work in highlighting the issue of institutional child sexual abuse in the Hunter region. Mr Shoebridge stated that it was imperative to ensure that the Royal Commission operates as effectively as possible, and to this end suggested the Government consider the joint appointment of a royal commissioner under State laws, a model which had been used in the past in royal commissions where matters of State and Federal regulations were at issue.

The Government supported the motion and indicated its intention to fully cooperate and support the Royal Commission. The Government stated that it would consider the matter of a joint appointment of a royal commissioner for NSW. The Opposition supported the motion, noting that it was important that those who covered up instances of institutional child sexual abuse were equally brought to account. The Opposition said it held no formal view on the question of a joint appointment, but would support the most feasible and appropriate vehicle for ensuring there is a single properly framed and resourced inquiry. The Christian Democratic Party supported the motion, noting the party's history of concern regarding this issue and its calls for a comprehensive inquiry.

A number of members speaking to the motion commented on the need over the coming weeks and months to pay close attention to the proposed terms of reference for the royal commission.

The motion was agreed to.

### Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Antiochian Orthodox Church Archdiocese (Mr Clarke)
- (2) Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Ms Ficarra)
- (3) Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce Awards (Mr Ajaka)
- (4) Pope Tawadros II (Mr Clarke)
- (5) Palliative Care NSW (Mr Donnelly)
- (6) Australian Council of Chinese Organisations celebrations (Ms Ficarra)
- (7) Seventy-fourth anniversary of Kristallnacht (Mr Clarke)
- (8) Origin 2012 Illawarra Business Awards (Mr Ajaka)
- (9) North Curl Curl Surf Life Saving Club 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Ms Ficarra)
- (10) Australian Chinese Charity Foundation Annual Dinner Party (Mr Clarke)
- (11) One hundredth anniversary of Mona Vale Public School (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (12) Pub2Pub Charity Fun Run and Walk (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (13) Mr John Tanner (Mr Blair)
- (14) Armenian National Committee Banquet Dinner (Ms Ficarra)
- (15) Hindu Council of Australia Festival of Deepavali (Mr Clarke)
- (16) Annual Egyptian Festival (Mr Clarke)
- (17) India Club Inc Festival of Diwali (Mr Clarke).

## Orders for papers

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

### Disputed claim of privilege

- (1) **Nimmie-Caira System Enhanced Environmental Water Delivery Project:**

The President informed the House that, further to his statement of 16 October 2012 regarding the disputed claim of privilege, Sir Laurence Street had advised that he is unable to undertake the evaluation of the disputed documents and has returned them to the Legislative Council.

The President further informed the House that, according to standing order, the Honourable Terence Cole QC had been appointed as an independent legal arbiter to evaluate and report as to the validity of the claim of privilege, and that the Clerk had released the disputed documents to Mr Cole.

## Committee activities

**Note:** Committee activities includes committee references, reports tabled, debate on committee reports, government responses received and any other significant matter.

### *Extension of reporting date*

**Select Committee on the Partial Defence of Provocation:** The reporting date for the Committee's inquiry into the partial defence of provocation was extended to the Wednesday of the first sitting week of February 2013.

### *Committee reports tabled*

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 28/55 of 2012', 13 November 2012.

### **Privileges Committee:**

- (1) Report No. 64 entitled 'Citizen's right of reply (Mrs Julie Passas) (No 3)', dated November 2012.
- (2) Report No. 65 entitled 'Citizen's right of reply (Mr Brendan Ritson)', dated November 2012.
- (3) Report No. 66 entitled 'Citizen's right of reply (Ms Heather Richards)', dated November 2012.

**Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters:** Report No. 1 entitled "Inquiry into Administrative funding for minor parties" dated November 2012.

### *Government responses*

**Standing Committee on Law and Justice:** The House received a response to Report No. 49 entitled 'Opportunities to consolidate tribunals in NSW', tabled 27 March 2012.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No 5:** The House received a response to Report No. 35 entitled 'Coal Seam Gas', tabled 1 May 2012.

## Inquiry activities

**Note:** Inquiry activities include committee activities as part of an active inquiry. It includes hearings, site visits and other meetings. This section also notes which committees are receiving submissions and upcoming committee inquiry activity.

### **Select Committee on the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW Facilities**

Submissions to the Select Committee on the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW Facilities closed on 7 November 2012. There have been 45 submissions received to date. The Committee has scheduled its first public hearing for 23 November 2012, to be held at Parliament House. On 10 December 2012 the Committee will visit Grafton where it plans to tour the Grafton Correctional Centre and to hold a public hearing and a public forum to give members of the local community an opportunity to share their views.

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

The Committee has received 110 submissions to its Inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in NSW. In late October, the Committee conducted site visits in

Orange, Griffith and Wagga Wagga to inspect stormwater harvesting facilities, on-farm irrigation practices and river monitoring equipment. A regional public hearing was also held in Wagga Wagga.

The final public hearing for 2012 was held at Parliament House on Friday 16 November.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No 5**

The Committee will hold its last two public hearings on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 December 2012 at Parliament House for the Inquiry into the management of public land in NSW. Government witnesses have been called to give further evidence at the final hearing, following a number of regional site visits and public hearings since their last appearance. The Committee has now published 509 submissions to the Inquiry.

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

On Wednesday the House resolved to designate the Law and Justice Committee as the parliamentary committee responsible for supervising the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA), the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LTCSA), the WorkCover Authority and the Dust Diseases Board in the exercise of their functions. This is an expansion of the role previously undertaken by the Committee to supervise the MAA and the LTCSA, since 1999 and 2007 respectively. This new role is a consequence of the passage of the *Safety, Return to Work and Support Board Act 2012*, which consolidated the governance arrangements for these compensation authorities, among other matters.

### **Select Committee on the Partial Defence of Provocation**

The Committee has received 52 submissions, held three days of public hearings and received a number of responses to an options paper. On Wednesday 14 November, the Chair obtained the agreement of the House to extend the reporting date until no later than the Wednesday of the first sitting week of 2013, to allow the Committee to properly consider the complex issues and evidence involved, as well as the stakeholder responses to the Options Paper.

### **Standing Committee on Social Issues**

Terms of reference for an inquiry into strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people were referred to the Committee by the Hon Kevin Humphries MP on 25 October 2012, and subsequently adopted by the Committee this week. The Committee will examine the effect of alcohol advertisements on young people, including the consideration of placing restrictions on advertising as a preventative strategy.

The inquiry will also examine measures to minimise the impact of alcohol in the workplace and to reduce alcohol related violence in and around licensed venues. This also includes measures to address the impacts of alcohol abuse on the health system. The Committee will be reviewing existing minimisation strategies as part of its terms of reference. Submissions close on Friday 1 March 2013.

## Budget Estimates 2012-2013

The General Purpose Standing Committees met this week to consider whether to hold supplementary hearings for Budget Estimates 2012-2013. GPSC Nos 2, 3 and 5 have resolved not to have any further hearings. GPSC No. 1 has resolved to hold a supplementary hearing into the Treasury portfolio on Monday 26 November, from 1.00 – 4.00 pm and to invite the Treasurer as well as departmental officials to appear.

## Reports tabled

### Auditor General:

- (1) Finance Audit report, Volume Three 2012, focusing on NSW Finances, October 2012.
- (2) Performance Audit report entitled: 'The impact of the raised school leaving age: Department of Education and Communities', November 2012.
- (3) Finance Audit report, Volume Four 2012, focusing on Electricity, November 2012.
- (4) Finance Audit report, Volume Five 2012, focusing on Superannuation, Compensation and Housing, November 2012.
- (5) Finance Audit report, Volume Six 2012, focusing on Environment, Water and Regional Infrastructure, November 2012.

**Independent Commission Against Corruption:** 'Investigation into allegations that staff from a number of local councils and other public authorities accepted secret benefits from suppliers and that staff from two local councils facilitated payment of false invoices from suppliers', October 2012.

**Commission for Children and Young People:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2012.

**Children's Guardian:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2012.

**NSW Child Death Review Team:** Annual report for year ended 31 December 2011.

**Police Integrity Commission:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2012.

**Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2012.

**Information and Privacy Commission:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2012.

**Domestic Violence Death Review Team:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2012.

**Unproclaimed legislation:** Mr Pearce tabled a list of unproclaimed legislation as at 13 November 2012.

## Petitions received

- (1) Community Building Partnership program funding – 38 signatures (irregular, presented Mr Moselmane)
- (2) The right to die with dignity – 78 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann)
- (3) Medical and health facilities in Cobar – 176 signatures (presented Mr Whan).

## Adjournment debate

### Tuesday 13 November 2012

Gas exports (Mr MacDonald); Cobar health services (Mr Whan); Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Revd Mr Nile); Regional air services (Ms Cusack); White Ribbon Day (Mr Primrose); Greyhound racing (Dr Kaye).

### Wednesday 14 November 2012

Interfaith Conference of the Deepavali Festival Committee of New South Wales (Ms Fazio); Drug use (Mr Green); State Emergency Service Awareness Week (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); Government performance (Mr Primrose); Environmental Defenders Office (Ms Faehrmann); Newcastle Road Transport Awareness Day (Mr Ajaka).

### Thursday 15 November 2012

Country Greens (Mr Colless); Coal seam gas exploration (Mr Buckingham); Live sheep and cattle exports (Ms Voltz); Fossicking and prospecting (Mr Brown); Cityrail services (Ms Sharpe); Euthanasia (Mr Clarke).

## 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.



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