

# NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## *HOUSE IN REVIEW*



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13 to 15 May 2014*



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

Much of this sitting week was taken up by debate on essentially non-controversial Government legislation. The House considered nine Government bills, while four other bills were introduced into the House.

On Thursday, the House set the hearing schedule for this year's inquiry into the Budget Estimates. The initial round of hearings will take place during the week of 18-22 August. The week of 7-10 October has been set aside for an initial round of supplementary hearings.

Also on Thursday, the House debated a condolence motion concerning the death of the Hon Neville Wran, a former member of the House and a former Premier of NSW.

The House now stands adjourned until Tuesday 27 May 2014.

### Condolence motion - the Honourable Neville Wran AC, CNZM, QC (Mr Foley)

On Thursday 15 May 2014, the Leader of the Opposition moved a condolence motion expressing regret at the loss sustained by the State by the death of the Honourable Neville Wran, former Premier of NSW. In speaking to the motion Mr Foley noted Mr Wran's achievements and sought to address the accusations made regarding Mr Wran by the ABC's Four Corners programme in 1983. Mr Foley stated that these accusations were proven to be baseless by a Royal Commission and argued that they did great disservice to the memory of Mr Wran.

Members from the Government, Opposition and the Christian Democratic Party spoke in support of the motion, offering their condolences to Mr Wran's family and friends. Members noted Mr Wran's achievements as Premier, including his reform of the Legislative Council and electoral funding, his leadership of the Labor Party and the Government, the reform of the dairy industry in New South Wales, his commitment to social justice, schools, health services and housing, and his passion for national parks.

A motion was moved under a sessional order to extend the time for debate, which currently stands adjourned.

### Returns to order for papers

In the last edition of *House in Review*, it was reported that two returns to orders were not fully complied with by the Government. The two orders related to documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra and documents relating to the reform of planning laws in New South Wales. As reported last week, the House had resolved the order in relation to the reform of planning laws, however the order relating to documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra remained unresolved.

On Wednesday, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Searle, gave notice of a motion noting that a partial return to order was received on 6 May 2014 responding to only one paragraph of the House's original order, that the Government had not complied with the order on the basis of one paragraph in advice from the Solicitor General, and that the Solicitor-General's advice, in the main, confirmed the power of the House to order the production of State papers. The notice also explicitly addressed the appropriate timing for the Government to seek to amend orders for papers made by the House to ensure that they can be readily complied with by the Executive, stating that:

the appropriate time for issue to be taken with the terms of any order for the production of documents, for negotiation to take place on its terms and for any amendments to be proposed is before the matter is resolved by the House and not afterwards.

The notice then proposed a new order for specific types of documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra. The order required the production of the relevant documents within 56 days.

The House agreed to the motion on Thursday morning. A return to order is due on 10 July 2014.

## Government business

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

### Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Amendment (Fresh Start Support) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Act 2011* to increase the payroll tax rebate available to employers when they hire a worker made redundant after 1 January 2014 from a list of designated employers. The additional rebate amount of \$1,000 is to apply in relation to the first year of eligible employment under the Act of a person who has been made redundant.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 May 2014. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that the bill reflected the Government's commitment under the Jobs Action Plan to create jobs in New South Wales, to make NSW the first place to do business and to encourage employers to expand their operations. The speech listed the key issues the Government will consider when determining which employers will be designated and noted that regulations were being drafted that will outline the definition of a designated employer and the definition of a redundancy.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, but noted concerns regarding the limited engagement of businesses with the current scheme and the absence of a definition of a designated employer. The Opposition foreshadowed an amendment during the committee stage that would seek to include employees made redundant at the Electrolux factory in Orange within the parameters of the scheme. The Greens did not oppose the bill, also noting concerns regarding the efficacy of the current scheme, and expressed support for the Opposition's amendment. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, but took the opportunity to state that they would prefer to see cancellation of payroll tax, on the grounds that it is a tax on jobs and a tax on employment.

The second reading was adjourned until a later hour of the sitting.

