

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 56/14

Sitting period
17 to 19 November 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 or contact the Procedure Office on (02) 9230 2431. To be placed on the email distribution list of the *House in Review*, please contact us on council@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Overview

This the last sitting week of the year saw the House pass eight Government bills, four of which were declared urgent to allow them to pass through all stages before the Christmas break. As a result, there are no Government bills that will be sitting on the Notice Paper over the summer recess.

Among the bills passed by the House was the Payroll Tax Deferral (BlueScope Steel) Bill, which forms part of the overall efforts by the Government, local members, management, workers and the unions to secure the on-going viability of the Port Kembla steelworks. Other bills dealt with a range of subjects including betting tax, privacy and conveyancing.

This week also saw the House take time to reflect on the spate of recent terror attacks across the world, firstly through a Ministerial statement on the first sitting day of the week and subsequently through a substantive debate on the last sitting day.

The House now stands adjourned until the first sitting of next year – Tuesday 23 February 2016.

Ministerial statement – terrorist attacks in Paris and elsewhere

On 17 November 2015 the Leader of the Government made a statement which condemned the recent terror attacks and noted the particular bond between France and Australia. The Leader of the Opposition also made a statement in similar terms.

On the final sitting day, the House debated a substantive motion regarding recent terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut and Baghdad.

Order for papers – Greyhound Racing NSW

On Wednesday 9 September 2015, the Legislative Council agreed to an order for the production of papers from Greyhound Racing NSW. No return was received. Correspondence from the Department of Premier and Cabinet received 14 September 2015 noted that Section 5 of the Greyhound Racing Act 2009 provides that Greyhound Racing NSW does not represent the Crown

and is not subject to direction or control by or on behalf of the government.

On Wednesday 18 November 2015, the President made a statement concerning the matter in the House, noting the seriousness of non-compliance with an order of the House, and indicating that the Clerk, with his concurrence, had sought advice from Mr Bret Walker SC on some of the legal issues raised by this matter. The President then tabled the advice of Mr Walker, received that morning.

In his advice, Mr Walker gave his opinion that bodies with public functions, such as Greyhound Racing NSW, are amendable to order for papers addressed to them directly by the Council, and are compelled to comply with such an order. Failure to do so would result in the responsible officer being in contempt of Parliament.

The following day, Dr Kaye gave notice of a motion reaffirming the original 9 September 2015 order for papers and ordering that the Clerk communicate the terms of the order for papers directly to the Chief Executive Officer of Greyhound Racing NSW. The matter will be considered further by the House when it sits again in 2016.

Seasonal felicitations

On Thursday 19 November 2015, the Leader of the Government in the House (Mr Gay) moved a motion to thank all members and staff of the Parliament for their work in 2015. The motion was agreed to following contributions from a number of members, including the President.

Government business

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

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Amendment (Exemptions Consolidation) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: Section 41 of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988* allows the Privacy Commissioner, with

the approval of the Attorney General, to make a written direction that a public sector agency is not required to comply with obligations under the Act where the public interest in requiring the relevant agency to comply is outweighed by the public interest in making the direction. There are currently eleven of these public interest directions in force. The bill consolidates and rationalises these exemptions under the Act. The bill also allows public sector agencies to disclose personal information to interstate and commonwealth bodies for certain purposes and to collect, use and disclose such information for certain research purposes, and makes it clear that exemptions related to law enforcement and related matters extend to such matters in another State or Territory or the Commonwealth.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 17 November 2015. The majority of the second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech the Parliamentary Secretary said that the main changes were as recommended by the Law Reform Commission, and that the bill does not introduce any significant policy changes but aims to preserve the status quo in relation to the management of personal information by public sector agencies. He also indicated that, as requested by the Privacy Commissioner, the Government would move amendments related to trans-border disclosure provisions.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill and indicated it would support the Government's amendments to the bill. The Opposition acknowledged that the movement of long-term public interest directions into statute was recommended by the Law Reform Commission, but noted that the LRC also recommended mandatory reporting to the Privacy Commissioner of serious breaches of privacy protection principles, yet this was not included in the bill.

The Greens did not oppose the bill, and stated that they supported the direction in which the Government was seeking to move privacy laws. The Greens noted that each of the provisions in the bill were supported by those stakeholders with whom they had consulted, and that the only criticism of the bill had been that it could have made further reforms. The Greens foreshadowed that they would seek to amend the bill in order to remedy the effect of the interpretation placed upon certain provisions in the Act by the former Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, noting that it reflected the request of the Privacy Commissioner and the report of the NSW Law Reform Commission.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Government amendments that require the express consent of an individual to the disclosure of their personal information outside NSW and remove reasonable belief that disclosure would lessen or prevent serious threat to public health or public safety as one of the grounds on which personal information may be disclosed were agreed to. The Greens sought to include a provision to clarify that the

new provisions of the bill were in addition to the requirements already contained in the Act. The Government opposed the amendment, arguing that it was unnecessary. The Greens amendment did not draw any support and was negated.

The bill was reported with the Government amendments, read a third time and returned to the Assembly. The following day the Assembly agreed to the amendments.

Conveyancing Amendment (Sunset Clauses) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill prevents developers from unreasonably rescinding off the plan contracts for residential lots under sunset clauses. A sunset clause allows either the vendor or purchaser to rescind and terminate their contractual obligations if the development is not completed by a specified date. A vendor who wishes to rescind an off the plan contract under a sunset clause must have the consent of the purchaser, or the Supreme Court must permit the rescission, or the rescission is otherwise permitted by regulations made under the Principal Act.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 17 November 2015. Having reached the Council after the cut-off date of 29 October 2015, the bill was declared urgent, allowing it to proceed through all stages forthwith. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Minister stated that the bill had been introduced on an urgent basis to counter the conduct of some developers using the sunset clause in off-the-plan contracts to disadvantage purchasers.

A feature of most off-the-plan contracts is the sunset clause, The Minister noted there has been an increased incidence of developers delaying projects until the sunset date is reached, so that they can then rescind the contract and resell the property, sometimes for hundreds of thousands of dollars more than originally sold. The legislation will be retrospective to the day on which the measures were announced by the Minister on 2 November 2015.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that the bill will help to resolve issues facing purchasers of off the plan property. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, and noted that it will protect property purchasers from unscrupulous developers. The Greens also supported the bill and its backdating to 2 November 2015.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Shooters and Fishers Party moved two amendments with the aim of tightening protections for purchasers. The Christian Democratic Party was supportive of the amendments, however the Government, Opposition and The Greens, while acknowledging the good faith in which they were proposed, opposed them. The amendments were negated.

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

Firearms and Weapons Prohibition Amendment Bill 2015 and cognate

Security Industry Amendment (Regulation of Training Organisations) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The Firearms and Weapons Prohibition Amendment Bill 2015 amends the *Firearms Act 1996*, *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* and *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* to give effect to the recommendations of the joint review of the Martin Place siege concerning the use, supply and manufacture of illegal firearms.

The Security Industry Amendment (Regulation of Training Organisations) Bill 2015 displaces the Commonwealth *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* to the extent that it would render inoperative State legislation concerning the oversight role of the NSW Police Force on security industry registered training organisations.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bills commenced on 17 November 2015. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr MacDonald) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the Firearms and Weapons Prohibition Amendment Bill 2015 sought to introduce a consistent approach across offences and penalties relating to illegal firearms. The Parliamentary Secretary argued that stolen, illegal and unregistered firearms pose a significant risk to the community and that the bill will deliver strict controls and strong penalties for illegal firearm possession and supply. The bill allows for the Commissioner of Police to consider spent convictions when approving applications for firearm licences, increases penalties for a range of firearm related offences, provides for new offences concerning stolen and defaced firearms or firearm parts, and restricts possession of firearm or weapon blueprints.

The Parliamentary Secretary noted that the Security Industry Amendment (Regulation of Training Organisations) Bill 2015 provides clarity to the powers of the NSW Police Force to regulate and audit registered training organisations that offer security industry training, and provide that in the security industry field State legislation has precedence over any national legislation.

The Opposition did not oppose the bills, but raised concerns over the provisions which allow spent convictions to be considered by the Commissioner of Police in determining firearm applications. The Opposition acknowledged the risk illegal firearms pose to public safety, and stated that highly trained security officers were critical to the frontline defence of the community at entertainment and sporting events.

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

Betting Tax Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill provides for the staged reduction over five years of the rates of wagering tax payable by

totalizator licensees so that the level of wagering tax payable in NSW is equivalent to that of Victoria. The bill also provides for a quarterly payment, equal to the funds created by the tax reductions, to be apportioned between Racing NSW, Harness Racing NSW and a Trust Fund for allocation to Greyhound Racing NSW at the direction of the Minister for Racing.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 18 November 2015 and read a first time. Having reached the Council after the cut-off date of 29 October 2015, the bill was declared urgent, allowing it to proceed through all stages forthwith. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech the Minister stated that the NSW racing industry provides enormous benefits to business and communities throughout the State and contributes more than \$3.3 billion a year to the economy. The Minister noted that at present the NSW Government's tax from each bet exceeds that of both Victoria and Queensland. The Minister also indicated that payments will be made to the Tax Reduction Trust Fund until such time as the current Special Commission of Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW is complete and the Government's response to that inquiry is finalised.

The Opposition supported the bill, stating that wagering tax parity with Victoria was a policy that it had taken to the 2015 election. The Opposition noted that its preference would have been for the bill to provide for parity to be reached sooner than 2020.

The Shooters and Fishers Party supported the overall bill but not the proposed apportionment percentage between the racing, harness racing and greyhound codes, which it argued did not accurately reflect their respective contributions. The Shooters and Fishers Party argued that the proposed percentages would effectively result in Racing NSW being subsidised by Greyhound Racing NSW, and foreshadowed an amendment to correct this imbalance.

The Greens opposed the bill on the grounds that it represented a significant on-going loss of public funds that was unlikely to result in any net gain in employment across the State.

The Animal Justice Party also opposed the bill, and argued that the State should not be captured by an industry which it argued was fundamentally flawed in terms of problem gambling and animal abuse. The Animal Justice Party foreshadowed that it would move an amendment to prohibit any payment out of the Trust Fund to Greyhound Racing NSW until after the Special Commission of Inquiry has reported.

The second reading was agreed to (Division 30:6), with the Greens and the Animal Justice Party voting against the motion.

In the committee stage, the Shooters and Fishers Party moved to reduce the percentage amount to be paid to Racing NSW from 77.3 percent to 65.3 per cent and increase the amount to be paid to Greyhound Racing NSW from 10 per cent to 22 per cent. The Christian Democratic Party sought to amend the amendment by halving the proposed decrease and increase. The Christian Democratic Party amendment was supported

by the Shooters and Fishers Party but nevertheless was negated (Division 4:31). The Shooters and Fishers Party amendment was then also negated on the voices. The Animal Justice Party amendment regarding payments out of the Tax Reduction Trust Fund to Greyhound Racing NSW, despite drawing the support of the Greens and the Opposition, was also negated (Division 16:21).

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

Payroll Tax Deferral (BlueScope Steel) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill establishes a new Act to implement the Government's announcement that BlueScope Steel will be provided with a structured deferral of payroll tax of up to \$60 million over three years through a deferred payment schedule, with the objective of assisting BlueScope Steel to secure its Port Kembla operations. Following the three-year deferral period, BlueScope will be required to repay its deferred payroll tax, plus its nominal payroll tax, over a period of ten years from 2020.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 18 November 2015 and read a first time. Having reached the Council after the cut-off date of 29 October 2015, the bill was declared urgent, allowing it to proceed through all stages forthwith.

The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Colless) commenced his second reading speech by acknowledging the hard work done by management, workers and unions to maintain the steelworks at Port Kembla, the closure of which would be devastating for the Illawarra region. The Parliamentary Secretary said that the targeted payroll deferral arrangement provided for in the bill will assist BlueScope to secure its Port Kembla operations. The Parliamentary Secretary emphasised that this was a one-off unique form of assistance.

The Opposition supported the bill and also acknowledged those from both sides of politics who had worked towards ensuring the continuance of the steelworks. The Opposition paid tribute to the collective decision of those workers who will sacrifice their jobs so that many others at the steelworks could retain their positions.

The Christian Democratic Party also supported the bill, stating that the Port Kembla steelworks was an important piece of infrastructure that the region, State and country could not afford to lose.

The Greens also supported the bill but argued that the Government should implement a minimum 90 per cent local steel content requirement, which they argued would add only 0.2 per cent to the State's infrastructure bill. The Greens cautioned that notwithstanding the statements from the Government that the bill was a one-off arrangement, it would set a dangerous precedent and other manufacturers would inevitably seek similar treatment.

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

State Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill makes miscellaneous changes to various State revenue legislation. Of note, the bills extends existing exemptions from duty for transactions relating to amalgamations of registered clubs to also include de-amalgamations and related transfers of club premises and car parks.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 17 November 2015. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mrs Mitchell) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the bill introduces significant reform to the administration of fines and taxes by the Office of State Revenue.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, but argued that while it introduces sensible but minor amendments, it was not significant reform as claimed by the Government.

The Greens did not oppose the majority of the bill, noting that the bill made a number of sensible, non-controversial changes. However, the Greens were opposed to the extension of the duty exemption to de-amalgamations of registered clubs. The Greens argued that the process of amalgamation and de-amalgamation of registered clubs which incurs no loss of overall poker machine entitlements inevitably facilitates the concentration of poker machines in problem gambling areas. The Greens argued that the bill, by extending the duty exemption, removed the remaining, albeit minor, financial cost to this process, and foreshadowed that it would seek to remove this provision from the bill in the committee stage.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, stating that it did not believe that it would have the effect of causing a greater concentration of poker machines in vulnerable areas.

In the committee stage, the Greens amendment drew support from the Animal Justice Party only, and was negated (Division 6:31).

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

Gaming Machines Amendment (Centralised Monitoring System) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* to provide an improved system for the operation, management and licensing arrangements of the centralised monitoring system used for gaming machines in New South Wales, and to provide transitional arrangements between the current licensing period and the new licensing and management system when the current licence expires on 30 November 2016.

Proceedings: The bill was received on 18 November 2015 and declared urgent. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr MacDonald) incorporated his second reading speech into Hansard. In that speech the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the bill did not change the Government's

policy on harm minimisation or increase the number of gaming machines, but sought to implement reforms to the out-dated licencing arrangements of the centralised monitoring system (CMS) used for managing and monitoring gaming machines in New South Wales.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill stating that an efficient and productive CMS was essential to the integrity of electronic gaming machine management in New South Wales and the accurate collection of gaming taxes. Nonetheless, the Opposition argued that the service approval process which would become the responsibility of the Minister under the provisions of the bill needed to be more accountable and transparent, and foreshadowed that an amendment would be moved during the committee stage concerning this aspect of the bill.

The Greens did not oppose the bill stating that, despite mixing regulatory and commercial activities, the CMS did provide the Office of State Revenue and the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing the capacity to monitor gaming machines in New South Wales.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill stating that it sought to introduce a modernised system which would provide a more mature and transparent regulatory regime.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Opposition moved one amendment which required the approval for new CMS services to be published in the Government Gazette and tabled in Parliament, stating that the amendment would improve transparency and public access to information. The Government supported the amendment stating that it provided an appropriate balance between protecting private information and providing for a transparent and accountable approvals process. The Greens also supported the amendment, which 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.

On 19 November the House received a message advising that the Assembly had agreed to the Council's amendment to the bill.

Messages from the Assembly

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

Courts and Other Justice Portfolio Legislation Amendment Bill 2015: On 18 November 2015 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the Council's amendments to the bill.

Crimes Amendment (Off-road Fatal Accidents) Bill 2015: On 18 November 2015, the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill, which it was returning without amendment.

Fisheries Management Amendment Bill 2015: On 18 November 2015, the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill, which it was returning without amendment.

Data Sharing (Government Sector) Bill 2015: On 19 November 2015 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill, which it was returning without amendment.

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2015: On 19 November 2015 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the bill, which it was returning without amendment.

Government motion

Terrorist attacks in France, Lebanon and Iraq

Summary: The motion called on the House to express its deepest sympathies to the people of France, Lebanon and Iraq on the tragic losses suffered as a result of terrorist attacks in the second week of November 2015 and to convey to the French, Lebanese and Iraqi community that the people of New South Wales stand in solidarity with them during this difficult time.

Proceedings: The House agreed to the motion taking precedence on Thursday 19 November 2015. In speaking to the motion, Minister Ajaka said that as the death toll continues to mount from the attacks of the previous week in Paris, Beirut and Baghdad, he was sure that all members of the House and the people of NSW wished to express their deepest sympathies to the people of France, Lebanon and Iraq and other nations that have suffered recent terror attacks. While deploring the brutal indiscriminate nature of the attacks the Minister also reflected on the emerging stories of extraordinary courage and humanity on the part of individuals who were caught up in the attacks.

Members from the Government, Opposition, Christian Democratic Party, the Greens and the Shooters and Fishers Party spoke in support of the motion. Members' contributions reflected on the lives lost to terrorism throughout the world this year; the demonstrations of solidarity, resilience and defiance against terrorism that have occurred around the world in response to the attacks; and the importance of people not allowing these attacks to erode their acceptance of different cultures or faiths.

The motion was agreed to.

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.

Bill

Climate Change Bill 2015 (Ms Barham, The Greens)

Summary: The bill provides a framework for action on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the State; sets targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and provides for the monitoring and reporting of the impacts of climate change on people, communities and ecosystems in the State.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 19 November 2015 from 22 October 2015

(see Vol 56/11 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Government acknowledged the good intentions of the bill but opposed the bill nevertheless, arguing that it was impractical, unnecessary and would give rise to unintended consequences. The Government stated that it accepted the science of climate change and was in fact already doing much of what the bill seeks to do, including an ambitious energy savings target of 16,000 gigawatt hours by 2030 as part of its particular focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Debate was interrupted for Question Time.

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Veterans' Centre Sydney Northern Beaches (Mrs Maclaren-Jones).
- (2) 22nd Delphi Bank Greek Film Festival (Ms Cotsis).
- (3) 2015 'Screen it' competition (Mrs Maclaren-Jones).
- (4) Democracy in Burma (Dr Kaye).
- (5) Ms Judy Cassab (Ms Barham).
- (6) Egyptian cultural night and dinner (Mr Clarke).
- (7) Women's Community Shelters (Mrs Houssos).
- (8) Arrival of refugees (Dr Faruqi).
- (9) Sydney Police Centre ANZAC plaque dedication and unveiling service (Mr Clarke).
- (10) India Club Inc. Diwali Festival function (Mr Clarke).
- (11) Thank U NICU Day (Mrs Houssos).
- (12) 2015 Russian Resurrection Film Festival (Mr Clarke).
- (13) Pan-Macedonain Association of NSW Dimitria Festival celebration (Mrs Houssos).
- (14) 2015 Coptic New Year (Mr Clarke).
- (15) Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week (Ms Cotsis).
- (16) BaptistCare Services (Mr Amato).
- (17) Ms Sarah Hilt (Mr Amato).
- (18) Youth Action (Dr Faruqi).
- (19) HunterNet Future Leaders Program (Mr MacDonald).
- (20) Perinatal Depression and Anxiety Awareness Week (Mrs Houssos).
- (21) Byron Music Society (Mr Franklin).
- (22) Australian Chaldean League (Mr Clarke).

Orders for papers

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

Order made

- (1) **Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR) (Mr Searle):** The order relates to all minutes from meetings dealing with the monthly LMBR report to the Department of Education executive. Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business. The motion was agreed to (Division 18:15). Due: 9 December 2015.

Petitions

Petition received

- (1) Putrescible landfill – 2,975 signatures (presented Mrs Taylor).

Reports tabled

Parliamentary Ethics Adviser: Annual Report 2014-2015.

NSW Legislative Council: Annual Report, year ended 30 June 2015.

Department of Parliamentary Services: Annual Report, year ended 30 June 2015.

Parliament of New South Wales: Financial Audit Report, year ended 30 June 2015.

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 reference

Standing Committee on Law and Justice: The House referred to the committee an oversight role of the insurance and compensation schemes established under the New South Wales workers compensation and motor accidents legislation and the conduct of a statutory review of the State Revenue and Care Governance Act 2015.

Committee reports tabled

Legislation Review Committee: 'Legislation Review Digest No.11 of 2015', 17 November 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1: Report No. 43 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2015-2016', November 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2: Report No. 43 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2015-2016', November 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3: Report No. 33 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2015-2016', November 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4: Report No. 32 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2015-2016', November 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5: Report No. 42 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2015-2016', November 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6: Report No. 2 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2015-2016', November 2015.

Inquiry activities

Select Committee on the Legislative Council committee system

The committee recently published a discussion paper to assist stakeholders in making a submission. The closing date for submissions is 6 March 2016.

Law and Justice Committee

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

The committee has received 33 submissions and will hold a public hearing in Sydney on 23 November 2015.

Inquiry into remedies for the serious invasion of privacy in New South Wales

The committee has completed all hearings scheduled for this inquiry, with the final public hearing held in Sydney on Monday, 16 November 2015.

State Development Committee

Inquiry into economic development in Aboriginal communities

The committee has received 14 submissions and has 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 visited Bourke on 5 November 2015 and held its final public hearing in Sydney on 6 November 2015. The committee is now drafting its final report, which will be tabled by 11 December 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Inquiry into elder abuse in New South Wales

The committee has received over 50 submissions to date. The committee held its first public hearing in Sydney on 20 November 2015 and will hold further hearings in February and March 2016.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Inquiry into reparations for the stolen generations in New South Wales

The committee held its first public hearing in Sydney on 5 November and a hearing and site visit in Wagga Wagga on 6 November 2015. The committee will be having a public hearing and site visit in Kempsey and Grafton on 7 and 8 December 2015 and will conduct more Sydney and regional hearings in February and March 2016.

General Purpose Standing Committee No 6

Inquiry into vocational education and training in New South Wales

The committee has completed all of the hearings scheduled for this inquiry. The committee's final report is due to be tabled by 15 December 2015.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 17 November 2015

Marriage equality (Mr Khan); Port Stephens fishing industry (Mr Veitch); Snowy Mountains Trout Festival (Mr Brown); Multicultural and Indigenous Media Awards (Mr Moselmane); Surf Life Saving NSW (Mrs Maclaren-Jones).

Wednesday 18 November 2015

Retail trading laws (Mr Donnelly); Firearms registry (Mr Shoebridge); Freedom of speech (Rev'd Mr Nile); Women in Parliament (Ms Cusack); Violence against women (Mr Searle); Pray for Paris (Dr Phelps).

Thursday 19 November 2015

Opal card (Dr Faruqi); Christmas (Mr Franklin); Dell replacement policy (Mr Primrose); Education funding (Dr Kaye); University of Wollongong (Mr Pearce); Government performance (Ms Cotsis).

Feedback on *House in Review*

We welcome any comments you might have on this publication.

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

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments