

Parliament of
New South Wales

58th
Parliament
**STRATEGIC
PRIORITIES**

2023 – 2027



Purpose

The Parliament of NSW serves the people of NSW through:

- 1 Making of law**
- 2 Holding the executive to account**
- 3 Representation of electorates and broader constituency**

INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of New South Wales comprises the Crown, represented by the Governor of NSW and two separate and sovereign Houses: the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

By section 5 of the Constitution Act 1902, the Parliament has power to make laws for the peace, welfare and good government of New South Wales in all cases whatsoever, subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. Under the Westminster system, as adopted in New South Wales, the executive government is formed out of the members of the Parliament and is subject to the scrutiny and control of the Parliament according to a system of responsible government. Parliament performs these functions on behalf of the people of New South Wales.

The two Houses of the Parliament are supported by three operational departments: the Department of the Legislative Council, the Department of

the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services. The Departments of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly (the House Departments) support their respective Houses and committees. The Department of Parliamentary Services provides a broad range of corporate and administrative support services to members, their staff and to the House Departments, as well as maintaining the 98 electorate offices across the State.

The departments have a common purpose: to provide the necessary services and support to the Houses to ensure that they can fulfil their constitutional roles as legislative and representative bodies while holding the executive government to account.

CONTEXT FOR THE 58TH PARLIAMENT

The March 2023 election resulted in the establishment of a minority Government in the Legislative Assembly and a finely balanced Legislative Council, increasing the complexity of parliamentary proceedings and processes for the 58th Parliament.

The demographic make-up of the membership of the two Houses is now more reflective of the NSW community than ever before. The Parliament is committed to building on this progress as part of its role representing the entire NSW community, with a focus on regional outreach and engaging with diverse communities.

The 2022 report of a landmark review into safe, inclusive and respectful workplace behaviour has brought a new focus on behavioural standards. Parliamentary leaders and Members are committed to creating a more respectful institution and enhancing public trust and confidence in the Parliament.

In the post-COVID environment, the Parliament will continue to find ways to realise the benefits of new technologies, build the capacity of its Members and staff, and effectively engage with the entire community.

The preconditions for an effective Parliament identified in the Strategic Plan for the 57th Parliament continue to be essential and are to be taken as read along with the values of the parliamentary departments.

Parliament's Strategic Priorities

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE 58TH PARLIAMENT

EXAMPLES OF JOINT INITIATIVES

1. ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN THE PEOPLES' PARLIAMENT

The Parliament of NSW is a welcoming space for community involvement, a thriving home for democracy, a place to showcase our culture and celebrate our state.

Engagement Initiatives to encourage participation in democracy, celebrate the diversity of the community and welcome all to the Parliament of NSW:

- Regional Engagement
- Cultural and Arts Program Engagement
- Aboriginal Engagement
- Education Programs
- Community Programs
- Engagement with other Parliaments

Special Events to acknowledge democracy milestones in NSW:

- Bicentenary Celebrations
- 2024 CPA Conference

2. ENABLING MEMBERS TO FULFIL THEIR PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Ensuring that Members of the Parliament of NSW are equipped to undertake their democratic duties in the chambers, committees and in the community.

- Bespoke Onboarding and Offboarding Programs
- Ongoing Development Programs
- Optimum Performance for Technology, System and Facility access
- Vigorous Cybersecurity Protection
- Complementary Community Engagement Programs

3. ENHANCING WORKFORCE CAPABILITY: PEOPLE, VALUES AND CULTURE

Strengthening internal capabilities for a safe, inclusive and respectful workplace.

- Safe, Inclusive and Respectful Workplace
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Aboriginal Cultural Capability
- Articulating Culture, Values, and being an Employer of Choice

4. UPHOLDING THE INDEPENDENCE OF A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENT

Ensuring that the Parliament of NSW has the resources, independence and institutional rigour to perform its democratic role effectively.

- Strong Governance
- Audits and Independent Reviews
- Safeguarding Independence
- Resourcing Sustainability
- Financial Sustainability

5. MODERNISING OF THE PARLIAMENT

Ensuring the Parliament of NSW has fit for purpose facilities and technology to support the championing of democracy.

- Fostering Innovation and Agility
- Improving Accessibility for All
- Optimising Post-COVID Workplace Practices
- Embracing Recent Technology Enhancements
- Exploring New Capacity through Utilisation of Tools and Facilities
- Embracing Sustainability



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