

Legislative Council

Hansard

Tuesday 2 December 2025

The President, Mr Farrell, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

[excerpt...]

MOTION

Committee of the Whole Council to consider the State Policies and Projects (Macquarie Point Precinct) Order 2025 (No 49)

[7.57 p.m. onwards]

Ms WEBB (Nelson) - Mr President, thank you. I advised to make a brief contribution on this motion which I will be supporting. First, I wish to acknowledge and thank the honourable member for Murchison for bringing this motion to us. It's a clear mechanism for the Chamber to consider.

Democratic debate is a fundamental principle of any parliament worthy of its name; but democratic debate does not just concern the nature of the debate underway, it is the capacity to even hold a thorough debate on a matter of interest in the first place. That's the significant contribution which this motion makes: it provides a clear and transparent mechanism by which one of the most controversial matters to come before this parliament, I would say, can be considered thoroughly by this Chamber.

We all know the nature of the statutory instrument, the State Policies and Projects (Macquarie Point Precinct) Order 2025, does not allow for amendment as if it were a bill, but it certainly warrants as thorough an examination as legislation would be awarded.

It's also important that the Legislative Council does uphold the principles of detailed scrutiny as provided for by the framework detailed in the motion: the capacity to consider each clause, schedule and item of the order. Not every clause, schedule or item may require detailed scrutiny, but it is responsible, right and proper for this place to reserve that right and capacity to do so; particularly in light of the fact that the debate limitations which are established under the standing orders of the other place resulted in that debate held on Thursday 13 November, only taking a total of 6.8 hours from 2.44 p.m. to 9.25 p.m. That's 6.8 hours in a Chamber of 35 members on a matter of such intense public interest. That's an observation, not a reflection on the other place, as each Chamber is a master of its own destiny, which I recognise, but I'm just noting it.

We shouldn't seek to make it a competition regarding the length or brevity of debates. We have different roles in the Chambers but, put simply, the order consists of 157 pages. It's a significant statutory instrument and one which will have considerable implications for current and future generations. It was that gravitas and statewide consequence which was used as a rationale in declaring the proposed Macquarie Point stadium a Project of State Significance in the first place and, as such, it deserves and warrants that it is provided the most rigorous and informed scrutiny possible through this place.

This Chamber, as we are occasionally reminded, is the House of review, and this motion is consistent with and delivers on the most important principles of rigorous democratic review and debate in the public interest. I support the motion.