Seminar
Marking 25 years of the committee system in the Legislative Council

Friday 20 September 2013
Parliament House

9.30 – 10.45 Welcome and keynote address Theatrette

9.30 – 9.40
Mr David Blunt, Clerk of the Parliaments
Hon Don Harwin MLC, President of the Legislative Council

9.40 – 10.00
Keynote address
Inquiry powers in an era of executive dominance: Orders for papers by Legislative Council Committees
Mr Bret Walker SC

10.00 – 10.30
Questions

10.45 – 11.15 Morning tea Fountain Court

11.15 – 12.15 Session 1: Holding the government to account Macquarie Room

Session Chair:
Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC

Associate Professor Rodney Smith, Department of Government and International Relations, The University of Sydney
Hon Helen Sham-Ho OAM, former Chair, GPSC No. 3
Hon Amanda Fazio MLC, Opposition Whip, former President of the Legislative Council
Mr Quentin Dempster, Journalist, Presenter of 7.30 NSW, ABC TV

Questions

12.15 – 1.15 Session 2: Developing policy for NSW citizens Macquarie Room

Session Chair:
Hon Niall Blair MLC

Hon Max Willis, former President of the Legislative Council and former Chair, Social Issues Committee
Mrs Ann Symonds, former Chair of the Social Issues Committee
Hon John Hatzistergos, former Attorney General and former member, Law and Justice Committee
Ms Alison Peters, Director, Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)

Questions

1.15 – 2.15 Lunch Jubilee Room
### Session 3: Taking parliament to the people

**Session Chair:** Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

- **Community engagement UK style**
  - Video interview: United Kingdom House of Commons

- **Up the creek – bringing committees to communities in Bougainville**
  - Mr Peter Topura, Director, Procedure, Bougainville House of Representatives
  - Mr Simon Johnston, Twinning Coordinator, NSW Parliament

- **Bringing parliament to the people of NSW: Community consultation by Legislative Council Committees**
  - Mr Steven Reynolds, Deputy Clerk, Legislative Council, NSW Parliament

**Questions**

### Discussion and afternoon tea

**3.15 – 3.45**

**Session 4: Beyond 2013**

**Session Chair:** Hon Luke Foley MLC

- **Vision fulfilled?**
  - Hon Ron Dyer, former Chair, Law and Justice Committee
  - Hon John Hannaford, former Minister and former Chair, State Development Committee

- **Wish List: One idea to ensure Upper House Committees are effective beyond 2013**
  - Associate Professor Rodney Smith, Department of Government and International Relations, The University of Sydney
  - Hon Robert Brown MLC, Chair, GPSC No. 5
  - Dr John Kaye MLC, former Chair, Select Committee on Election Funding

### Seminar close and refreshments

**5.00**

**Fountain Court**