

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## HOUSE IN REVIEW



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Sitting period  
14 to 16 October 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](http://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](mailto:council@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

### Overview

This week saw the Council pass seven out of the eight Government bills debated, with the other bill, the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Bill 2014, adjourned until next week. The Council also passed three orders for papers motions and a fourth motion relating to the claim of privilege made over the document returned as part of the VIP Gaming Management Agreement order.

The Council resumes next week, on Tuesday 21 October 2014, with nine Government bills remaining on the Notice Paper for debate.

### Appointment of new Governor

Professor the Hon Dame Marie Bashir, who served as Governor of the State since 2001, retired on 1 October 2014.

In her place, His Excellency General the Hon David Hurley AD DSC (Retd) was appointed Governor on 2 October 2014 by Her Majesty the Queen. The message communicating this appointment was reported to the Council on Tuesday 14 October 2014.

Following this, an Address-in-Reply to thank the Governor for his message was agreed to and will be presented to His Excellency on a date to be determined.

### Statement by the President

The President made a statement that marked developments around the world in mid-October 1914 during the First World War.

### Conduct of business

On Tuesday 14 October 2014, Government business took precedence of committee reports and the Budget Estimates take note debates.

### Proposed sessional order – answers during Question Time

On Wednesday 15 October 2014 the House debated a proposed sessional order to vary Standing Order 65 (5) to insert the word “directly” before the word “relevant” to provide that “an answer must be directly relevant to a question”. The motion was moved by Mr Buckingham (The Greens) and was supported by other Greens’ members and the Opposition. Members argued that although numerous rulings by Presidents state that answers must be ‘generally relevant’, the fact that the Standing Orders do not require direct relevance in answers does not meet the expectations of the community and means Question Time does not operate as an effective accountability mechanism.

During debate, Minister Gay moved that the motion be amended by referring it to the Procedure Committee for inquiry and report. He stated that the motion needed proper consideration to understand its impact as it would change years of precedent in the Council.

The amendment to the motion was supported by all members and the matter was referred to the **Procedure Committee**.

### Government business

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

### Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* to make special provision with respect to the 2015 state general election and to make further provision with respect to election funding, expenditure and disclosures. The bill includes tougher penalties for breaching election funding laws, a new general

anti-circumvention offence provision for evading the laws, a pre-election donations disclosure in early 2015 by recipients of political donations and an extension of the limitation period for prosecuting offences from three to 10 years.

Additionally under the scheme, parties that meet the eligibility criteria for receiving funding would be able to claim \$4 per first preference vote in the Assembly and \$3 per first preference vote in the Council. Eligible parties that do not have any candidates elected in the Assembly election would receive \$4.50 per first preference vote in the Council only, with no funding for first preference votes in the Assembly. Eligible independent candidates would be able to claim \$4 per first preference vote in the Assembly or \$4.50 in the Council.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday 15 October 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading commenced immediately following the first reading. The Minister (Mr Gay) stated that an expert panel on political donations is due to deliver its final report on the reform of election funding laws at the end of the year. However, following recent stakeholder consultations, the panel has released an interim report indicating its in-principle support to improve transparency, accountability and integrity of the election funding regime. The bill seeks to implement the recommendations from the panel's interim report. However, further reforms may yet be required once the expert panel has released its final report.

Following the Minister's speech the Opposition moved to adjourn debate for five calendar days to allow for further negotiation on the bill. The motion was defeated on Division (18:21) and a number of Government members proceeded to speak in support of the bill. Debate was subsequently adjourned until the next day.

### **Health Services Amendment (Ambulance Fees) Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Health Services Act 1997* to establish a scheme for charging and recovering fees from any person provided with ambulance services, unless that person is provided an exemption by regulation.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 15 October 2014. The Parliamentary Secretary (Ms Cusack) incorporated the Minister's second reading speech into Hansard. As outlined in the second reading speech, the bill seeks to ensure that ambulance services are paid for by people who are able to on an equitable basis, and to reduce the cumulative unpaid debt owed to NSW Ambulance by giving the Commissioner of Fines Administration limited civil enforcement powers to recover fees. The speech stated that for the effective continuation of the NSW Ambulance Service, all users with the financial means to do so should meet their obligation to contribute to its costs.

The Opposition opposed the bill stating that the small portion of fees that are unpaid are primarily owed by people who are unable to pay and people without private health insurance. The Opposition also opposed the retrospective application of the scheme and the range of measures the State Debt Recovery Office had in collecting fees, including the ability to sell property. The Greens also opposed the bill, stating that it was disproportionate to the size of the problem.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, but raised some minor concerns over the operation of the scheme. The second reading was agreed to (Division 20:18), the Opposition and The Greens voting against the bill.

In committee, The Greens moved an amendment to the bill to require the payment rules to be disallowable under the *Interpretation Act 1987*. The Government opposed the amendment as disallowance of the rules could lead to a situation where all rules are removed, placing vulnerable groups at a greater risk. The amendment was negated on division (18:21).

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

### **Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006* in relation to the scheme for the supervision and detention of high risk sex offenders and high risk violent offenders. The bill provides for the Supreme Court to make emergency detention orders, supplements the list of conditions that may be imposed on an extended supervision order, increases the penalty for failing to comply with supervision orders and establishes a High Risk Offenders Assessment Committee.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday 14 October 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading commenced the following day with the second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) being incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the purpose of the bill is to enhance community safety through improved supervision and monitoring of a small group of high risk sex and violent offenders who resist rehabilitation during their term of custody. The speech noted that a key feature of the bill is the establishment of the High Risk Offenders Assessment Committee comprising members from justice, law enforcement and relevant human service agencies that will be responsible for the ongoing review, assessment and management of these offenders.

The Opposition and The Greens did not oppose the bill, but raised concerns regarding the extent of the administrative detention powers provided under the scheme. The Christian Democratic Party strongly supported the bill and its aim to ensure the community is

protected from individuals who pose a high risk of reoffending.

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

### **Mine Subsidence Compensation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961* regarding claims for compensation, including that the Mine Subsidence Board is not to pay out a claim from the Mine Subsidence Compensation Fund relating to preventative or mitigative expenses incurred or proposed before subsidence occurs and that the board may reject a claim for compensation if it is disproportionate to the expense of repairing or replacing the improvements or household concerned.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 October 2014. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Ajaka) indicated that the bill stems from a High Court decision in *Jemena Gas Networks (NSW) Limited v Mine Subsidence Board* where it was ruled that a company should receive compensation for preventative or mitigative subsidence. In light of this, the bill clarifies ambiguity in the Act to ensure that compensation is available only for expenses incurred after subsidence has commenced.

The Opposition supported the bill, considering it to be a sensible response to the High Court case and noting that mine subsidence remains a serious issue for many communities affected by underground mining. The Christian Democratic Party also supported the bill but did raise a concern that the bill does not provide for a claim for compensation, in some circumstances, for preventative or mitigative expenses.

The Greens strongly opposed the bill, considering it a missed opportunity to effectively secure the ongoing viability of the Mine Subsidence Compensation Scheme and arguing that a more significant review of the operation of the Act and the board was required. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, The Greens moved four amendments to increase the independence and broaden the skills base of the Mine Subsidence Board and to allow a private landholder, council or other public entity to claim compensation for damage to the environment. The Greens did not receive any support for the amendments and they were subsequently negated, three on the voices and the final amendment on division (5:29).

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

### **Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*, following a statutory review of that Act, in relation to the monitoring of registered persons living in the community. It amends the objects of the Act, expands the definition of registrable offences and includes further criteria a court must take into account when determining whether to make a registration order.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 October 2014 from 10 September 2014 (see Vol 55/75 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members of the Opposition continued to speak in support of the bill and considered its provisions to be sensible in order to protect children.

The Greens and the Christian Democratic Party also spoke in support of the bill. The Greens noted that this is a difficult area of public policy as there must be a balance between protecting children and ensuring that individuals' civil liberties are respected. The Christian Democratic Party supported strengthening the operation of the register and argued that a similar system to Western Australia should be adopted where information held on the Western Australian Sex Offender Register is publicly available on a community protection website. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, The Greens moved an amendment that a person should not be registrable if they were a child at the time they committed an offence. This amendment stemmed from a recommendation made in a submission to the statutory review of the Act by The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre. Although supporting the sentiment of the proposed amendment, the Government and the Opposition did not support it and the bill was reported to the House without amendment, read a third time and returned to the Assembly.

### **Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* following the Urban Water Regulation Review to enable new market entrants to access existing water industry infrastructure and to create a licensing regime for those entrants.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 15 October 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated in Hansard. The Minister stated that the bill was the outcome of an extensive review of the Act and addressed regulatory gaps relating to metropolitan council recycling and stormwater reuse schemes, and removed unwarranted barriers to entry into the water industry. The Minister stated that the intention of the bill is to allow new private utilities into the water industry.

The Opposition opposed the bill, stating that it was a precursor to the privatisation of public water utilities which would result in job losses, consumers paying more for water in a system of retail competition, and that the bill

posed serious risks to water security. The Opposition argued that it was not good water policy to remove the provisions of Labor's *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* which promoted water saving measures, encouraged development in alternative sources of water, led to a reduction in Sydney's total water consumption and eased demand on potable water supplies.

The Greens also opposed the bill stating that it was a dangerous pro-privatisation law, which allowed private providers to infringe on Sydney Water and Hunter Water, which should instead be directed towards becoming innovative and efficient public sector providers.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill but raised concerns over any privatisation action that would see the water industry follow a similar path to the electricity sector and the impact that would have on consumers.

The House agreed to the second reading (Division 20:17), with the Opposition and The Greens voting against it. The third reading was subsequently agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **State Revenue Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends various state revenue legislation in relation to certain taxes administered by the Office of State Revenue, in particular in relation to how land transfer duties are calculated, providing exemptions for heavy vehicle trailer transfer duties, grouping fixed trusts and trusts that have the same beneficiaries for the purposes of claiming land tax thresholds, clarifying Jobs Action Plan Payroll Tax Rebate provisions and amending payroll tax exemptions for owner-drivers, insurance sellers and door-to-door sales people.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 15 October 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) was incorporated in Hansard. In that speech the Minister stated that the provisions of the bill are part of the Government's ongoing program of maintaining legislation governing taxes administered by the Office of State Revenue. The provisions of the bill seek to avoid the duplication of duties, provide for certain exemptions, reduce red tape, extend anti-avoidance provisions and clarify existing assessment practices. In particular the payroll tax amendments define which contractors are exempt from payroll tax and harmonise contractor provisions with other states and territories.

The Opposition did not oppose the majority of the bill, but opposed the amendments which removed the payroll tax exemption for door-to-door/direct sellers, arguing that the policy rationale for inserting the original exemption remained valid as direct sellers are not a conventional retail distribution system.

The Greens did not oppose the bill, stating that it was largely straightforward and non-controversial and that

removing loopholes and opportunities for tax avoidance and making the tax system fairer and more efficient were positive steps. The Christian Democratic Party also did not oppose the bill on the basis that it ensures that everyone pays their fair share of tax, but reiterating their position that payroll tax should be abolished.

In committee, the Opposition moved two amendments which sought to retain the direct selling agent exemption. These amendments were supported by The Greens but received no further support and were negatived. The bill was reported to the House without amendment, read a third time and returned to the Assembly.

### **Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends a wide range of criminal legislation making miscellaneous amendments to various Acts with respect to criminal offences and procedure.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 15 October 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) was incorporated in Hansard. In that speech, various amendments aimed at improving the efficiency and operation of the State's criminal laws were outlined and briefly explained.

The Opposition and The Greens did not oppose the bill, and the Christian Democratic Party supported it. In discussing the bill no concerns were raised regarding the proposed amendments and members generally supported the grouping of various amendments together for consideration in a single bill.

The House agreed to the second and third readings and returned the bill to the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### ***Messages from the Assembly***

#### *Bills introduced and read a first time*

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

- (1) Teacher Accreditation Amendment Bill 2014
- (2) Rural Fires Amendment Bill 2014
- (3) State Revenue Legislation Amendment (Electronic Transactions) Bill 2014.

### **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

### **Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Change of Sex) Bill 2014 (Dr Faruqi, The Greens)**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995* to allow a married person who has undergone a sex affirmation procedure to have their sex registered or to have the record of their sex altered.

