

10. THE LEGISLATURE

10.1 Introduction

The Legislature, or the Parliament of New South Wales, operates under the Constitution as the system of representative democracy and responsible government for the State, making laws, appropriating funds, overseeing the Executive Government and debating public policy issues.



The Legislature’s objectives and strategic priorities

The Legislature contributes to and supports the following key objectives:

- the effective functioning of the Parliament and its committees
- members of Parliament are supported to fulfil their parliamentary roles
- the community has access to Parliament and is aware of the role and functions of the Parliament.

A key driver of the Legislature’s strategic priorities is to ensure Members of Parliament and staff are better able to respond to the needs of the NSW community. Throughout the 57th Parliament, the administration is committed to delivering the physical and digital assets essential to a modern Parliament, developing the Parliament’s engagement with NSW citizens and supporting members to serve the community.

Strategic Priority	Description
Modernisation of the Parliament	Strengthened governance framework, procedural innovations plus supporting technology/infrastructure, digital transformation, audio-visual upgrades, integrated service delivery, customer service enhancement, contemporary systems and processes.
Strengthening engagement with the public and enhanced trust in Parliament as an institution	Access to the institution, engagement models, institutional integrity initiatives and perceived independence of Parliament.
Safeguarding the independence of a strong Parliament	Financial independence from the executive, asserting Parliament’s powers, strengthening inter-parliament relationships and administrative collaboration.
Support members in their evolving role as elected representatives	Skills development, integrity, wellbeing and security.
Develop the capabilities of the Parliament's workforce	Leadership development, further development of profession-specific capability frameworks, adaptive roles, enhanced individualised development plans, succession planning and other workforce planning initiatives.

2020-21 Budget highlights

In 2020-21, the Legislature will invest \$227.2 million (\$185.1 million recurrent expenses and \$42.1 million capital expenditure) on its activities and strategic priorities.

The Legislature's activities include enabling the effective functioning and operation of both Houses of Parliament and their committees, supporting members to fulfil their parliamentary duties through the delivery of key services, engagement with Parliament and its proceedings, and the running of education programs for schools and other members of the community on the role and function of the Parliament.

The Legislature also provides for the administration and payment of members' salaries, allowances and additional entitlements – in accordance with the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989* – along with maintenance of the parliamentary precinct and 98 electorate offices across the State.

Key initiatives are highlighted below for 2020-21¹:

- \$14.0 million for Digital Parliament (\$26.3 million capital and \$9.8 million expenses over four years) to develop and implement modern ICT services for Parliament including cloud migration and digital transformation, defining the right Enterprise Resource Planning system for Parliament, and replacing ageing infrastructure
- \$6.0 million for audio-visual services (\$14.2 million capital and \$5.2 million expenses over four years) to modernise the audio-visual services in Parliament by offering members and the public vastly improved access to live and archived recordings of parliamentary events
- \$7.5 million (\$10.1 million capital over four years) to continue ceilings and building services replacement at Parliament House
- \$4.6 million to continue urgent infrastructure upgrades at Parliament House
- \$4.0 million (\$17.5 million over four years) to continue the project to replace the roof membrane at Parliament House
- \$3.5 million for minor capital works to continue the Parliament's program to allow urgent and routine replacement of office furniture, fittings and equipment.

Key performance information

The Legislature's performance information is published in the annual reports of the three parliamentary departments that support it: the Department of the Legislative Assembly, the Department of the Legislative Council and the Department of Parliamentary Services. Key performance measures relating to its objectives and strategic priorities are currently being enhanced.

¹ Values are representative of both capital and recurrent expenditure for 2020-21.