

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



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12 to 14 August 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

The first sitting week of the House since the winter long adjournment was notable for developments in relation to the WestConnex Business Case order for papers. The House resolved to make certain documents public following receipt of the report of the Independent Legal Arbiter, the Hon Keith Mason AC QC. The House also sat late on both Tuesday and Wednesday nights to consider a range of government legislation, notably the Disability Inclusion Bill 2014. Even so, 17 Government bills remain on the Council Notice Paper.

Next week the Council begins the annual inquiry into the budget estimates. Details of the hearings are available [here](#).

Statement by the President – Centenary of the commencement of the First World War

On the first sitting day of the week, the President made a statement that marked the centenary of the commencement of the First World War. Over the next four years, the Presiding Officers in both Chambers will formally acknowledge important historic events from the First World War.

Members and officers stood as a mark of respect.

WestConnex Business Case order for papers

On 25 March 2014, the House received a return to order concerning the WestConnex Business Case, constituting 22 boxes of public documents, and 16 boxes of documents over which privilege was claimed.

Subsequently, on 4 July 2014, the Clerk received from Dr Faruqi (The Greens) written correspondence disputing the validity of the claim of privilege over certain documents. According to Standing Order, the Hon Keith Mason AC QC was appointed as an independent legal arbiter to evaluate and report on the validity of the claim of privilege.

Mr Mason subsequently invited submissions from members and other interested parties on the role of the arbiter, together with the specific claims of privilege in

relation to the WestConnex documents. As part of that process, RMS made a submission containing further information regarding the disputed documents, while also indicating that it did not press its claim of privilege over certain documents. This was confirmed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and those documents were subsequently provided in a supplementary return and made public. Submissions were also made by Mr Searle (Labor Party) and Mr Shoebridge (The Greens), and by the Crown Solicitor and the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The report of the Independent Legal Arbiter was tabled in the House on 13 August 2014 according to resolution and is available [here](#). In his report, Mr Mason made some further observations in relation to orders for papers, claims of privilege and the role of the Independent Legal Arbiter.

Following the tabling of Mr Mason's report, on 14 August 2014 the House ordered that the documents considered by Mr Mason not to be privileged be tabled and made public. In total, 106 documents were tabled by the Clerk (including one which was partially redacted) and made public, with three remaining confidential.

Budget Estimates take-note debate

On 12 August 2014, the House adopted a sessional order setting down the take-note debate for the 2014-2015 Budget Estimates for Tuesday evenings from 6.30 pm. This is separate from the budget estimates inquiry undertaken by the General Purpose Standing Committees each year.

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 take-note debate commenced on Tuesday evening.

Sessional order – presentation of petitions

Standing order 68 currently requires the Clerk to refer a copy of each petition tabled in the House to the responsible Minister.

On 12 August 2014, the House adopted a sessional order requiring the responsible Minister to provide a response to petitions signed by 500 or more persons. The response must be provided within 35 days of the petition being received by the House.

Temporary Chair of Committees

The President informed the House that on 11 August 2014 Ms Westwood stood down from her position as one of the Temporary Chairs of Committees. The President thanked Ms Westwood for her service.

Usher of the Black Rod

On the first sitting day of the week, the President informed the House that Ms Susan Jane Want, who was appointed Usher of the Black Rod by the Governor on 30 June 2014, took the Pledge of Loyalty and Affirmation of Office before Her Excellency on Tuesday 22 July 2014, at Government House.

Government business

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

Bills

Disability Inclusion Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill replaces the *Disability Services Act 1993* and is designed to promote the independence and social and economic inclusion of people with disability. Of note the bill states various disability principles to which people providing supports or services to people with disability are to have regard, provides for a State Disability Inclusion Plan to be prepared by the Department of Family and Community Services setting out whole of government goals that support the inclusion in the community of people with disability, provides for the continuation of the Disability Council of New South Wales, and provides for the making of service standards relating to the provision of supports and services for people with disability. The bill also amends the *Ombudsman Act 1974* to provide for a monitoring and investigative role for the Ombudsman in relation to certain reportable incidents.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 13 August 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see Vol 55/70 for earlier debate). The Opposition supported the core aims of the bill but argued that improvements were needed to achieve those aims. Such improvements included safeguards for people who may be excluded from existing services as a result of the transition to the NDIS, greater support for disability advocacy services and a greater emphasis on service quality. The Opposition flagged an amendment to the motion for the second reading of the bill to refer the bill to the Standing Committee on Social Issues for inquiry and report. Failing that, the Opposition also flagged a number of amendments to the bill.

The Christian Democratic Party expressed its support for the bill and indicated that it would not support the proposed committee reference as this would delay the

progress of the bill. The Greens fully supported the intent of the bill as a means to address the barriers faced by people with disability but also foreshadowed a number of amendments.

In reply the Minister argued that referring the bill to a committee had the potential to hamper the reform process and delay the transition to the NDIS, that an extensive consultation process had been undertaken in the preparation of the bill, and that the bill itself includes provision for statutory review.

The motion to refer the bill to the Social Issues Committee was negated (Division 18:21), with the Opposition and the Greens voting for the referral, and the Government, Shooters and Fishers Party and the Christian Democratic Party voting against.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition moved a series of amendments concerning the objects of the bill, disability principles, the State Disability Inclusion Plan, Disability Inclusion Action Plans, Disability Council functions, financial assistance, probity checks and judicial review, all of which were negated on the voices. Greens amendments concerning the objects of the bill and disability principles were also similarly negated. Opposition amendments to insert a new Part concerning advocacy organisations, and concerning the definition of 'supported group accommodation' were also defeated (Division 18:21). Finally, Government amendments that clarified the intent of employment screening provisions for people seeking to work in disability service providers were agreed to.

The bill was reported with amendments, read a third time and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

Mutual Recognition (Automatic Licensed Occupations Recognition) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill provides for the automatic mutual recognition of certain occupational licences issued in other jurisdictions so that an individual who holds a recognised licence will be deemed to hold the equivalent New South Wales licence. Further, the bill requires a NSW licensing authority to notify the relevant interstate licensing authority of any disciplinary or enforcement action taken by the NSW licensing authority in respect of a deemed local licence. Equally, the bill provides for details of disciplinary and enforcement action taken in another jurisdiction against a NSW licence holder to be recorded in a relevant register kept by the NSW licensing authority.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 12 August 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see Vol. 55/70 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition stated that it was not opposed to mutual recognition of occupational licences as long as it did not lead to a diminution of standards in occupational licensing. The Opposition noted with approval the provision for notification between States of disciplinary and enforcement action taken against licence holders. However, the Opposition also foreshadowed that it would seek to amend the bill in the committee stage in

order to address significant concerns that it held with respect to a number of aspects of the bill, including the removal of mandatory continuing professional development requirements for certain licences.

The Greens stated their support for the principle of labour mobility which they saw as the fundamental concept underlying the bill. However, the Greens shared a number of the concerns held by the Opposition with respect to the bill. The Greens sought confirmation that NSW would retain the right to decline to recognise an occupational licensing system operating in another jurisdiction.

The Shooters and Fishers Party indicated that while it supported the bill in principle, it was initially attracted by some of the amendments circulated by the Opposition. The Christian Democratic Party, while supporting the bill, also held some concerns, including the proposal to remove current licensing requirements for air conditioning and refrigeration work.

Debate was adjourned, and resumed the following day. In reply, the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) stated that the bill would not result in any lowering of licensing standards as NSW would not enter into a mutual recognition agreement with another jurisdiction if that jurisdiction's licensing system was not appropriately robust. The Minister also argued that the removal of current State licensing requirement for air conditioning and refrigeration work was sensible given the requirement to also hold a federal licence.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage an Opposition amendment to remove the provision for the regulations to prescribe jurisdictions other than Australian States and Territories to which the scheme could apply was agreed to. A Christian Democratic Party amendment to also allow the scheme to apply to New Zealand was agreed to (Division 21:18), with the Government and Shooters and Fishers Party supporting the amendment. The Opposition unsuccessfully moved to provide local licensing authorities the power to refuse mutual recognition of individual licences (Division 18:21) and to have the Act reviewed after three rather than five years. However, the Opposition did gain the support of all the cross-bench parties for maintaining the current licensing requirements for air conditioning and refrigeration work (Division 22: 17) and for maintaining the current mandatory professional development requirements in the building trade.

The bill was reported with amendments, read a third time and forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment (Snowy Advisory Committee) Bill 2013

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997* in order to establish the Snowy Advisory Committee to advise the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation each year on the timing and pattern for the release of water for environmental reasons under the Snowy water licence. The Snowy

Advisory Committee replaces the Snowy Scientific Committee, which is dissolved by the bill.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 5 March 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 12 August 2014. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gay) said the bill ensured that the new committee will be a more representative advisory body with contemporary governance arrangements, and better reflect local community needs. The Minister indicated that the role of the new committee will be more focussed on the regime and pattern of environmental flow releases into the Snowy River, such as the current trial of five high flow releases over the Spring period instead of the usual one large event.

The Opposition opposed the bill, primarily on the grounds that it removed the requirement for the membership of the committee to include a person with scientific expertise. The Opposition argued that the Government was hostile towards independent scientific advice regarding the Snowy, and further argued that the failure since May 2011 to reappoint the Snowy Scientific Committee and the fact that the bill had been introduced in the Assembly in October 2013 and was only now being debated in the Council were indicative of this.

Debate was adjourned until the next sitting day.

Road Transport Amendment (Alcohol and Drug Testing) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Road Transport Act 2013* and the *Marine Safety Act 1998* to make further provisions with respect to alcohol and drug testing, including enabling a police officer to require a person who has been physically unable to undertake a breath analysis test to provide a blood sample instead for alcohol analysis.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 12 August 2014 from 28 May 2014 (see Vol 55/70 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition did not oppose the bill, while the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill. All parties spoke in support of the now well established regime of roadside drug and alcohol testing, and the benefits it brought in terms of road safety. The Greens stated that the provision to allow for a blood sample in circumstances where a person is physically unable to provide a breath analysis was a positive change, and that the bill removed a number of technical obstacles to the efficient and sensible operation of the roadside drug testing regime.

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

Universities Legislation Amendment (Regulatory Reforms) Bill 2014

Summary: The bill amends various Acts to reduce the degree of direct regulation of universities by the State Government. Of note the bill removes certain regulatory requirements relating to financial management, land dealings and governing body election procedures of

universities and provides clarity for the capacity of universities to generate revenue to fund the objects and principal functions of the university.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 August 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Ms Cusack) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the changes in the bill are necessary to enable universities to function as fully-fledged statutory corporations in demanding commercial environments, and to enter into commercial arrangements that support their core functions of teaching, learning, research and scholarship.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it contained a number of reasonable changes, and that as the federal Government was now the primary regulator and funder of universities it was sensible that the State's regulations and laws reflect effectively the fairly minimal role it now has with respect to universities. The Greens acknowledged the administrative cost associated with the current regulated functions and that those costs could be better spent of core education activities, but expressed some misgivings that the changes would see some universities become even more corporate. The Greens foreshadowed amendments which they argued would allow the Parliament to assess the impact of the deregulated functions. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, arguing it was good economic policy and would help the State's universities to thrive and remain world class.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved two sets of amendments. The first set sought to ensure that any revised university election rules ensure the right to vote and equality of voting. While drawing the support of the Opposition, the amendments were negatived (Division 18:21). The second set, which sought to require universities for five years following the Act to report on the exercise of any their deregulated functions, did not draw any support and were also negatived.

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

Road Transport Amendment (Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Program) Bill

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Road Transport Act 2013* to give a court the discretion to order the use of breath alcohol interlock devices fitted to a car as an alternative to disqualification for drivers convicted of certain alcohol-related offences. The bill also provides for the accreditation of persons who install, remove and maintain interlock devices and for Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to enter into agreements with such persons. The bill also inserts a new section to enable RMS to require the holder of certain driver licences who repeatedly exceed specified demerit point thresholds to undertake a specified driver knowledge test or driver education course.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 12 August 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the

following day. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill represents the next step in combatting drink driving and repeat traffic offenders in NSW and was developed following extensive road safety research and consultation with key agencies.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all spoke in support of the bill. The Greens noted with approval the bill's provisions for financial assistance to interlock scheme participants with limited financial means while the Christian Democratic Party emphasised its support for initiatives to deter drink or drug-affected driving. The Opposition foreshadowed that it would move an amendment to insert a new offence of assisting a person to circumvent an interlock device.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition amendment was not supported by the Government or the Greens, primarily on the grounds that its application was too broad. The Government did advise that it would be amending the Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Regulation 2008 to include a specific offence in line with the intent of the Opposition amendment.

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

Bills introduced and read a first time

The following bills from the Assembly were introduced, read a first time, and their second reading set down for a later hour:

- (1) Health Services Amendment (Ambulance Fees) Bill 2014
- (2) Passenger Transport Bill 2014
- (3) Courts Legislation Amendment (Broadcasting Judgments) Bill 2014
- (4) Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014
- (5) Water Management Amendment Bill 2014
- (6) Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2014
- (7) State Revenue Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2014
- (8) Mining Amendment (Small-Scale Title Compensation) Bill 2014

Motion

Revocation of dedication of Crown Land

Summary: The motion called on the House to agree to a proposal, tabled in the House on 17 June 2014, for revocation of the dedication of Coffs Harbour State Forest No 864 Extension No. 1, being land of about 3,180 square metres and for the land to be vested in the Forestry Corporation of NSW and sold via public competition.

Proceedings: The Minister (Mr Gay) noted that the land in question, which was dedicated in 1941, consists of office

buildings in the Coffs Harbour business district and was not within nor contiguous with the Coffs Harbour State Forest itself. The Minister further noted that the office buildings in question were reaching the end of their useful life and that the Forestry Corporation had an alternative office and would continue to operate out of Coffs Harbour, and that the sale of the land and buildings would represent a sound financial return to the public. The Opposition supported the motion, noting that it did not represent any loss to the size of the State Forest.

The motion was agreed to. In accordance with section 15 of the *Forestry Act 2012* the resolution of the House was communicated to Her Excellency the Governor.

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

City of Sydney Amendment (Elections) Bill 2014 (Mr Borsak, Shooters and Fishers Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to provide businesses operating in the City of Sydney local government area with a vote in City Council elections.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Leave was granted to bring in the bill on 14 August 2014. The bill was read a first time and printed. In his second reading speech, Mr Borsak said the bill was necessary because the business vote in the City of Sydney had become alienated, and that despite contributing more than 75% of council revenue the business community had little effective say in the policy directions pursued by the City. Mr Borsak emphasised that, under the bill, only those persons entitled to vote at State and Federal elections would also be eligible to vote in City of Sydney elections.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

St Shenouda Coptic Orthodox Monastery (NSW) Property Trust Bill 2014 (Revd 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: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 August 2014 from 19 June 2014 (see Vol. 55/71 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members of the Government and the Christian Democratic Party spoke in support of the bill, while the Opposition and the Greens did not oppose the bill. All speakers to the bill paid tribute to the Coptic Church community in Australia. While noting that churches

required some form of legal status to operate in a modern economy, the Greens said they believed that this bill should be the last of its type, and argued that religious institutions need to look towards corporatisation and establishing clear lines of responsibility. The Christian Democratic Party noted the recent tribulations of the followers of the Coptic faith overseas and that the bill was strongly supported by the local Coptic community.

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

Transforming NSW Energy Sector (Towards 100 percent Renewables) Bill 2014 (Dr Kaye, The Greens)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to reduce the reliance of the State's energy sector on fossil fuel by facilitating movement towards an energy sector completely based on renewable energy sources by 2030. The bill creates an expert panel to develop a plan for the best mix of renewable technologies and energy efficiency by 2030. The bill also requires the Government to take steps to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency measures and requires the Government to stop providing fossil fuel subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 August 2014 from 29 May 2014 (see Vol. 55/70 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Government opposed the bill. Minister Ajaka indicated that the bill is inconsistent with the Government's election commitment and support for a 20 per cent renewable energy target, and would have a significant adverse effect on the state budget, electricity prices and jobs. Government backbenchers also spoke against the bill. Debate was adjourned until the next sitting day.

Transport Administration Amendment (Rail Trails Community Management) Bill 2014 (Mr Veitch, Australian Labor Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill seeks to amend the *Transport Administration Act 1988* to allow the Minister to enter into an agreement with not-for-profit organisations or local councils for the use of disused railway line corridors as recreational rail trails.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 August 2014 from 27 March 2014 (see Vol. 55/67 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Government indicated support in principle for the potential use of disused rail lines as rail trails where local communities are overwhelmingly supportive. However, it did not support the proposed bill, on the basis that it adopts a one-size-fits-all approach, which is not necessarily appropriate given that each rail trail proposal will need to be considered on its merits. The Government cited the process being adopted with respect to the Casino to Murwillumbah corridor, which is being developed following consultation and with community support.

Other members of the Opposition spoke in support of the bill, noting strong support for rail trails in the community.

The Christian Democratic Party cited the community benefits of rail trails as superb pathways for walking and riding, but noted that very few rail trails have been developed in New South Wales, unlike in Victoria. However, it did cite concerns raised by the NSW Farmers about rail trails.

Debate was adjourned until the next sitting day.

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Assyrian Christian communities (Revd Nile)
- (2) NSW Waratahs' Super Rugby win (Ms Ficarra)
- (3) National Homeless Persons Week (Ms Barham)
- (4) St George Netball Association's Waratah Cup win (Ms Ficarra)
- (5) Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW – extension of reporting date (Dr Kaye on behalf of Mr Borsak)
- (6) National Suicide Prevention Conference (Ms Ficarra)
- (7) Centenary of the Red Cross (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (8) St George Association for people with Physical Disabilities Incorporated (Mr Wong)
- (9) World No Tobacco Day (Mr Wong)
- (10) Australian Chapter of the World Kindness Movement (Mr Wong)
- (11) Charitable program 'Eyes on China' (Mr Wong)
- (12) Muslim Women's Support Centre (Dr Faruqi)
- (13) Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General – membership (Mr Foley)
- (14) Disputed claim of privilege – WestConnex Business Case – Tabling of privileged papers (Dr Faruqi)
- (15) Order for papers – Ministerial Consultative Committees
- (16) Mr Peter Joshua Sculthorpe AO OBE (Ms Ficarra)
- (17) Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (Ms Ficarra)
- (18) Mary MacKillop Foundation (Ms Ficarra).

Orders for papers

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

Orders made

- (1) **Ministerial Consultative Committees (Mr Foley):** The order relates to the membership and meetings of Ministerial Consultative Committees. Due 4 September 2014.

Returns to order

- (1) **2014 – 2015 Budget finances:** received 9 July 2014, 8 boxes public, 1 box privileged.
- (2) **2014 – 2015 Budget:** received 9 July 2014, 3 boxes public.
- (3) **Documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra – Further order:** received 10 July 2014, 6 boxes public, 2 boxes privileged.
- (4) **Governance review of the Game Council – Further order:** received 10 July 2014, 4 boxes public, 1 box privileged.
- (5) **WestConnex Business Case:** supplementary return received 1 August 2014, 1 box public.

Correspondence regarding a return to order

- (1) **Documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra:** On 4 August 2014, the Clerk received correspondence from the General Counsel of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, identifying a number of public documents provided in the return to order of 6 May over which a claim of privilege has now been made.
- (2) **WestConnex Business Case:**
 - (a) Documents relating to WestConnex Business Case received on Friday 1 August 2014 from the General Counsel of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, upon which privilege is no longer claimed, together with an indexed list of documents.
 - (b) Correspondence with Mr Searle and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, about certain documents lodged with the Clerk on 25 March 2014 relating to WestConnex Business Case.

Petitions received

- (1) Paid parking at Tweed Heads hospital – 30 signatures (presented Mr Secord)
- (2) Tweed Byron Local Area Command – 40 signatures (presented Mr Secord)
- (3) Domestic violence refugees – 1,183 signatures (presented Ms Voltz).

Reports tabled

Auditor General: Performance Audit report entitled: 'Managing contaminated sites: Environment Protection Authority, Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services', dated July 2014.

Committee activities

Legacy reports

On 13 August 2014, the House agreed to a motion that the standing committees on Law and Justice, Social Issues and State Development produce legacy reports. The reports are intended to inform their successor committees of the activities undertaken during the 55th Parliament, and any matters that would benefit from further inquiry in the 56th Parliament. The reports may also be used to make recommendations to the Chairs' Committee, if necessary, on inquiry related matters that require particular action. Each committee is to table its report by 13 November 2014. This is the first time that the Council has adopted such an initiative.

Committee reference

Procedure Committee: On 12 August 2014, the President informed the House that he had referred to the Procedure Committee terms of reference concerning the operation of Standing Order 226(3), which relates to the drafting of bills by committees. The terms of reference are available [here](#).

Committee membership

The following change to committee membership was reported:

Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General: Mr Wong in place of Mr Searle.

Extension of reporting date

Select Committee on greyhound racing in NSW: The Committee's reporting date was extended to 17 October 2014.

Committee reports tabled

Standing Committee on Law and Justice: Report No. 51 entitled 'Twelfth review of the exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority', July 2014.

Standing Committee on Law and Justice: Report No. 52 entitled 'Fifth review of the exercise of the functions of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority', July 2014.

Legislation Review Committee:

- (1) 'Legislation Review Digest No. 58/55, 5 August 2014.
- (2) 'Legislation Review Digest No. 59/55, 12 August 2014.

Select Committee on the Impact of Gambling: Report No. 1 entitled 'The impact of gambling', dated August 2014.

Committee reports debated

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5: The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 38 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014, dated October 2013.

Standing Committee on Law and Justice: The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 50 entitled 'Racial vilification law in NSW', dated December 2013.

Standing Committee on Social Issues: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 48 entitled 'Strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people in NSW', dated December 2013.

Inquiry activities

Standing Committee on Law and Justice

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. The committee will visit the Bowraville community on 29 August 2014 to consult on some of the draft recommendations for the final report.

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 final hearing for the WorkCover review was held on 12 May 2014 and the committee is drafting its report.

Standing Committee on State Development

Inquiry into regional aviation services.

The committee will hold its final hearing in Sydney on 15 August 2014. The committee intends to table its report on 23 October 2014.

General Purpose Standing Committee No.5

Inquiry into the Wambelong fire.

The committee will conduct a site visit to Coonabarabran on 3 and 4 September. In addition to inspecting fire affected areas, the committee will also hold a public forum and a public hearing in Coonabarabran. The committee will then take evidence at a public hearing in Sydney on 15 September.

Inquiry into Budget Estimates

Hearings for Budget Estimates 2014-2015 will be held next week from 18 to 22 August 2014.

Select Committee on home schooling

The committee has received approximately 280 submissions. Hearings will be held on 5 and 8 September 2014.

Select Committee on social, public and affordable Housing

The committee is currently drafting its report which is expected to be tabled on 9 September 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 17 October 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.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 12 August 2014

Religious and ethnic persecution in Iraq (Revd Nile); Ukraine conflict (Mr Khan); Asbestos removal (Mr Whan); Gas prices (Mr Buckingham); Parliamentary visit to Singapore and Vietnam (Mr Lynn); Youth unemployment (Mr Wong); Socialist objective (Dr Phelps).

Wednesday 13 August 2014

Central West jobs action plan (Mr Veitch); 'Chat with a Nat' bus tour (Mrs Mitchell); Hunting vehicle spotlights (Mr Borsak); Developer donations (Mr Searle); Cypress management (Mr Brown); Death of Sister Philomene Tiernan, RSCJ (Ms Cusack); Developer donations (Dr Phelps).

Thursday 14 August 2014

Coal seam gas (Mr Buckingham); Royal Far West (Mrs Pavey); Electricity privatisation (Ms Sharpe); Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Ms Fazio); *Big Issue* Big 100 campaign (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); Going Home Staying Home (Dr Faruqi); The Greens (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.



David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments