

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## *HOUSE IN REVIEW*



*Volume 55/50*

*Sitting period  
18 to 20 June 2013*



The *House in Review* provides regular updates of the activities of the New South Wales Legislative Council. Clicking on a hyperlink will take you to the relevant webpage. For further information refer to the NSW Parliament website [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au) or contact the Procedure Office on (02) 9230 2431. To be placed on the email distribution list of the *House in Review*, please contact us on [council@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

### Overview

The second last sitting week before the winter long adjournment was extremely busy, with a large volume of Government legislation before the House. In order to deal with the legislation, the House sat till midnight on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and met early on Wednesday morning. In addition, debate of Government business took precedence of debate on committee reports and private members' business.

In total, the House considered 11 bills, ten of which were finalised and sent to the Assembly, with a further 6 bills introduced from the Lower House. Significant bills considered by the House included the cognate Government Sector Employment Bill 2013 and Members of Parliament Staff Bill 2013, both of which ultimately passed the House without amendment, and the Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Bill 2013. An unusual procedural event of some note during the passage of the Members of Parliament Staff Bill 2013 was the participation of the President in debate in committee of the whole.

Four of the bills introduced this week – the three budget appropriation bills and the Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Amendment Bill 2013 – were declared urgent, allowing them to be considered by the House next week before it rises for the winter adjournment.

This week also saw the resignation of the Hon Cate Faehrmann as a member of the House, and the election at a joint sitting of Dr Mehreen Faruqi. Dr Faruqi will be sworn in as a member of the House next week.

The House also referred to the Procedure Committee an inquiry into the regulation of the consumption of alcohol by members during sitting hours.

The House is scheduled to meet early next Tuesday at 11:00 am in order to continue consideration of Government legislation.

Finally, next week the Council will launch its Twitter account. Please follow us on @nsw\_upperhouse to receive updates about the House and its committees.

### Government representation in the Council

On Tuesday, the President read a communication from Mr Pearce, Minister for Finance and Services, concerning his absence on leave.

Mr Gay subsequently informed the House of arrangements for the representation of portfolios normally represented by Mr Pearce in the House.

### Valedictory speech

On 18 June 2013, during the second reading debate on the Heavy Vehicle (Adoption of National Law) Bill, the Hon Cate Faehrmann gave her valedictory speech to the House.

In her address, Ms Faehrmann reflected on the role and conduct of proceedings in the House and on the policy areas in which she had sought to initiate change as a member of the House and its committees.

### Vacancy in the Council

On 18 June 2013, the Hon Cate Faehrmann tendered her resignation as a member of the Legislative Council to Her Excellency the Governor.

At a joint sitting of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly held on 19 June 2013, Dr Mehreen Faruqi was elected to fill the vacancy.

### 2013-2014 Budget

On 18 June 2013, Mr Gay tabled the Budget Papers in the House.

Mr Gay commenced the take-note debate on the Budget Estimates and related papers for the financial year 2013-2014, and incorporated his speech into Hansard. Debate was adjourned until a later hour.

The Budget Estimates take-note debate is generally wideranging, and is an opportunity for members to speak about any aspect of the administration of the State and the Government's policy directions.

## New Temporary Chair of Committees

On 20 June 2013, the President in accordance with Standing Order 18, nominated Mr Khan to act as a Temporary Chair of Committees during the remainder of the present session of Parliament.

## Retirement of Editor of Debates, Hansard

On Thursday, the President made a statement regarding the retirement, after 29 years of service, of Mr Mark Faulkner, Editor of Debates, Hansard. Other members also addressed the House.

## Twitter

The Legislative Council will launch its Twitter account on Monday 24 June 2013. Please follow us on @nsw\_upperhouse to receive updates about the House and committees.

## Government business

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

### Appropriation Bill 2013 and cognates Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2013 and State Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2013

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The Appropriations Bill is the annual budget bill which appropriates sums out of the Consolidated Fund to provide for the expenditure of the Government in the financial year 2013-2014.

The cognate Appropriations (Parliament) Bill sets out the annual appropriations for the recurrent services and capital works of the Legislature, while the State Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill makes miscellaneous amendments to certain State revenue and other legislation in connection with the budget.

*Proceedings:* The bills were received from the Legislative Assembly on 20 June 2013 and read a first time. As the bills were received after the cut-off date for Government bills, the Minister (Mr Gay) moved that the bills be considered urgent. The motion was agreed to and the second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting.

### Government Sector Employment Bill 2013 and Members of Parliament Staff Bill 2013

The bills originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The Government Sector Employment Bill repeals and replaces the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*. The bill is based on recommendations made by the Public Service Commissioner in February 2013, which built on related recommendations made in the New South Wales Commission of Audit report released in January 2012.

The Members of Parliament Staff Bill provides for new arrangements under which staff of political office holders and staff that assist members of Parliament in their electorate and parliamentary duties may be employed.

The Bill does not cover the officers and employees of either House Department or the Department of Parliamentary Services.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bills commenced on 18 June 2013. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Gallacher) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Minister indicated that in February 2013 the Government accepted recommendations of the Public Service Commissioner to rewrite the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002* and to modernise the public service, building on related recommendations made in the New South Wales Commission of Audit released in January 2012. The Minister indicated that the Public Service Commissioner had found that the public sector was hampered by a poorly designed, outdated and rigid set of workforce arrangements. The Minister argued that the Government Sector Employment Bill will create an Act that will deal only with employment matters and simplify the current complex array of employment structures.

With respect to the Members of Parliament Staff Bill, the Minister asserted that the new employment arrangements for staff of political office holders and members of Parliament are broadly modelled on the arrangements that apply in the Commonwealth which have operated successfully for over twenty years, and that they will end the misalignment in the current respective employment arrangements and result in clearer lines of accountability for staff.

The Opposition opposed both bills, arguing that while much of the Government Sector Employment Bill condenses and modernises existing laws and practices, it contained significant provisions which constitute a far reaching erosion of the rights and protections of the public sector workforce, in particular some 3,000 employees currently employed above grade 12 but below the senior executive service. The Opposition criticised the Members of Parliament Staff Bill for reversing ministerial employee arrangements that have been in place since 1994 and which were developed in response to recommendations of an independent review into matters relating to employment of staff by Ministers.

The Greens opposed both bills, describing them as a substantial attack on the employment rights and security of public servants. The Greens were particularly critical of the proposed Government sector employment rules which can deal with any matter relating to employment of the public service senior executive and which will not be subject to any parliamentary review. The Greens requested under Standing Order 139 that the question on the second reading of the two bills be put separately and moved that the Government Sector Employment Bill be referred to General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1 for inquiry and report.

The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) supported the bills on the grounds that the Government had made a commitment to, and that there was a clear need for, a new framework to replace the current work arrangements in the public sector. While holding some reservations regarding the detail of the bill, the CDP argued that the better course would be to allow the bill to proceed now, as it will take some time to fully implement, and to

examine the outcomes of the five year statutory review provided for in the bill.

The proposal to refer the Government Sector Employment bill to committee for examination was negated (Division 16:20), with the Greens and Opposition voting for the proposal, and the Government, Christian Democratic Party and Shooters and Fishers Party voting against. The second readings of the Government Sector Employment Bill (Division 20:16) and the Members of Parliament Staff Bill (Division 20:16) were agreed to.

The committee stage for the Government Sector Employment Bill commenced on Tuesday evening and continued until the House rose late that night and then resumed the following day. In the committee stage, the Greens and the Opposition between them moved 25 amendments which sought to address what they viewed as those elements of the bill that eroded the rights and protections of public sector workers. However, the Government opposed all of the amendments, often arguing that they extended beyond the scope and protections provided by the current *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*. All of the proposed amendments were defeated, either on the voices or on division, with the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters and Fishers Party voting against the amendments.

In the committee stage for the Members of Parliament Staff Bill, the Greens and the Opposition each moved three amendments which among other things sought to qualify the ability of a political office holder or a member of parliament to dispense with the services of a staff member. The amendments were not supported by the Government, Christian Democratic Party or Shooters and Fishers Party, and were defeated, either on the voices or on division.

An unusual feature of the committee of the whole was the participation in debate of the President in relation to the Members of Parliament Staff Bill. While there are precedents, participation of a President in debate is a rare event.

The third reading of each bill was agreed to on division (18:15), and the bills were returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Public Health Amendment (Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Public Health Act 2010* to prevent the enrolment of children at child care facilities unless immunisation certificates proving vaccination, or certificates as to conscientious objection to vaccination or medical contraindication for vaccination, are provided to principals of child care facilities. The bill also requires such certificates to be kept as part of each child's immunisation record by a child care facility.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 19 June 2013. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mrs Pavey) incorporated her speech in

Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the bill is part of a multifaceted approach by the Government to lift the vaccination rate in the State in order to better protect public health and reduce vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. The Parliamentary Secretary stated that a key motive of the bill is to ensure that parents who have a conscientious belief that vaccination should not take place obtain advice from an authorised practitioner about the risks and benefits of vaccination before enrolling their child in a childcare facility.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill, agreeing it was a major step forward in public health and one of the most important pieces of legislation to be brought before the Parliament this session, in part because it allows the virtues of vaccinations to be discussed publically. In debate, members expressed concern over decreasing immunisation rates in some sections of the State, including some areas where the rate is well below 70 per cent. Members also condemned websites on the Internet that have convinced some people in society not to immunise their children arguing that the misinformation on these websites is very dangerous.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, which commenced the following day, the Greens moved two amendments. The first was to limit the grounds on which parents could seek to exempt their child from vaccination, while the second amendment sought to allow a child care facility to implement a policy of refusing to enrol any child who is not age appropriately immunised for a vaccine preventable disease. The amendments were negated, the first on the voices and the second on division (16:19).

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

### **Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Amendment Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012* to extend the operation of that Act to the Port of Newcastle to authorise and facilitate the transfer of the State's ports assets to the private sector. This transfer will be subject to the restriction that the land concerned can be leased to the private sector for up to 99 years but ownership of the land must remain with the State.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 June 2013 and read a first time. As the bill was received after the cut-off date for Government bills, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) moved that the bill be considered an urgent bill. The motion was agreed to (Division 19:16) and the second reading was set down for the next sitting day.

## **Service NSW (One-stop Access to Government Services) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill enables Service NSW to provide one-stop access to customer services for government agencies, other agencies or persons; facilitates the provision of information by and about customers; and enacts consequential provisions relating to access to government information and State records.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 18 June 2013. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gay) indicated that the bill enacts one of the Government's key election commitments, namely to put customer service at the heart of government decision-making. The Minister stated that this would be delivered by Service NSW through one easy-to-use website with live chat and better functionality, a 24/7 phone information line answered by real people, and one-stop shops with extended hours in regional and city locations.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill while the Opposition and the Greens did not oppose it. All parties noted that government departments collectively comprise one of the largest customer service organisations in the State and affirmed that if the bill is implemented successfully, one-stop shops could save time and greatly assist people in accessing government services.

Members from all parties however raised concerns about the bill's impact on local government services and local government employees, particularly in regional areas. Members noted that negotiations between the United Services Union and the Government had taken place which resulted in proposed amendments to the bill being foreshadowed in the committee stage.

While not opposing the bill the Opposition raised concerns in relation to the training of Service NSW staff, particularly in relation to Fair Trading matters.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage the Government moved six amendments to address the concerns raised by the United Services Union relating to local government and local government services. The amendments drew the support of the Government and were agreed to.

The bill was reported to the House with amendments, read a third time and returned to the Assembly. The next day the Assembly agreed to the Council's amendments to the bill.

## **Heavy Vehicle (Adoption of National Law) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The Heavy Vehicle National Law provides a scheme to regulate the use of heavy vehicles. The national law is the subject of an agreement between NSW and other participating jurisdictions, under which each jurisdiction has agreed to establish a national system of regulation for heavy vehicles, consisting of uniform laws administered by a single national regulator. The text of

the national law is set out in the Schedule to the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012* of Queensland. The bill applies the text of the national law as a law of this State.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 18 June 2013 from 29 May 2013 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill stating that adopting a national law is a positive step forward in providing uniformity that will deliver good outcomes across the State, will make all States competitive and help New South Wales obtain a fair share of national transport freight. The bill also has the support of the industry as it enables a single approach to the regulation of heavy vehicles.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence. The Assembly returned the bill without amendment the following day.

## **Local Government Amendment (Conduct of Elections) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide more flexible arrangements for the administration of local council elections by the Electoral Commissioner. The existing arrangements require a council to decide whether to have the Electoral Commissioner administer its elections within 12 months after the previous ordinary election of councillors and that only permit an arrangement for all of a council's elections to be administered by the Electoral Commissioner.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 19 June 2013 from 29 May 2013 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill and stated that it delivers beneficial and flexible arrangements for the administration of local council elections by the Electoral Commissioner.

Members were supportive that the bill will make it easier for councils to have the Electoral Commission run their elections, give them a longer period to make that determination and allow councils to enter into an ongoing agreement with the Electoral Commission without having to renew that process each council term.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

## **Local Government Amendment (Early Intervention) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill makes various amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* to put in place a more effective framework for addressing poor performance and accountability issues in local councils.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 19 June 2013 from 22 May 2013 (see Vol. 55/48 of *House in Review* for earlier debate). Members of

the Government and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, arguing that experience had shown there was a clear need for a model of early intervention as opposed to the current expensive public inquiry option. The Opposition and the Greens did not oppose the bill, with the Opposition stating that it still held some concerns, particularly the failure of the bill to provide a definition of the term 'dysfunctional' in relation to determining the need for early intervention. During the debate, members from all sides acknowledged the approach of the Minister for Local Government in undertaking good faith negotiations with them and with stakeholders.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Opposition moved an amendment that required that criteria for performance improvement orders be included in the regulations. The amendment was negatived, with the Government stating that the intended effect of the amendment would be achieved by the amendments it was proposing. The Government moved four amendments that between them ensured that the relevant Minister must consider criteria prescribed in the regulations before suspending a council or issuing it with a performance improvement order, and narrowed the definition of when a Minister may suspend, or extend a suspension of, a local council. The amendments were agreed to. The Greens did not proceed with three of their five circulated amendments, as their intent had been encapsulated within the amendments moved by the Government. The Greens moved two other amendments that sought to insert a rule that a council could not be suspended under any circumstances in a three month period before a council election; and to provide a capacity for an administrative review of a decision to suspend a council. Despite the support of the Opposition, both amendments were negatived.

The bill was reported to the House with amendments, read a third time and returned to the Assembly. The Assembly agreed to the Council's amendments.

### **Local Land Services Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill establishes as a statutory corporation – Local Land Services – to administer, deliver and fund certain programs and services associated with agricultural production, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management. The bill also repeals the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* and the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 20 June 2013. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Gay) argued that the reforms contained in the bill are the most significant in more than 60 years and will reform the way farmers and land managers access government agricultural advice, biosecurity and natural resource management services. The Minister advised that, following further consultation, the Government would be moving amendments in the committee stage to address issues raised by stakeholders.

Members of the Government spoke in support of the bill, stating that the reforms contained within the bill were long overdue and are the result of eighteen months of stakeholder consultation.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill but foreshadowed that it would be moving a range of amendments in the committee stage, many of which seek to address concerns raised with the Opposition by stakeholders. The Opposition was critical of the manner in which the reform process was announced and of the reduction in agricultural support services that have preceded the introduction of the bill.

The Greens supported the bill, noting that while it was ambitious in its scope, it appeared to have struck an adequate balance regarding boundaries, board structure and objectives and between natural resource management and agricultural extension, and argued that it provided a foundation for greater regionally based management. The Greens acknowledged concerns that had been raised by stakeholders and indicated that they would be supporting all of the Government proposed amendments and some of the Opposition proposed amendments to the bill.

The second reading was agreed to (Division 23:12), with the Opposition voting against, and the Government and the cross bench parties voting for the bill.

Consideration of the bill in committee of the whole was set down for a later hour.

### **NSW Self Insurance Corporation Amendment Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *NSW Self Insurance Corporation Act 2004* to confirm that the NSW Self Insurance Corporation may provide protection on an individual basis to eligible State officials for claims made against them in connection with the exercise of their functions, and to enable the Corporation to provide principal arranged construction insurance that extends to non-Government contractors for certain major capital works projects undertaken by or on behalf of the State.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 19 June 2013. The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Mason-Cox) incorporated his speech into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the bill will provide greater certainty to State officials and non-government participants working closely with Government, reduce unnecessary expenditure across the State and make doing business with the Government more efficient. The Parliamentary Secretary stated the importance of extending the NSW Self Insurance Corporation's responsibilities to arrange Principal Arranged Insurance on behalf of agencies as the Government has mandated the use of Principal Arranged Insurance for all future capital works projects estimated at a total cost of \$10 million.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill and noted the initiatives in the bill will provide taxpayers with better value for money. The Opposition questioned whether the introduction of the bill was motivated by the Collins inquiry into collapses in the building and construction

industry. In reply, the Parliamentary Secretary indicated that it was not a factor in the development of the bill.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was forwarded to the Assembly for concurrence.

### **Courts and Other Miscellaneous Legislation Amendment Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill makes miscellaneous amendments to certain legislation administered by the Attorney General and the Minister for Justice with respect to courts.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 19 June 2013. In his second reading speech, the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) indicated that the bill is part of the Government's regular legislative review and monitoring program and will amend a number of Acts to improve the efficiency and operation of courts, as well as the operation of agencies within the Department of Attorney General and Justice.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party supported the bill noting that it makes a number of relatively modest amendments to many pieces of legislation. Members particularly spoke about the amendments to the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* in relation to indirect discrimination complaints as the present operation is open to abuse. These amendments reflect a New South Wales Court of Appeal decision which considered the concept of indirect discrimination and its treatment in earlier cases.

The second and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly.

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The purpose of this bill is to make minor and inconsequential amendments to 41 Acts and one regulation. The form of this bill is similar to that of previous bills in the statute law revision program.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 19 June 2013. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. In that speech, the Parliamentary Secretary said the bill continues the long-standing statutory law revision program.

The Opposition, Christian Democratic Party and the Greens supported the bill, while noting that some minor concerns had been raised with the Government.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, in response to objections raised by other parties, the Government moved amendments to remove provisions relating to termination of agreements or co-tenancies under the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* and to delegation of Ministerial powers under the *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998*.

The bill was reported to the House with amendments, read a third time and returned to the Assembly. The Assembly agreed to the Council's amendments.

### **Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* to clarify which functions of a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) may be exercised by the Board of the LALC, alters the requirements in relation to the advertising of staff vacancies for LALCs, clarifies the provisions relating to the disqualification of a person to hold the office of a member of a LALC and changes the basis on which community development levies payable in relation to transactions of LALCs are calculated.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 June 2013 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for 20 August 2013.

### **Road Transport Amendment (Licence Disqualification on Conviction) Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Road Transport Act 2013* to provide that where a person is disqualified for a specified period from holding a driver licence as a consequence of being convicted of serious driving offences, and sentenced to imprisonment, the specified period of disqualification is extended so that the period is served after the person is released from detention.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 19 June 2013 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour of the sitting. As the bill has not been declared urgent, under the sessional order any debate after the Minister's second reading speech must be adjourned until the first sitting day after the winter recess.

#### *Government motion*

### **60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation**

*Summary:* The motion called on the House to note that 2 June 2013 was the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation and that it is fitting that this milestone be commended by the Parliament.

*Proceedings:* The item was brought on on 18 June 2013 and agreed to without debate.

#### *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.

**Victims Rights and Support Bill 2013:** On 30 May 2013 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the Council's amendment.

**Child Protection Legislation Amendment (Children's Guardian) Bill 2013:** On 30 May 2013 the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the Council's amendment.

## Private members' business

**Note:** Private members' business is business introduced by members of the House other than Government ministers. There are two types of private members' business: private members' bills and private members' motions.

### *Motions taken as formal business*

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

- (1) ANZAC Notes (Mr Lynn)
- (2) War memorials restoration grants (Ms Ficarra)
- (3) Australian Middle East Media (Mr Clarke)
- (4) Festival of Vaisakhi (Mr Clarke)
- (5) Yeshiva Centre Annual Dinner (Mr Clarke)
- (6) Jewish Festival of Lag BaOmer (Mr Clarke)
- (7) Order for papers – 2013-2014 Budget (Mr Searle)
- (8) Order for papers – 2013-2014 Budget finances (Mr Searle)
- (9) Procedure Committee—Reference (Dr Kaye)
- (10) Mr Blake Dew (Ms Ficarra)
- (11) World Congress of Families (Mr Green on behalf of Revd Mr Nile)
- (12) Seventh Annual Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Ceremony (Mr Lynn)
- (13) Mr Yunupingu (Ms Barham)
- (14) NSW School Archives Special Interest Group (Mr Lynn)
- (15) World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (Ms Barham)
- (16) Opening Series of Major League Baseball (Ms Ficarra)
- (17) 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Stephanos Greek Orthodox Parish (Ms Cotsis).

## Orders for papers

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

### *Orders made*

- (1) **2013-2014 Budget (Mr Searle):** The motion was agreed to as formal business. Due: 3 July 2013.
- (2) **2013-2014 Budget finances (Mr Searle):** The motion was agreed to as formal business. Due: 3 July 2013.

### *Returns to order*

- (1) **Yaralla Estate:** received 13 June 2013, nine boxes public, five boxes privileged.
- (2) **Heritage order on 'Peroomba', Warrawee – Further order:** received 18 June 2013, one box public.

## Petitions received

- (1) Government Sector Employment Bill – 9,500 signatures (presented Revd Mr Nile).
- (2) National parks, state conservation areas and wildlife – 290 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann).
- (3) Hawkesbury Road, Springwood to Yarramundi – 461 signatures (presented Ms Westwood).
- (4) Container deposit scheme – 259 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann).
- (5) State Marriage Equality Bill – 108 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann).
- (6) Intersex discrimination – 103 signatures (presented Ms Faehrmann).

## Reports tabled

**Auditor-General:** Performance Audit report entitled 'Building energy use in NSW public hospitals: ministry of Health, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage', dated June 2013.

**Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption:** Report entitled 'Report of an Audit of Applications for and Execution of Search Warrants by the Independent Commission Against Corruption', dated June 2013.

**Ombudsman:** Report entitled, 'Report under Section 49(1) of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for the six months ending 31 December 2012', dated June 2013.

## Committee activities

**Note:** Committee activities include 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*

**Procedure Committee:** The House referred to the Committee an inquiry into the regulation of the consumption of alcohol by members during sitting hours, including suggestions for changes to the standing orders, sessional orders, the Code of Conduct for Members or other relevant instruments. The Committee is due to report by Friday 27 September 2013.

### *Committee reports tabled*

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 39/55', dated 18 June 2013.

**Select Committee on the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW facilities:** Report entitled 'The closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW facilities', dated 14 June 2013.

## **Inquiry activities**

### **The 2009 Mt Penny return to order**

The Privileges Committee has published eight submissions as part of its inquiry. The Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday 24 June 2013.

### **Racial vilification law in NSW**

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice has deferred consideration of its draft report.

### **Drug and alcohol treatment**

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 has received 53 submissions to its inquiry into the effectiveness of current drug and alcohol policies with respect to deterrence, treatment and rehabilitation. The Committee is now preparing its report, which is due for tabling on 29 August 2013.

### **Same sex marriage law in NSW**

The Standing Committee on Social Issues is inquiring into a proposed same sex marriage law in New South Wales. The Committee is scheduled to report in July 2013.

### **Strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people**

The Standing Committee on Social Issues has received 52 submissions to its inquiry into strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people. The Committee has held three public hearings, and is scheduled to conduct a site visit to the north coast of New South Wales in October.

### **Adequacy of water storages in NSW**

The Standing Committee on State Development is finalising its inquiry into the adequacy of water storages in New South Wales. The report is scheduled to be tabled on 27 June 2013.

### **Tourism in local communities**

Submissions to this General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 inquiry are due by 28 June 2013. The Committee will hold hearings in August, followed by site visits to regional areas in October and November.

## **Adjournment debate**

### **Tuesday 18 June 2013**

Companion Animals Taskforce Report (Ms Fazio); Gonski education reform (Dr Kaye); Lieutenant-General Stanley Savige (Mr Lynn); Industrial relations reform (Mr Searle); Gujarat Russell Vale Colliery Expansion (Mr Buckingham); Charles Sturt University Health Care Conference (Mrs Pavey).

### **Wednesday 19 June 2013**

Workers compensation (Ms Voltz); Hellenic Pontian Genocide Commemoration (Revd Mr Nile); Women's suffrage (Miss Gardiner); Workers compensation (Mr Searle); Animal rights activists (Mr Borsak); Motor trades industry (Ms Cusack).

### **Thursday 20 June 2013**

Child sexual abuse (Ms Barham); Coal industry (Mr MacDonald); National Parks (Mr Foley); Native forest wood-chipping (Mr Shoebridge); North west rail link (Ms Sharpe); Vinnies Sydney CEO Sleep-out (Mr Blair).

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

We welcome any comments you might have on this publication.

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

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.



Steven Reynolds  
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