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KEMPSEY STUDENTS DISCOVER DEMOCRACY AT THE PARLIAMENT OF NSW

Students from St Paul's College, Kempsey travelled over 400km last week to experience Australia's first parliament: The Parliament of NSW.

Students from St Paul's College, Kempsey took the journey to engage with Australia's first parliament at NSW Parliament House on Macquarie Street.

The visit was an exciting experience for these Business Studies students, immersing them in the real-world applications of their studies from *Part 1: The Legal System* and *Part II: The individual and the law of the Legal Studies Syllabus* topic. They explored the historic chambers where key debates and decisions occur and learnt about the complexities of lawmaking and the legal system.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, warmly welcomed the students and emphasised the importance of their educational experience.

"The students' curiosity serves as a powerful reminder of why it's crucial to nurture an understanding of democracy from an early age.

"It was uplifting to witness the next generation interacting directly with the workings of our parliament and observing it in action firsthand," Mr. Piper said.

The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council, highlighted the inclusivity of the parliament's education programs, which make civics education accessible to all students, no matter where they go to school.

"Interactive programs and learning resources are available online for students in regional areas across NSW, in addition to the programs and events held at NSW Parliament House in Sydney. In 2025, we're offering travel subsidies to help schools from regional, remote and rural areas.

"We are committed to making sure that students from every part of NSW can connect with and understand how our parliament works.

"We want young people and future leaders across NSW to learn about the workings of our parliament and how it differs from the Federal Parliament in Canberra," Mr Franklin said.

Mr David Johns, Principal of St Paul's College, expressed his enthusiasm for this unique visit and educational experience for rural students.

"The St Paul's College Kempsey visit to the NSW Parliament was a wonderful opportunity for our senior Business Studies students to gain foundational knowledge of the inner workings of Parliament. "Such opportunities are especially valued by students who live in rural regional NSW," Mr Johns said.

The unique programs and learning resources available to schools include:

- Guided tours
- Legal studies workshops
- Interactive online programs
- A short film competition; and
- Leadership events including a Secondary Student Leadership Program, Young Women's Seminar and the Constitutional Convention.

Visit the [Parliament of NSW Education website](#) to find out more.

