



New South Wales

Parliamentary Protection Bill 2011

Greens NSW Draft Exposure Bill

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to ensure that standing committees of the Parliament that meet and report during the period when the Parliament is prorogued, but not yet dissolved, have all of the protections, privileges and status of standing committees of Parliament that meet and report when the Parliament is in session. These protections and privileges include, but are not limited to, providing all the customary and legal protections for witnesses that appear before Parliamentary committees when Parliament is in session.

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Parliamentary Protection Bill 2011

New South Wales

Act No , 2011

An Act to ensure that standing committees of the Parliament that meet and report during the period when the Parliament is prorogued, but not yet dissolved, have all of the protections, privileges and status of Parliament Committees that meet and report when the Parliament is in session including but not limited to providing all the customary and legal protections for witnesses that appear before Parliamentary Committees and other matters.

1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Parliamentary Protection Act 2011*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the date of assent to this Act.

3 Protection of Parliamentary Standing Committees

(1) All Standing Committees of the Parliament, being committees which have been appointed for the life of a Parliament, have authority to meet and transact business during any period of prorogation of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, as if the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly had not been prorogued.

(2) Without limiting the generality of sub paragraph (1):

(a) All meetings and business of Committees during any period of prorogation of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly are Committee meetings for the purposes of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*; and

(b) All meetings and business of Committees during any period of prorogation of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly are proceedings in Parliament for the purposes of Article 9 of the *Bill of Rights 1689*.

4 Parliamentary Standing Committees

A reference in this Act to a Standing Committee of the Parliament includes a reference to a Standing Committee of the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly and any Joint Standing Committee of the Parliament.

5 Application of Act to past meetings of Committees

(1) This Act applies to any and all meetings and business of General Purpose Standing Committee 1 of the Legislative Council on and from 22 December 2010.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt a reference in this section to meetings and business of General Purpose Standing Committee 1 of the Legislative Council includes a reference to a purported meeting and purported business of that Committee.

