

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 55/68

Sitting period
6 to 8 May 2014



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

Since the last edition of *House in Review*, a number of significant changes have occurred in the political landscape of New South Wales, including notably the resignation of the former Premier and the appointment of a new Premier. The changes in the representation of the Government in the Legislative Council are detailed below.

When the House resumed this week, the House also had before it a significant procedural issue concerning the failure of the Government to fully comply with two orders for papers under standing order 52. At the end of the week, one of the two orders for papers had been resolved, but the other remains outstanding.

On the legislative front, this week saw three government bills passed by the House and returned to the Assembly, including the Graffiti Control Amendment Bill which the House received in October last year. In addition, four new government bills were introduced, including one Council bill.

As reported in the previous edition of *House in Review*, disagreement still exists between the Council and the Assembly regarding the Council's amendments to the Crimes Amendment (Intoxication) Bill 2014. On 6 May 2014, the President reported receipt of a message from the Assembly advising that the Assembly continues to insist on its disagreement to the Council's amendments. Consideration of the Assembly's message in committee of the whole stands as an order of the day on the Notice Paper.

Death of former member – the Honourable E. Lloyd Sommerlad

The President announced to the House the death on 17 April 2014 of the Honourable E. Lloyd Sommerlad, a member of the House from 1955 to 1967. The President further reported that on behalf of the House he had extended to the family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Council in the loss sustained.

Members and officers stood as a mark of respect.

Death of former member – the Honourable Neville Kenneth Wran AC CNZM QC

The President announced to the House the death on 20 April 2014 of the Honourable Neville Kenneth Wran AC CNZM QC, a member of the House from 1970 to 1973, and former Premier of the State in a Labor government. The President further reported that on behalf of the House he had extended to the family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Council in the loss sustained.

Later that day, the Leader of the Opposition gave notice of a motion, to be moved at a later date, for the House to place on record its deep regret in the loss sustained to the State.

Message of condolence – Floods in the Solomon Islands

The President informed the House that, on behalf of members of the Legislative Council, he had sent a message of condolence to the Speaker of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands to express sympathies and condolences to the people of the Solomon Islands who were affected by recent flooding.

Changes in administration and Government representation in the Legislative Council

On 17 April 2014, Her Excellency the Governor accepted the resignation of Mr Barry O'Farrell as Premier and as a member of the Executive Council, which action involved the resignation of the ministry from their respective offices and as members of the Executive Council. On the same day, the Governor appointed Mr Michael Baird as Premier. The full ministry was appointed by the Governor on 23 April 2014.

On 7 May 2014, the Governor accepted the resignation of Mr Gallacher as Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for the Central Coast and Vice President of the Executive Council. On the same day, the Governor made various other changes to the ministry, including the appointment of Mr Matthew Mason-Cox, a member of the Legislative Council, as Minister for Fair Trading.

The ministers in the Legislative Council are now as follows:

Mr Gay – Minister for Roads and Freight and Vice President of the Executive Council.

Mr Ajaka – Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for the Illawarra.

Mr Mason-Cox – Minister for Fair Trading.

On 6 May 2014 Mr Gay was appointed as the Leader of the Government and Mr Ajaka was appointed as Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council by the Premier.

On 6 May 2014, various parliamentary secretaries were also appointed, including the following parliamentary secretaries in the Legislative Council:

Ms Catherine Cusack – Parliamentary Secretary for Tertiary Education and Skills.

Mr David Clarke – Parliamentary Secretary for Justice.

Mr Charlie Lynn – Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

Mrs Melinda Pavey – Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health.

Returns to orders for papers

During the last two sitting weeks in March, the House made six orders for papers. Four of the orders were fully complied with, however on 16 April 2014, the Clerk received correspondence from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet indicating that in relation to the other two orders for papers – an order relating to documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra and an order relating to reform of planning laws in New South Wales – it was not practicable, given the nature of the orders, to produce the documents sought within the timeframes specified. The Government also provided an opinion from the Solicitor General dated 9 April 2014 which addressed a number of matters concerning the Legislative Council's power to compel the production of documents.

When the House sat again on 6 May 2014, the Clerk tabled the correspondence from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Clerk also tabled certain documents, but not a full return, received earlier that day from the Department of Premier and Cabinet in relation to the two orders for papers. Following their tabling, the Leader of the Government in the House, Mr Gay, made a ministerial statement in relation to the late and incomplete returns. The Minister stated that the Government did not dispute the power of the House to compel the government to produce documents and that the Government takes seriously its obligation to comply fully with the terms of any order. However, he stated that, in the circumstances, the two orders had been impossible to comply with in the ordered timeframes. He stated that those documents that had been produced had been done so in a reasonable attempt to meet the orders of the House, and had been provided at great expense.

In reply, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Foley, stated that a key principle of the system of responsible government is that the Government is accountable to the Parliament, and that that principle would be the starting point of the Opposition in considering its responses to these matters. Mr Foley further stated that the Opposition has always been prepared to negotiate with relevant departments the terms of an order for papers after it has been placed on the Notice Paper and noted that useful discussions in this regard had occurred in the past.

The order for papers concerning reform of planning laws in New South Wales was subsequently resolved on 8 May 2014. On the matter coming on for debate on the instigation of the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition reiterated his earlier statements regarding the accountability of the government to Parliament and moved an amendment to the Minister's motion to remove any suggestion that the House accepted or agreed with the position stated in the correspondence from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Minister's statement of 6 May 2014 referred to above.

The instigator of the original order, Mr Shoebridge (The Greens) indicated that he accepted that the Department of Planning had done the best that it could to comply with the terms of the order. Given this statement, the House subsequently passed the following resolution:

"1. That this House notes:

(a) the resolution of the House of 26 March 2014 under standing order 52 ordering the return of State papers regarding reform of planning laws in New South Wales, and

(b) the partial return to the order of the House tabled in this House on 6 May 2014.

2. That this House accepts the production by the government of documents in response to the resolution of the House of 26 March 2014 under standing order 52 ordering the return of State papers regarding reform of planning laws in New South Wales as though the resolution was passed with the omission of the word "relates" in paragraph 1(b)."

The order for papers concerning documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra remains unresolved.

Government business

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

Graffiti Control Amendment Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Graffiti Control Act 2008* to implement certain recommendations arising from a statutory review of the Act completed in 2013. 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: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 7 May 2014 from 5 March 2014 (see vol 55/65 of *House of Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition did not oppose the bill, but argued that it was unlikely to change the fact that the police tend to use the *Crimes Act 1900* to charge graffiti offenders rather than the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*, resulting in an under-utilisation of graffiti clean-up orders. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill citing the need to address the large economic and social cost of graffiti borne by local communities. In particular the Christian Democratic Party endorsed the use of clean-up orders as a means to address graffiti offenders. The Greens did not support the bill, arguing that simply relying on the creation of new offences was an ineffective strategy for dealing with graffiti. The Greens also argued that as drafted the bill would lead to many innocent and inoffensive activities being deemed as offences.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, a Greens amendment to exclude the marking of any public footpath or public pavement with chalk from the general offence of marking was agreed to.

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

Criminal Assets Recovery Amendment Bill 2014 and cognate Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The Criminal Assets Recovery Amendment Bill amends the *Criminal Assets Recovery Act 1990* to facilitate the recovery of proceeds of crime from a person who was not the direct perpetrator of criminal activity by allowing the NSW Crime Commission to apply for a recovery order against a secondary person. The provisions in the bill will apply to activities that were engaged in prior to the commencement of the bill.

The Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill amends an array of Acts relating to mining and planning regulation. In particular, the bill removes the public interest test from the decision making process and re-inserts it as an aspect to take into account when approving a transitional Part 3A project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The test is replaced by the 'fit and proper person' test on which decisions about mining rights and petroleum titles are made. The bill also sets out a non-exhaustive list of factors to be considered when determining whether an applicant is a fit and proper person. The provisions in the bill will apply to 'preserved conditions' of the exploration licences cancelled by the *Mining Amendment (ICAC Operations Jasper and Acacia) Act 2014*.

The bills were introduced as a further legislative response to the ICAC recommendations in relation to reducing opportunities and incentives for corruption in the management of the State's resources.

Proceedings: The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 March 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bills commenced on

7 May 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Minister indicated that the bills complete the Government's legislative responses to the recommendations of the Independent Commission Against Corruption arising out of the reports on Operations Jasper and Acacia, and that they reflect the Government's determination to make sure that those who engaged in illegal activity are held accountable for their actions and are not able to profit from their wrongdoing. The speech further noted that these bills will strengthen the existing criminal assets recovery regime in the face of increasingly sophisticated efforts by criminals to hide the proceeds of crime from the State, and to tighten the regulation of mining rights to reduce opportunities for corruption.

The Opposition supported the bills, indicating its backing of any recommendation made by the ICAC, stating that the *Criminal Assets Recovery Amendment Bill 2014* was consistent with the ICAC's recommendations and addresses concerns expressed by the community about the ability to recoup profits that have accrued to some people through corrupt activities.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bills, expressing support for the work of the ICAC to prevent corruption in the State and commending the Government for implementing the recommendations of the ICAC.

The Greens supported the *Criminal Assets Recovery Amendment Bill 2014*. However, while the Greens supported the establishment of a fit and proper person test in the granting of mining and petroleum licences under the *Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2014*, they expressed concerns regarding the removal of the public interest test. The Greens argued this would significantly reduce the power of the Minister with respect to cancelling mining and petroleum licences.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Greens moved an amendment to the *Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* that sought to establish an Independent Expert Mining Licence Committee to provide an assessment of aspects of the grant or renewal of licences. The amendment was negatived (Division 5:29). The Greens also moved a set of amendments that sought to return a public interest test for the granting of mining and petroleum licences. Again, the amendments were negatived (Division 5:27).

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

Maritime and Transport Licensing Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Marine Safety Act 1998* and the *Road Transport Act 2013* to make Roads and Maritime Services responsible for the issuing of boat driving licences and vessel registration and to enable RMS to grant vehicle driving licences that include boat driving licences as an alternative to issuing separate boat driving licence documentation. The bill also amends the *Ports and*

Maritime Administration Act 1995 to enable regulations under the Act to make provision for the management of dangerous goods in ports.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced on 7 May 2014. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gay) indicated that the bill addresses issues arising out of the Government's August 2012 Maritime Policy Agenda and will provide greater ease of service to eligible customers. The Minister also indicated that the bill addresses the current absence of a regulation-making power for dangerous goods in the *Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995*.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill implements the provisions of the Legal Profession Uniform Law in New South Wales and provides supporting provisions for the regulation of the legal profession in this State. The nationally developed legislation, the Legal Profession Uniform Law, provides a scheme to harmonise regulation of the legal profession across the States and Territories and is the subject of an agreement between New South Wales and Victoria, and potentially other jurisdictions. As a result of adopting the nationally developed legislation, the bill repeals the *Legal Profession Act 2004*.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 7 May 2014 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Amendment (Fresh Start Support) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Act 2011* to implement the Government's Fresh Start Support scheme to provide an additional \$1,000 payroll tax rebate to employers when they hire a worker after 1 January 2014, made redundant from a list of designated employers. The additional rebate amount of \$1,000 is to apply in relation to the first year of eligible employment under the Act of a person who has been made redundant.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 7 May 2014 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill authorises the Ombudsman to review the systems of service providers of community services and to make reports and recommendations in relation to those providers, and to undertake research and other projects for the purpose of formulating strategies to remove or reduce risk factors associated with preventable reviewable deaths. The bill also clarifies that persons advocating on behalf of persons provided with

community services are included in the complaints resolution process.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Assembly on 7 May 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill 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.

The Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material Regulation 2013 (Mr Foley, Australian Labor Party)

Summary: Clause 97 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009* makes it an offence for the occupier of any premises to cause or allow native forest bio-material to be burned in electricity generation. This regulation, published on the NSW Legislation website on 7 March 2014, excludes certain categories of bio-material, such as bio-material obtained from trees cleared in accordance with approved property vegetation plans, from the definition of 'native forest bio-material' in order to permit the burning of such bio-material in electricity generation.

Proceedings: On 6 May 2014, the House agreed to consider the motion as business of the House. In speaking to the motion, Mr Foley noted that the previous Labor Government in 2003 made it illegal to burn native forests for electricity generation and that the motion to disallow the regulation supported that environmental legacy. Mr Foley said that the Opposition was concerned that the regulation would result in increased logging activity in native forests and was not convinced by statements to the contrary made by the Government. While the Opposition indicated its support for the timber industry, it argued that the regulation could have catastrophic environmental consequences while only providing low and questionable economic value.

The Government opposed the motion, arguing that the regulation provides for a more flexible regime that strikes an appropriate balance between a sustainable timber industry and environmental protection. The Government asserted that the regulation had been specifically designed so that there would be no increase in native forest logging activity and that there would be extensive monitoring to ensure that this was the case.

Debate was interrupted for Question Time, and resumed according to precedence the following day.

The Greens supported the disallowance motion, arguing that the regulation was an attempt to perpetuate an unsustainable industry that provided little economic return, and that it would inevitably lead to the destruction of important habitat in native forests.

The motion was negatived (Division 18:20), with the Opposition, and the Greens voting in support and the Government, Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party voting against the motion.

The regulation remains in force.

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.

Bill

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 8 May 2014 from 17 October 2013 (see Vol 55/57 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members from the Greens, the Opposition and the Government spoke in debate on the bill. All members, while indicating that they were unable to support the bill, appreciated the opportunity the debate provided to discuss the serious issue of alcohol advertising and consumption in the community. Members raised their concerns regarding the associations with alcohol in young persons' minds fostered by alcohol advertising and the strong association between alcohol and mainstream sporting codes.

Debate was adjourned until 19 June 2014.

Motions

Ecologically Sustainable Development (Dr Faruqi, the Greens)

Summary: The motion calls on the Government to recommit to ecologically sustainable development principles in legislation and decision-making processes as this is the best way of safeguarding our environment and hence our economy and community. The motion also called for the establishment of a State office of ecologically sustainable development to develop, implement and promote integrated ecologically sustainable development policies in government agencies.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion resumed on 8 May 2014 from 6 March 2014 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Greens spoke in support of the motion and argued the importance of the precautionary principle in ecologically sustainable development. Further, they noted the importance of planning the urban water supply and energy planning for the State. The Greens called on the Government to commit to ecologically sustainable development to safeguard the environment, economy and community.

The Government argued against the motion and against the precautionary principle, which they suggested limited development unnecessarily. Further, the Government disagreed with the proposal to establish a State office of ecologically sustainable development on the grounds that this would duplicate the principles and actions already established in the planning and development processes of the State. The Government also noted the important role of the agricultural sector as managers of the State's land.

The Opposition supported the motion and argued that previous Labor governments had developed ecologically sustainable development principles that create a culture of sustainability that extends to the government, private development interests, communities and individuals. The Opposition argued that the present Government is not engaging with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and is relegating environmental considerations below economic considerations.

The motion was negatived (Division 18:20).

Senator Lee Rhiannon (Dr Phelps, Liberal Party)

Summary: The motion calls on Senator Lee Rhiannon to fully disclose her interactions with officials of the Embassy for the Soviet Union in Australia and her activities while studying in Moscow. It also calls on her to address all aspects of the controversy raised following the publication of her ASIO file.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion commenced according to precedence. In speaking to his motion, Dr Phelps recounted details from the publically released ASIO file on Ms Rhiannon and commented on the historical role and activities of the Communist Party of Australia.

Debate on the motion was adjourned until the next sitting day (Division 29:5).

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) West Byron Bay urban release area (Ms Barham)
- (2) Arthritis Awareness Week (Ms Barham)
- (3) Cabramatta Business Association (Mr Lynn)
- (4) Armenian genocide commemoration (Mr Clarke)
- (5) Mahmmood Ahmad Shahd Sahib (Ms Fazio)
- (6) South Korean ferry disaster (Ms Fazio)
- (7) Western Sydney Wanderers (Ms Fazio)
- (8) International Composting Awareness Week (Mr Buckingham)
- (9) Holy Name Catholic Church 60th Anniversary (Mr Donnelly)

Orders for papers

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

Order made

CBD and South East Light Rail (Ms Sharpe, Australian Labor Party)

Summary: The motion ordered the production of papers regarding the traffic and patronage modelling, the business case and cost benefit analysis for the CBD and South East Light Rail Project.

Proceedings: On 8 May 2014, standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business (Division 20:18). In speaking to the motion, Ms Sharpe noted that in December 2012, the Government announced a plan that would see a light rail route from Circular Quay to Central Station and on to Randwick and Kingsford. Ms Sharpe argued that the Government had not adequately engaged with residents and businesses and that concerns regarding the light rail project had not been addressed and relevant documents were not on the public record.

The Government opposed the order for papers on the grounds that the information being requested is already in the public domain and that the order would lead to a waste of departmental resources that could be better utilised.

The Christian Democratic Party expressed support for public transport and light rail, and noted the concerns of residents affected by the scheme, but did not support the order for papers. The Christian Democratic Party encouraged the Opposition to narrow the parameters of the motion to reduce the resources needed to comply with the order.

The Greens supported the motion and noted their support for public transport and light rail, and the importance of public consultation and protecting the environment when developing and designing projects such as the CBD and South East Light Rail.

The Shooters and Fishers Party supported the motion and noted the difficulty in establishing exactly what documents are needed in an order for papers in order to narrow the scope of the request.

The motion was agreed to (Division 20:18).

Returns to order

- (1) **Crown Lands Review:** received 27 March 2014, 3 boxes public, 2 boxes privileged.
- (2) **Management of Crown Caravan Parks:** received 9 April 2014 and 2 May 2014, 6 boxes public, 2 boxes privileged.
- (3) **Draft Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Biomaterial) Regulation:** received 9 April 2014, 3 boxes public, 1 box privileged.
- (4) **Acquisitions of land for the reserve system:** received 16 April 2014, 1 box public.
- (5) **Planning proposal for Bronte RSL:** received 16 April 2014, 2 boxes public.
- (6) **Documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra:** received 6 May 2014, 2 boxes public, 1 box privileged.

- (7) **Reform of planning laws in New South Wales:** received 6 May 2014, 22 boxes public, 8 boxes privileged.

Petitions received

- (1) Proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 – 512 signatures (irregular, presented by Mr Moselmane)
- (2) Dutton Lane car park - 2,065 signatures (presented by Mr Lynn); 2,078 signatures (presented Mr Lynn)
- (3) Public libraries – 68 signatures (presented by Ms Barham)
- (4) Blue Mountains septic pump out scheme - 299 signatures (presented by Ms Westwood).

Debate on budget estimates

The House concluded the take-note debate on the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2013-2014.

Reports tabled

Auditor General: Performance Audit entitled 'Fitness of firefighters: Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service', dated April 2014.

Auditor General: Performance Audit entitled 'Management of volunteers: NSW State Emergency Service', dated April 2014.

Auditor General: Performance Audit entitled 'Regional Road Funding - Block Grant and REPAIR programs: Roads and Maritime Services', dated May 2014.

Ombudsman: Special Report entitled 'Causes of death of children with a child protection history 2002-2011', dated April 2014.

Ombudsman: Special Report entitled 'Oversight of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994—Annual Report 2012-2013', dated May 2014.

Ombudsman: Special Report entitled 'Review of the NSW Child Protection System: Are things improving?', dated April 2014.

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

Select Committee on greyhound racing in NSW: 'Greyhound racing in NSW: First report', dated March 2014.

Legislation Review Committee: 'Legislation Review Digest No. 54/55', dated May 2014.

Committee reports debated

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 28 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014' dated October 2013.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 28 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014' dated October 2013.

Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate: The House continued the take-note debate on the report entitled 'Agistment of horses at Yaralla Estate', dated October 2013.

Committee on Children and Young People: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 2/55 entitled 'Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Commission of Children and Young People', dated October 2013.

Inquiry activities

Standing Committee on Law and Justice

The committee is conducting its first reviews into the exercise of the functions of the WorkCover Authority and Dust Diseases Board. The committee has received 42 submissions for the WorkCover review and 7 submissions for the Dust Diseases review. The third and final hearing for the WorkCover review will be held on 12 May 2014.

The committee is also conducting concurrent reviews into the exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority (12th Review) and the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (Fifth Review). The committee held hearings on 7 and 17 March 2014 and expects to report in early July.

In addition, the committee is conducting an inquiry into the family response to the murders in Bowraville, and has received 28 submissions to date. The committee conducted a site visit to Bowraville on 31 March and held public and closed roundtable hearings in Bowraville on 1 and 2 May. The committee will hold another public hearing in Sydney on 12 May 2014.

The Standing Committee on State Development

Inquiry into regional aviation services. The Standing Committee on State Development has received 63 submissions. The first Sydney hearing is scheduled for 23 May 2014.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Inquiry into allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW. General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 has received 98 submissions and held four hearings. Its report is currently being drafted and is expected to be tabled on 19 June 2014.

General Purpose Standing Committee No.5

Inquiry into the Wambelong fire. The committee will resume its activities after the coronial hearings into the fire are completed, and has scheduled a site visit to Coonabarabran in early September 2014.

Select Committee on greyhound racing in NSW

The select committee tabled its First Report on 28 March 2014. The House has extended the committee's final reporting date to 30 June 2014.

Select Committee on the impact of gambling

The select committee has received 34 submissions. Hearings were held on 10 and 11 April 2014. The committee will be holding a further half day of hearings followed by proposed site visits to Sports Bet, Oakdene House gambling treatment clinic, and the Mounties club on 5 June 2014.

Select Committee on ministerial propriety in New South Wales

The select committee has received seven submissions. The reporting date for the inquiry is October 2014.

Select Committee on the sale of the Currawong property at Pittwater

The select committee has received two submissions and held a public hearing on Monday 5 May. The committee will table its report by 28 June 2014.

Select Committee on social, public and affordable housing

The select committee has received 248 submissions. The committee undertook site visits, public hearings and public forums in Nowra and Wollongong on 30 April and 1 May 2014. The committee will be undertaking a site visit in Sydney on 16 May and a range of site visits, hearings and public forums in Port Macquarie, Tamworth and Dubbo on 20 and 21 May 2014. Hearings will also be held in Sydney on 12 and 30 May 2014.

Privileges Committee

The Privileges Committee is inquiring into recommendations made by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) regarding aspects of The Code of Conduct for Members, the interest disclosure regime and a parliamentary investigator. The inquiry follows the publication of a report by the ICAC in October 2013 entitled 'Reducing the opportunities and incentives for corruption in the State's management of coal resources'. The closing date for submissions has now passed, however, to date, the Committee has not published any submissions.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 6 May 2014

Royal Easter Showgirl competition (Mr Blair); White Bay cruise terminal (Mr Foley); Bentley blockade (Ms Barham); Racial discrimination (Dr Phelps); Public sector wages (Mr Searle); National Parks estate (Mr Borsak).

Wednesday 7 May 2014

Homelessness (Ms Cotsis); Political donations (Mr Buckingham); Australian Society for Medical Research (Mrs Pavey); Industrial deafness workers' compensation (Mr Primrose); Animal rights activism (Mr Brown); Tribute to Noelene Ainley (Mr Lynn).

Thursday 8 May 2014

Non-violent direct action (Dr Faruqi); Midwifery (Mrs Mitchell); Federal Commission of Audit (Ms Cotsis); Starlight Children's Foundation (Mr Green); The Greens policies (Mr MacDonald); Mental health (Ms Voltz).

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