*Proceedings:* Leave was granted to bring in the bill on 16 October 2014. The bill was presented, read a first time and printed. In her second reading speech, Dr Faruqi indicated that the purpose of the bill is to ensure that married persons who have undergone a sex affirmation procedure can apply to change their sex on their birth certificate so that it aligns to their identity. Currently the Act requires a person to be 'unmarried' to change the record of their sex. She argued that the current law further adds to the societal stigmatisation experienced by transsexual and transgender people and unnecessarily complicates the process of transition from one sex to another.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

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

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill sought 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 16 October 2014 from 11 and 18 September 2014 (see the previous editions of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Speaking in reply Mr Veitch thanked members for their contributions, acknowledging the widespread support on the issue generally, but the differing views of members in the merits of this particular bill. Mr Veitch concluded by confirming his continued support for the rail trail concept and the growth in the movement.

The second reading of the bill was negated on division (14:22).

#### ***Message from the Assembly***

*Bill introduced and read a first time*

The following bill from the Assembly was introduced, read a first time, and had the second reading set down for a later hour:

- (1) Criminal Records Amendment (Historical Homosexual Offences) Bill 2014.

## Motions

### **Public housing (Ms Cotsis, Australian Labor Party)**

*Summary:* The motion noted concerns raised by tenants living in public housing at a meeting held with New South Wales Labor members and the Shadow Minister for Housing and called on the Government to form an oversight body to implement the NSW Auditor General's recommendations into public housing, advocate to the Federal Government to keep the Housing Affordability Supply Council and hold a summit on public housing at Parliament.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the motion resumed on 16 October 2014 from 18 September 2014 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The House agreed to further extend debate time to allow more members to speak to the motion.

Dr Kaye reiterated The Greens' support for the motion. The Christian Democratic Party discussed the current housing situation and the anticipated future housing needs of New South Wales, raising concerns that if governments continue not to deliver the large amount of housing required to address housing affordability, it may result in a trend towards homelessness.

Speaking in reply, Ms Cotsis indicated that debate on the issue would continue when the Council debates the report of the Select Committee into social, public and affordable housing. Ms Costis concluded by urging the Government to announce its policy on social and affordable housing.

The motion was negated on division (18:21).

### **Report of the Senate's Community Affairs References Committee entitled "Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices" (Ms Barham, The Greens)**

*Summary:* The motion notes the Senate's Community Affairs References Committee report entitled "Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices", and commends the New South Wales Government for ensuring its apology was consistent with that committee's recommendations. The motion also calls on the Council to provide in principle support for the electronic publication of submissions that were clearly identified as being for publication to the Standing Committee on Social Issues' inquiry entitled 'Releasing the Past: Adoption Practices 1950-1998'.

*Proceedings:* Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Ms Barham moved the motion and noted the importance of the matter as the National Archives are currently collating public records that will form part of an exhibition relating to past forced adoption practices, in accordance with the recommendations of the Senate committee. She stated that the authors of a number of submissions to the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquiry which were made confidential now wish for their

record to be in the public domain and included in the project being conducted by the National Archives.

Members of the Government and the Opposition spoke in strong support of the majority of the motion, with the Government noting that more consideration would need to be given before it supported the call for the electronic publication of confidential submissions to the 'Releasing the Past: Adoption Practices 1950-1998' inquiry. Debate was interrupted for Questions.

#### *Motions agreed to formal business*

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

- (1) Eora Action Plan (Ms Fazio)
- (2) 3rd Written Portraits Awards (Ms Fazio)
- (3) 3rd Multicultural and Indigenous Media Awards Presentation Dinner (Ms Fazio)
- (4) 68th Pakistan Independence Day (Ms Fazio)
- (5) Chaldean National Congress Inc. (Ms Fazio)
- (6) 9th Eid Milan Celebration (Ms Fazio)
- (7) Global Cantonese Association of Australia Gala (Ms Fazio)
- (8) World Tourism Day (Ms Barham)
- (9) Battle for Australia (Mr Lynn)
- (10) Papua New Guinea's 39th anniversary of Independence Day (Mr Lynn)
- (11) His Beatitude and Eminence Patriarch Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Rai (Mr Moselmane)
- (12) Australian Coptic New Year Dinner (Mr Donnelly)
- (13) South Sydney Rabbitohs (Dr Faruqi)
- (14) Mr Barney Moore's 95th birthday (Mr Lynn)
- (15) Community Languages Schools State Conference and Professional Development Training Day 2014 (Ms Ficarra)
- (16) Cardinal Edward Clancy AC (Ms Ficarra)
- (17) Coptic New Year Dinner 2014 (Ms Ficarra)
- (18) Sunswift (Dr Kaye)
- (19) Democracy in Burma (Dr Kaye)
- (20) New South Wales Federation of Community Language Schools (Dr Kaye)
- (21) Anti-Poverty Week 2014 (Ms Barham)
- (22) Carers Week 2014 (Ms Barham)
- (23) The Honourable Barry O'Keefe AM QC KGCSG (Ms Ficarra)
- (24) Warringah Amateur Swimming Association's 50th anniversary (Ms Ficarra)

- (25) Charles Christensen OAM (Ms Ficarra).

### **Orders for papers**

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

#### *Orders made*

- (1) **Martins Creek and Wollombi Public Schools (Dr Kaye):** The order relates to proposed or possible changes to the status of Martins Creek or Wollombi Public Schools. The motion was agreed as formal business. Due: Wednesday 29 October 2014.
- (2) **Proposed Newcastle East End development project (Mr Foley):** The order relates to the role of certain people in the proposed Newcastle East End development project. Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. The House agreed to an amendment of Mr Shoebridge (Division 19:14) and the motion, as amended, was agreed to (Division 19:14). Due: Thursday 6 November 2014.
- (3) **Byron Central Hospital and Maitland Hospital (Mr Secord):** The order relates to the proposed new Byron Central Hospital and new Maitland Hospital. Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business (Divisions 19:14). The House agreed to an amendment of Mr Blair changing the due date of the return. The motion, as amended, was agreed to. Due: Thursday 6 November 2014.

#### *Returns to order*

- (1) **Medicare co-payment:** received 25 September 2014, three boxes public, two boxes privileged.
- (2) **VIP Gaming Management Agreement:** received 2 October 2014, one box privileged.

#### *Disputed claim of privilege*

- (1) **VIP Gaming Management Agreement:** On 13 October 2014, the Clerk received written correspondence from Dr Kaye disputing the validity of a claim of privilege relating to documents concerning VIP Gaming Management Agreement. According to standing order, the disputed documents were released an Independent Legal Arbitrator, the Honourable Keith Mason AC QC, for evaluation and report.

Separately, the VIP Gaming Management Agreement return to order was also unusual in that the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) claimed privilege in quite definite terms over the submission in support of the claim of privilege. On Wednesday, Dr Kaye moved according to notice that a redacted version of the claim of privilege be prepared by DPC and provided within seven days for tabling in the House. The redacted version is due Wednesday 22 October.

## Reports tabled

**Mental Health Commission:** “Living well: Putting people at the centre of mental health reform in NSW: A report”, dated October 2014.

### Independent Commission Against Corruption:

- (1) “Investigation into the conduct of a RailCorp Manager and a Housing NSW employee”, dated October 2014.
- (2) “Investigation into concerns that Sydney Local Health District engaged consultants at the Yaralla Estate because of political donations and links to the Liberal Party”, dated October 2014.

**Register of Disclosures by members of the Legislative Council** for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

## Committee activities

### Committee reference

**Procedure Committee:** As previously noted, the House referred to the committee an inquiry into answers to questions during Question Time.

### Committee membership

The following changes to committee membership were reported:

**Select Committee on the planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region:** Mr Donnelly and Ms Voltz were nominated as Opposition members on the committee.

**Joint Select Committee on loose fill asbestos insulation:** Mr Blair was elected Deputy Chair of the committee.

**Select Committee on the planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region:** Mr Shoebridge was elected Deputy Chair of the committee.

### Committee reports tabled

**Legislation Review Committee:** “Legislation Review Digest No. 62/55 of 2013”, 14 October 2014.

**Joint Select Committee on sentencing of child sexual assault offenders:** “Every sentence tells a story—Report on sentencing of child sexual assault offenders”, dated October 2014.

**Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption:** “Review of the 2012-2013 annual reports of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption”, dated September 2014.

**Select Committee on greyhound racing in New South Wales:** “Greyhound racing in New South Wales: Second Report”, dated October 2014.

### Government responses

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3:** The House received a response to Report No. 30 entitled “Tourism in local communities”, tabled on 6 March 2014

**Select Committee on greyhound racing in New South Wales:** The House received a response to the first report “Greyhound racing in New South Wales: First Report”, tabled on 28 March 2014.

## Inquiry activities

### Standing Committee on Law and Justice

#### *Inquiry into the family response to the murders in Bowraville*

The committee is in the process of finalising its report.

### Standing Committee on State Development

#### *Inquiry into regional aviation services*

The committee met this day to consider the Chair’s draft report.

### General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

#### *Inquiry into the Wambelong fire*

The committee concluded its evidence gathering in mid-September. It is now preparing its report, which it expects to table mid-February 2015.

#### *Inquiry into the performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority*

The committee has published 247 submissions and held its first public hearing in Sydney on 13 October 2014. The committee will hold three further hearings on 29 October (Lismore), 10 November (Hunter), and 24 November (Sydney).

### General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

#### *Inquiry into the Fair Trading Amendment (Ticket Reselling) Bill*

The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is 23 October 2014. The committee will hold a public hearing in Sydney on Monday 3 November.

The committee intends to report by mid-February 2015.

### General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

#### *Inquiry into Budget Estimates*

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 met this week and resolved to hold a supplementary hearing into the Trade and Investment portfolio on 5 November 2014.

### Select Committee on home schooling

The committee held a third and final public hearing on 7 October 2014. A draft report is currently being prepared, with a view to the final report being tabled during the second sitting week in November 2014.

### **Select Committee on greyhound racing in New South Wales**

The committee concluded its inquiry with the tabling of its Second Report this week on 16 October 2014.

### **Select Committee on the planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region**

The select committee is currently reviewing submissions, with a closing date for submissions of 24 October 2014. Two public hearings and a public forum will be held in Newcastle on 7 and 21 November 2014, with a final public hearing scheduled for Sydney on 24 November 2014.

### **Joint Select Committee on loose fill asbestos insulation**

The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is 31 October. The committee will hold a public hearing in Sydney on Friday 14 November, followed by a public hearing in Queanbeyan on Monday 17 November.

The final reporting date for the inquiry is 16 February 2015.

### **Select Committee on ministerial propriety in New South Wales**

The select committee has received seven submissions. The reporting date for the inquiry has been extended until 2 March 2015.

### **Privileges Committee**

The committee is currently preparing a draft report on a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Independent Commission Against Corruption relating to the execution of search warrants on members' premises. The committee is due to report by Thursday 6 November 2014.

### **Procedure Committee**

The committee is currently inquiring into answers to questions during Question Time, and a standing order dealing with the drafting of bills by committees.

## **Adjournment debate**

### **Tuesday 14 October 2014**

Tribute to Reverend the Hon Frederick John Nile, MLC (Ms Ficarra); Australian Muslim Community (Mr Moselmane); Coastal protection (Ms Barham); Tribute to the Honourable Don Page, Tribute to the Honourable George Souris (Mr Blair); Glenbog State Forest (Mr Shoebridge); Local government financial assistance grants (Ms Cotsis); Sydney Opera House Seal (Dr Phelps).

### **Wednesday 15 October 2014**

Regional home and community care services (Mr Whan); Overpopulation (Mr Borsak); Nambucca Valley Dialysis Unit (Mrs Pavey); Workers Compensation Scheme (Mr Primrose); Ag-Gag laws (Mr Brown); Bathurst carers lunch (Mrs Maclaren-Jones).

### **Thursday 16 October 2014**

Corner country (Mr Pearce); Penalty rates (Mr Donnelly); Shooters and Fishers Party (Mr Buckingham); Native vegetation (Mr MacDonald); Nature conservation (Dr Faruqi); Newtown community plan (Ms Sharpe); The Nationals' Leader Troy Grant (Mr Colless).

## **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](mailto:stephen.frappell@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments