

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 55/58

*Sitting period
22 to 24 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

This week the bushfire emergency overshadowed much of the proceedings with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services needing to remove himself from the House at certain times to attend to other matters of critical importance.

The House considered and returned eight government bills to the Assembly. Two of these bills were considered in committee of the whole, with the House agreeing to an amendment to the Skills Board Bill. In addition, three other government bills, one of which originated in the Council, were introduced into the House.

As a result of this volume of legislation, the House sat into the night on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Similar sittings can be anticipated in the remaining four sitting weeks this year.

Ministerial statement

On 24 October 2013, just prior to Question Time, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services made a statement regarding the fatal crash of a fixed wing water bomber aircraft while engaged in firefighting efforts in the Shoalhaven region. The Minister stated that the thoughts and concerns of the House were with the family and friends of the pilot of the aircraft.

The Leader of the Opposition made a statement in similar terms, noting that this was a sobering reminder of the great risks that so many citizens take to protect other members of the community.

Government business

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

Skills Board Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

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 of overseeing major reform of that system in New South

Wales. The NSW Skills Board will replace the New South Wales Board of Vocational Education and Training (BVET) as the primary advisory board to the Government on vocational education and training matters.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 23 October 2013. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that from 1 July 2014, New South Wales will implement a major reform of the vocational education and training sector under the Smart and Skilled Quality Framework. Through the bill the NSW Skills Board will be established with the appropriate functions and membership to ensure it can provide reliable advice to the Government and rigorous oversight of the upcoming reform and the NSW training market.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all indicated that they did not oppose the bill. However, all parties took the opportunity to indicate their respective concern regarding the proposed reforms and the ultimate impact of those reforms on TAFE. Both the Opposition and the Greens noted that the bill does not require that membership of the new Skills Board to include a person with recent teaching experience in the vocational education sector. The Opposition and the Greens both foreshadowed amendments to the bill that would seek to ensure the Skills Board actively worked to preserve the primary role of the TAFE Commission in the vocational education sector.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens, with the support of the Opposition, sought to ensure that Skills Board included someone with recent teaching experience and that one of the members be appointed on the recommendation of the NSW Teachers Federation. Both amendments were defeated, the first on division (17:20) and the second on the voices. The Opposition, supported by all cross-bench parties, successfully moved an amendment to ensure that the bill maintains TAFE as NSW's major provider of vocational education and training (Division 21:16). The Greens then moved a

similar amendment to require that the Board in exercising its functions does so with the primary objective of maintaining TAFE as the State's major provider of vocational education and training. However, the Shooters and Fisher Party and the Christian Democratic Party did not support this amendment, and it was negatived (Division 17:20).

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

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 the offence of 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: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 22 October 2013. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill will improve the operation of both Acts and will strengthen the framework for monitoring and managing child sex offenders and certain other individuals living in the community.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it was intended to implement the recommendations of the statutory review. The Opposition questioned the definition of 'co-operate' within the bill and stated that it will be the responsibility of the Government to monitor how the provisions of the bill operate in practice. The Opposition noted that the class of officer to whom the Commissioner of Police will be able to delegate the functions of applying for certain prohibition orders is to be promulgated in the regulations and wanted to be assured that this function would be delegated only to officers of appropriate experience and seniority.

The Greens supported the bill. While noting that they would always monitor schemes that provide for potentially arbitrary and oppressive administrative police powers, the Greens acknowledged that the powers provided for in the bill were accompanied by appropriate restraints. However, the Greens also had concerns regarding the level at which the Commissioner of Police's function may be delegated. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, stating that it was important for the Parliament and the Government to constantly review

legislation dealing with child protection to ensure that it remains adequate. In arguing for the need for the bill, the Christian Democratic Party cited recent disturbing revelations made to the national Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse.

In reply, the Parliamentary Secretary sought to address the concern raised by the Opposition and the Greens by advising that the functions with respect to prohibition orders relating to young registrable persons would be delegated to the position of manager of the NSW Police Force Child Protection Register.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly.

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

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

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: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 22 October 2013. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill aims to ensure that ordinary sentencing principles are applied when courts sentence an offender for a standard non-parole period offence and to address complexities that had arisen in applying the scheme which had left decisions open to appeal.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it will ensure that the sentencing procedure for all offences will be consistent and that there is no separate procedure for standard minimum non-parole period offences. The Greens noted that the bill is an attempt to provide clear statutory guidance to the courts. However, the Greens argued that the circumstances leading to the development of the bill emphasise the urgent need for overall reform of the complex sentencing laws in the State. The Greens supported the bill on the grounds that the clarifying provisions in the bill are necessary until overall reform is undertaken. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill on the grounds that it would remove confusion in current sentencing procedures.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly.

Crimes and Courts Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

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: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 23 October 2013. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech stated that the bill makes miscellaneous amendments to certain legislation regarding crimes, courts, civil and criminal procedure, justices of the peace, oaths and statutory declarations and to effect minor statute law revision.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill noting that it is of a type proposed by many governments over many years as part of a regular legislative monitoring and review process that is typically uncontroversial. The Greens expressed similar sentiments, but did note some reservations regarding schedule 7 of the bill which related to amending the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* and *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Regulation 2011* to prohibit the possession of drug encapsulators or unique parts of drug encapsulators or tablet presses.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly.

Strata Schemes Management Amendment (Child Window Safety Devices) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Strata Schemes Management Act 1996* to require owners corporations of residential strata schemes to ensure that complying window safety devices to facilitate child safety are installed on strata buildings and to provide for the enforcement of that obligation.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 October 2013 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the following day. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) stated that the bill will make it mandatory for owners corporations of residential strata schemes to install safety devices on windows that present a risk to young children. The Parliamentary Secretary also indicated that the bill will help improve child safety in the home and reduce injuries and deaths associated with children falling from windows.

The Opposition supported the bill but argued that the provisions requiring the installation of window safety devices should be phased in over two years rather than the five years as prescribed by the bill and stated that it would seek to amend the bill to that effect. In addition, the Opposition argued that it was disappointing that a similar requirement was not being proposed with respect to public housing.

The bill was supported by the Christian Democratic Party. The Greens also supported the bill, but shared the Opposition's concerns regarding the five year timeframe and indicated they would be supporting the proposed amendments.

In reply, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the reforms were being phased in over five years so as to prevent possible price gouging of consumers required to move quickly in order to meet legislative requirements.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

In Committee the Opposition moved the amendments foreshadowed during the second reading debate. The amendments were negatived (Division 17:21).

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

Adoption Legislation Amendment (Overseas) Adoption Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Adoption Act 2000* and the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995* to enable NSW residents who adopt a child overseas to have that adoption registered and have a post-adoption birth certificate issued for the adopted child, provided that the adoption is recognised under NSW law and was arranged by the Department of Family and Community Services. The foreign countries in which adoptions are recognised are countries that are party to the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption and countries prescribed under Commonwealth regulations providing for inter-country adoption bilateral arrangements.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 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 Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that currently children whose adoptions are arranged by the Department of Family and Community Services but completed abroad are ineligible for a NSW birth certificate. This causes difficulties for some overseas adoptees, including those from China, whose identity and adoption documents refer to their 'abandonment'. Concerns around this issue have been raised by adoptive parents and a Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into Overseas Adoption. The bill responds to those concerns.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill, stating that it was a minor but important change to the law that will particularly address the discomfort experienced by those who previously only had access to an abandonment certificate issued by their country of birth.

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

Fines Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill abolishes the State Debt Recovery Office and vests its statutory functions in a new position: the Commissioner of Fines Administration. The bill provides the Commissioner of Fines Administration powers further to those of the State Debt Recovery Office to more efficiently enforce fines and better recover State debt. The bill ensures that any actions of the State Debt Recovery Office, including legal proceedings, are taken to have been done by the Commissioner of Fines Administration. The bill also provides for improved enforcement of fines including those incurred by interstate residents.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 23 October and read a first time. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill continues the Government's record of improving the administration and enforcement of fines and will enable more efficient administration of fines by the Office of State Revenue and will improve the recovery of fine debt due to New South Wales by interstate residents.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill, particularly its objective of enforcing and recovering fines incurred by interstate residents, of which more than two thirds remain unpaid each year – representing a significant loss of revenue to the State. However, the Opposition said it will be interested to monitor how the recovery of fines from interstate residents will work in practice. The Opposition and the Greens also raised concerns regarding the bill's provision for the contracting of private debt collection agencies. In reply, the Minister advised that a contract management plan for private debt collection agencies could result in the termination of a contract if an agency breached the terms of its contract.

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

Explosives Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill is the result of a statutory review of the *Explosives Act 2003* that was undertaken by WorkCover as required by section 38 of the Act. The bill amends the *Explosives Act 2003* to improve the licensing provisions of the Act, and clarify the role of security clearances as a prerequisite to obtaining a licence to handle explosives and explosive precursors. The bill also amends the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002* to enable police officers to seize, retain and destroy explosives, explosive precursors or certain dangerous goods.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 23 October and read a first time. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the report of the review of the *Explosives Act 2003* concluded that the policy objectives of the Act to protect workers and the public from harm that may arise from the illegal or unsafe use of explosives remained valid subject to minor amendments. The bill implements many of the recommendations of the report as well as some other amendments that have since been identified as necessary.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill on the grounds that it contained sensible amendments to practice and procedure relating to explosives handling and licencing, particularly the proposed requirement for a security clearance prior to being granted a licence – which the Greens noted they were surprised to discover did not already exist.

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

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NSW Enabling) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill provides for the transfer of the disability assets of the State, which includes government employee staff involved in the provision of disability services, in connection with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) of the Commonwealth. New South Wales was the first State to commit to the NDIS, when it signed on to the agreement in December 2012.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced, read a first time and printed on 23 October 2013. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Ajaka) said that the bill was necessary for New South Wales to take the first steps towards ensuring the success of the NDIS. The Minister said that from 2018 the Government will no longer provide or fund disability or community care support and the National Disability Insurance Agency will take over responsibility for the development of the sector and funding. This means that existing state service capacity, workforce and expertise need to be transferred to the non-government organisation sector by that date. The Minister said the bill will facilitate this transfer while maximising continuity of service delivery, retaining a skilled workforce, and enhancing the capacity of the disability sector.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to clarify the validity of that Act's provisions as they relate to the District Court having the jurisdiction to hear prosecutions under the previous Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000. The bill also confirms that a legal practitioner acting on behalf of an inspector or the regulator in proceedings under the previous Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 or the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 may sign an initiating process on behalf of a prosecutor.

The clarifications are required due to recent technical legal challenges which have arisen following the repeal of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 which was replaced by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 as New South Wales transitioned into the nationally harmonised system of occupational health and safety.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 October 2013 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

Industrial Relations Amendment (Industrial Court) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* and certain other Acts to abolish Full Benches of the Industrial Court, and transfer their functions, and to

provide for the exchange of judicial officers between the Supreme Court and Industrial Court.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 23 October and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

Disallowance of delegated legislation

Note: The Legislative Council may disallow pieces of delegated legislation such as statutory rules and instruments under Part 6 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* or under the provisions of the primary act.

Item [3] of Schedule 1 and item [3] of Schedule 2 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Scheduled Activities) Regulation 2013 (Dr Kaye, the Greens)

Summary: The regulation, published on the NSW Legislation website on 28 June 2013, amends the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* to provide for licensing fees regarding coal seam gas exploration and electricity generation via wind turbines on wind farms. The disallowance motion sought to disallow the sections of the regulation as they apply to licensing fees for wind turbines.

Proceedings: On 22 October 2013 the House agreed to consider the motion as business of the House and to proceed with it forthwith. The Greens stated that they opposed the regulation on the basis that the licensing fees would create a disincentive to invest in wind farms and renewable energy. The Greens argued that concerns about the noise levels attributable to wind turbines were misplaced and that the Government was reticent to support initiatives that would generate energy via means alternate to fossil fuels.

The Opposition supported the motion, arguing that the Government's draft planning guidelines for wind farms seek to destroy the expansion of the industry. The Opposition stated that there is uncertainty within the industry as to its future, given that the draft guidelines were released two years ago and are yet to be adopted. The Opposition noted that the licensing fees in the bill are more than 20 times higher than such fees applicable in other jurisdictions.

The Government opposed the motion on three grounds. Firstly, that the proposed fees are fair and are not a barrier to wind farm investment. Secondly, the benefits of centralised regulation by the Environment Protection Authority through a licensing framework outweigh the small costs of annual licence fees. Thirdly, removing fees for wind farms would set an inequitable precedent for the other industries and activities that require an environment protection licence. The Christian Democratic Party opposed the motion, referring to research demonstrating harmful and negative aspects associated with wind farming.

The motion was negatived (Division 17:20).

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

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 to commend 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. Debate on the motion resumed on 24 October 2013 from 17 October 2013 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Speakers to the motion noted the trauma of forced adoptions and acknowledged that the apologies across Australian Parliaments for the injustice are an essential step toward reparation but that there is a need for ongoing efforts to recognise the harms caused and to provide support to those affected.

Debate was adjourned until the next sitting day.

Mining SEPP (Mr Buckingham, the Greens)

Summary: The motion calls on the House to note that the Government announced amendments to the Mining State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) in February that, if gazetted, would prohibit coal seam gas mining on horse studs and wineries and within 2km of some residential areas. The motion also called on the House to call on the Government to extend the application of the amendments and to then gazette the amendments, and to initiate a Royal Commission to investigate the grant and operation of petroleum titles and the regulation of the coal seam gas industry under the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Speaking to the motion, Mr Buckingham said that the community wants certainty with respect to protection from the impact of coal seam and other unconventional gas explorations and that the delay in gazetting the announced amendments and the lack of adequate overall protection was causing many communities a high level of concern. Mr Buckingham argued that the notion of exclusion zones was sensible and it logically followed that it should be extended to other sensitive areas such as water catchments.

Debate on the motion was adjourned.

Libraries (Ms Barham, the Greens)

Summary: The motion called on the House to note the role played by public libraries in contributing to the educational and cultural vibrancy of communities. The motion also called on the Government to review its share of funding to public libraries relative to the share provided by local governments.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business on 24 October 2013. Speaking to the motion, Ms Barham noted that the share of state government funding for public libraries relative to the funding allocated by local governments has steadily decreased. In 1979-80 the ratio was 23.4 per cent (state government) to 74.6 per cent (local government) whereas the corresponding ratio for 2010-11 was 7.5 per cent to 92.5 per cent. Ms Barham argued that as a result public libraries are not receiving the resources required to best serve their communities and respond to technological innovations.

All members speaking to the motion supported the worth it placed on the value of libraries. The point of difference during the debate was whether increased funding should be allocated to libraries. Some members made the case for further State Government funding, while others emphasised that public budgets are under pressure and difficult choices need to be made given the breadth of public services that are provided.

The motion was agreed to.

New South Wales economy (Ms Ficarra, Liberal Party)

Summary: The motion calls on the House to note a recent announcement made by the Treasurer regarding strong performance figures for the New South Wales economy for the past year. The motion also calls on the House to acknowledge the efforts of the Treasurer and the Government for their efforts in promoting solid economic growth in the State.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Speaking to the motion, Ms Ficarra cited a number of sources which had reported that after a decade of slow growth, New South Wales was now leading most states in economic development. Ms Ficarra said that despite general economic challenges, New South Wales now has the second strongest economy in the nation and that the Government is committed to further improvement based on sound financial management. Ms Ficarra highlighted the Government's actions to stimulate growth in the housing sector.

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) Carers Week (Ms Westwood)
- (2) National Week of Deaf People (Ms Westwood)
- (3) Pakistan Australia Business Council (Ms Fazio)

- (4) Egyptian-Australian Community Interfaith Harmony Event (Mr Clarke)
- (5) Housing construction in Sydney (Ms Ficarra)
- (6) Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Australia function (Mr Clarke)
- (7) Grandparent's Day (Ms Barham)
- (8) Mr Rusty Priest (Mr Lynn)
- (9) 20th Annual Greek-Serbian Orthodox and Cultural Friendship Day (Mr Clarke)
- (10) Toongabbie Legal Centre (Mr Clarke)
- (11) Festival of Deepavali (Mr Clarke)
- (12) 12th annual RSL and Services Clubs Association conference (Mr Lynn)
- (13) 2013 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize (Mr Moselmane)
- (14) Penrith Panthers Community Support (Ms Ficarra)
- (15) Opportunity Hubs for Aboriginal Students Ms Ficarra).

Orders for papers

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

Order made

- (1) **Executive appointments:** The order relates to documents created since 1 April 2011 in the possession, custody or control of the Premier, the Treasurer and the Department of Premier and Cabinet concerning a set of executive appointments to state owned corporations. Due: 7 November 2013.

Petitions received

- (1) Day of Recognition of forced adoption practices – 50 signatures (presented, Ms Barham)
- (2) Public libraries – 121 signatures (presented, Ms Barham)
- (3) Sanctity of marriage – 444 signatures (presented, 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

NSW Child Death Review Team: report entitled 'Annual report of the NSW Child Death Review Team for year ended 31 December 2012', 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. 46/55 of 2013', 22 October 2013.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2: Report No. 41 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014', October 2013.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3: Report No. 28 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014', October 2013.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4: Report No. 28 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014', October 2013.

Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate: Report entitled 'The agistment of horses at Yaralla Estate', October 2013.

Committee on Children and Young People: Report No.2/55 entitled 'Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Commission for Children and Young People', October 2013.

The Committee on the Healthcare Complaints Commission: Report No. 3/55 entitled 'Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Health Care Complaints Commission', October 2013.

Committee reports debated

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

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 40 entitled 'Drug and alcohol treatment', August 2013.

Government response

Select Committee on the Partial Defence of Provocation: The House received a response to the report entitled 'The partial defence of provocation', tabled April 2013.

Inquiry activities

Greyhound racing in NSW

The Select Committee is currently receiving submissions, with a closing date of 6 November 2013. To date approximately 250 submissions have been received, and hearings will be held 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 1 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. The Minister for Family and Community Services has been invited to attend a future public hearing.

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 will conduct a further regional hearing later this year.

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 four public hearings and a roundtable with young people from the Byron Bay area.

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

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 is scheduled to hold a supplementary hearing into the portfolio of Premier on 1 November 2013.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 22 October 2013

Little Wings charitable organisation (Mrs Mitchell); Sydney Water wastewater treatment plants privatisation (Mr Secord); Bushfires (Dr Faruqi); Drought declaration (Mr Whan); Same-sex marriage laws (Revd Mr Nile); Australian Broadcasting Commission (Mr Clarke).

Wednesday 23 October 2013

Liquid fuel supplies (Mr Primrose); East coast gas supplies (Mr Buckingham); Bushfires (Mr Blair); Parthenon Marbles (Ms Cotsis); State bushfires (Mr Shoebridge); Tribute to Godfrey "Rusty" Priest (Mr Lynn); Dam levels (Mr Secord).

Thursday 24 October 2013

State bushfires (Mr Brown); Partial defence of provocation review (Mr Khan); Central West job cuts (Mr Veitch); Alternative energy (Mr Borsak); Palliative care (Mr Donnelly); Parliamentary Friends of Cyprus study tour (Ms Ficarra); Operation Urgent Fury anniversary (Dr Phelps).

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DB', written in a cursive style.

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments