

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



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17 to 19 June 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

This week the House deferred debate on committee reports and sat late on Tuesday and Wednesday in order to focus on consideration of Government legislation prior to the start of the regular winter adjournment. The House finalised consideration of thirteen Government bills notably including the four budget bills. Notwithstanding seven Government bills being considered in detail, all but one were returned to the Assembly without amendment.

The House also debated two private members' bills this week, with the *TAFE Changes Moratorium (Secure Future for Public Provision of Vocational Education and Training) Bill 2014* being agreed to by the House and forwarded to the Assembly on Thursday.

As explained in the section below, the House will meet on Wednesday 2 July 2014 when it will hold a joint sitting with the Legislative Assembly in order to elect a person to fill the vacancy in the representation of the State in the Senate from 1 July 2014.

Vacancy in the representation of the State in the Senate

As reported in editions 55/59 and 55/60 of *House in Review*, a vacancy occurred in the representation of the State in the Senate through the resignation of Senator the Hon Bob Carr on 24 October 2013. Senator Carr expressed his resignation as applying to both the current Senate up until 30 June 2014 and his seat in the next Senate commencing on 1 July 2014.

On 13 November a joint sitting of the two Houses was held for the purpose of electing a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Carr, with Ms Deborah O'Neill being elected to fill the vacated seat.

However, based upon legal advice received from the Crown Solicitor, the joint sitting did not fill the vacancy from 1 July 2014.

On 17 June 2014, the President made a statement concerning the vacancy in the representation of the State in the Senate occurring from 1 July 2014. The President

tabled further legal advice of the Crown Solicitor regarding the requirements for and available methods by which the vacancy may be filled.

Based on that advice, it is now anticipated that a joint sitting of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly will be held on Wednesday 2 July 2014 for the purpose of electing a person to fill the vacancy in the representation of the State in the Senate from 1 July 2014.

Parliamentary Ethics Adviser

Following resolutions of the two Houses, the Presiding Officers of the Parliament have been directed to appoint the former clerk of the Parliaments, Mr John Evans PSM as Parliamentary Ethics Adviser from 1 July 2014.

In moving the resolution, the Leader of the Government in the House (Mr Gay) noted the great respect that all members have for the former Clerk of the Parliaments.

2014-2015 Budget

On 17 June 2014, Mr Gay tabled the Budget Papers in the Legislative Council following the Treasurer's Budget speech in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Gay commenced the take-note debate on the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2014-2015, and incorporated into Hansard the budget speech given by the Treasurer. Debate was adjourned until a later hour.

The Budget Estimates take-note debate is generally wide-ranging, and is an opportunity for members to speak about any aspect of the administration of the State and the Government's policy directions.

The Budget bills themselves were dealt with separately by the House on 19 June 2014. See discussion below.

Government business

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

Appropriation Bill 2014 and cognates Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2014; Appropriation (Budget Variations) Bill 2014; and State Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget Variations) Bill 2014

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The Appropriations Bill 2014 is the annual budget bill which appropriates sums out of the Consolidated Fund to provide for the expenditure of the Government in the financial year 2014-2015.

The cognate Appropriations (Parliament) Bill 2014 sets out the annual appropriations for the recurrent services and capital works of the Legislature, while the Appropriation (Budget Variations) Bill 2014 appropriates amounts out of the Consolidated Fund for the year 2012-13 for the purpose of giving effect to certain Budget variations required by the exigencies of Government.

The cognate State Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill makes miscellaneous amendments to certain State revenue and other legislation in connection with the budget.

Proceedings: The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 June 2014 and read a first time. As the bills were received after the cut-off date for Government bills, the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) moved that the bills be considered urgent, allowing them to pass the House before the winter break. The motion was agreed to.

Later that day the second and third readings of the bills were agreed to without debate and the bills were returned to the Assembly without amendment.

Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Consequential Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: In 2013, the High Court of Australia in the case of *Unions NSW & Ors v State of New South Wales* declared that certain provisions of the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* (being provisions inserted by an amending Act in 2012) were invalid. The relevant provisions prohibited political donations from corporations or other entities, and required electoral communication expenditure incurred for a State election campaign by an affiliated organisation of a party to be combined with the expenditure of the party for the purposes of the applicable cap on expenditure by the party.

The bill removes the text of the invalid provisions and restores the provisions that existed previously that regulate political donations from corporations and other entities.

The bill included an amendment made in the Legislative Assembly that clarified that a corporate donation made during the period between 9 March 2012 and 18 December 2013, though unlawful at the time, is now legal and so needed to be declared. The *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Act 2012* banned corporate donations; however this provision was ruled unlawful by the High Court on 18 December 2013.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 17 June 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill addresses a gap in election funding regulation that has arisen as a result of the High Court decision, namely that the supporting provisions in the Act only contemplated donations from individuals and as such the disclosure requirements did not fully apply to corporate donations. The speech further indicated that the amendments in the bill will be taken to have commenced on 18 December 2013, being the date of the High Court decision, to ensure that corporate donations made since the ban on corporate donations was struck down did not slip through a regulatory loophole.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it fully supported attempts to remove opportunities for corruption from the political donations regime. However, the Opposition raised concern that the reinstatement of previous provisions regarding restrictions on persons from whom political donations can be accepted might not be consistent with the recent High Court decision and could be open to challenge. The Greens supported the bill. The Greens did not accept the argument behind the concern noted by the Opposition, arguing that the original provisions had not been subject to any challenge or criticism in the past and were unlikely to be challenged now. The Greens foreshadowed an amendment to the bill that would broaden the scope of persons who are entitled to make political donations to include persons who are citizens or permanent residents over 15 years of age. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, agreeing with the argument put forward by the Premier in the Assembly that the legislation needed to be in place prior to June 30, that date being the end of the annual disclosure period for political donations and electoral expenditure.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens amendment was opposed by the Government and the Opposition and was defeated on the voices.

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

Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002* to give effect to the recommendations of the statutory review of the Act, including recommendations in a report to the Government on the statutory review by Mr Andrew Tink and the Hon Paul Whelan. The bill clarifies and revises the safeguards under Part 9 of the Act relating to investigations and questionings, and clarifies and simplifies the provisions of Part 15 of the Act relating to safeguards applying to the exercise of police powers.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 17 June 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see Vol 55/67 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting the need to

balance the civil liberties of the public and the ability of the police to undertake their role. While not opposing the bill, the Opposition highlighted a number of concerns that had been raised by organisations regarding aspects of the bill and the thoroughness of the consultation that had been undertaken, and foreshadowed that it would be proposing minor amendments in the committee stage.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, on the grounds that the amendments would empower the police to carry out their role more effectively.

The Greens opposed the bill, arguing that it would restrict civil liberties within the State and that the consultation that had been undertaken on the legislation was inadequate. They also expressed concern regarding a number of the specific provisions within the bill relating to the identification of police officers during the exercise of police powers and the detention of persons while police undertake investigations.

The second reading was agreed to (Division 33:5), with the Greens opposing the motion.

In the committee stage the Greens unsuccessfully sought to remove a provision to extend the time period for which a person can be held without charge from four hours to six hours (Division 5:31). The Greens then sought to increase the review period for the new powers from one year to three years. The Opposition concurrently moved amendments that required an annual report on the impact of the new powers during the three year review period. The Government and the Christian Democratic Party did not support the amendment, and the Greens amendment was negatived (Division 17:19). The further Opposition and Green amendments lapsed as a consequence.

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

Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: In May 2013, the Parliament passed the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Amendment (Information Sharing) Act 2013*. The provisions of that Act have not yet commenced. The bill amends the 2013 Act to further facilitate the sharing of personal and health information about victims and perpetrators of domestic violence for the purpose of providing coordinated domestic violence support services to victims of domestic violence.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 17 June 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Greens and the Opposition both endorsed the intent of the bill and acknowledged the importance of effective information sharing to facilitate efficient referral to appropriate support services and to reduce the effect of victims of domestic violence having to repeatedly recount their details to successive agencies. However, both parties expressed concern, which they argued was also held by stakeholders, regarding the provision for the sharing of information without the express consent of a person.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, noting that it would always support any initiative aimed at eradicating domestic violence.

In reply the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) emphasised that the bill provided for the release of personal information without consent only in circumstances of the presence of a serious threat to that person, and that following consultation with stakeholders the bill allowed for persons to opt out of the information sharing regime.

In the committee stage a Greens amendment to require the express consent of a primary person before personal information may be disclosed to support services received strong support from the Opposition. However, the amendment was not supported by the Government, the Christian Democratic Party or the Shooters and Fishers Party and was negatived (Division 19:20).

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

Electoral and Lobbying Legislation Amendment (Electoral Commission) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912* to reconstitute the NSW Electoral Commission, to comprise the Electoral Commissioner, and, in addition, a former Judge as Chairperson and a member with financial and audit skills. The bill also abolishes the Election Funding Authority of NSW and confers its functions on the reconstituted Electoral Commission. The bill also amends the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* to provide for a register of third-party lobbyists, a lobbyist watch list and a code of conduct for lobbyists and to confer on the Electoral Commission the functions of looking after the register and watch list and enforcing compliance with the code.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 18 June 2014 and read a first time. Having reached the Council after the cut-off date of 29 May 2014, the bill was declared urgent, allowing it to pass the House before the winter break. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill will broaden and strengthen the role of the Electoral Commission and increase transparency and enhance regulation of lobbying, and that the bill reflects recent recommendations made by the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters and by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, but argued that it was a piecemeal response to the report of the Joint Committee and that the Government should have developed a more comprehensive legislative package to address political donations and election funding. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, and recommended that the Government take time to make considered appointments to the new Electoral Commission, given its important oversight role. The Greens supported the bill, describing it as a step in the right direction for restoring public confidence in the

system of government. In particular, the Greens commended the provision to ban political party office holders from being lobbyists.

Both the Opposition and the Greens noted that the bill had only been introduced into the Assembly the previous day and stated that there had been insufficient time to consider the bill in detail and engage in any negotiation regarding amendments to the bill.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Greens moved a number of amendments that sought to extend the application of the *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011* to include local government official, to include the awarding of a government tender or contract in the definition of activities to which lobbying relates, and to insert various requirements relating to meetings between government officials and lobbyists. However, all of the amendments were negated on the voices.

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

Energy Legislation Amendment (Retail Price Deregulation) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *National Energy Retail Law (Adoption) Act 2012* to remove the mandatory scheme requiring energy retailers to offer energy at a regulated price to certain small customers, and to provide for monitoring of the performance and competitiveness of the retail energy market for small customers in New South Wales. The bill also appoints the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal [IPART] as The Market Monitor in New South Wales to monitor and report annually on the performance and competitiveness of the electricity retail market

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 17 June 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Minister indicated that the bill supports the Government's commitment to place downward pressure on the cost of living by increasing competitiveness in the electricity market. The speech argued that a competitive market provides the best protection for consumers by allowing consumers choice and creating competition between retailers for business.

The Opposition did not support the bill, citing concerns regarding 'energy poverty', where a household spends more than 10 per cent of its income on energy costs. The Opposition argued that deregulation and the removal of a maximum electricity price would exacerbate energy poverty in the State. The Opposition also expressed concern that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal would lack sufficient power to be effective in the role of The Market Monitor. The Greens opposed the bill, on the grounds that it would lead to widespread energy poverty through increasing electricity prices.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, on the grounds that the existence of price regulation could be a barrier to companies entering the market and that greater competition would benefit consumers.

Debate was adjourned to a later hour of the day.

Rural Fires Amendment (Vegetation Clearing) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Rural Fires Act 1997* to make provision for vegetation clearing work to be carried out in certain areas around residential accommodation or high-risk facilities to reduce bush fire risk.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 17 June 2014 and read a first time. On 18 June, the bill was declared urgent, and debate on the second reading of the bill commenced. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the bill proposes the establishment of 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement areas, which will be identified on a map published on the NSW Rural Fire Service website. The 10/50 vegetation clearing designation will allow any vegetation (including trees or parts of trees) within 10 metres of an external wall of residential accommodation or a high-risk facility, and any vegetation, except for trees or parts of trees, within 50 metres of an external wall of residential accommodation or a high-risk facility to be removed.

The Opposition supported the bill, but cautioned that the measures should not be seen as a panacea for the safety of properties, noting that some properties, by virtue of location, will never be safe during a bushfire. The Opposition also noted the support for the legislation from councils that have been affected by recent bushfires and praised the work of the Rural Fire Service in protecting life and property.

The Shooters and Fishers Party supported the bill, but foreshadowed amendments to increase the distance in which vegetation can be cleared. They argued the bill was necessary to reduce fuel load in bushfire-prone areas in order to lessen the impact of bushfires. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, on the grounds that the bill puts the lives of people first in bushfire-prone areas. They argued that the removal of selected vegetation would not impact native fauna and suggested that the policy of vegetation clearance used in the Shoalhaven was worthy of further consideration by the Government.

The Greens opposed the bill, arguing the bill risked giving landholders a false sense of security that may put lives at risk. The Greens further argued that the bill would reduce essential interaction between the Rural Fire Service and landholders and would lead to unacceptable damage to environmentally sensitive bushland across the State.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Shooters and Fishers Party moved amendments that sought to increase the area within which any vegetation can be removed from 10 metres to 25 metres. While not supporting the amendments, the Government stated that the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service had given an undertaking to review the issue of tree fall height

before the start of the 2015 fire season. The amendments drew the support of the Christian Democratic Party, but were negatived (Division 4:32).

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

Education Amendment (Government Schools) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Education Act 1990* to require the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards to advise the Minister on the compliance by government schools with certain requirements of the Act currently applied to non-government schools.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 18 June 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill. However, the Opposition noted its concern over the potential administrative burden placed on schools and principals to document their compliance with standards and the lack of detail provided on the cost of implementing this new system and how it will operate in practice.

The Greens were fundamentally opposed to the bill, which they argued was an indication of the Government's desire to move away from its public education responsibility and was a first step in undermining the unique role of the Department of Education and Communities.

In reply, the Minister (Mr Ajaka) said that the purpose of the bill was to efficiently identify and remedy concerns regarding the meeting of compliance standards and that any schools identified as not meeting standards would be provided with additional resources. The Minister noted that the bill was supported by key education stakeholders.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

Advocate for Children and Young People Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill establishes the statutory office of the Advocate for Children and Young People and provides for its functions and establishes a new Youth Advisory Council. The bill abolishes the Commission for Children and Young People by repealing the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* and the *Youth Advisory Council Act 1989*.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 18 June 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members from the Government, Opposition, The Greens, and the Christian Democratic Party spoke in support of the bill, with a number of speakers commending the consultative approach that had been adopted in the development of the bill.

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

Trade and Investment Cluster Governance (Amendment and Repeal) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill dissolves certain statutory bodies and transfers their assets, rights and liabilities to the Crown and in some cases transfers their functions to other bodies, with a view to reducing the number of separate statutory bodies within the trade and investment cluster.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 18 June 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see the Vol 55/70 of *House in Review* for earlier update). The Christian Democratic Party spoke in support of the bill, arguing that the Government had given persuasive arguments for the need for the bill. The Opposition expressed a number of concerns with the bill and foreshadowed amendments to remove certain provisions in the bill, stating that they would not support the bill without amendment. The Greens opposed the bill, arguing that the Government had not made a cogent argument for the removal of all of the organisations listed in the bill.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Opposition and the Greens sought to remove that part of the bill relating to the dissolution of the Lake Illawarra Authority. However, the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party supported the Government in voting for retention of that part of the bill (Division 19:17).

The third reading of the bill was agreed to (Division 20:18) and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill continues the statute law revision program and makes minor policy changes and repeals redundant legislation to maintain the quality of the New South Wales statute book.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 18 June 2014.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it was a standard omnibus bill that sought to make minor revisions to legislation.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

In the committee stage Government amendments to remove certain schedules in the bill that had been objected to by non-government parties were agreed to.

The third reading of the bill was agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly with amendments. The Assembly agreed to the Council's amendments.

Drug Court Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Drug Court Act 1998*, the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* and the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2008* to implement reforms recommended by the statutory review of the legislation governing the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre. The bill increases the upper limit for eligibility of offenders for the program from three years or less of their non-parole period to six years or less. The bill further amends the firearms conviction criteria for eligibility for the program and makes other amendments to improve the operation of the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 18 June 2014 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for 12 August 2014.

Messages from the Assembly

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

Maritime and Transport Licensing Legislation Amendment Bill 2014: On 17 June 2014, the Assembly advised it had agreed to the bill which it was returning without amendment.

Private members' business

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

Bills

TAFE Changes Moratorium (Secure Future for Public Provision of Vocational Education and Training) Bill 2014 (Dr Kaye, The Green)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to freeze fees for TAFE courses and funding to private providers of vocational education and training at 2010 levels; maintain funding to the TAFE Commission at no less than its 2010-2011 level; and require the Minister to ensure that the TAFE Commission is the principal provider of technical and further education in New South Wales.

Proceedings: On 19 June 2014, standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed from 20 March 2014 (see Vol 55/66 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Government opposed the bill arguing that it was retrograde and would undermine the Government's current considered reforms of the vocational training sector, and would lock TAFE into the past and stifle much need innovation. The Opposition supported the bill, citing concerns about the impact of the Government's current reform package on TAFE and the apparent disenfranchisement of disadvantaged students. The Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party also expressed caution regarding the Government's reforms and concern regarding the quality and expertise of private providers of vocational training. Members of the Greens spoke in support of the bill,

arguing that the recent experience in Victoria should give rise to concern over the Government's current reforms.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition moved an amendment that would require the Minister to establish a 3 year staffing agreement for TAFE and to work towards a minimum permanency ratio for staff below the level of Head Teacher. The amendment was supported by the Greens, the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party and was agreed to.

The third reading of the bill, while opposed by the Government, was agreed to (Division 19:17). The bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

St. Shenouda Coptic Orthodox Monastery (NSW) Property Trust Bill (Revd Mr Nile, Christian Democratic Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to establish the St. Shenouda Coptic Orthodox Monastery (NSW) Property Trust, specify its functions and provide for the vesting of certain property in the Trust.

Proceedings: Leave was granted to bring in the bill on 19 June 2014. The bill was presented, read a first time and printed. In his second reading speech, Revd Mr Nile indicated that the bill would establish a property trust for the St. Shenouda Coptic Orthodox Monastery and noted the monastery had undergone a large transformation in recent years to construct a church and other buildings for the monks and the congregation. He further noted the work of His Grace Bishop Daniel, bishop of St Shenouda Monastery and gave some remarks on the history of the Coptic Church.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Reverend Paul Woosung Chung (Ms Ficarra)
- (2) Sea of Hands Exhibition for National Reconciliation Week (Ms Ficarra)
- (3) Sydney Children's Hospital Gold Telethon (Ms Ficarra)
- (4) Remember ANZAC Commemoration Service (Mr Lynn)
- (5) Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia (Mr Moselmane)
- (6) 98th Annual RSL NSW State Congress (Mr Lynn)
- (7) Centenary of the entry of HMAS AE1 and AE2 into Sydney Harbour (Mr Lynn)
- (8) General Sir John Monash Commemoration Service (Mr Lynn)
- (9) Mrs Audrey Davis OAM (Ms Ficarra)
- (10) Elder abuse (Ms Barham)

- (11) Proposed 24 hour hotel at Casula (Dr Kaye)
- (12) Local Government Arts and Culture awards (Ms Barham)
- (13) Australian Women's Water Polo team Bronze medal (Ms Ficarra)
- (14) Australian Girls' Water Polo Team - FINA World Youth Championship (Ms Ficarra)
- (15) Little Wings Charity (Ms Ficarra)
- (16) Sydney Royal Easter Show 2014 (Mr Blair)
- (17) Free Meat Week (Mr Blair)
- (18) Leeton Phantoms Rugby Club (Mr Blair)
- (19) Australian Men's Hockey Team 2014 World Cup title (Mr Blair)
- (20) Australian Women's Hockey Team 2014 World Cup (Mr Blair)
- (21) 80th Anniversary of the Narrabeen Ladies' Amateur Swimming Club (Ms Ficarra).

Orders for papers

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

Orders made

- (1) **2014-2015 Budget (Mr Searle):** The order relates to the Government's 2014-2015 budget. The motion was agreed to. Due: 9 July 2014.
- (2) **2014-2015 Budget Finances (Mr Searle):** The order relates to the Government's 2014-2015 budget finances. The motion was agreed to. Due: 9 July 2014.
- (3) **Governance Review of the Game Council - Further order (Mr Brown):** The order relates to the Governance review of the Game Council. The motion was agreed to. Due: 10 July 2014.

Return to order

- (1) **CBD and South East Light Rail Project:** received 5 June 2014, 11 boxes public, 2 boxes privileged.

Petitions received

- (1) Blue Mountains Septic Pump Out Scheme - 225 signatures (presented Ms Westwood)
- (2) Northern Rivers Region rail services - 1375 signatures (presented by Dr Faruqi)
- (3) TAFE funding and services - 859 signatures (presented by Dr Kaye).

Reports tabled

Auditor General: Performance Audit report entitled "Use of purchasing cards and electronic payment methods: NSW Treasury", dated June 2014.

Independent Commission Against Corruption:

- (1) Report entitled "Investigation into the conduct of the Hon Edward Obeid MLC and others concerning Circular Quay retail lease policy", dated June 2014.
- (2) Report entitled "Investigations into the conduct of the Hon Edward Obeid MLC and others in relation to influencing the granting of water licences and the engagement of Direct Health Solutions Pty Ltd", dated June 2014.

Information Commissioner: Report entitled "Report on the operation of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009: 2010-2013", dated June 2014.

Police Integrity Commission:

- (1) Report entitled "Complaints by NSW Crime Commission arising from the conduct by the Police Integrity Commission in Operation Winjana", dated May 2014.
- (2) Report entitled "Parliamentary Joint Committee Reference pursuant to section 89(2) Police Integrity Commission Act 1996: Richard Torbay and David Cushway", dated May 2014.
- (3) Report entitled "Report of Inspector's investigation of allegations made by the NSW Crime Commission to the Commissioner of NSW Police of misconduct on the part of a Senior Officer of the Police Integrity Commission", dated May 2014.

Committee activities

Committee reference

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5: The House referred to the Committee an inquiry into Performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Committee membership

The following changes to committee membership were reported:

Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission: Mr Khan in place of Dr Phelps.

Select Committee on home schooling: Mr Clarke, Ms Cusack and Mr Khan were nominated as the Government members on the committee; Mr Searle and Ms Westwood were nominated as the Opposition members on the committee.

Extension of reporting date

Select Committee on greyhound racing in NSW: The reporting date for the Committee's inquiry into 'Greyhound racing in NSW' was extended to 29 August 2014.

Committee reports tabled

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1: Report No. 40 entitled 'Allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW', dated June 2014.

Privileges Committee: Report No. 70 entitled 'Recommendations of the ICAC regarding aspects of the Code of Conduct for Members, the interest disclosure

regime and a parliamentary investigator', dated June 2014.

Legislation Review Committee: 'Legislation Review Digest No. 57/55', dated 17 June 2014.

Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission: Report No. 4/55 entitled 'Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Health Care Complaints Commission', dated June 2014.

Government responses

Standing Committee on Law and Justice: The House received a response to Report No. 50 entitled 'Racial vilification law in NSW', tabled 3 December 2013.

Standing Committee on Social Issues: The House received a response to Report No. 48 entitled 'Strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people in New South Wales', tabled 13 December 2013.

Inquiry activities

Standing Committee on Law and Justice

Reviews into the exercise of the functions of the WorkCover Authority and Dust Diseases Board. 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 43 submissions for the WorkCover review and 7 submissions for the Dust Diseases review. The third and final hearing for the WorkCover review was held on 12 May 2014.

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

Inquiry into the family response to the murders in Bowraville. The committee is conducting an inquiry into the family response to the murders in Bowraville. It has received 29 submissions to date, together with two supplementary submissions. The committee conducted a site visit to Bowraville on 31 March, held public and closed roundtable hearings in Bowraville on 1 and 2 May, and held another public hearing in Sydney on 12 May 2014.

Standing Committee on State Development

Inquiry into regional aviation services. The committee conducted regional hearings and site visits in Wagga Wagga, Bega and Cowra on 10-11 June 2014. Further regional hearings in Tamworth, Moree and Dubbo will be held in July 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.

Privileges Committee

Inquiry into recommendations of the ICAC regarding aspects of The Code of Conduct for Members, the interest disclosure regime and a parliamentary investigator. The Committee tabled its report with the Clerk on 12 June 2014. The report

recommended significant changes to the ethics regime for members of Parliament in New South Wales.

Select Committee on social, public and affordable housing

The committee has received 253 submissions. Seven hearings have been held, along with several site visits and public forums. The report is currently being drafted and is expected to be tabled on 9 September 2014.

Select Committee on the impact of gambling

The committee has received 35 submissions. Hearings were held on 10 and 11 April 2014, and 5 June 2014. The committee also conducted site visits to Sportingbet Australia, Oakdene House gambling treatment clinic, and Mounties on 5 June 2014. The Committee is currently preparing its report which is expected to be tabled on 14 August 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 greyhound racing in NSW

The committee tabled its First Report on 28 March 2014. The House has extended the committee's final reporting date to 29 August 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.

Inquiry into Budget Estimates

The House has resolved the timetable for the initial round of hearings for Budget Estimates 2014-2015. Hearings will be held from 18 to 22 August 2014.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 17 June 2014

The Nationals' annual general conference (Miss Gardiner); Federal budget (Mr Secord); Bell Miner associated dieback (Ms Barham); Pig Iron Bob documentary (Ms Voltz); Hunfest (Mr Borsak); Rebuilding New South Wales (Mr MacDonald); Dangerous dogs (Ms Fazio).

Wednesday 18 June 2014

Domestic violence (Ms Westwood); Feral cats (Mr Brown); Tribute to Phil Gould AM and Don Feltis OAM (Ms Ficarra); Aboriginal deaths in custody (Mr Moselmane); The Nationals and coal seam gas (Mr Buckingham); Australian social trends (Dr Phelps); Speed cameras (Mr Secord).

Thursday 19 June 2014

Animal welfare (Dr Faruqi); Pensioner transport concessions (Ms Sharpe); Brumby light sport aircraft (Mr Colless); Disability services (Mr Wong); Egyptian election (Mr Clarke); Christian Assyrians in Iraq (Revd Nile); Vinnies CEO Sleepout (Ms Cotsis).

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 read 'DB', with a large, sweeping flourish at the bottom.

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments