

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## *HOUSE IN REVIEW*



Volume 56/12

*Sitting period*  
27 to 29 October 2015



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 sitting week was again dominated by consideration of significant government bills. On Tuesday, the House debated and ultimately passed the Strata Schemes Development Bill and Strata Schemes Management Bill, with amendments from the Christian Democratic Party agreed to. Their passage facilitates the management and redevelopment of strata schemes, and a strata scheme can now potentially be redeveloped with the support of 75 percent of lot owners.

On Wednesday the House passed legislation which implemented the Government's response to the danger of loose fill asbestos insulation in homes. The passage of the legislation means that the Government may buy back properties with loose fill asbestos insulation at full market price, and affected homeowners have concessional stamp duty for any replacement house they may buy.

Other legislation debated in the House this week included the Criminal Procedure Amendment (Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot) Bill 2015 and the Terrorism (Police Powers) Amendment Bill 2015.

In total, the House debated 13 bills this week, and finalised 12.

The cut-off date for the introduction of government bills in this sitting period passed yesterday. Going into the final sitting weeks for 2015 there are nine government bills on the Legislative Council Notice Paper.

The House next sits on Tuesday 10 November 2015.

### Government business

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

#### **Strata Schemes Development Bill 2015 and cognate Strata Schemes Management Bill 2015**

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bills re-enact, with changes, provisions of the Strata Schemes (Freehold Development) Act 1973, Strata Schemes (Leasehold Development) Act 1986, and the Strata Schemes Management Act 1996, to provide for

subdivision of land, including buildings, into cubic spaces, to introduce certain provisions concerning how lots and common property in strata schemes may be dealt with, the management of strata schemes, and the resolution of disputes in connection with strata schemes. The most significant change in the Strata Schemes Development Bill 2015 concerns collective decisions regarding building sales, capital works and scheme renewal, which provide that only 75 per cent of lot owners will need to agree to make a decision in these areas, for example redeveloping a site. The aim of the Strata Schemes Management Bill 2015 is to balance the capacity of schemes to make decisions with safeguards against unfair practices.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 27 October 2015 from 21 October 2015 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate).

The Greens did not oppose the Strata Schemes Management Bill 2015, noting that it contains some positive measures. However, The Greens foreshadowed amendments to strengthen the rights of tenants. In contrast, The Greens opposed the Strata Schemes Development Bill 2015, and argued that while reform is needed, the bill takes away the property rights of strata lot owners, without guaranteeing that a person who is forcibly evicted from their home will be sufficiently compensated to buy into the replacement strata.

In reply, the Minister (Mr Ajaka) noted that the current strata laws are outdated, and that the Government's reforms were developed after extensive community and industry consultation.

The second reading of the Strata Schemes Management Bill 2015 was agreed to. The second reading of the Strata Schemes Development Bill was agreed to on division (20:15).

In the committee stage of the Strata Schemes Management Bill 2015, amendments were moved by The Greens, The Shooters and Fishers Party and the Christian Democratic Party. The Greens moved amendments to extend the representations of tenants on strata committees, which while supported by the Opposition were negated. The Greens also moved

amendments in relation to building defects, which again were supported by the Opposition but were negatived (Division: 16:21). The Christian Democratic Party moved two amendments in relation to a strata committee appointing a strata manager, which were not opposed and agreed to. The Shooters and Fishers Party moved an amendment to extend the term of appointment of a strata managing agent for a maximum period of three months if the owner corporation decide not to reappoint the agent. The amendment was agreed to.

In the committee stage of the Strata Schemes Development Bill 2015, the Opposition moved two amendments. The first provided that all lot owners need to agree to a strata renewal plan. While supported by The Greens, the amendment was negatived (Division: 16:19). The second amendment required 75 per cent of an owners corporation to decide, by special resolution, that a strata renewal proposal warrants further investigation, rather than the bill's requirement for 50 per cent. Again this was negatived. The Greens moved 17 amendments, all related to the strata renewal provisions of the bill. These amendments did not gain the support of other parties and were all negatived.

The Christian Democratic Party moved three amendments, including that a strata renewal plan must include a full and frank statement by the proposed purchaser or developer of their intended use of the strata parcel. The other two amendments related to information about a renewal strata scheme including information about the building's value 'at its highest and best use'. The amendments were agreed to.

The bills were reported to the House with amendments, read a third time and returned to the Assembly. On 28 October 2015 the House received a message advising that the Assembly had agreed to the Council's amendments to the bills.

### **Treasury Corporation Amendment Bill 2015 and cognate Superannuation Administration Amendment (Investment Management and Other Matters) Bill 2015 and State Insurance and Care Governance Amendment (Investment Management) Bill 2015**

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The Treasury Corporation Amendment Bill 2015 strengthens governance provisions of the Treasury Corporation, including: enabling the Treasurer to appoint persons as directors of the Board and as the Chief Executive of the Corporation; enabling up to two additional persons to be appointed as directors; and requiring the Corporation to comply with any prudential standards or reporting or auditing requirements as provided by the Minister.

The Superannuation Administration Amendment (Investment Management and Other Matters) Bill 2015 amongst other things permits the Treasurer to determine the requirements for appointing investment managers, and allows the Treasurer to waive the need for State Super to seek consent for such appointments. Currently all investment manager appointments, - and State Super

has more than 60 different investment managers - require Ministerial consent.

The State Insurance and Care Governance Amendment (Investment Management) Bill 2015 enables the Treasurer to require the appointment of an investment manager to provide investment management services to certain workers compensation, motor accidents and sporting injuries scheme funds.

*Proceedings:* The bills were introduced on 21 October 2015 and read a first time. Debate on the second read of the bill commenced on 28 October 2015. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Blair) was incorporated in Hansard. In that speech, the Minister noted that in June 2015 the Government finished a four-year project to amalgamate the State's key funds management activities in the New South Wales Treasury Corporation - TCorp. With now some \$70 billion under management, the Minister noted the importance of strengthened governance arrangements at TCorp as provided for in the Treasury Corporation Amendment Bill 2015. Together with the cognate bills, the amendments will ensure that TCorp, State Super and Insurance and Care NSW will be able to get the most out of the new arrangements, save taxpayers money and help TCorp to earn higher investment returns.

The Opposition did not oppose the bills, noting that the bills will make sensible and prudent changes to improve governance arrangements for the State's key managed funds. The Greens, while not opposing the bills, argued that the bills opened up the possibility of the politicisation of the appointment of board members.

The second and third readings of the bills were agreed to and the bills were returned returned to the Legislative Assembly.

### **Home Building and Duties Amendment (Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Affected Premises) Bill 2015**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Home Building Act 1989* to provide a register of residential premises containing loose-fill asbestos insulation and to require warning signs to be displayed at premises that are included on the register. The bill also provides for stamp duty concession for homeowners who need to purchase a new property that are acquired by an authority of the State because they contain loose-fill asbestos insulation.

*Proceedings:* The bill was introduced, read a first time and printed on 28 October 2015. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced immediately. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr MacDonald) stated that the bill provides the legislative framework to implement the Government's loose-fill asbestos insulation policy. This includes a voluntary purchase and demolition program, the creation of a register of affected properties and mandatory warning signs on those properties and a stamp duty concession.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, however it did ask the Government to update the House on its progress implementing the recommendations of the Joint Select

Committee on Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation. The Greens supported the bill, and noted that the Government's commitment to buy back affected properties at full market price, as though there was no loose-fill asbestos insulation in them, is to be commended. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, noting the assistance that affected homeowners could access.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

In committee the Opposition moved one amendment - to include white asbestos, 'chrysotile', within the definition of the bill. While supported by The Greens, the amendment was negatived (13:18).

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

### **Terrorism (Police Powers) Amendment Bill 2015 and cognate Bail Amendment Bill 2015**

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The Terrorism (Police Powers) Amendment Bill 2015 extends the preventative detention orders scheme for a further three years, and removes covert search powers from the NSW Crime Commission.

The Bail Amendment Bill 2015 responds to the Review of the Bail Act 2013, the 'Bail—Additional show cause offences' report and the joint New South Wales-Commonwealth review of the Martin Place Siege. It introduces provisions that allow for links to or support for terrorist organisations, acts and violent extremism to be taken into account when making bail decisions. It also requires bail to be refused, unless an exceptional circumstances test is met, for persons who have links to terrorism and are accused of an offence carrying a custodial penalty.

*Proceedings:* The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 22 October 2015 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bills commenced on 27 October 2015. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) incorporated his second reading speech into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the bills aim to ensure that the counterterrorism frameworks remain robust, and that agencies are able to effectively respond to terror threats, imminent activity or terrorist acts. The Parliamentary Secretary argued that strong safeguards, oversight and accountability mechanisms remain in place to balance protecting the rights of people against the heightened security threat to the community. The Parliamentary Secretary stated that links to terrorism are relevant to assessing bail and the unacceptable risk test, and that the new threshold is in keeping with community expectations.

The Opposition did not oppose the bills. The Opposition supported the object of the Terrorism (Police Powers) Amendment Bill 2015, noting the proximity of the end of the preventative detention orders scheme. The Opposition was critical of the approach of the Government to bail law reform, arguing that changes to the Bail Act have had no effect on bail refusal rates, that the response of the Government has been too slow, and that some of the provisions of the Bail Amendment

Bill 2015 are already covered by other provisions of the Bail Act 2013.

The Greens opposed the bills, arguing that they threaten essential civil liberties, reintroduce failed provisions from previous bail laws and are indicative of a flawed criminal justice debate in New South Wales. While The Greens supported the removal of the NSW Crime Commission's covert search warrant authority, they stated that the main object of the bills attacked the right to liberty and the presumption of innocence.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bills, arguing that they protected the rights and freedoms of citizens and addressed the need to respond to recent events and the realities of current society.

The second (Division 30:6) and third reading of the bills were agreed to and the bills returned to the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2015**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill makes minor amendments to various Acts, amends certain other Acts and instruments for the purpose of effecting statute law revision, makes minor amendments to various Acts and instruments consequent on the enactment of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*, and makes other provisions of a consequential or ancillary nature.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 27 October 2015 from 21 October 2015 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition and the Greens supported the bill, although The Greens foreshadowed certain amendments in committee. It is the tradition with such bills that where any parties are concerned about any of the provisions in such bills, those provisions are removed from the bill by the Government for consideration in a separate bill.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Government moved two amendments to the bill at the request of The Greens to remove provisions relating to advertising by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal and provisions changing the registration requirements for trainers of combat sport combatants. The amendments were agreed to.

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

### **Occupational Licensing National Law Repeal Bill 2015 and cognate Regulatory Reform and other Legislative Repeals Bill 2015**

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The Occupational Licensing National Law Repeal Bill 2015 gives effect to the decision of the Council of Australian Governments to terminate the national occupational licensing system by repealing the Occupational Licensing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2010. The Mutual Recognition (Automatic Licensed

Occupations Recognition) Act 2014 has been enacted in New South Wales to provide for the automatic mutual recognition of certain occupational licences issued in other jurisdictions.

The Regulatory Reform and other Legislative Repeals Bill 2015 repeals a number of Acts as well as numerous provisions and schedules of other Acts. For example, it repeals the *Valuers Act 2003* which abolishes the requirement for persons practising as property valuers in NSW to be registered, it repeals the *Internal Audit Bureau Act 1992* which dissolves the Internal Audit Bureau, and it repeals the *West Scholarships Act 1930* which dissolves the trust administered under that Act.

*Proceedings:* The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 28 October 2015 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bills commenced later that day. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Colless) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the Regulatory Reform and other Legislative Repeals Bill 2015 will repeal 30 Acts, and that it is part of the Government's commitment to removing and reducing unnecessary, counterproductive and burdensome requirements as well as redundant legislation.

The Opposition did not oppose the bills, noting that they repeal spent Acts and provisions, but contesting the proposition by the Government that the bills represent a significant leap forward in the regulation of the state. The Greens also did not oppose the bills, but raised concerns about the removal of the requirement for persons practising as property valuers in New South Wales to be registered, together with the proposal to abolish the Internal Audit Bureau. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bills.

The second and third readings of the bills were agreed to and the bills were returned to the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### **Criminal Procedure Amendment (Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot) Bill 2015**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill introduces a pilot scheme in District Courts for criminal proceedings concerning prescribed sexual offences to allow children to pre-record evidence before a jury has been empanelled, and for this evidence to be given with assistance from an appropriately trained and accredited specialist known as a children's champion whose role is to facilitate and promote clear and accurate testimony.

*Proceedings:* The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 27 October 2015 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the following day. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) incorporated his second reading speech into Hansard. In that speech the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the provisions of the bill seek to minimise the impact of the criminal justice process on child sexual assault victims, and to support children better throughout the court process. The bill is in response to recommendations by the Joint Select Committee on sentencing of child sexual

assault offenders, the Ombudsman and the Child Sexual Assault Task Force. The Parliamentary Secretary argued that the bill will ensure that children are not re-traumatised by court proceedings, without compromising a fair trial.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, but argued that the Government needed to make the regulations concerning the practices of the pilot program available as soon as possible. The Opposition noted that the pilot scheme was a bipartisan recommendation of the Joint Select Committee on sentencing of child sexual assault offenders, and called on the Government to implement the other recommendations of the Committee.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, stating that the pilot was a good start to providing a safer and more secure environment for children to give evidence in court.

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

### **Data Sharing (Government Sector) Bill 2015**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill facilitates the sharing of government sector data within government, including with the NSW Government Data Analytics Centre; enables the Minister to require government sector agencies to share government data with the Data Analytics Centre; enables the Minister to obtain information for the DAC from government agencies; and specifies safeguards to be complied with by government agencies in connection with data sharing under the bill.

*Proceedings:* Leave was granted to bring on the bill on 28 October 2015. The bill was presented, read a first time and printed. The second reading of the bill commenced immediately. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Ajaka) noted that in the digital economy, data is the foundation of evidence-based policy and provides the basis for the development of effective tailored services to the community. Currently government departments and agencies collect and retain data, however there is no requirement to share data with other departments or agencies that will inform more efficient strategic decision-making. This bill remedies this siloed approach.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

*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) Privacy and Personal Information Protection Amendment (Exemptions Consolidation) Bill 2015.
- (2) Greater Sydney Commission Bill 2015.
- (3) Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment Bill 2015.
- (4) State Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

- (5) Firearms and Weapons Prohibition Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and cognate Security Industry Amendment (Regulation of Training Organisations) Bill 2015.

### 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.

#### Motions

#### Mr George Bender (Mr Buckingham, The Greens)

*Summary:* The motion expressed the condolences of the House to the family of Mr George Bender, a farmer from the Chinchilla District who recently passed away. Mr Bender actively opposed the construction of coal seam gas wells on his farm. The House noted the Bender family's statement, which outlined the impact of coal seam gas mining to the wellbeing of Mr Bender and his property, and called on the community to continue his campaign in his memory. The motion also called on the Government to give landholders the right to say no to coal and coal seam gas exploration and mining on their land.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the motion commenced on 28 October 2015 after standing and sessional orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. Speaking to his motion, Mr Buckingham stated that the Bender family has called on parliaments and politicians to take immediate action on the issues which cost Mr Bender his life, by providing land owners the right to determine what happens on their property. Mr Buckingham argued that the House should take note of the legacy Mr Bender has left the nation concerning coal seam gas.

The Government supported paragraphs 1 and 2 of the motion, acknowledging the contribution Mr Bender made to his community and the country, and the impact his death has had on his family. The Government did not support paragraph 3 concerning landholders and coal seam gas exploration, and moved an amendment to omit the paragraph from the motion, stating that it was a political statement on a policy issue that is currently being considered by the Government.

The Opposition also supported paragraphs 1 and 2 of the motion, paying their respects to Mr Bender and his struggle concerning coal seam gas and extending their condolences to the Bender family. However, the Opposition also argued that debate on the issue of land rights and coal seam gas mining should occur at another time and supported the amendment of the Government to omit paragraph 3 of the motion.

The Christian Democratic Party also spoke in support of the motion.

In reply, Mr Buckingham acknowledged the mood of the House in supporting the motion concerning Mr Bender, and agreed to the removal of paragraph 3 in this instance.

The amendment of the Government was agreed to on the voices, and the House agreed to the motion as amended.

#### Flexible working arrangements (Mrs Houssos, Australian Labor Party)

*Summary:* The motion calls on the House to note the changing nature of work in many industries and workplaces and the manner in which the trade union movement has championed the concept of a work-life balance. The motion also calls on the House to recognise the importance of flexible working arrangements in allowing workers to attain a work-life balance and to encourage the public and private sectors to make increasing use of these arrangements.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the motion resumed on 29 October from 22 October 2015 (see the previous editions of *House in Review* for earlier debates). The House resolved to extend debate for 30 minutes to allow members to speak to the motion, and at the conclusion of that extension a second motion was agreed to extend debate for a further 45 minutes.

Opposition and Government members spoke in support of the motion, discussing a range of issues concerning flexible working arrangements and reflecting on their own workplace experiences and the importance of a work life balance.

Members acknowledged that flexibility in working arrangements is increasingly viewed as an issue for female and male workers, and is a welcome change from the situation faced by women in previous generations who faced rigid workplace arrangements.

Members also highlighted the range of benefits flexibility can have for employees and their families, employers, the community, and the country's social and economic systems. The value of flexible working arrangements for families with special needs and students was also noted, members stating that the availability of workplace options was the difference between workforce participation or exclusion.

Concerns were raised over poorly managed or exploitative work practices being labelled as flexible. Members acknowledged that certain industries had unique challenges in adopting flexible working arrangements, and stated that Australia should aim to lead the world with high standards and benchmarks.

Speaking in reply Mrs Houssos promoted the adoption of best practice across public and private workplaces, stating that it is important to understand the mutual benefits of flexible working arrangements for employees and employers, and acknowledged the important role of childcare workers in supporting flexible working arrangements.

The motion was agreed to by the House.

#### Health and hospital system (Mr Secord, Australian Labor Party)

*Summary:* The motion calls on the House to express concern over the Government's failure to properly resource and fund the health and hospital system, that this is having a detrimental impact on emergency

departments and increasing patient waiting times, and notes the impact this has on the community and health workers.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the motion commenced on 29 October 2015. In speaking to the motion, Mr Secord argued that there is currently a crisis in the New South Wales health and hospital system, that the system lacks adequate resources and funding, and that the current funding objectives of the Government are detrimental to the hospital system. Mr Secord stated that a wide range of services are being underfunded, essential staffing positions are being cut, minimum standards have been redefined to allow hospitals to meet lower standards, and that waiting times are unacceptable. Mr Secord concluded by calling for a progressive increase in the Medicare levy to 4 per cent to help fund increasing health care costs. Opposition members spoke in support of the motion arguing that the health system is failing under increasing pressure, and that poor performance is not a consequence of poor quality staff but a lack of funding and resources.

The Government opposed the motion, criticising the Opposition for showing a lack of understanding regarding the history of health care decision-making in New South Wales, and stating that since coming to Government the Liberal-National coalition has significantly increased recurrent funding, delivered on a substantial number of new infrastructure and re-development projects, and is leading the nation in the efficient delivery of quality health care and improved clinical benchmarks. Minister Ajaka and Mrs Mitchell, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health and Western NSW, argued that the current health care figures show real improvements in the health and hospital system for both metropolitan and rural and regional areas, and that the current level of investment in health infrastructure, technology and staffing is benefiting the community, the economy, and the health and hospital system.

Debate on the motion was interrupted for Questions. Following Questions debate resumed and was interrupted for the adjournment of the House.

#### *Motions taken as formal business*

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

- (1) Newcastle Meals on Wheels (Mr MacDonald).
- (2) New England North West Business Awards (Mr MacDonald).
- (3) NSW Young Regional Artist Scholarship program (Mr Franklin).
- (4) Wallabies 2015 Rugby World Cup campaign (Mr Colless).
- (5) New South Wales tourism industry (Ms Barham).
- (6) Central Coast Rugby Sevens (Mr MacDonald).
- (7) Bright Lights Performance School (Mr Franklin).

## Petitions

### *Petitions received*

- (1) Aboriginal fishing rights – 29 signatures (presented Ms Barham).
- (2) Crown and public land management – 200 signatures (presented Mr Shoebridge).
- (3) International trafficking and harvesting of human organs – 44,986 signatures (presented Mr Shoebridge).

## Reports tabled

**Ombudsman:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2015.

**Police Integrity Commission:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2015.

**Office of the Children's Guardian:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2015.

### **NSW Child Death Review Team:**

- (1) Annual report for year ended 31 December 2014.
- (2) Report entitled "A scan of childhood injury and disease prevention infrastructure in NSW", dated October 2015.

**Inspector of the New South Wales Crime Commission:** Annual report for year ended 30 June 2015.

## Committee activities

### *Committee reports tabled*

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 9/56', dated 27 October 2015.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3:** Report No. 32 entitled 'Registered nurses in New South Wales nursing homes', dated October 2015.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6:** Report No. 1 entitled 'Local Government in New South Wales', dated October 2015.

### *Committee reports debated*

**Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region:** The House concluded the take-note debate on the Final Report entitled 'The planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region', dated March 2015.

**Select Committee on the leasing of electricity Infrastructure:** The House concluded the take-note debate on the report entitled 'Leasing of electricity infrastructure', dated June 2015.

**Joint Select Committee on companion animal breeding practices in New South Wales:** The House concluded the take-note debate on the report entitled 'Inquiry into companion animal breeding practices in New South Wales', dated August 2015.

**Select Committee on the closure of public schools in New South Wales:** The House concluded the take-note

debate on the report entitled 'The closure of public schools in New South Wales', dated October 2015.

## **Inquiry activities**

### **Select Committee on the Legislative Council committee system**

An issues paper is being prepared before the committee calls for submissions in November.

### **Law and Justice Committee**

*Inquiry into the security classification and management of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment*

The committee has received 27 submissions and will hold public hearings in Sydney on 23 and 27 November 2015.

### **State Development Committee**

*Inquiry into economic development in Aboriginal communities*

The committee has received 11 submissions and extended the submission closing date to 14 February 2016. The committee anticipates holding hearings and site visits in the first half of 2016.

*Regional planning processes in NSW*

The closing date for submissions is 11 December 2015. The committee anticipates holding hearings from March 2016.

### **Social Issues Committee**

*Inquiry into service coordination in communities with high social needs*

The committee will visit Bourke on 5 November 2015 and hold a public hearing in Sydney on 6 November 2015.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

*Inquiry into elder abuse in New South Wales*

The closing date for submissions is 15 November 2015. The committee will hold its first public hearing in Sydney on 20 November 2015.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

*Inquiry into reparations for the stolen generations in New South Wales*

The committee will hold its first public hearing in Sydney on 5 November and visit Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga on 6 November 2015.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No 6**

*Inquiry into vocational education and training in New South Wales*

The committee will visit Dubbo on 3 November and hold its final public hearing in Sydney on 9 November 2015. The committee will table its report on 15 December 2015.

## **Adjournment debate**

### **Tuesday 27 October 2015**

Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health (Mrs Mitchell); Pregnancy and return to work (Mr Searle); Tribute to Bob Shaw (Mr Brown); Mental Health Month (Mr Farlow); Racial Discrimination Act (Mr Wong); United Nations Climate Conference (Mr Buckingham).

### **Wednesday 28 October 2015**

Education infrastructure (Mr Primrose); Global Climate Change Week (Dr Faruqi); Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative (Mr Pearce); Oxi Day (Mrs Houssos); Ultimo Primary School (Mr Green); North Coast Shark Strategy (Mr Franklin); World Health Organization (Dr Phelps).

### **Thursday 29 October 2015**

Kangaroo March (Mr Amato); Electoral Commission investigation (Ms Voltz); Safe Schools Coalition Australia program (Revd Mr Nile); Paris Climate Change Conference (Dr Kaye); Immigration policy (Mr Clarke); Culturally and linguistically diverse communities health services (Ms Cotsis).

## **Feedback on *House in Review***

We welcome any comments you might have on this publication.

We are particularly keen to know which parts of the *House in Review* you find most useful and whether you have any suggestions for improvement. Please email your comments to [stephen.frappell@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.frappell@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



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