

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 55/81

Sitting period  
18 to 20 November 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 was the last sitting week before the March 2015 State election. The week saw the House pass seven Government bills, which included splitting the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014 into two bills. The House sat into the early hours of Wednesday morning to consider Government legislation.

The week was also notable for the passing of seven orders for papers and a rare Address to the Governor for papers under standing order 53, the first such Address since 2010. In a significant development, the further order for papers relating to the CBD and South East Light Rail Project called on the Government, in the event that documents are not provided on the basis of cabinet confidentiality, to justify that decision.

In addition, in a new precedent, the House referred to the Privileges Committee during the forthcoming long summer recess, the House's role of determining disputed claims of privilege under standing order 52.

On Wednesday, seven departing members of the Council gave their valedictory speeches, reflecting on their time in the Council and the people they have worked with. All the speeches were notable for their sincerity and generosity.

Next week, the final *House in Review* for the year will be published. The edition will contain a summary of Legislative Council activities in 2014.

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

The President made a statement that marked the contribution by Australian nursing sisters to the war effort.

### Motion of appreciation – Valedictory speeches

On Wednesday 19 November 2014 the following members gave their official valedictory speeches:

- (1) The Honourable Marie Ficarra
- (2) The Honourable Amanda Fazio

- (3) The Honourable Jenny Gardiner
- (4) The Honourable Steve Whan
- (5) The Honourable Charlie Lynn
- (6) The Honourable Penny Sharpe
- (7) The Honourable Helen Westwood.

### Provision of Answers to Questions

On Wednesday 19 November 2014 the Minister (Mr Gay) moved that all answers to questions on and without notice from the current sitting week be provided by Friday 19 December 2014. The motion was agreed to.

### Privileges Committee to determine claims of privilege under standing order 52

On Thursday 20 November 2014, Mr Foley moved that during the forthcoming long summer recess period prior to the election, the House authorise the Privileges Committee to undertake the role usually performed by the House in dealing with disputed claims of privilege over returns to order under Standing Order 52, including taking the decision to make public any documents over which privilege has been claimed but not upheld by the Independent Legal Arbiter. An Opposition member moved an amendment to the motion regarding the membership of the committee and to make absolutely clear that any document authorised to be made public under this resolution is deemed to have been presented to the House and published by the House. The motion and the amendment were agreed to.

### Seasonal felicitations

On Thursday 20 November 2014, the Minister (Mr Gay) moved a motion to thank all members and staff of the Parliament for their work in 2014. The motion was agreed to following contributions from representatives of each of the political parties represented in the Council, and the President.

## Government business

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

### Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (NSW Gas Plan) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* to provide for certain pending applications for petroleum titles to be expunged.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on Tuesday 18 November 2014. The balance of the second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech the Minister indicated that the Government commissioned the New South Wales scientist and engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane, to undertake an independent review of coal seam gas activities in the State and that her final report was released on 30 September 2014. The NSW Gas Plan was subsequently developed that drew on the insights of the chief scientist to set a clear direction for gas, including, pausing, resetting then recommencing gas exploration, developing a framework underpinned by better science and ensuring stronger regulation. The speech also noted that the bill is an important first step in implementing the NSW Gas Plan.

The Opposition and the Greens did not oppose the bill, but stated that it accomplished very little as the expunged petroleum title applications were still being processed and could have been rejected without legislation. They argued that this bill does not, as the Government suggests, wipe the slate clean and address controversial coal seam gas operations in the far North Coast or the Sydney catchment special areas.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, but only on the provision that a foreshadowed amendment in the committee stage be agreed to that restored four licences applied for by the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. The Christian Democratic Party noted that the Aboriginal Land Council was to use these licences to create income streams to further the sustainability and independence of Aboriginal people and communities across the State.

The second reading was agreed to.

In committee, the Opposition moved two amendments to implement a ban on coal seam or unconventional gas extraction in the North Coast and Northern Rivers regions and to permanently protect the special areas of the Sydney catchment. The Opposition could only gain support from The Greens and the amendments were negated on Division (17:20). The Greens moved four amendments which sought to cancel 14 petroleum exploration licences that have lapsed and require renewal and cancel Petroleum Pipeline Licence Areas. Only the Opposition supported the amendments and they were subsequently negated on two Divisions (both 17:20). Finally, the Christian Democratic Party’s amendment regarding the Aboriginal Land Council licences was agreed to on the voices.

