

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Bills introduced	99	109	105	59	87	61
Pages*	2,945	3,650	3,028	1,453	2,380	2,389
Bills exposed	2	6	3	3	4	3
Pages	86	423	137	67	441	196
Amendments in Committee	59	67	107	107	54	58

* Note: In 2013-14 the printed page size was changed from B5 to A4, enabling more text on each page. As a result, the overall number of pages reduced by 20-25%.

Statute Law Revision

The Statute Law Revision Program is a sub-program of the Bill drafting and publishing program. The Statute Law Revision Program has been an effective and economical means of making minor amendments and removing unnecessary laws. The sub-program, which has run for almost 30 years, has three aspects:

- Making minor, non-controversial amendments, sponsored by Ministers.
- Making amendments of a purely statute law revision nature, sponsored by PCO.
- Repealing Acts and instruments that are redundant or of no practical utility.

The service measure for this sub-program is:

- *to manage the drafting and publishing for the Statute Law Revision Program to the standard and timetable set by the Government.*

2016-17 performance

Two Statute Law Bills were introduced and passed. These Bills amended 294 Acts and instruments and repealed 2 Acts and instruments.

Program 2—Statutory Instrument drafting and Publishing

PCO is responsible for the drafting and publishing of a range of statutory instruments to the standard and timetable requested by the Government. Statutory instruments drafted under this Program include regulations, rules, orders and proclamations. The Program also includes the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules and specific rules of court for particular courts and tribunals. In addition, PCO provides advice on instrument proposals as part of this Program. The Staged Repeal of Subordinate Legislation Program is a sub-program.

PCO also facilitates the centralised scheme for notifying Parliament of regulations and other statutory instruments that require tabling. Under the scheme, PCO identifies and provides to Parliament those instruments that are required to be tabled in Parliament and that either House of Parliament may disallow.



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- PCO's servers were also relocated to the Government Data Centre.
- PCO launched a new Performance Management System for staff, including providing practical training for supervisors in holding performance discussions.
- Gazette publication processes were streamlined and new FAQs were released to support those submitting notices for Gazettal. This is part of a longer-term project to make this service more efficient.

Key results of programs

PCO has an annual Business Plan that sets out the programs it provides. The Business Plan includes performance measures, responsibilities and timeframes, and is subject to monthly internal reporting.

Delivering legislative drafting services for New South Wales

Program 1—Government Bill Drafting and Publishing

PCO's main function is to draft and publish Bills and Amendments in Committee in accordance with the timeframes and standards required by the Government's parliamentary program. PCO also provides advice on legislative proposals as part of this Program.

Where practicable, Bill drafting work is done on a collegiate basis. Draft Bills continue to be scrutinised by a group of the most senior drafters and all Bills receive comprehensive editorial, legal, and quality assurance checks.

The Cabinet Standing Committee on Legislation streamlines the process of finalising and programming the introduction of Government Bills. The Parliamentary Counsel attended 23 meetings of the Committee during the year and briefed it on Bills on the Committee's agenda and on the status of draft Bills generally.

As a service to Parliament, PCO publishes Bills and republishes amended Bills for all stages of the parliamentary process and provides electronic copies for publication on the Parliament House website.

The service measure for this Program is:

- *to meet drafting and publishing volumes and deadlines as set by the Government to the quality standard expected and provide support for the Bill passage process.*

2016–17 performance

This year, a total of 61 Government Bills were introduced and 3 Bills were prepared for public consultation. For reasons of confidentiality, only those Bills introduced into Parliament or formally exposed are reported. At 30 June 2017, several Bills were completed but not proceeded with or were while preparation.

Although there was a smaller number of Bills introduced than in previous years, the number of pages was similar to previous years. Some of the more complex Bills drafted and published included those dealing with biodiversity conservation, Crown land management, greyhound racing, motor accident injuries and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. Despite the substantial number of complex Bills requiring intensive drafting and publishing work, PCO was also able to remain responsive to changes in government priorities by drafting many Bills within very short timeframes to ensure they were available for introduction into Parliament when required.