

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 55/57

*Sitting period
15 to 17 October 2013*



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

Three Government bills were considered and debated in some detail during the sitting week. Notable among these was the debate on the Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill. All three bills were considered in committee of the whole, but all three were returned to the Assembly without amendment.

This week also saw the receipt of six additional Government bills from the Assembly and the House agree to two orders for papers.

Statement by the President – Regional Youth Parliament

On 15 October 2013 the President informed the House that from 25 to 28 September 2013 a Regional Youth Parliament, which involved students from New South Wales and the Solomon Islands, was held at the National Parliament of Solomon Islands. The President congratulated all participants for their efforts and also thanked staff from the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, the Bougainville House of Representatives, the Solomon Islands Government and the New South Wales Parliament for coordinating the event.

Government business

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

Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002* to abolish the Game Council of New South Wales and to transfer the regulatory functions of the Game Council to the Director General of the Department of Trade and Investment, to be known as the regulatory authority. The bill also establishes a Game and Pest Management Advisory Board, which will represent the interests of licenced game hunters in matters arising under the Act and will provide advice to the Minister and the regulatory authority in relation to game and feral animal control and other matters.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 15 October 2013 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the following day. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill gives effect to the primary recommendations of the review into the governance arrangements for the Game Council which was conducted by Mr Steve Dunn. The review, which was commissioned following allegations of unlawful behaviour in relation to an employee of the Game Council, found that there was an inherent conflict and risk associated with the Game Council's function to represent the interests of hunters and its role as a hunting regulator. The speech further noted that the bill will make an important contribution to the effective management of pest animals in the State through the option of integrating recreational hunting into existing and new pest management programs developed by Government departments. Members of the Government spoke in support of the bill, arguing that it will improve the ability to effectively use amateur hunters in pest management strategies as has occurred in other States.

The Opposition commenced its contribution to the debate by stating that it did not resile from its decisions when in Government to establish the Game Council, to regulate controlled amateur hunting in State Forests, and to not allow hunting in National Parks. The Opposition indicated that it also held concerns over the dual regulatory and advocacy role of the Game Council, but argued that the Government was mishandling the issue by abolishing the Game Council rather than reforming its functions. The Opposition argued that the bill was a result of a cynical and inconsistent approach to recreational shooting issues from the Government, and that there was a continuing need for a truly representative body advocating on behalf of recreational shooters. The Opposition opposed the abolition of the Game Council, and as such, did not support the bill.

In contrast, the Greens welcomed the abolition of the Game Council, the establishment and continuing existence of which it had consistently opposed and to this extent supported the bill. However, the Greens stated that they found much of the remainder of the bill

problematic, including what the Greens argued was its continued promotion of hunting on public land and its failure to adequately address animal welfare and population-based control of feral animals. While the Greens supported the bill they foreshadowed they would move a range of amendments in the committee stage.

The Shooters and Fishers Party strongly opposed the bill and were deeply critical of the Dunn review which they argued was contrived in order to deliver a premeditated outcome. In particular the Shooters and Fishers Party challenged the assertion that there was any evidence of a conflict of interest arising from the Game Council having both an advocacy and regulatory role, as each role was undertaken independently by separate arms of the Council. The Shooters and Fishers Party further argued that the bill went beyond the findings and recommendations of the review.

The Christian Democratic Party stated that it believed that there was an effective role for recreational hunters in feral pest animal control and that there was no evidence that the Game Council had not been operating effectively.

The second reading was agreed to (Division 22:17) with the Greens voting with the Government, and the Opposition, Shooters and Fishers Party and Christian Democratic Party voting against the motion.

In the committee stage the Greens moved a number of amendments all of which were negated either on the voices or on division. The Greens did not garner any support for amendments that sought to remove all reference within the Act to the hunting of game and to focus the Act on the control of feral pest animals; to broaden the objects of the Act to include the provision for safe hunting and the humane control and eradication of pest animals (Division 5:29); to include animal welfare and firearm safety within the required collective skill set of the members of the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board (Division 5:31); to require that the animal control advice of the Advisory Board be based on peer-reviewed research; and to reinstate to professional hunters the exemption from requiring a game hunting licence. The Opposition supported two sets of Greens amendments that sought to exclude recreational hunters from National Parks, and to repeal the *Game and Feral Animal Control Further Amendment Act 2012* which provides for the hunting of native game birds on private land. However, the Government, Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party opposed both sets of amendments, and they were each negated on division (18:21).

The bill was reported to the House without amendment. In an infrequently seen situation the Government relied upon the support of the Greens for the bill to pass the third reading (Division 22:17) and it was subsequently returned to the Assembly.

Firearms and Criminal Groups Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill, amongst other things, amends the *Firearms Act 1996* to empower police officers to enter and

search premises occupied by a person subject to a firearms prohibition order, in order to determine whether the person is complying with the order and prohibits such persons from acquiring or possessing firearms, firearm parts or ammunition, and from residing at, or attending, premises where firearms are present. In addition, the bill amends the *Restricted Premises Act 1943* to increase penalties for offences relating to reputed criminals attending premises declared 'disorderly' by the Courts under that Act, and to allow police to search such premises for firearms and other weapons. The bill also amends the *Crime Commission Act 2012* to enable the Crime Commission to investigate matters regarding the criminal activities of a specified criminal group without the need for the matter to relate specific offences or individuals.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 15 October 2013. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gallacher) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill, which was developed with the advice of the NSW Police Force, will ensure that police have the power and resources to help tackle criminals with guns and to target gun crime across Sydney. In recognition that the bill creates significant new powers, penalties and offences, the bill requires that the Ombudsman monitor and report on the exercise of these new powers after 24 months of operation. The speech noted that there is nothing in the bill that affects legitimately licensed gun owners or that should be of concern to law-abiding citizens of the State.

The Opposition supported the bill, stating that the need for such legislation had existed for some time. The Opposition noted that it had introduced similar legislation in the Legislative Assembly which preceded the Government's bill and which it argued was superior as it placed even broader restrictions on persons subject to a firearms prohibition order. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, citing recent gun crime incidents as evidence of its urgent need.

The Greens indicated their support for substantial elements of the bill but also noted they held concerns regarding what they saw as inadequate checks and balances regarding the power granted by the bill to police to conduct searches without the need for a warrant.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Greens moved amendments that sought to allow persons in relation to whom a search has been conducted to apply to the Local Court for a declaration that the search was unlawful, and to insert a sunset clause of five years with respect to the power to conduct searches. The amendments did not draw any support, with the Opposition stating that given the nature of persons likely to be subject to firearms prohibition orders, it was appropriate to rely on the judicious exercise of power by police. The amendments were negated (Division 5:27).

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

Liquor Amendment (Kings Cross Plan of Management) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Liquor Act 2007* and other legislation to implement the second stage of the Government's Kings Cross management plan. The first stage of the plan was implemented by the *Liquor Amendment (Kings Cross Plan of Management) Act 2012*. The bill provides for banning orders that will prohibit certain persons from entering licenced premises in Kings Cross; provides for the ID scanning of all patrons who enter high risk venues in Kings Cross so that banned persons are refused entry; and enables the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to suspend or revoke the RSA competency card held by a person employed in licenced premises in Kings Cross in certain circumstances. The bill also specifies the application requirements for a small bar licence in New South Wales.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 16 October 2013. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gallacher) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech stated that the bill contained two key measures. Firstly, the bill enables Kings Cross precinct-wide temporary banning orders to be issued by police for up to 48 hours to a person who refuses to comply with a move-on direction or to a person who is drunk, violent or disorderly and refuses to leave licenced premises or attempts to re-enter licenced premises within 24 hours of being asked to leave. Secondly, the bill enables the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to issue long-term precinct-wide banning orders to prohibit subjects of such an order from entering or attempting to enter 'high risk' licenced premises (a late trading venue in Kings Cross with a patron capacity of more than 120 persons) for up to 12 months. The speech noted that the bill will create a central identification scanning system for patrons entering high risk venues in Kings Cross. All high risk venues will be required to operate a linked identification scanner so that persons issued with a banning order will be prevented from entering licenced premises. The bill also provides for a review of the operation of the Kings Cross ID scanner system after 12 months from the commencement of the proposed Act.

The Opposition supported the bill; however it expressed some reservations about the Government's response to alcohol-related violence and antisocial behaviour in Kings Cross. Specifically, the Opposition argued that the Government has not done enough to address the issue and was pushing responsibility onto a small number of licencees. The Opposition also noted that although individuals issued with temporary banning orders may not enter high risk venues in Kings Cross they will still be able to enter smaller hotels and restaurants or loiter on the streets. The Opposition also raised concerns regarding the privacy of the personal data captured by the central ID scanning system, a concern also held by the Greens, and sought assurances from the Minister that it will be kept secure. Regarding the hours of operation of the ID scanners, the Opposition indicated it was appropriate that they be used from 7pm on Friday until

7am on Monday rather than every day of the week as initially proposed.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill expressing its commitment to measures which seek to address alcohol-related violence. The Greens did not oppose the bill but held some concerns. Firstly, the Greens argued that banning orders simply displaced rather than addressed the problem of drunkenness. Secondly, the Greens stated that the requirement for Kings Cross restaurants which cater for over 120 patrons and serve alcohol to install ID scanners may deter diners as it creates the impression they are violent venues.

In reply, the Minister stated that the Government appreciates the need for robust privacy protections to secure the collection of patron's identification details and that the bill includes privacy safeguards that had been developed in consultation with the Privacy Commissioner.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens unsuccessfully sought to prescribe the times in which the Kings Cross ID scanner system may be used.

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

Graffiti Control Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: In 2008, Parliament passed the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*. Section 23 of the Act required that it be subject of a statutory review after three years in operation. The statutory review was recently completed.

The bill amends the *Graffiti Control Act 2008* to implement certain recommendations arising from the statutory review. In particular, the bill replaces certain graffiti offences with a new two-tiered graffiti offence; clarifies how community clean up orders may be made; and sets a maximum number of hours of community clean-up work that may be specified in any one community clean-up order.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 15 October 2013 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting.

Crown Lands Amendment (Multiple Land Use) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: In accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, Crown reserves are reserved for a primary purpose but have often been managed to accommodate public and private purposes such as mining, farming, telecommunications towers, and tourist parks. In 2012, a decision of the New South Wales Court of Appeal – *Minister Administering the Crown Lands Act 1989 v. New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council 2012 (Goomallee Claim)* – questioned the process of secondary use tenures. The Court found that a grazing licence granted over a parcel of Crown land reserved for the purpose of public

recreation was unlawful, as the licence's purpose was not for the same purpose as that of the reserve.

The bill seeks to restore the multiple use principle contained in the *Crown Lands Act 1989* and to ensure the legal validity of all secondary tenures affected by the Goomallee Claim. Specifically, the bill amends the *Crown Lands Act 1989* to provide that a secondary interest (a lease, licence, permit, easement or right-of-way) can be granted in respect of Crown land that is reserved for a public purpose so long as the use and occupation of the land under the secondary interest is not likely to materially harm the use and occupation of the land for the public purpose for which it is reserved.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2013 and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down for a later hour.

Child Protection Legislation Amendment (Offenders Registration and Prohibition Orders) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill implements the findings of a statutory review of the *Child Protection (Offenders Prohibition Orders) Act 2004* and introduces additional measures to the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*. The bill permits the inspection by police, without notice or a warrant, of the residential premises of persons who are registrable persons under the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*; expands the conduct that can be the subject of a child protection prohibition order; increases the maximum penalty for failing to comply with a child protection prohibition order and provides for such an offence to be dealt with on indictment if the prosecutor so elects; permits a contact prohibition order to be made if the Commissioner of Police and the person who is to be subject to the order both consent to it being made; and limits the persons to whom the Commissioner of Police can delegate his or her functions of applying for certain orders against persons under 18 years of age.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2013 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill was set down for a later hour.

Skills Board Bill 2013

Summary: The bill establishes the NSW Skills Board, which will have the functions of providing the Government with independent strategic advice on the vocational education and training system and overseeing major reform of the vocational education and training system in New South Wales.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2013 and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down for a later hour.

Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment (Standard Non-parole Periods) Bill 2013

Summary: The bill amends the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* to clarify the operation of the standard non-parole period scheme, in accordance with the decision of the High Court in *Muldrock v Queen*. The bill also implements recommendations of the NSW Law Reform

Commission in its *Interim report on standard minimum non-parole periods* of May 2012.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 16 October 2013 and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down for a later hour.

Crimes and Courts Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

Summary: The bill makes miscellaneous amendments to courts and crimes related legislation as part of the Government's regular legislative review and monitoring program. The bill amends a number of Acts to improve the efficiency and operation of the State's courts and tribunals and criminal laws.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 17 October 2013 and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down for a later hour.

Messages from the Assembly

The House received the following message from the Legislative Assembly relating to a bill forwarded to the Assembly by the Council in previous sitting weeks.

Entertainment Industry Bill 2013: On 19 September 2013 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the Council's amendments.

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.

Bills

Alcoholic Beverages Advertising Prohibition Bill 2012 (Revd Mr Nile, Christian Democratic Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to prohibit advertising aimed at promoting the sale of alcoholic beverages, with a view to reducing the incentive for people to consume alcohol. The bill proposes an Alcohol Advertising Prohibition Committee be established to prepare a timetable for the removal of advertisements promoting alcoholic beverages. The bill also provides for the declaration of local option areas within which the purchase, sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in a public place is an offence.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 17 October 2013 from 12 September 2013 (see Vol 55/55 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). One member, (Mr Shoebridge, The Greens) made a contribution to the debate. The member approved of the direction of the bill and commended it for focussing the House on the need to address the impact of the saturation of the community with alcohol advertising and consumption. While noting that the bill would be unlikely to receive majority support of the House in its present or even amended form, the member suggested the bill could usefully be referred to a committee to

examine and develop recommendations to address the issues raised by the bill.

Debate was adjourned.

Motions

Relay for Life (Mr Green, Christian Democratic Party)

Summary: The motion calls on the House to note that in 2013, about 124,910 Australians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer, and an estimated 149,990 are expected to be diagnosed in 2020, and to note the genesis of the Relay for Life event and the significant amount of funds it now raises for cancer research. The motion also calls on the House to congratulate those who have raised funds for the Cancer Council by organising Relay for Life, and to acknowledge those who have selflessly sacrificed their time and put their effort into training and fundraising for Relay for Life.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion resumed on 17 October 2013 from 12 September 2013 (see Vol 55/55 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Speakers to the motion noted their personal experiences in helping family and loved ones suffering cancer and expressed their support for the charity's valuable work in raising funds for the Cancer Council.

The motion was agreed to.

Reference to the Standing Committee on Social Issues (Mr Primrose, Australian Labor Party)

Summary: The motion sought to refer to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice for inquiry and report, the operation of section 44 of the *Crimes Act 1900*, as it relates to preventing the abuse of the elderly, and the alternative legislative measures applied in other jurisdictions to deal with elderly abuse.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business on 17 October 2013. Mr Primrose argued that it was unclear as to whether section 44 of the *Crimes Act 1900* was achieving its purpose in protecting the elderly and argued that, as such, an inquiry was required to examine the issue and consider alternate approaches.

Debate was adjourned until next sitting day.

Recognition of forced adoption practices (Ms Barham, The Greens)

Summary: The motion calls on the House to commend the State Government for its delivery on 20 September 2012 of a State Apology for Forced Adoption Practices, and the Commonwealth and other State and Territory governments for delivering similar apologies. The motion also calls on the Government to establish an annual Day of Recognition of Forced Adoption Practices; construct a public memorial to commemorate the apology; and develop information resources and a communications strategy to raise public awareness and to highlight the support services available to those affected by forced adoption practices.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business on 17 October 2013. In speaking to

the motion, Ms Barham reflected that it was just over one year since the State Government delivered the Apology, which was an important day of profound significance to those people affected by forced adoption practices. Ms Barham said that the actions called for by the motion represent small public steps, of little cost to Government, towards providing ongoing recognition and support for those who have suffered in the past.

Debate was interrupted for Questions.

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Fundraising concert for Mona Vale hospital and Rotary projects (Ms Ficarra)
- (2) Anti-Poverty Week 2013 (Ms Barham)
- (3) Mr Paul Featherstone (Ms Ficarra)
- (4) Indian Australian Cultural Fair (Mr Clarke)
- (5) "Peru Amazonico" exhibition (Mr Clarke)
- (6) 4th Australian Conference on Children and the Media (Mr Donnelly)
- (7) Warrane College annual lecture (Mr Clarke)
- (8) 150th anniversary of the birth of Swami Vivekananda (Mr Clarke)
- (9) Miranda Musical Society (Ms Ficarra)
- (10) Solar Energy eXchange Initiative (Dr Kaye)
- (11) UNSW Sunswift solar racing team (Dr Kaye)
- (12) Anti-Poverty Week 2013 (Ms Fazio)
- (13) Malala Yousafzai (Dr Faruqi)
- (14) Eid Al-Adha celebrations (Mr Moselmane)
- (15) 80th anniversary of 'Holodomor' (Ms Ficarra)
- (16) International Macedonian Medical Society (Mr Moselmane)
- (17) National Foundation Day of Korea (Mr Clarke)
- (18) Graduates of League program (Ms Ficarra)
- (19) Australian Arab Business Council Inc. (Mr Moselmane)
- (20) Saint Narsai Assyrian Christian College graduation ceremony (Mr Clarke)
- (21) NSW Education and Communities Minister's Awards for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Language Schools (Ms Ficarra)
- (22) Australian Egyptian Council Forum interfaith Iftar Dinner (Mr Clarke)
- (23) Riverkeeper Program (Ms Ficarra)
- (24) 192nd anniversary of Peruvian Independence Day (Mr Clarke).

Orders for papers

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

Orders made

- (1) **Bus service contracts:** The order relates to documents created since 1 April 2011 in the possession, custody or control of the Minister for Transport, Transport for NSW, the Department of Premier and Cabinet or The Treasury regarding the competitive tendering of Sydney metropolitan bus service contracts. Due: 31 October 2013.
- (2) **Health Labour Expenses Cap:** The order relates to program savings within the Department of Health made to accommodate the labour expense cap.

Returns to order

- (1) **Department of Family and Community Services caseworker numbers:** received 19 September 2013; 7 public boxes.
- (2) **Lobbyists:** received 26 September 2013, 3 boxes public, 1 box privileged.
- (3) **Transport for NSW contracts:** received 26 September 2013, 4 boxes public, 1 box privileged.
- (4) **Draft liquor promotion guidelines:** additional documents were received on 1 October 2013. The documents were in addition to the return to order received on 12 July 2013.

Petitions received

- (1) Sanctity of marriage – 187 signatures (presented by Mr Colless)
- (2) Public libraries – 208 signatures (presented by Ms Barham)
- (3) Hearing impaired access to emergency services – 330 signatures (presented by Ms Westwood)
- (4) Irregular petition - Amateur hunting on public land – 6,109 signatures (presented by Mr Shoebridge)
- (5) *Residential Parks Act 1988* – 1,560 signatures (Ms Barham)
- (6) Sanctity of marriage – 293 signatures (Mr Colless).

Debate on budget estimates

The House continued the take-note debate on the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2012-2013.

Reports tabled

Independent Commission Against Corruption: report entitled 'Investigation into the possession and supply of steroids and other matters involving a Corrective Services NSW corrections officer', September 2013.

Independent Commission Against Corruption: report entitled 'Investigation into allegations of corrupt conduct

in the provision of security products and services by suppliers, installers and consultants', September 2013.

Auditor-General: report entitled 'Government Advertising 2012-13: Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Ministry of Health–Cancer Institute NSW, Transport for NSW–Rail Corporation NSW', September 2013.

Auditor-General: report entitled 'Management of casual teachers: Department of Education and Communities', October 2013, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 3 October 2013.

Committee activities

Note: Committee activities includes committee references, reports tabled, debate on committee reports, government responses received and any other significant committee activity in the House. Committee activity as part of a current inquiry is summarised in the following section entitled 'Inquiry activities'.

Committee reports tabled

Legislation Review Committee: 'Legislation Review Digest No. 45/55', 15 October 2013.

Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission: Report no. 7/55 entitled '2013 General Meetings with the Police Integrity Commission, the Inspector of the NSW Police Integrity Commission, the NSW Crime Commission, the Information and Privacy Commission, the NSW Ombudsman and the Child Death Review Team', October 2013.

Committee report debated

Standing Committee on Social Issues: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 47 entitled 'Same-sex marriage law in New South Wales', July 2013.

Inquiry activities

Agistment of horses at Yaralla Estate

The Select Committee is finalising its report which is due to be tabled by 24 October 2013.

Greyhound racing in NSW

The Select Committee is currently receiving submissions, with a closing date of 6 November 2013. To date well over 100 submissions have been received. The Committee has scheduled two hearing days on 15 and 25 November 2013.

Removing or reducing station access fees at Sydney Airport

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 is currently receiving submissions, with a closing date of 13 November 2013. Hearings will be held on 2 and 3 December 2013.

Motor Accidents Authority 12th Review and Lifetime Care and Support Authority Fifth Review

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice is conducting concurrent reviews into the exercise and functions of the MAA and LTCSA. The Committee is

currently receiving submissions, with a closing date of 2 November 2013.

Ministerial propriety in NSW

The Select Committee has received six submissions. The first public hearing was held on Monday 14 October 2013 with representatives from the Department of Family and Community Services.

Allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 has received 90 submissions. Hearings will take place on 6 and 11 November. The Committee expects to report in early 2014.

Tourism in local communities

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 has received 84 submissions. It has held three public hearings in Sydney and roundtable discussions in Ballina and Dubbo, and is scheduled to conduct a site visit and public hearing in Jindabyne on 8 November.

Strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people

The Standing Committee on Social Issues has received 54 submissions concerning strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people. The Committee has held three public hearings in Sydney and recently held a further public hearing in Byron Bay which included a roundtable with young people from the area.

The 2009 Mt Penny return to order

The Privileges Committee has now held five hearings as part of its inquiry into the 2009 Mt Penny return to order. No further hearings are scheduled at the current time.

Racial vilification law in NSW

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice is finalising its report and anticipates tabling in late November 2013.

Budget Estimates

GPSC 1 has resolved to hold a supplementary hearing into the portfolio of Premier, with a scheduled hearing date of 1 November. GPSC's 2, 3 and 4 met during the week to deliberate on the Chair's draft report.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 15 October 2013

Type 2 Diabetes (Mrs Mitchell); Michael Maher tribute (Ms Westwood); Coal seam gas mining (Mr Buckingham); Whale and human interaction (Mr Foley); Warrambungle National Park fire (Mr Brown); Foreign aid (Mr Clarke).

Wednesday 16 October 2013

Graincorp (Mr MacDonald); NSW gay and lesbian rights lobby twenty-fifth anniversary (Ms Sharpe); Firearms and Criminal Groups Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 (Mr Borsak); Sandakan Memorial (Mr Wong); Anti-poverty week (Ms Barham); Carbon-dioxide levels (Mr Colless).

Thursday 17 October 2013

Tribute to Don Hansford (Ms Fazio); Tribute to Les Carr (Ms Voltz); Police oversight (Mr Shoebridge); Commonwealth Parliamentary Association United Kingdom study tour (Ms Cusack); Child sexual abuse (Mr Green); Queanbeyan 175th anniversary (Mr Mason-Cox); Higher School Certificate examinations (Mr MacDonald); Bushfire season (Mr Whan).

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
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