The bill was reported to the House with the amendment, read a third time and returned to the Assembly with the amendment. The Assembly agreed to the Council’s amendment on Thursday 20 November 2014.

### Crime Commission Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Crime Commission Act 2012* to address issues raised in decisions of the High Court in *X7 v Australian Crime Commission & Anor* [2013] 248 CLR 92 and *Do Young (aka Jason) Lee v The Queen* [2014] HCA 20 regarding the NSW Crime Commission conducting compulsory examinations of persons charged with an offence.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on Tuesday 18 November 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that a series of cases in the High Court concerning hearings held by the Australian Crime Commission and the NSW Crime Commission have thrown into doubt the use of compulsory examination powers, leading to uncertainty among investigators and disrupting major criminal investigations. The speech noted that the Crime Commission’s powers to conduct compulsory examinations are an essential tool in combating serious and organised crime and are used in situations where it is necessary to establish the identity of other offenders and the circumstances surrounding an offence. The bill inserts the words “necessary intentment” into the Act to protect these powers and the admissibility of evidence obtained.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it will ensure that future cases brought before the Supreme Court will not be able to challenge the operation of the Crime Commission’s compulsory examination powers and that the bill also contains important safeguards.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, stating that the Crime Commission should be assisted by the Parliament to carry out its important duties.

The Greens opposed the bill, noting that the two High Court judgements raised significant questions about the extent of the Crime Commission’s compulsory questioning powers and that the Government, rather than accept that there are reasonable and necessary limitations and boundaries to the compulsory powers of crime agencies, has introduced this bill to circumvent the judgements and compel a defendant to compulsorily answer questions and potentially incriminate themselves.

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

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014 and the Ombudsman and the Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

Initially these bills were introduced and passed by the Assembly as one bill, the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014. The bill was then split into two bills in the Legislative Council once concerns were raised regarding provisions relating to the Ombudsman.

*Summary:* The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014 continues the longstanding statute law revision program. Bills of this kind have featured in most sessions of Parliament since 1984 and are recognised as an effective tool for making minor policy changes, repealing redundant legislation and maintaining the quality of the New South Wales statute book.

*Summary:* Debate on the second reading of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014 commenced on Tuesday 18 November 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the bill makes minor and non-controversial amendments to 29 Acts and five regulations.

The Opposition and The Greens did not oppose the bill, noting that it is an efficient way of making a number of comparatively minor amendments to law and regulations. However they were concerned that the amendments to the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Acts to exclude agencies and public authorities from a requirement to report on public interest disclosure activity would remove scrutiny. They also noted that there is a tradition in relation to statute law bills that if concern or objection is raised regarding a particular provision, that provision will be removed from the bill and reintroduced in a separate piece of legislation.

In reply, the Parliamentary Secretary noted that because of these concerns, it was appropriate that the amendments to the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Acts not continue as part of the statute law bill.

The second reading was agreed to.

Mr Clarke subsequently moved an instruction to the committee to split the bill in two and remove the amendments relating to the Ombudsman from the Statute Law Bill.

The following day in committee, the bill was split into the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) and the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill.

The Government then moved two amendments to the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill to change its commencement date to 5 March 2015 as concern had been expressed that the provisions may impact on the Select Committee inquiry into the Ombudsman's inquiry "Operation Prospect" which is not due to table until 25 February 2015. The amendment was supported and the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill was reported to the House with amendments and the

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill was reported without amendment.

The third readings of the bills were agreed to and they were returned to the Assembly, one with amendments and one without amendment. On Thursday 20 November 2014 the Assembly agreed to the splitting of the bill and to the amendments to the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill.

### **Criminal Procedure Amendment (Domestic Violence Complainants) Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* to enable the use of recorded interviews with complainants in proceedings for domestic violence offences, instead of written statements or oral evidence.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on Tuesday 18 November 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Blair) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the bill implements a key reform identified by this Government's Domestic Violence Justice Strategy 2013-2017 aimed at improving the criminal justice system's response to domestic and family violence. The speech noted that the new measures are intended to reduce the trauma faced by victims when giving evidence in court and indicated that a key element to the bill is removing the hearsay rule of evidence so that recorded interviews of complainants taken by police at, or shortly after, a domestic violence incident, will be able to be played in court as evidence. The bill also contains a number of privacy safeguards as the recorded material could be intensely personal or graphic in nature.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that it will make it easier for victims of domestic violence to withstand the trauma of court proceedings and will hopefully lead to more victims coming forward and fewer victims wanting to drop proceedings once commenced. The Opposition did note however that the bill does not go as far as Labor's policy, which is to establish a specialist court to consider domestic violence incidents.

The Greens did not oppose the bill and supported the cause of ensuring that when domestic violence occurs it is subject to the full weight of the law. The Greens did note some concerns that had been raised by the Women's Legal Service regarding the practicalities of how police recording will operate, particularly in regards to police training and how a video may be edited before being presented as evidence.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, noting that it strikes an appropriate balance in reducing the trauma experienced by complainants in the criminal justice process and protecting the privacy of victims.

The second reading was agreed to.

In committee, The Greens moved an amendment so that the bill will maintain the opinion rule as admissible evidence in domestic violence proceedings. The opinion rule excludes evidence of a lay person's opinion as distinct from evidence of fact. The Opposition supported the amendment, but the Government did not, noting that

these laws had been tailored specifically to the unique context of domestic violence offending. The amendment was negated on the voices.

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

### **Mental Health Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Mental Health Act 2007* following a review of the Act to focus on the care and treatment of persons with mental illnesses. The bill provides for a new emphasis on patient consent and access to information, greater consultation with carers of mental health patients, and makes changes to the representation and treatment of minors with mental illnesses.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on Tuesday 18 November 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. The speech noted that the purpose of the Act remains valid, but that improvements were needed to reflect best practice in mental health care and that this bill addresses these matters.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting the openness of the Minister in responding to questions, and expressed support for continued consultation throughout the implementation process. However, the Opposition renewed its call for a public inquiry into the definition of a mentally ill person and called for a holistic approach to the mental health funding debate with recognition of the dangers that people with mental health issues can pose to their family and the community.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, discussing the important issues of mental health care addressed by the bill, and noting that although it was aware of concerns regarding the use of electroconvulsive therapy as a treatment, the bill addressed those concerns.

The Greens did not oppose the bill but stated their disappointment that the proposed legislative changes were not more progressive given the high quality review conducted and the recent changes in Victoria and Western Australia that recognised the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The second reading was agreed to.

In committee, the Opposition moved to amend the bill by including a requirement for local health services to negotiate a memorandum of understanding with the Commissioner of Police regarding the transfer of patients between mental health facilities. The Government opposed the amendment stating that a statutory provision was unnecessary as health services already work closely with local police. The amendment was negated.

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

### **Health Practitioner Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Act 2009* so as to modify the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)* to enable greater oversight of impaired practitioners, to ensure that deregistered practitioners are unable to circumvent the regulatory process and reregister, and to improve the transparency of the complaints process.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on Tuesday 18 November 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mrs Pavey) was incorporated into Hansard. The speech indicated that the bill makes improvements to the New South Wales health practitioner regulatory processes and provides a good balance between ensuring the safety of patients and the transparency of the complaints process without unduly overriding the privacy rights of practitioners.

The Opposition supported the bill, acknowledging the need for legislative change. The Opposition did note however concerns of the Health Services Union regarding the information sharing aspects of the bill and stated that they would monitor these provisions closely.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, stating the proposed provisions were vital to redressing concerns they have previously raised concerning impaired medical practitioners.

The Greens supported the bill, but raised concerns over the proposed balance between the privacy and employment rights of practitioners and patient safety.

The second reading was agreed to.

In committee, The Greens opposed the provision of the bill which allows for information sharing by employers, stating that practitioner information should be controlled by appropriate agencies so that employers cannot misuse the system. The Opposition supported the amendment, while the Government stated that the balance of the bill was right and opposed the amendment. The amendment was negated.

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

### **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*

### **Drug Legislation Amendment (Cannabis for Medical Purposes) Bill 2014 (Dr Kaye, The Greens)**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill introduces a scheme for cannabis to be lawfully used by a registered patient to relieve a serious diagnosed medical condition, and to allow for a

registered carer to assist a patient in the use of cannabis for that purpose. The bill also allows a registered patient or registered carer to cultivate a limited number of plants and manufacture or produce cannabis for use by the patient, and allows a government sector agency to undertake activities necessary for the lawful supply of cannabis to registered patients and carers.

*Proceedings:* The bill was introduced, read a first time and printed on Thursday 20 November 2014. In his second reading speech, Dr Kaye indicated that this is a bill of compassion to assist people who are dying, by adopting the key unanimous finding of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4's inquiry into the use of cannabis for medical purposes. It creates a medicinal cannabis register and card that provides protection from prosecution for possession of 15 grams of cannabis for a patient or carer in possession of a card.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

### **Wellbeing Indicators Bill 2014 (Ms Barham, The Greens)**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill provides for the development of a list of measures that indicate the wellbeing of people, communities and ecosystems in the State and facilitates the development of policies and programs that promote wellbeing by establishing an independent statutory office of the Commissioner for Wellbeing and a Parliamentary Joint Committee to inquire into what factors and measures reflect wellbeing.

*Proceedings:* The bill was introduced, read a first time and printed on Thursday 20 November 2014. In her second reading speech, Ms Barham indicated that the purpose of the bill is to change how we perceive government and public policy by developing a whole of government approach to care for the quality of life of all citizens of New South Wales.

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) Australian Child Care Week (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (2) NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards 2014 (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (3) 2014 NSW & ACT Group Training Awards (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (4) Order for Papers—Drayton South Coal Project (Mr Whan)
- (5) Centenary of the First World War and the ANZAC legacy (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (6) Pub2Pub Charity Fun Run and Walk (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (7) 40th anniversary of Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia (Mrs Maclaren-Jones)

- (8) Remembrance Day (Mr Clarke on behalf of Mr Lynn)
- (9) Saint Narsai Assyrian Christian College (Mr Clarke)
- (10) Lifeline (Mr Moselmane)
- (11) Arakwal National Park (Ms Barham)
- (12) Vietnamese community in Australia, 40th anniversary event (Mr Clarke)
- (13) Western Sydney Wanderers (Ms Fazio)
- (14) RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir (Mr Clarke on behalf of Mr Lynn)
- (15) Saint Sava Serbian Cultural Club (Mr Clarke)
- (16) Mr Anthony Mundine (Mr Moselmane)
- (17) Jackie Newton and Jack Newton OAM (Ms Ficarra)
- (18) Saints Peter and Paul Church at Cecil Park (Mr Clarke)
- (19) Palestinian National Day (Mr Moselmane)
- (20) Dr Jenny May (Ms Ficarra)
- (21) Indo-Chinese Eldery Hostel (Mr Moselmane)
- (22) Festival of Deepavali (Mr Clarke)
- (23) 2MFM Muslim Community Radio (Mr Moselmane)
- (24) Mr Ken Rosewall AM MBE (Ms Ficarra)
- (25) Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Mr Clarke)
- (26) Assyrian Martyrs and Genocide Day (Mr Clarke)
- (27) 19th Annual Genocide Commemoration (Mr Clarke)
- (28) Interim Council of Assyrian Organisations fundraising for Iraq (Mr Clarke)
- (29) Fellows of the Senate—University of Sydney (Ms Ficarra)
- (30) Transgender Day of Remembrance (Dr Faruqi)
- (31) 4th Annual Assyria Day Conference (Mr Clarke)
- (32) Address to the Governor—Papers relating to the administration of justice (Mr Borsak)
- (33) Oxi Day commemoration at the ANZAC memorial (Mr Clarke)
- (34) T. B. Sailors, Soldiers and Airman's Association (Mr MacDonald)
- (35) White Ribbon Day (Ms Ficarra)
- (36) Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd celebrating the 74th anniversary of Oxi Day (Mr Clarke)
- (37) His Eminence Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Rai (Mr Clarke)

- (38) Vietnamese Welfare Association (NSW) (Mr Clarke)
- (39) NSW Hall of Champions and NSW Hall of Legends (Ms Ficarra)
- (40) The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP (Mr Clarke)
- (41) Australian Maronite Professionals Council Ltd (Mr Clarke).

## Orders for papers

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

### *Orders made*

- (1) **Drayton South Coal Project (Mr Whan):** This order was agreed to as formal business and relates to the Planning Assessment Commission's determination of the Drayton South Coal Project. Due: Tuesday 9 December 2014.
- (2) **Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Project (Mr Foley):** This order relates to the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Project. Due: 9 December 2014.
- (3) **"Going Home, Staying Home" reforms—Amendment to resolution:** This motion amended the resolution of the House of Thursday 23 October 2014 to allow for the electronic submission of emails captured by the original order for papers on Thursday 4 December 2014.
- (4) **CBD and South East Light Rail Project—Further order:** This further order relates to the business case for the CBD and South East Light Rail Project. Due: 3 December 2014.
- (5) **Report of Police Strike Force Emblems:** This order relates to the report of the Police Strike Force Emblems. Due: 4 December 2014.
- (6) **NSW Health Infrastructure and private-public partnerships:** This order relates to the examination and scoping of private-public partnerships by NSW Health Infrastructure. Due: 11 December 2014.
- (7) **Nurse to patient ratios:** This order relates to nurse to patient ratios in NSW health and hospital facilities. Due: 11 December 2014.

### *Address to the Governor*

- (1) **Address to the Governor:** Papers relating to the administration of justice (Mr Borsak).

### *Return to order*

- (1) **Aboriginal land claims regarding beaches and coastal lands:** received 17 November 2014, six boxes public, five boxes privileged.

### *Return to order received and to be reported on the next sitting day*

- (2) **"Going Home, Staying Home" reforms:** received 20 November 2014, 115 boxes public, 102 boxes privileged.

### *Disputed claim of privilege*

- (1) **Byron Central Hospital and Maitland Hospital:** On 17 November 2014, the Clerk received written correspondence from Mr Secord disputing the validity of a claim of privilege relating to documents concerning Byron Central Hospital and Maitland Hospital. According to standing order, the disputed documents were released to an Independent Legal Arbiter, the Honourable Keith Mason AC QC, for evaluation and report.

## Petitions

### *Petitions received*

- (1) Blue Mountains septic pump out scheme – 119 signatures (presented Ms Westwood)
- (2) Taxi transport subsidy cap for people with disability – 126 signatures (presented Ms Barham)
- (3) Irregular petition – Save the Forensic Analytical Science Service Food Testing Laboratory – 1,535 signatures (presented Mr Secord). Government's response due: Tuesday 23 December 2014.
- (4) Granville peak hour train services – 451 signatures (presented Ms Voltz)
- (5) Cuts to health services and medicare co-payment – 797 signatures (presented Mr Whan)
- (6) Taxi transport subsidy cap for people with disability – 28 signatures (presented Ms Barham)
- (7) Peak train services to Lake Macquarie stations – 231 signatures (presented Ms Voltz)
- (8) Domestic violence refuges – 384 signatures (presented Ms Voltz).

## Reports tabled

### **Auditor-General:**

- (1) Financial Audit report, Volume Seven 2014, focusing on Transport, dated November 2014.
- (2) Financial Audit report of the Auditor-General, Volume Eight 2014, focusing on Police and Justice (Law, Order and Emergency Services), dated November 2014.

### **Parliament of NSW Departments:**

- (1) Annual report of the Department of the Legislative Council for year ended 30 June 2014.
- (2) Annual report of the Department of Parliamentary Services for year ended 30 June 2014.
- (3) Parliament of New South Wales—Financial Performance 2013-2014.

**Police Integrity Commission:** "Montecristo Report 2014", volumes 1 and 2, dated November 2014.

## Committee activities

**Note:** Committee activities includes committee references, reports tabled, debate on committee reports, government responses received and any other significant committee activity in the House. Committee activity as part of a current inquiry is summarised in the following section entitled 'Inquiry activities'.

### *Committee membership*

**Select Committee on the conduct and progress of the Ombudsman's inquiry "Operation Prospect":** The Leader of the Opposition nominated Mr Searle and Ms Voltz as the opposition members on the committee, and the Leader of the Government nominated Mr Blair, Mr Khan, and Mrs Maclaren-Jones as government members on the committee.

### *Extension of reporting date*

**Select Committee on home schooling:** Extension of reporting date to Friday 19 December 2014.

### *Committee reports tabled*

**Privileges Committee:** "Citizen's Right of Reply (Professor Richard Henry)", dated November 2014. On Wednesday 19 November 2014 the tabled report was adopted and the response of Professor Richard Henry was incorporated in Hansard.

**Legislation Review Committee:** "Legislation Review Digest No. 66/55 of 2013", dated 18 November 2014.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2:** Report No. 42 entitled "Budget Estimates 2014-2015", dated November 2014.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4:** Report No. 29 entitled "Budget Estimates 2014-2015", dated November 2014.

**Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission:** Report No. 5/55 entitled "The promotion of false and misleading health-related information and practices", dated November 2014.

### *Committee reports debated*

**Standing Committee on Social Issues:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 48 entitled "Strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people in New South Wales", dated December 2013.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 39 entitled "Budget Estimates 2013-2014", dated December 2013.

**Procedure Committee:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 8 entitled "Deadlines for government bills—Regulation of the consumption of alcohol by members during sitting hours—Government responses to petitions", dated March 2014.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 29 entitled "Removing or reducing station access fees at Sydney Airport", dated February 2014.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 30 entitled "Tourism in local communities", dated March 2014.

**Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe):** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 3/55 entitled "Report on non-registered motorized vehicles", dated March 2014.

**Select Committee on greyhound racing in New South Wales:** The House continued the take-note debate on the First Report entitled "Greyhound Racing in New South Wales: First Report", dated March 2014.

## Inquiry activities

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1**

*Review of the inquiry into allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW*

The committee intends to table its report by 11 December 2014.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4**

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

The committee is in the process of analysing the evidence received, with the intention of reporting in mid-February 2015.

### **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 251 submissions and held three public hearings in Sydney, Lismore and Newcastle. The committee will hold its final hearing on 24 November in Sydney.

### **Inquiry into Budget Estimates**

General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 held a supplementary hearing into the portfolio of Trade and Investment on 20 November 2014.

### **Select Committee on home schooling**

The committee will continue the process of finalising its report next week, with a view to tabling the report in early December.

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

The committee has received 364 submissions and conducted a site visit and public hearing in Newcastle on 7 November. A second public hearing and a public forum was held in Newcastle on 21 November, with a third and final hearing in Sydney on 24 November 2014. The committee has resolved to produce an interim report by 19 December 2014.

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

Following public hearings in Sydney and Queanbeyan on 14 and 17 November respectively, the committee is now seeking to bring forward its report in order to have it tabled before Christmas.

### **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.

### **Select Committee on the supply and cost of gas and liquid fuels in NSW**

The committee has called for submissions, with a closing date of 30 December 2014. The committee is in the process of planning for a number of hearings and site visits in December 2014.

## **Adjournment debate**

### **Tuesday 9 September 2014**

Conscience Votes (Mr Khan); Workers Compensation Scheme (Mr Primrose); Organised Crime (Dr Kaye); Queanbeyan Public Housing and Captains Flat Bridge (Mr Whan); Parliamentary Year 2014 (Mr Green); Oxley Electorate Events (Mrs Pavey).

### **Wednesday 10 September 2014**

Message of Christmas (Revd Mr Nile); Parliamentary Career of the Hon. Melinda Pavey (Mrs Pavey); Women in Parliament (Ms Westwood); Lottery Ticket Sales (Mr Veitch); Eden Woodchip Mill (Mr Shoebridge); Independent Commission Against Corruption (Mr Pearce);

### **Thursday 11 September 2014**

Shooters and Fishers Party (Mr Borsak); European Union Relations (Miss Gardiner); Aboriginal Land Claims (Ms Barham); Blue Mountains Local Government By-elections (Mr Searle); Water and Native Vegetation Reforms (Mr MacDonald); The Hon. Amanda Fazio Last Speech (Ms Fazio); Tribute to Ann Hill (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](mailto:stephen.frappell@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments