

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



Volume 56/6

Sitting period
11 to 13 August 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

The first sitting week after the long adjournment was notable for the House's consideration of the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill and cognate State Insurance and Care Governance Bill. The House commenced its consideration of the bills at 4.00 pm on Wednesday and did not conclude until 12.40 am on Thursday. In the committee stages for the bills, the House considered 38 amendments, with the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill passing the House with one amendment, and the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill with nine amendments.

The House passed one other Government bill – the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment (Firearms Offences) Bill, and the Minister for Primary Industries introduced the Biosecurity Bill which was the second government bill to originate in the Council this Parliament.

On Thursday, traditionally private members' day, the House debated at some length the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Prohibit Coal Seam Gas) Bill, a bill to prohibit mining of coal seam gas in New South Wales. The bill was under the carriage of Mr Buckingham, a member of The Greens. Ultimately, the bill was defeated at the second reading.

Also of note, this week saw the tabling of a petition with 71,050 signatures. The petition concerned international trafficking and harvesting of human organs.

The House now stands adjourned until Tuesday 25 August 2015.

Death of former member

The President announced to the House the death on 17 June 2015, of the Honourable Bryan Henry Vaughan, a former member of the House from 1981 to 1999. Amongst other things, Mr Vaughan had served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and was the inaugural Chair of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice.

Members and officers of the House stood as a mark of respect.

Government business

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

Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2015 and cognate

State Insurance and Care Governance Bill 2015

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: In June 2012, Parliament passed the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill and cognate Safety, Return to Work and Support Board Bill which together implemented significant reforms to the workers compensation scheme in the State (see Volume 55/29 of *House of Review* for debate on the passage of those bills though the House).

The Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2015 makes a number of changes to the death benefits, weekly payments of compensation, medical and related expenses, return to work assistance, and lump sum compensation elements of the scheme. The changes primarily increase the amount of certain benefits payable to injured workers and relax some of the benefit limitations and eligibility thresholds that were established in 2012.

The State Insurance and Care Governance Bill 2015 establishes three new organisations to operate and regulate the State's insurance schemes and workplace safety. Insurance and Care NSW (ICNSW) will act for the Workers Compensation Nominal Insurer and provide services in relation to various insurance and compensation schemes, including the Workers Compensation Dust Diseases Board, which is to be replaced by a new Dust Diseases Authority. The State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) will generally take over the regulatory functions of the WorkCover Authority and the Motor Accidents Authority (both of which will be abolished). The work health and safety functions of the WorkCover Authority will be assumed by the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation to be referred to as *SafeWork NSW* for this purpose. The bill also abolishes the Safety, Return to

Work and Support Board, as a consequence of the establishment of the ICNSW.

Proceedings: The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 12 August 2015. The Opposition, the Greens and the Animal Justice Party signalled their dissatisfaction with the Government's apparent intention to have the bills pass through the House that day by taking the unusual (but not unprecedented) step of calling for a division on the procedural motion following the first reading of the bills. The procedural motion was nevertheless agreed to (Division 23:17).

The second reading of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Minister indicated that the bills honour the Government's election commitment to review the financial position of the workers compensation scheme. The speech argued that following the reforms introduced in 2012 when the scheme was in financial crisis, the Government was now in a position to return some of those funds to further support injured workers and to reward employees with an above average safety record with lower premiums. The speech further argued that the benefit enhancements contained in the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill are focussed on three objectives: supporting injured workers to recover and return to work, providing proper assistance to workers with the highest needs and making sure that any changes to benefits do not compromise the financial sustainability of the scheme. The Minister's speech argued that the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill brings about an overhaul of the governance of State Insurance and care schemes and provides a clear statutory and operational separation between the functions of providing government insurance services and the regulation of those services. The speech emphasised that the services currently provided by the Dust Diseases Board to workers with dust diseases and their families would not change under the new arrangements. The speech concluded that the bills were informed by recent parliamentary inquiries and statutory reviews into workers compensation and by extensive stakeholder consultation, and that the bills will provide for a system that is fair, sustainable and customer centric and which will offer the best protection for workers, employers, the community and the economy.

The Opposition supported the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill on the grounds that it was returning to injured workers some of the benefits that were removed by the 2012 reforms. However, the Opposition foreshadowed that it would seek to amend the bill in the committee stage to additionally return injured worker benefits as much as possible to pre-2012 reform levels. The Opposition did not support the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill, arguing that the functions of the current independent statutory authorities were being subsumed by the Executive and that placing these functions under direct ministerial control was inappropriate and dangerous. The Opposition foreshadowed that if the bill proceeded past the second reading stage, it would move amendments that would seek to retain the status quo with the Dust Diseases Board and with the current parliamentary oversight arrangements for State insurance and compensation schemes.

Under standing order 139, the Leader of the Opposition requested that when the House was asked to pass the cognate bills at the second and also at the third reading stage, that the question be put separately for the two bills.

The Greens adopted a similar position to that of the Opposition. The Greens welcomed the increases in worker benefits provided but argued that they needed to go much further, and they held serious concerns regarding direct ministerial control over compensation schemes. The Greens argued that the projected deficit for the scheme in 2012 was primarily due to the then global financial crisis and a resultant lower return on the scheme's investments and that the scheme's return to projected surplus simply reflected market corrections, and that there was no real justification for the 2012 reduction in worker benefits. Members of the Government rejected this argument, stating that it was foolhardy to rely solely on investment returns to fund the scheme and that the 2012 reforms were required to ensure the scheme was sustainable.

The Shooters and Fishers Party supported the Workers Compensation Amendment bill and noted that it was appropriate to increase benefits at a time when the financial security of the scheme has been assured. Like the Opposition and the Greens, the Shooters and Fishers Party also objected to the changes to the Dust Diseases Board proposed in the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill. The Shooters and Fishers Party also indicated that it would have preferred that the House had been given more time to consider the bills.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bills and said it was a priority to bring the increased benefits to injured workers swiftly. The Christian Democratic Party foreshadowed that it would seek to amend the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill to ensure continuing parliamentary committee oversight and to retain the Dust Diseases Board in some form.

The second reading of the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill was agreed to on the voices, while the second reading of the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill was agreed to on division (21:17).

In the committee stage of the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill, the Greens and the Opposition both moved a series of amendments that sought to return benefits and conditions to pre-2012 reform levels or to provide for independent reviews of work capacity decisions. All of the amendments drew the support of the Animal Justice Party, with the amendment to include a definition of what constitutes suitable employment also drawing support from the Shooters and Fishers party. However, all of the amendments were negated on divisions. The Christian Democratic Party successfully moved an amendment that ensured that the increase in death and funeral benefits was extended to police, paramedics and firefighters.

In the committee stage of the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill, the Opposition, the Shooters and Fishers Party and the Christian Democratic Party all circulated amendments that related to the supervision of insurance and compensation schemes by a parliamentary committee and to the retention of the Dust Diseases

Board. The Shooters and Fishers Party and the Opposition amendments sought to retain the Dust Diseases Board in its current form, while the Christian Democratic Party amendments sought to establish a new Dust Diseases Board. Ultimately, the Christian Democratic Party amendments were agreed to. The Christian Democratic Party amendments relating to parliamentary committee oversight of the compensation and insurance schemes were preferred to those proposed by the Opposition and were also agreed to.

The bills were reported to the House with amendments. The third reading of the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill was agreed to on the voices, while the third reading of the State Insurance and Care Governance Bill was agreed to on division (22:16). The bills were returned to the Assembly with amendments.

The Assembly agreed to the amendments the next day.

Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment (Firearms Offences) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill establishes standard non-parole periods for a number of firearm offences under the *Crimes Act 1900* and increases the standard non-parole period for offences relating to the unauthorised possession or use of firearms and prohibited weapons under the *Firearms Act 1996* and the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 11 August 2015 and read a first time. 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 good on the Government's election commitment to deliver tougher sentences for gun-related crime, and will ensure that sentences for firearms and weapons offences are better aligned with community expectations and reflect the seriousness of those crimes. The Parliamentary Secretary's speech further noted that in 2013 the Government asked the NSW Sentencing Council to review the operation of the standard non-parole period (SNPP) scheme and that the bill implements a second tranche of recommendations from that review.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting that the NSW Sentencing Council undertook public consultation during its review and that the provisions in the bill reflect the recommendations of that report. The Opposition argued that as the standard non-parole period scheme retains some judicial discretion it is dramatically superior to mandatory sentencing. While welcoming the bill as a sensible reform to the SNPP scheme, the Opposition argued that there was little basis for the Government's accompanying rhetoric that the increase in non-parole periods will see a reduction in the commission of those crimes, particularly as some of the offences included in the scheme have never been proven in court.

Debate was interrupted for Questions, and resumed the following day.

In contrast to the Opposition, the Shooters and Fishers Party stated that it was in favour of mandatory sentencing for serious firearms offences. The Shooters and Fishers Party noted that the SNPP scheme worked

as a guidepost and was not obligatory, and that in the absence of an effective legislative proposal, such as mandatory sentencing, it would move amendments to increase the standard non parole period for each offence included in the bill, arguing that this would allow the bill to better reflect community expectations.

The Greens stated their opposition as a matter of principle to any legislation or scheme, such as the SNPP, which acted to restrict judicial independence as the only effect of such schemes was to produce less just outcomes. While maintaining their opposition to the scheme, the Greens agreed that the bill would make the SNPP more consistent.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill because of its potential to deter and reduce gun and weapon related crime but foreshadowed that it would also support the amendments of the Shooters and Fishers Party.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Shooters and Fishers Party amendments received support from the Christian Democratic Party only and were negated (Division 4:34).

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

Biosecurity Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill provides a new framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks, promotes biosecurity as a shared responsibility across government, the community and industry, and gives effect to intergovernmental biosecurity agreements to which the State is a party.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced, read a first time and printed on 12 August 2013. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the same day. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Blair) indicated that the bill repeals, either in whole or in part, 14 pieces of existing legislation, and provides a single Act that has the flexibility to respond effectively to all biosecurity situations, such as for example the management of fire ants at Botany Bay or a future Hendra outbreak. The bill is the product of extensive consultation which began in 2013.

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) Health Services Amendment (Paramedics) Bill 2015.
- (2) Health Services Amendment (Ambulance Services) 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.

Bills

State Senate Bill 2015 (Revd Mr Nile, Christian Democratic Party)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill authorises the use of the term State Senate as a reference to the Legislative Council and the use of the term State Senator as a reference to a member of the Legislative Council.

Proceedings: The bill was introduced, read a first time and printed on 13 August 2015. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the same day. In his second reading speech, Revd Mr Nile indicated that the bill would allow interchange of the term 'the Honourable' and 'State Senator' and the term 'Legislative Council' and 'State Senate'. Revd Mr Nile argued that the term 'state senator' is more readily understood by visitors to the Parliament, and that the term 'senator' is internationally recognised as connected with upper houses. In particular, in the United States, upper houses in the various states are generally referred to as State Senates. Similar proposals have been advanced in the past, both in New South Wales and other Australian jurisdictions, but have not been progressed. The title of the New South Wales Legislative Council in the *Constitution Act 1902* would not be changed.

Debate was adjourned for five calendar days.

Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Prohibit Coal Seam Gas) Bill 2015 (Mr Buckingham, The Greens)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill sought to amend the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* to prohibit the future prospecting or mining for coal seam gas in New South Wales. The bill provides for only the continued operation of existing production leases and cancels, without compensation liability, any other petroleum titles to the extent they allow prospecting or mining for coal seam gas.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 13 August 2015 from 28 May 2015 (see Vol 56/3 of *House in Review* for earlier update). The Government opposed the bill, arguing that the proposed blanket shut down of the coal seam gas industry in New South Wales is excessive and inconsistent with the science, in particular the 19-month inquiry into the issue undertaken by the New South Wales Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane. The Government noted that it has accepted all 16 recommendations made by Professor O'Kane, and has adopted a sound framework for the future management of the industry under the NSW Gas Plan. The Government also noted that it has frozen the issuing of new licences, bought

back existing licences issued by the former Government, and established exclusion zones around residential areas. Members of the Government also spoke of the impact of coal seam gas on the North Coast and Northern Rivers region, arguing that coal seam gas is an incredibly complex issue, and that the bill gives no consideration to the complex legal and financial flow-on effects of a blanket ban on mining. Members further argued that while it would be preferable for coal seam gas mining to be wound back on the North Coast, the reality is that it is not that simple.

The Opposition did not support the bill in its existing form, but indicated that it would vote for the bill at its second reading, in order to move a range of amendments to the bill in committee stage. The Opposition argued that currently the risks from coal seam gas, including risks to water quality and food security, are too high, and that there should be an immediate moratorium on mining until all the recommendations of the New South Wales Chief Scientist and Engineer are implemented, and further risk assessment is undertaken to determine whether a watertight regulatory framework can be put in place and coal seam gas mining can occur safely. The Opposition also advocated total bans on mining around core drinking water catchments, residential areas, national parks, prime agricultural land, the Blue Mountains and the Northern Rivers region. The Opposition indicated that if the bill was defeated at its second reading, it would introduce its own bill to pursue its policy objectives.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, despite initial reservations, indicating that the amendments proposed by the Opposition improved the bill. The Christian Democratic Party argued that while the Government has made progress on addressing concerns regarding coal seam gas, for example its exploration licence buyback program, the State's best farmlands, forests and water catchments remain under threat from coal seam gas fracking and mining.

The Animal Justice Party also supported the bill, arguing that there is overwhelming evidence that the coal seam gas industry is deleterious, dangerous and harmful, and that it is time to look for alternatives. Members of the Greens also stated their support for the bill and their colleague Mr Buckingham in bringing it forward.

The Shooters and Fishers Party opposed the bill, noting that there are problems with the industry, including rogue operators and a need to wind back the size of licences, but argued that the bill itself was a stunt. The Shooters and Fishers Party advocated for the establishment of a gas reservation scheme to guarantee gas supply in New South Wales.

In reply, Mr Buckingham disputed claims that the bill was a stunt and appealed to the Shooters and Fishers Party to allow the bill to go through to committee stage, noting that there is overwhelming community opposition to coal seam gas mining.

The second reading was negated on division (16:19), the Shooters and Fishers Party voting with the Government to defeat the bill.

Motions

Age discrimination (Ms Cotsis, Australian Labor Party)

Summary: The motion called on the House to note the work conducted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC), Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioner; and that the loss of aged workers in the workforce will cost approximately \$10 billion annually. The motion also sought the House to call on the Government and Minister for Ageing to act on the HREOC recommendations and to report back on steps being taken to reduce discrimination faced by older workers in New South Wales

Proceedings: Debate on the motion resumed on 13 August 2015 from 4 June 2015 (see Vol 56/4 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). In reply, Ms Cotsis reiterated the call contained in the motion for the Minister for Ageing to report back to the House on what the Government was doing to reduce discrimination faced by older workers, noting that the report should include information on some of the initiatives mentioned by members during the debate.

A Government amendment to omit the call for a report and to instead congratulate the Baird Government and the Minister for Ageing for working with HREOC and taking steps to reduce discrimination facing older workers was supported by the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party and was agreed to (Division 20:14). The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

Lemnos1915 Commemorative Program (Mr Farlow, Liberal Party)

Summary: The motion calls on the House to note the importance of the role the Greek island of Lemnos played in the Gallipoli ANZAC campaign, the recent commemoration program organised by the Lemnos Association of NSW, and the strong relationship that exists between the Greek and Australian people.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion commenced on 13 August 2015. In speaking to the motion, Mr Farlow paid tribute to the organisation of the Lemnos 1915 Commemoration event at the Australian Maritime Museum on 24 April 2015, which he and other members of the House attended. Mr Farlow referred to the rich tapestry of Australia's shared heritage with Greece including the facts that it was from Lemnos harbour that the ANZACS embarked for Gallipoli and that ninety Greek Australians served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front during the Great War.

Debate was adjourned.

Motions taken as formal business

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

- (1) Netball World Cup (Mrs Taylor)
- (2) Medical Advances Without Animals Trust (Mr Pearson)

- (3) Ninth anniversary of Bloc 1706 (Mr Clarke)
- (4) Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce 1985-2015 (Mr Moselmane)
- (5) University of Newcastle 50th year of autonomy (Mr MacDonald)
- (6) NSW Council for Intellectual Disability conference (Ms Cotsis)
- (7) Parkinson's NSW (Mr Primrose)
- (8) World Ranger Day 2015 (Dr Faruqi)
- (9) Orthodox Churches interfaith luncheon (Mr Clarke)
- (10) Karuah Working Together group (Mr MacDonald)
- (11) VHP Sanskrit Language School Annual Day (Mr Clarke)
- (12) World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (Mr Green)
- (13) National Day of the Republic of Croatia (Mr Clarke)
- (14) Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair (Dr Faruqi)
- (15) Wyong District Museum and Historical Society (Mr MacDonald)
- (16) Serbian Folkloric Festival 2015 (Mr Clarke)
- (17) Newcastle SES storm truck (Mr MacDonald)
- (18) Centenary of Assyrian Genocide (Mr Clarke)
- (19) Elderly Rights and Support forum (Mr Clarke)
- (20) The ANZAC legacy in New South Wales (Mrs Maclarens-Jones)
- (21) 100 years of women in the NSW Police Force (Mrs Maclarens-Jones)
- (22) Parramatta heritage sites (Mr Mookhey)
- (23) Benefits of the 'sharing economy' (Mr Mookhey)
- (24) People with guide dogs (Ms Cotsis)
- (25) Bluestocking week (Dr Faruqi).

Orders for papers

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

Returns to order

- (1) **2015-2016 Budget:** received 16 July 2015, 2 boxes public.
- (2) **2015-2016 Budget finances:** received 16 July 2015, 5 boxes public, 1 box privileged.

Petitions

Petitions received

- (1) International trafficking and harvesting of human organs – 71,050 signatures (irregular, presented Mr Shoebridge).
- (2) Make New South Wales shark fin free – 819 signatures (presented Dr Faruqi).

Government responses tabled to the following petitions

- (1) Draft plan of management of the Berowra Valley National Park (response from the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning).
- (2) Satelite renal unit at Young Health Service (response from the Minister for Health).

Reports tabled

Ombudsman: ‘Report of Reviewable Deaths in 2012 and 2013 – Volume 1: Child Deaths, and Volume 2: Deaths of people with a disability in residential care’, June 2015

Auditor-General: Performance Audit report of the Acting Auditor General entitled: ‘Identifying productivity in the public sector: NSW Health, Department of Education and Communities, Transport for NSW, NSW Police Force, Department of Justice, NSW Treasury’, July 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 references

Standing Committee on Social Issues: The Chair informed the House that on 25 June 2015, the committee resolved to inquire into service coordination in communities with high social needs.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3: The Chair informed the House that on 25 June 2015, the committee resolved to inquire into registered nurses in New South Wales nursing homes.

Committee membership

The following appointments were reported to the House.

Select Committee on the Closure of Public Schools in New South Wales

Mr Amato, Mr Franklin and Mrs Maclaren-Jones were nominated as the Government members on the committee.

Mr Donnelly and Mrs Houssos were nominated as the Opposition members on the committee.

Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committees System

Dr Kaye, Revd Mr Nile and Mr Pearson were nominated for the two Crossbench positions on the committee. A ballot was held in the House to determine the Crossbench membership of the committee and Dr Kaye and Revd Mr Nile were elected.

Extension of reporting date

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4: The reporting date for the committee’s inquiry into ‘Progress of the Ombudsman’s investigation “Operation Prospect”’ was extended to 8 September 2015.

Committee reports tabled

Legislation Review Committee: ‘Legislation Review Digest No. 3/56’, 11 August 2015.

Legislation Review Committee: ‘Legislation Review Digest No. 2/56’, 4 August 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 interim report entitled ‘The planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region’, December 2014.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4: The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 30 entitled ‘Fair Trading Amendment (Ticket Reselling) Bill 2014’, February 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5: The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 41 entitled ‘Wambelong fire’, February 2015.

Government responses

Select Committee on Home Schooling: The House received a response to the report entitled ‘Home Schooling in NSW’, tabled 5 December 2014.

Joint Select Committee on Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation: The House received a response to the report entitled ‘Loose-fill asbestos insulation’, tabled 17 December 2014.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5: The House received a response to Report No. 40 entitled ‘The performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority’, tabled February 2015.

Inquiry activities

Select Committee on the Closure of Public Schools in New South Wales

The committee has received 31 submissions and will hold a single public hearing on Thursday 20 August. The report is due to be tabled on 22 October 2015.

Select Committee on the Legislative Council committee system

The first meeting was held on 13 August. An issues paper will be prepared before calling for submissions later this year.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Inquiry into reparations for the stolen generations in New South Wales. The closing date for submissions is 27 September 2015.

Inquiry into registered nurses in New South Wales nursing homes. The committee is holding its third and final hearing in Sydney on 14 August 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Inquiry into the progress of the Ombudsman's investigation 'Operation Prospect'. The reporting date has been extended to 8 September 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Inquiry into local government in New South Wales. The committee held its second hearing in Sydney on 10 August. Next week the committee will conduct public hearings in Cobar, Wagga Wagga and Armidale on 17 and 18 August. The committee's reporting date has been extended to 31 October 2015.

Inquiry into vocational education and training in New South Wales. The closing date for submissions is 14 August 2015. The committee will hold hearings in Sydney on 22 and 23 September 2015 and three regional site visits in September and October 2015.

Budget Estimates

Initial hearings will be held 31 August-4 September 2015 and supplementary hearings 6-9 October 2015.

Law and Justice Committee

Inquiry into remedies for the serious invasion of privacy in New South Wales. The closing date for submissions is 4 September 2015.

Social Issues Committee

Inquiry into service coordination in communities with high social needs. The closing date for submissions is 16 August 2015. The committee will hold its first hearing on 28 August, with further hearings and site visits to be held in October and November.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 11 August 2015

Hutchison Ports (Ms Voltz); AGL Nyngan solar plant (Mr Buckingham); NSW Police Force and crime statistics (Mr Amato); Women and work (Mr Searle); Republic of Macedonia study tour (Revd Nile); Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (Mr MacDonald).

Wednesday 12 August 2015

City of Sydney elections legislation (Mr Primrose); Animal research (Mr Pearson); Tribute to Henry Fonda (Mr Khan); Indonesia (Mr Secord); Watermark coalmine (Mr Buckingham); Hawkesbury Campus Alumni Chapter Lunch (Mr Colless); Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings seventieth anniversary (Mr Moselmane).

Thursday 13 August 2015

Climate change (Ms Barham); Firearms ownership (Mr Borsak); China-Japan War 1931-1945 (Mr Wong); Eating disorders (Mrs Mitchell); Same sex marriage (Mr Clarke); Wheelchairs for Kids (Mr Moselmane).

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 susan.want@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments