

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HOUSE IN REVIEW



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Sitting period
15 to 17 September 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 sitting week saw the House finalise consideration of five government bills, including the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Bill 2015 which addresses the impact of the recent High Court decision in *Independent Commission Against Corruption v Cunneen* on the jurisdiction of the ICAC.

All five bills were considered in detail in committee-of-the-whole. Two of the bills were amended, albeit by the Government, before being returned to the Assembly for concurrence.

In addition, this week also saw the introduction of another private member's bill, the Limitation Amendment (Child Abuse) Bill.

The House now stands adjourned until 13 October 2015.

Discontinuance of proceedings in the Court of Disputed Returns

As noted in Vol 56/4 of *House in Review*, on 29 May 2015 Mr Peter Neil Jones, candidate for the No Land Tax Campaign, a registered political party in the 2015 State election, lodged a petition with the Court of Disputed Returns in relation to the election of Mr Mark Pearson of the Animal Justice Party.

On the first sitting day this week, the President informed the House that Mr Jones had discontinued the proceedings in the Court of Disputed Returns.

Address-in-Reply

At the opening of the Parliament on 5 May this year, the Governor attended the Legislative Council and gave a speech to members of both Houses which outlined the Government's legislative program for the 56th Parliament.

The Address-in-Reply expresses the thanks of members for the Governor's speech. Debate on the Address-in-Reply, which commenced on 6 May, was concluded on 15 September 2015. The Address will be presented by the President and the members of the Legislative Council to the Governor at Government House at a date to be confirmed.

Government business

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

Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: Earlier this year in *Independent Commission Against Corruption v Cunneen* [2015] HCA 14 the High Court excluded certain conduct of private persons from the definition of 'corrupt conduct' under the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* that had previously been assumed to be within the ICAC's jurisdiction. The Government subsequently commissioned an independent panel, comprised of the Hon Murray Gleeson AC and Mr Bruce McClintock, to review the jurisdiction of the ICAC in light of the High Court's decision. That panel made four recommendations that require legislative change to the *ICAC Act* and which are implemented by the bill.

First, the bill inserts a new limb into the existing definition of corrupt conduct to include certain conduct by any person that could impair public confidence in public administration. This will enable ICAC to investigate specified matters even if they involve no wrongdoing or potential wrongdoing on the part of any public official but could nevertheless seriously undermine confidence in public administration. Second, the bill clarifies the broad scope of the ICAC's advisory, educational and prevention functions. Third, the bill provides ICAC with the function of investigating conduct referred to it by the NSW Electoral Commission that may involve possible criminal offences under the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*, the *Election, Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* and/or the *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011*. Fourth, the bill provides that the ICAC's power to make findings of corrupt conduct may be exercised only in cases of 'serious corrupt conduct'.

Proceedings: The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 16 September 2015 and read a first time. The majority of the second reading speech of the

Minister (Mr Gay) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Minister indicated that ensuring the ICAC is fully equipped for fighting corruption is a key priority for the Government and that the bill will ensure that the ICAC can continue to investigate conduct such as collusive tendering for government contracts and fraudulently obtaining government mining leases. The Minister also noted that the bill will allow the ICAC to complete and report on its investigations in operations Spicer and Credo, both of which were current when the *Cunneen* decision was handed down. Finally, the Minister argued that the provision to restrict the making of findings to cases of serious corrupt conduct ensures that the power to publicly denounce corruption is exercised within appropriate boundaries.

The Opposition strongly supported the bill, noting its concern about the effect of the *Cunneen* decision on the jurisdiction of the ICAC and its support of the Government decision to establish the independent panel. The Opposition stated that it was committed to a powerful, statutory corruption fighting body for the State and that the bill will ensure that the ICAC is able to continue its important work effectively. In particular, the Opposition welcomed the increased oversight of compliance with electoral and lobbying laws provided by the bill.

The Greens argued that the *Cunneen* decision went against the common if not universal understanding of the jurisdiction of the ICAC. While strongly supporting the bill, the Greens held reservations regarding the restriction of making findings to instances of serious corruption. The Greens argued that the lack of a definition of serious corrupt conduct will invariably give rise to legal challenges that will in turn tie up ICAC resources for years to come. The Greens foreshadowed that they would seek to remove this provision from the bill in the committee stage, arguing that it was better to simply rely on the proper use of discretion by the ICAC Commissioner when deciding upon matters to investigate. The Greens also questioned whether the bill allows the ICAC to investigate matters relating to the granting of planning approvals and other planning matters.

The Christian Democratic Party fully supported the bill, as it was anxious that the ICAC was able to continue carrying out its important duties to discover, expose and take action against corruption in the State. The CDP argued that in the *Cunneen* investigation, known as Operation Hale, it appeared that the ICAC did not follow its normal careful procedures and that it was unfortunate that this was the case upon which the High Court had based its consideration of the jurisdiction of the ICAC.

In reply, the Minister stated that the bill extends rather than limits the ICAC's jurisdiction with respect to matters of corrupt conduct.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens amendments seeking to retain the current power of the ICAC to make findings of corrupt conduct without being limited to cases of 'serious corrupt conduct' did not garner any support and were negatived (Division 5:32)

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

Jobs for NSW Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill establishes Jobs for NSW, a seven member board to provide high level strategic advice to the Government on jobs creation and on driving investment in New South Wales. The board will consist of four members appointed by the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, one member appointed by the Minister for Regional Development and the respective Secretaries of the Departments of Premier and Cabinet and of Industry, Skills and Regional Development. The bill also establishes the Jobs for NSW Fund which will support eligible proposals for job creation incentives across the State.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 15 September from 9 September 2015 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition criticised the bill for not addressing the issue of disability employment and foreshadowed that it would seek to amend the bill to ensure that at least one member of the Jobs for NSW Board has expert knowledge of disability employment. During the debate, members of the Opposition emphasised that unemployment rates in many areas were higher than when the Government came into power five years ago, whereas members of the Government and the Christian Democratic Party focused on recent Australian Bureau of Statistics reporting which show that the State is leading the country in job creation.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved amendments that sought to increase the number of members of the Jobs for NSW Board from seven to twelve and to require that three members be nominated by labour organisations, that at least three members be women, that at least one member have expert knowledge of digital innovation and entrepreneurship and at least one member have significant experience in regional industry. The Greens amendments were amended by the Opposition so that at least two members of the Board must ordinarily reside outside the Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle metropolitan areas and that at least one member have expert knowledge of disability employment.

However, the Greens amendments, as amended, were negatived (Division 17:22) despite the support of the Opposition and the Animal Justice Party, with the Government, Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party voting against the amendments.

The Opposition then moved amendments which it argued would sharpen the Board's focus on rural and regional areas by including specific reference to rural and regional areas in the functions of the Board and by placing a requirement that each financial year at least 30 per cent of monies paid from the Fund for job creation be for proposals outside the Sydney metropolitan area. The Government opposed the amendments, arguing that the reference to the functions of the Board was unnecessary and that placing an annual 30 per cent requirement would limit the flexibility of the operation of

the Fund. The Opposition amendments drew the support of the Greens and the Animal Justice Party, but were opposed by the Government, the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party and negated (Division 17:21). The Opposition then sought to ensure that each year the entire annual report of Jobs for NSW would be made public and tabled in Parliament, however the amendment was defeated on the voices.

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

Child Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill amends the *Adoption Act 2000*, the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*, the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, the *Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993* and the *Ombudsman Act 1974* to implement reforms to the working with children system in New South Wales and the assessment process of persons to be carers, adoptive parents and guardians of children and young people in out-of-home care.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 16 September. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mrs Mitchell) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the bill continues the Home for Life reforms and reflects the Government's strong and immediate response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault regarding assessment and review procedures for Working with Children checks. The provisions of the bill seek to reform the application, assessment and monitoring requirements of the NSW Children's Guardian for carers of children in out-of-home care, provide greater access to and sharing of information between agencies regarding suitable and unsuitable carers, and strengthen the online working with children system. The Parliamentary Secretary stated that the bill provides better protection for children and young people in out-of-home care, closer monitoring of agencies and carers, and meets the national standards proposed by the Royal Commission. The Parliamentary Secretary also foreshadowed Government amendments to the bill.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill and welcomed the Government's amendments to the bill, arguing that government's highest duty is to protect children. The Opposition highlighted their long term commitment to better regulation of the child protection framework, and the inclusion of families, agencies and the wider community in improving the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The Opposition commended the consultative work of the Government on the bill and the introduction of amendments as proposed by the shadow minister.

The Greens supported the bill and the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission whose report highlighted the shortcomings of the existing system. The Greens did raise concerns over the removal of review rights under the proposed system, and

indicated they would move to omit this aspect of the bill in the committee stage.

The Animal Justice Party echoed the position of the Greens and further argued that charges which do not result in a conviction should not impact on a carer's application.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, commending the Government's continued commitment to reforming the child protection framework, and stating that the Christian Democratic Party shares the aims of the Government on this issue.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Government moved seventeen amendments to the bill which sought to introduce a reasonable person and public interest test for carers, further strengthen the risk assessment of applicants to be carers, restrict the right of review or appeal, and allow the Children's Guardian to seek advice on applications from an expert panel. All parties supported the amendments and commended the bi-partisan manner in which they were developed and proposed. The Greens moved one amendment in Committee which omitted the proposed removal of administrative review rights from the bill, arguing that this provision would have disproportionate consequences for the indigenous community. The Government opposed the amendment stating that it was not practical for out-of-home care providers. The Opposition also did not support the amendment. The amendment was negated on the voices.

The bill was reported to the House with the Government amendments, read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly. A message was received from the Legislative Assembly agreeing to the Council amendments on 17 September.

Dam Safety Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill replaces the Dams Safety Act 1978 and modernises the regulatory framework for dam safety in New South Wales.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 16 September 2015. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Blair) noted that both a recent Commission of Audit and ensuing independent review of dam safety found that there are relatively high levels of spending on dam safety in the State, but that this spending was not necessarily leading to a reduction in risk of dam failure. The review also suggested that a regulatory approach where the regulator is independent, and dam owners are more clearly responsible for ensuring compliance with safety standards, could reduce compliance costs. The bill replaces the Dams Safety Committee with Dams Safety NSW, the functions of which include recommending the dam safety standard that dam owners must meet. Dams Safety NSW will be a compliance-driven regulator, with the onus on the dam owner to prove compliance and the regulator responsible for ensuring compliance.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, noting the broad stakeholder support of the proposed reforms. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, noting that the bill introduces a best practice framework for the regulation of dam safety. The Greens did not oppose the bill, and noted that the reforms present an opportunity for lower cost and lower environmental impact outcomes. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Greens moved two amendments, both of which were supported by the Opposition. The first amendment sought to ensure that the Minister for Water must certify that he or she is satisfied that any issues raised by Dams Safety NSW have been accurately and appropriately taken into account by a consent authority for a relevant development application. The amendment was negated (Division 15:20). The second amendment sought to ensure that the five year statutory review of the Act includes an assessment of the impacts of the changes the bill brings about on the levels of risk in relation to dams and any cost savings that might occur. This amendment was negated on the voices.

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

Impounding Amendment (Unattended Boat Trailers) Bill 2015

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

Summary: The bill enables impounding authorities, including local councils, to improve the management of boat trailer parking on residential street.

Proceedings: Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 15 September 2015. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gay) noted that around 204,000 boat trailers are registered in New South Wales, and that some boat owners use on-street parking for long-term parking of their boat, causing the loss of scarce parking space, amenity and in some cases causing safety issues. The bill seeks to address this issue. The Minister also foreshadowed government amendments to the bill, which he noted will enable councils and other impounding authorities to have the choice to implement the new measures for all or part of their area of operations. The impounding authority will be able to impound a boat trailer if it has not been moved for 28 days, after having given a 15 day notice.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, acknowledging the proposed government amendments, stating that the objectives of the bill were well meaning. Similarly, the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill with the foreshadowed amendments, noting that boat owners have the option to regularly move their trailer. The Greens also supported the bill with the foreshadowed amendments, noting that local councils and communities have long had issues about boat trailers taking up parking spots. The Shooters and Fishers Party also supported the bill with the proposed amendments. The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Greens moved amendments to include advertising trailers in the provisions of the bill. While other parties noted that the amendments had some

merit, they did not support the amendments at the current time. The amendments were negated.

The bill was reported to the House with the government amendments, read a third time and returned to the Assembly. On 17 September the House received a message advising that the Assembly had agreed to the Council's amendments to the bill.

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) Transport Administration Amendment (Closure of Railway Line at Newcastle) Bill 2015.
- (2) Property, Stock and Business Agents Amendment (Underquoting Prohibition) 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

Limitation Amendment (Child Abuse) Bill 2015 (Mr Shoebridge, The Greens)

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

Summary: The bill amends the *Limitation Act 1969* to remove the limitation period for bringing civil proceedings in relation to child abuse.

Proceedings: Leave was granted to bring in the bill on 17 September 2015. The bill was presented, read a first time and printed. In his second reading speech, Mr Shoebridge noted that the average time for the disclosure of child sexual abuse is some 23 years after the abuse has occurred. However, the statute of limitations restricts action in the civil courts to three years after the event, which Mr Shoebridge observed is manifestly inadequate to facilitate redress in the civil courts. While applicants may seek leave of the Court to bring a claim when it is out of time, Mr Shoebridge noted that this immediately places applicants at a disadvantage, and that victims of child abuse should not have to seek leave of the court to commence proceedings. He noted that Victoria has recently legislated to remove its statute of limitations for child abuse, and has made this retrospective. Similarly, he noted that this week The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse published its report on redress and civil litigation. Recommendation 85 of that report was that State and Territory governments should introduce legislation to remove any limitation period that applies to a claim for damages brought by a person where that claim is founded on the personal injury of the person resulting from sexual abuse of the person in an institutional context when the person is or was a child. Recommendation 86 was that this should occur with retrospective effect. Mr Shoebridge noted that the bill will implement the same reforms as

the Victorian legislation and recommendations 85 and 86 of the Royal Commission.

Debate was adjourned for 5 calendar days.

Motions

Activities in the East Hills electorate during the 2015 State Election (Ms Voltz, Australian Labor Party)

Summary: The motion notes that there were a number of alleged breaches of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Election Act 1912* in the East Hills electorate at the 2015 general election, and that the Labor candidate, who was unsuccessful in getting elected, was the victim of a smear campaign in the lead up to the election.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion resumed from 10 September 2015 (see the previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). In resuming her speech, Ms Voltz continued to outline a number of alleged breaches of the *Parliamentary Electorates and Election Act 1912*, and noted that she was disappointed in the lack of a response from the Government.

In response, the Leader of the Government noted that there is currently an Electoral Commission investigation into the matter and argued that the matter is better dealt with there. He stated that members of the government will not be speaking to the motion, and foreshadowed that they would be voting against it.

Debate was adjourned.

National Child Protection Week (Mr Green, Christian Democratic Party)

Summary: The motion called on the House to note that National Child Protection Week will run from 6 to 12 September 2015, with this year marking its 25th anniversary, and that it supports and encourages the safety and wellbeing of children and families through awards, events, programs and resources. The motion also called on the House to note that the key purpose of Bravehearts is to educate, empower and protect Australian children from sexual assault and that Bravehearts' 19th annual White Balloon Day will be held during National Child Protection Week on Friday 11 September.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion resumed on 17 September 2015 from 27 August 2015 (see Vol 56/7 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members from the Government, the Opposition and the Greens all spoke in support of the motion, noting the importance of Child Protection Week and the ongoing work and useful resources produced by Bravehearts. A number of members recounted instances where issues of child safety had touched them, either as a parent or as a child themselves.

Revd Mr Nile from the Christian Democratic Party moved an amendment to have the motion include reference to 'Where's William? Week' which has been running from 12 to 18 September 2015 to generate awareness of missing toddler William Tyrell and to support the work of the authorities and volunteers to return William to his family. The amendment also

included reference to an event held at Parliament House on 15 September to coincide with the 12-month anniversary of William Tyrell's disappearance.

A number of members recounted that they had attended the 15 September event and how it had been exceptionally moving and poignant, and expressed their heartfelt admiration and empathy for William Tyrell's parents.

The House agreed to the amendment of Revd Mr Nile and the motion, as amended, was agreed to.

Speed limits on New South Wales roads (Mr Khan, The Nationals)

Summary: The motion called on the House to note that as the standards of roads are increasing in New South Wales, there is cause for the Centre for Road Safety to look at increasing speed limits on approved roads which could include the Newell and Pacific Highways to a new maximum speed limit of 120 kilometres per hour in dry conditions. The motion also noted that a currently successful trial of open speed limits in the Northern Territory is under close consideration by the New South Wales Government.

Proceedings: Debate on the motion commenced on 17 September 2015. In speaking to the motion, Mr Khan argued that with both the advancement in car safety technology and the increasing standard of roads there is a good case for the Centre for Road Safety to look at increasing speed limits by 10 kilometres per hour on certain roads. Members of the Government, the Opposition and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the motion subject to installation of variable speed signage and also suggested that the Hume Highway was also a candidate for a higher speed limit. The Greens also supported the motion, while noting that safety must always be the overriding consideration and suggesting that increasing the speed limit for trucks would require even closer scrutiny.

The motion was agreed to.

7-Eleven franchises (Mr Mookhey, Australian Labor Party)

Summary: The motion calls on the House to note the joint investigation by Four Corners and Fairfax Media into the systematic and extensive wage exploitation of workers employed in 7-Eleven franchises in Australia, many of whom were international students, recent migrants and people with working visas. The motion also calls on the House to condemn the 7-Eleven franchise model, to commend those who helped uncover evidence of this exploitation, and to support the Fair Work Ombudsman's investigation into the exploitation of 7-Eleven workers.

Proceedings: Standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business on 17 September 2015. In speaking to the motion, Mr Mookhey said that the joint investigation by Four Corners and Fairfax media had found systematic and extensive wage exploitation of workers employed in 7-Eleven franchises in Australia which included some employees being paid as low as half the award rate and having to work 18 hour shifts with no

breaks. Mr Mookhey also outlined that some franchises had been found to be doctoring payroll records to avoid detection by authorities and to have threatened employees on working visas with deportation if they complained to authorities.

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) Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison (Mr Pearson)
- (2) Foster Care Week 2015 (Ms Barham)
- (3) 5th Annual Central Coast Business Awards (Mr MacDonald)
- (4) Andy Roberts Memorial Award (Mr Franklin)
- (5) Ms Margaret Henry (Mr Shoebridge)
- (6) Where's William? Week (Mr Farlow)
- (7) India Australia Business and Community Awards 2015 (Mr Mookhey)
- (8) South Asian Muslim Association of Australia annual Eid Milan event (Mr Moselmane)
- (9) Coptic New Year (Mr Moselmane)
- (10) Celebration of Eid al Adha (Mr Moselmane)
- (11) State Emergency Services Young Volunteer Award (Dr Phelps on behalf of Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (12) Young Nationals annual conference (Mr Franklin)
- (13) 40th anniversary of Papua New Guinea independence (Dr Phelps on behalf of Mrs Maclaren-Jones)
- (14) The Yellow Diamond Foundation (Mr Donnelly).

Orders for papers

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

Correspondence regarding a return to order

Greyhound welfare: On 14 September the Clerk received correspondence from General Counsel at the Department of Premier and Cabinet relating to the order made by the House on 9 September 2015, advising that Greyhound Racing NSW does not represent the Crown and is not subject to direction or control by or on behalf of the Government.

Petitions

Government response tabled to the following petition

- (1) International trafficking and harvesting of human organs (response from the Minister for Health).

Reports tabled

Inspector of Custodial Services: 'Lifers: Classification and regression', September 2015.

Auditor General: Performance Audit report of the Acting Auditor General entitled 'Community Housing: Department of Family and Community Services', September 2015.

Auditor General: Performance Audit report of the Acting Auditor General entitled "Albert 'Tibby' Cotter Walkway": Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime services, September 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 report tabled

Legislation Review Committee: 'Legislation Review Digest No. 6/56 of 2015', 15 September 2015.

Committee reports debated

Select Committee on Ministerial Propriety in New South Wales: The House concluded the take-note debate of the report entitled 'Ministerial propriety in New South Wales', dated February 2015.

Select Committee on the Conduct and Progress of the Ombudsman's inquiry "Operation Prospect": The House concluded the take-note debate of the report entitled "The conduct and progress of the Ombudsman's inquiry "Operation Prospect"", dated February 2015.

Select Committee on the Supply and Cost of Gas and Liquid Fuels in New South Wales: The House continued the take-note debate of the report entitled "The supply and cost of gas and liquid fuels in New South Wales", dated February 2015.

Government response

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5: Further correspondence was received concerning the response to Report No. 41 entitled 'Wambelong fire', tabled 20 February 2015, which was due on 20 August 2015.

Inquiry activities

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

The committee has received 40 submissions and held its only hearing in August. The report is due to be tabled on 22 October 2015.

Select Committee on the Legislative Council committee system

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

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Inquiry into elder abuse in New South Wales

The closing date for submissions is 15 November 2015.

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. The committee will conduct a public hearing in Sydney on 5 November, and a site visit and hearing in Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga on 6 November.

Inquiry into registered nurses in New South Wales nursing homes.

The committee has received over 160 submissions and has conducted three public hearings. The report is due to be tabled on 30 October 2015.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Inquiry into local government 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 30 October 2015.

Inquiry into vocational education and training.

The committee will be conducting a site visit and public hearing in Belmont and Newcastle on 18 September. Public hearings will also take place in Sydney on 22 and 23 September, followed by public hearings in Nowra and Wollongong on 12 October.

Law and Justice Committee

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

The closing date for submissions is 20 September. The committee will conduct a public hearing on 30 October.

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

The closing date for submissions is 25 October. The committee will be conducting hearings on 16 and 23 November.

Social Issues Committee

Inquiry into service coordination in communities with high social needs.

The committee has received 49 submissions. The committee held its first hearing in August, with further hearings to be held in October and November.

State Development Committee

Inquiry into economic development in Aboriginal communities.

The committee commenced its inquiry into strategies to support economic development in Aboriginal communities. The closing date for submissions is 11 October 2015.

Regional planning processes in NSW

The closing date for submissions is 11 December. The committee will begin conducting hearings in March 2016.

Adjournment debate

Tuesday 15 September 2015

China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (Mr MacDonald); Fight for \$15 movement (Mr Mookhey); Abortion law (Dr Faruqi); Australian medical research (Mrs Mitchell); National Stroke Week (Mr Green); Crown land management (Mr Veitch).

Wednesday 16 September 2015

Homeless women's services (Mrs Houssos); TAFE NSW (Dr Kaye); Tribute to Jim Frecklington (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); Freedom of speech (Ms Voltz); Marriage equality (Revd Nile); NSW State Emergency Services alpine search and rescue (Mrs Taylor); NDIS Agreement (Ms Cotsis).

Thursday 17 September 2015

Palliative care (Mr Donnelly); Beef production (Mr Pearson); OzHarvest (Mr Mallard); Greater Sydney Commission (Mr Shoebridge); Health budget (Mr Pearce); NSW 2021 State Plan (Mr Veitch); Birthday wishes (Mrs Mitchell).

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.



Steven Reynolds
Deputy Clerk