### Crimes Amendment (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Crimes Act 1900* to increase, from 7 to 21 years, the maximum penalty of imprisonment for the offence of performing an act of female genital mutilation (or aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a person for the act of mutilation). The bill also creates a separate offence, with a maximum penalty of 21 years imprisonment, where a person takes, or arranges for the taking of, another person from the State with the intention of having female genital mutilation performed on the other person.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 May 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was

incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that in March 2013, a Commonwealth review of Australia's legislative framework criminalising female genital mutilation made a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring consistency in offences and penalties for female genital mutilation offences across the States and Territories. The speech further noted that the bill creates consistency between NSW and other jurisdictions in relation to the penalties for female genital mutilation and the age of victims. The speech also announced an awareness campaign to educate young women and the community about these legislative changes and the short- and long-term health consequences.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, on the grounds that the practice of female genital mutilation deserved serious criminal sanctions. The Opposition noted the small number of prosecutions for female genital mutilation offences in New South Wales and emphasised the need for education regarding the detrimental social and health impacts of the practice. The Greens expressed support for the bill, describing the practice as abhorrent and needlessly brutal. The Greens also expressed concern regarding the small number of prosecutions under the existing law and supported the call for greater education about the practice and the law regarding it. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, condemned the practice and commended the Government for taking further action on the issue.

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

### Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment (Family Member Victim Impact Statement) Bill 2014

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* to make further provision for the consideration of family member victim impact statements for sentencing purposes during sentencing for the crime of murder on the basis that the impact of the offence is an aspect of harm done to the community. The bill overrules a NSW Criminal Court of Appeal decision from 1997, *R v Previtera (1997) 94 A Crim R 76*, which held that a victim impact statement is not relevant for consideration in sentencing an offender. The bill also makes it clear that the absence of a victim impact statement does not give rise to an inference that an offence had little or no impact on the victim's family.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 May 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the following day. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that it was the Government's view that there are circumstances in which a family victim impact statement should be taken into account in determining an offender's sentence, but that when it considered this matter earlier in its term, there was little community support for a change to the legislation. However, the community response to the recent sentencing of Kieran Loveridge for the

manslaughter of Thomas Kelly, when the family victim impact statement appeared not to have been taken into account, gave a strong indication that community views on this matter have changed.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, stating that a similar bill had been introduced by the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly earlier in the year, and that this bill was belatedly seeking to catch up with community expectations. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, noting that families of victims in criminal proceedings often have very little role or opportunity to have their voice heard, and that victim impact statements give families some closure through the court proceedings.

The Greens opposed the bill, arguing that the courts should not be asked to put a value on the life of one person as opposed to another, and that the bill creates a real risk of unfair and unequal treatment of offenders before the law. The Greens supported the maintenance of the current criminal justice system.

The second (Division 31:5) and third readings of the bill were agreed to and the bill was returned to the Assembly without amendment.

### **Parents and Citizens Associations Incorporation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The Bill amends the *Parents and Citizens Associations Incorporation Act 1976* to continue in existence the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales and to make various provisions in relation to the Federation.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 May 2014 and read a first time. Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced the following day. The second reading speech of the Minister (Mr Ajaka) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that, due to ongoing internal tensions, the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations had commissioned a review of its activities and functions and that this review had proposed a number of reforms. The speech noted that the bill responded to these proposals, and to a number of complaints regarding the organisation from parents and citizens associations across the State.

The Opposition did not oppose the bill, but expressed concern regarding the Government's delay in responding to the recommendations for reform. The Opposition stated their support for the role parents and citizens associations play in NSW schools and foreshadowed an amendment to set a specific time limit on the contract for the administrator in order to ensure a swift resolution of the reforms.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill on the grounds that long-term internal conflict within the Federation had affected its ability to support parents and citizens associations, and argued that the new governance structure would make for a more accountable, functional and representative parents and citizens federation.

The Greens also supported the bill, arguing that the internal tensions had distracted the organisation from its

key functions, and that the bill created a new structure that is much less likely to reproduce those tensions. The Greens acknowledged the need for the voices of parents and carers in the debate regarding public education, which the Federation has provided in the past, but has been unable to provide recently due to its internal problems.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens moved amendments that sought to set a date for the election of the Federation's executive committee in order for that committee to be able to contribute to the debate on public education during the election period. The amendment was negated (18:21).

The Opposition moved amendments that sought to limit the term of the administrator of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations, once appointed, to 90 days, on the grounds that the process needed to happen expeditiously. The Government opposed this amendment, as it had the Greens amendment, on the grounds that it would not be possible to hold an election within a shorter time period than currently proposed without disenfranchising many local parents and citizens associations. The amendment was negated (18:21).

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

### **Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill implements the provisions of the Legal Profession Uniform Law in New South Wales and provides supporting provisions for the regulation of the legal profession in this State. The nationally developed legislation, the Legal Profession Uniform Law, provides a scheme to harmonise regulation of the legal profession across the States and Territories and is the subject of an agreement between New South Wales and Victoria, and potentially other jurisdictions. As a result of adopting the nationally developed legislation, the bill repeals the *Legal Profession Act 2004*.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 May 2014. The second reading speech of the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Clarke) was incorporated into Hansard. That speech indicated that New South Wales was proud to be a launch partner of this regulatory initiative which will deliver benefits for individual lawyers, law firms and consumers of legal services. It is hoped that other States and Territories will sign on to the uniform law so that the benefits can be enjoyed on a national basis.

The Opposition and the Greens did not oppose the bill, noting that it had the support of the New South Wales Bar Association and the Law Society and that while only New South Wales and Victoria were adopting the uniform law, between them they accounted for 75 per cent of the legal practitioners in the nation. The Greens noted that concerns had been raised with them that the law would subject small legal firms and sole practitioners to disproportionate regulation and compliance costs. The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, while

noting the need for public education on liability for legal costs.

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

### **State Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill makes amendments to certain State revenue legislation, including with respect to landholder duties, land tax and corporate tax.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 14 May 2014. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) said that the bill was simply one of a series of several pieces of legislation to clarify administrative and implementation issues in tax legislation and that such compendium bills of this nature are not designed to effect major change in order to raise revenue.

The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party all supported the bill. All parties noted that the bill initially introduced in the Assembly last year proposed amendments to options on land, landholder duty provisions relating to primary production land and mining interests, and a general discretion to the NSW Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, which caused stakeholders to raise concerns with Government that the bill in fact was introducing a new tax on mining options. As a result, the bill was amended in the Assembly to remove these provisions to allow further consultation. The Greens argued that the removal of these provisions meant that the Government was foregoing a significant revenue stream and foreshadowed that they would seek to reinsert the provisions in the committee stage.

The second reading was agreed to.

In the committee stage, the Greens did not garner any support for their amendments that sought to reinsert the originally proposed duty provisions relating to primary production land, mining interests and transfer of land options into the bill (Division 5:31).

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

### **Maritime and Transport Licensing Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Council.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Marine Safety Act 1998* and the *Road Transport Act 2013* to make Roads and Maritime Services responsible for the issuing of boat driving licences and vessel registration and to enable RMS to grant vehicle driving licences that include boat driving licences as an alternative to issuing separate boat driving licence documentation. The bill also amends the *Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995* to enable regulations under the Act to make provision for the management of dangerous goods in ports.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill resumed on 14 May 2014 from 7 May 2014 (see previous edition of *House in Review* for earlier debate). The

Opposition and the Greens did not oppose the bill, while the Christian Democratic Party supported it. All parties noted that the proposed changes to allow the issuing of combined boat and driver licences was a sensible move. The Opposition sought confirmation that the bill would not result in increased licence fees, while the Greens raised a concern regarding the capacity of the RMS to administer the dangerous goods regulation.

In reply, the Minister (Mr Gay) confirmed that there would be no change to licence fees and stated that there would be no weakening of the management of dangerous goods in ports as a result of simply moving the regulation making power from work, health and safety legislation to the area responsible for the oversight of ports.

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

### **Travel Agents Repeal Bill 2013**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends and repeals various Acts to give effect to part of the national Travel Industry Transition Plan which was agreed to by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 May 2014. In his second reading speech, the Minister (Mr Mason-Cox) indicated that the bill repeals the *Travel Agents Act 1986*, which is now redundant due to changes in the way that consumers purchase travel and related products through the internet and e-commerce.

The Christian Democratic Party supported the bill, while the Opposition and the Greens did not oppose the bill, with all parties acknowledging that the current Act was redundant and the practical sense in its repeal.

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

### **Courts and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill makes miscellaneous amendments to legislation affecting the operation of NSW Courts and other legislation administered by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice. The bill is part of the Government's regular legislative review and monitoring program, and similar bills are presented most years.

*Proceedings:* Debate on the second reading of the bill commenced on 13 May 2014. The Opposition, the Greens and the Christian Democratic Party did not oppose the bill on the grounds that the bill avoids the more complex and less efficient procedure of introducing separate bills for what are modest amendments to an array of Acts to enable the courts to operate more efficiently.

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

## **Ombudsman Amendment (Aboriginal Programs) Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill amends the *Ombudsman Act 1974* to provide for the monitoring and assessment by the Ombudsman of designated Aboriginal programs, and outlines the proposal for the administrative appointment of a Deputy Ombudsman for Aboriginal Programs to enable the Ombudsman to monitor and assess Aboriginal programs. The bill further amends the *Ombudsman Act 1974* to permit the Ombudsman to provide a report on any matter concerning an Aboriginal program, including recommendations for improvements in the delivery of the program, to the Minister responsible for the program and to any other Minister or public authority affected, and also to make a special report to Parliament on any systemic issue relating to Aboriginal affairs.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 May 2014 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

## **Universities Legislation Amendment (Regulatory Reforms) Bill 2014**

*Summary:* The bill amends various Acts to reduce the degree of direct regulation of universities by the Government. The bill removes certain regulatory requirements relating to financial management, land dealings and governing body election procedures of universities and provides clarity for the capacity of universities to generate revenue to fund the objects and principal functions of the university.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 May 2014 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

## **Teaching Service Amendment (Transfers) Bill 2014**

*Summary:* The *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*, which commenced operation on 24 February 2014, repealed the former *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*. The former Act contained provisions for the temporary and permanent transfers of staff within public sector agencies. Those provisions, namely sections 86A and 87, applied to staff employed in the Teaching Service and underpinned the transfer processes for staff employed in the Teaching Service, including teachers in New South Wales government schools. The Bill amends the *Teaching Service Act 1980* to restore the substantive effect of these provisions.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 15 May 2014 and read a first time. The second reading was set down for a later hour.

## **Home Building Amendment Bill 2014**

The bill originated in the Legislative Assembly.

*Summary:* The bill gives effect to a statutory review commenced in 2011 by reforming the *Home Building Act 1989*. Provisions in the Act reformed by the bill include home warranty insurance, resolution of building disputes,

contracts for residential building works and the supply of kit homes, statutory warranties implied into contracts, notification of insolvency, and penalties for unlicensed work.

*Proceedings:* The bill was received from the Legislative Assembly on 14 May 2014 and read a first time. The second reading of the bill was set down for a later hour.

### ***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.

**Graffiti Control Amendment Bill 2013:** On 8 May 2014, the Assembly advised that it had agreed to the Council's amendment to the bill.

**Crimes Amendment (Provocation) Bill 2014:** On 14 May 2014, the Assembly advised it had agreed to the bill which it was returning without 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*

## **Bentley coal seam gas blockade (Mr Shoebridge, The Greens)**

*Summary:* The motion called on the House to express its support for the right of communities to engage in peaceful, non-violent protests to protect their land and water; to acknowledge the strength of community support for the Bentley blockade; and to note the 2012 Lismore City Council plebiscite that found 87 per cent of local residents opposed coal seam gas exploration and production in their area. The motion also called on the Government and the NSW Police to ensure that the peaceful nature of the blockade is respected and to refrain from the use of the Emergency Powers under Part 6A of the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act* to break up the blockade.

*Proceedings:* On 15 May 2014, standing orders were suspended to bring on the item of business (Division 19:18). In speaking to the motion, Mr Shoebridge said that the right to freedom of expression and peaceful non-violent protest were essential to democracy. Mr Shoebridge argued that the concerns of the people of Bentley regarding coal seam gas were shared by many other communities across the State, and that the Emergency Powers contained within the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act* were never intended for the purpose of dispersing non-violent protests.

The Government did not oppose the motion and supported in principle the notions contained within it. However, the Government took issue with any implied criticism of the NSW Police and their appropriate use of the powers granted to them. The Government noted that earlier in the day it had been announced that the exploration licence at Bentley had been suspended on the

grounds of insufficient community consultation by the licence holder.

Members of the Opposition and the Greens welcomed the announcement of the suspension of the exploration licence. The Greens paid tribute to the actions of the police in their dealings with the blockade participants and in resisting pressure from the licence holder to take action against the blockade. Mr Buckingham (The Greens) moved that the motion be amended so that the call to refrain from using the powers under the Act to disperse the blockade be expanded to also include 'all other' peaceful community action.

The amendment of Mr Buckingham was agreed to on the voices.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to on the voices.

Later that day, the Leader of the Government made a ministerial statement in order to indicate that the Government had voted on the voices against the amendment of Mr Buckingham.

#### *Motions taken as formal business*

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

- (1) Australian BMX National Championships (Ms Westwood)
- (2) National Reconciliation Week (Ms Voltz)
- (3) Dr Grace Warren AM (Ms Voltz, on behalf of Ms Fazio)
- (4) National Volunteer Week (Ms Barham)
- (5) Mr Reg Gasnier (Mr Ajaka)
- (6) Literacy for Life Foundation (Ms Cusack)
- (7) 30th National Netball Championships (Ms Cusack)
- (8) NSW Netball players selected for Commonwealth Games (Ms Ficarra)
- (9) Mr Tom Hafey (Mr Buckingham)
- (10) Nigerian Schoolgirls (Dr Faruqi)
- (11) International Nurses Day (Ms Westwood)
- (12) South Asian Muslim Association of Australia (Dr Faruqi)
- (13) Mine explosion in Turkey (Mr Khan)
- (14) Australia hospital ship 'Centaur' (Mr Khan).

### **Reports tabled**

**Ombudsman:** Report of Ombudsman entitled "Report under Section 49(1) of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for the six months ending 31 December 2013", dated April 2014.

### **Orders for papers**

*Order made*

- (1) **Documents from the office of the former Minister for Finance and Services and Minister for the Illawarra (Mr Searle):** The order relates to certain types of documents from the office of the former Minister. The motion was agreed to. Due: 10 July 2014.

### **Petitions received**

- (1) Dutton Lane car park - 2612 signatures (presented Mr Lynn); 1031 signatures (presented Mr Lynn)
- (2) Battery cage egg production - 2222 signatures (presented Dr Faruqi)
- (3) Sow stalls - 1543 signatures irregular (presented Dr Faruqi)
- (4) CountryLink - 82 signatures (irregular, presented Ms Sharpe)
- (5) Pensioner housing rent - 9 signatures (irregular, presented Ms Sharpe)
- (6) Public housing rent - 218 signatures (irregular, presented Ms Sharpe),
- (7) Train services to Goulburn - 18 signatures (irregular, presented Ms Sharpe)
- (8) Richmond line peak hour train timetable - 107 signatures (irregular, presented Ms Sharpe).

### **Committee activities**

#### *Committee membership*

The following changes to committee membership were reported:

#### **Privileges Committee:**

Mrs Maclaren-Jones in place of Mr Mason-Cox.

#### **Standing Committee on State Development:**

Mr MacDonald in place of Mr Lynn.

#### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1**

Mr Pearce in place of Mr Mason-Cox.

#### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

Mrs Pavey in place of Ms Ficarra.

#### **Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW**

Mrs Pavey in place of Ms Ficarra.

#### **Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing**

Mr Clarke in place of Mr Mason-Cox.

#### **Select Committee on the Impact of Gambling**

Mr Pearce in place of Mr Mason-Cox.

#### **Joint Standing Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission**

Dr Phelps in place of Ms Cusack.

#### **Joint Standing Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission**

Mrs Maclaren-Jones in place of Ms Cusack.

## **Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General**

Mr Lynn in place of Mr MacDonald.

*Committee report tabled*

**Legislation Review Committee:** 'Legislation Review Digest No. 55/55 of 2014', dated May 2014.

*Committee reports debated*

**General Purpose Standing Committee No 1:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 28 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014', dated October 2013.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No 4:** The House concluded the take-note debate on Report No. 28 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014', dated October 2013.

**Select Committee on the Agistment of Horses at Yaralla Estate:** The House continued the take-note debate on the Report entitled 'Agistment of horses at Yaralla Estate', dated October 2013.

**Joint Committee on Children and Young People:** The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 2/55 entitled 'Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Commission of Children and Young People', dated October 2013.

**Joint Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission:** The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 3/55 entitled 'Review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission', dated October 2013.

**General Purpose Standing Committee No 5:** The House continued the take-note debate on Report No. 38 entitled 'Budget Estimates 2013-2014', dated October 2013.

## **Inquiry activities**

### **Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

*Reviews into the exercise of the functions of the WorkCover Authority and Dust Diseases Board.* The committee is conducting its first reviews into the exercise of the functions of the WorkCover Authority and Dust Diseases Board. The committee has received 42 submissions for the WorkCover review and 7 submissions for the Dust Diseases review. The third and final hearing for the WorkCover review was held on 12 May 2014.

*Exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority (12th Review) and the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (Fifth Review).* The committee is also conducting concurrent reviews into the exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority (12th Review) and the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (Fifth Review). The committee held hearings on 7 and 17 March 2014 and expects to report in early July.

*Inquiry into the family response to the murders in Bowraville.* In addition, the committee is conducting an inquiry into the family response to the murders in Bowraville, and has received 28 submissions to date. The committee

conducted a site visit to Bowraville on 31 March and held public and closed roundtable hearings in Bowraville on 1 and 2 May. The committee held another public hearing in Sydney on 12 May 2014.

### **Standing Committee on State Development**

*Inquiry into regional aviation services.* The Committee has received 63 submissions. The first Sydney hearing is scheduled for 23 May 2014.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1**

*Inquiry into allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW.* The committee has received 98 submissions and held four hearings. Its report is currently being drafted and is expected to be tabled on 19 June 2014.

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No.5**

*Inquiry into the Wambelong fire.* The committee will resume its activities after the coronial hearings into the fire are completed, and has scheduled a site visit to Coonabarabran in early September 2014.

### **Privileges Committee**

*Inquiry into recommendations of the ICAC regarding aspects of The Code of Conduct for Members, the interest disclosure regime and a parliamentary investigator.* The Committee has published 16 submissions on its website. The Committee is now preparing a report.

### **Select Committee on greyhound racing in NSW**

The committee tabled its First Report on 28 March 2014. The House has extended the committee's final reporting date to 30 June 2014.

### **Select Committee on the impact of gambling**

The committee has received 34 submissions. Hearings were held on 10 and 11 April 2014. The committee will be holding a further half day of hearings followed by proposed site visits to Sports Bet, Oakdene House gambling treatment clinic, and the Mounties club on 5 June 2014.

### **Select Committee on ministerial propriety in New South Wales**

The select committee has received seven submissions. The reporting date for the inquiry is October 2014.

### **Select Committee on the sale of the Currawong property at Pittwater**

The select committee has received two submissions and held a public hearing on Monday 5 May. The committee will table its report by 28 June 2014.

### **Select Committee on social, public and affordable housing**

The select committee has received 248 submissions. The committee undertook site visits, public hearings and public forums in Nowra and Wollongong on 30 April and 1 May 2014. The committee will be undertaking a site visit in Sydney on 16 May and a range of site visits, hearings and public forums in Port Macquarie, Tamworth and Dubbo on 20 and 21 May 2014. Hearings will also be held in Sydney on 12 and 30 May 2014.

### **Inquiry into Budget Estimates**

The House resolved the timetable for the initial round of hearings for Budget Estimates 2014-2015. Hearings will be held from 18 to 22 August 2014. The House also resolved to change portfolio allocations to the five General Purpose Standing Committees to reflect current Ministerial portfolio responsibilities.

## Adjournment debate

### Tuesday 13 May 2014

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (Mr Khan); Death of coalminers Jamie Mitchell and Phillip Grant (Mr Veitch); Renewable energy target scheme (Dr Kaye); International Nurses Day (Mrs Maclaren-Jones); 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first Girmityas in Fiji (Ms Fazio); Israeli Independence Day/Holocaust Commemoration (Revd Nile); Lawrence Hargrave memorial theft (Mr Colless).

### Wednesday 14 May 2014

Blue Mountains septic pump-out scheme (Mr Primrose); Federal budget (Ms Barham); Europe Day (Miss Gardiner); Hunter Child Sexual Abuse Special Commission of Inquiry (Mr Shoebridge); Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales (Mr Moselmane); Illawarra Infrastructure Fund (Mr Pearce).

### Thursday 15 May 2014

European red fox (Mr Borsak); Crown land review white paper (Mr MacDonald); Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Association (Ms Cusack); Racial Discrimination Act (Mr Primrose); Coastal property protection (Mr Brown); Manufacturing industry employees (Ms Westwood).

## 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.



David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments