



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday, 6 March 2018**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 6 March 2018**

**The SPEAKER (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock)** took the chair at 12:00.

**The SPEAKER** read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

*[Notices of motions given.]*

### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH AWARENESS WEEK**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (12:12):** Artsakh, previously known as the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, is an area that borders Armenia to the west, Iran to the south, and the uncontested territory of Azerbaijan to the north and east. In 2013, I was privileged to visit Artsakh, sometimes known as the Republic of Artsakh, with a delegation of parliamentarians and representatives of the Armenian National Committee of Australia. Last October, members of the Armenian Youth Federation of Australia, many of whom are constituents in my electorate of Davidson, held an awareness week in Sydney and Melbourne for Artsakh. The events included more than 100 young Armenian-Australians undertaking an awareness campaign in which they promoted, through various social media and other promotional activities, the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination.

As an all-too-occasional blood donor, I was particularly impressed that 38 members of the Armenian Youth Federation of Australia donated blood at the Red Cross in memory of the 38 soldiers who died as a result of Azerbaijani conflict in the previous year. The blood donations saved lives in Australia and honoured the memory of the community's brothers and sisters in Artsakh. Sadly, the shellings continue and are causing ongoing deaths, despite an internationally brokered ceasefire involving both Azerbaijan and Armenia. In 2012, the New South Wales Parliament's Legislative Council in a motion recognised a right to self-determination for the people of Artsakh. I have spoken previously in this place in support of that principle. Historically a part of Armenia, Artsakh declared its independence around the same time that most countries in the old Soviet Union were declaring independence, fearing they would not survive if they continued under Azeri rule as Stalin had determined. These fears were well placed.

Last week, 27 February marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Sumgait massacre, when 200 Armenians died essentially because of their resolve to exercise a right to self-determination. During my 2013 visit to Armenia and Artsakh with six of my New South Wales parliamentary colleagues, we held high-level meetings with many dignitaries, who included the Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly; the President of Armenia, Mr Serzh Sargsyan; and the President of Artsakh, Mr Bako Sahakyan. We met also with the Speaker and party leaders of the National Assembly of Artsakh, as well as His Holiness Karékin II, at St Etchmiadzin, the centre of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The itinerary included a visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial, where a wreath-laying ceremony was held, followed by a private tour of the genocide museum. The visit also provided the delegation with an opportunity to see Armenia firsthand and become acquainted with its valuable culture and rich history. A representative of the President of Artsakh, the Hon. Arayik Harutyunyan, will be visiting Sydney on 15 March as part of a series of events, including a cultural evening on 16 March and a church service and banquet on 18 March. The Armenia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group will be meeting with Mr Harutyunyan in Parliament during his visit.

On many occasions I have had the privilege of meeting representatives of the Armenian National Committee of Australia [ANC], many of whom live locally and play a leading role within the broader Armenian community in Sydney. I acknowledge the representatives of the ANC who are here today in the public gallery. The ANC is holding a dinner in Parliament House tonight to acknowledge last year's twentieth anniversary of the New South Wales Parliament's motion acknowledging the Armenian genocide which occurred just over a century ago. I know that the ANC greatly appreciates the moral support of members from both sides of the Chamber. I am proud to provide assistance to the Armenian-Australian community, which includes numerous constituents in my Davidson electorate, in the remembrance of tragic events such as the Armenian genocide.

## ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (12:17):** I too talk about the genocide, the thirtieth anniversary of the Sumgait massacre, and its impact on the Armenian community in this country—in my electorate of Prospect and in the electorate of my colleague the member for Davidson—and throughout the world. As the member for Davidson mentioned, in 2012 the New South Wales Parliament recognised the right of self-determination for the Armenian people in the Republic of Artsakh. Artsakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh, is historically part of Armenia; it always has been and it always will be. However, during the time of Soviet control and oppression, the region was handed to Soviet Azerbaijan authorities by Joseph Stalin. Azerbaijan and Armenia formed republics of the Soviet Union.

As the Soviet Union was approaching its final defeat and collapse, the Armenian Christians, who remained the majority population in the Artsakh region, started discussing independence from what was becoming an increasingly oppressive Soviet-Azeri rule. They discussed the need to return home and to become part of what would soon become an independent, free and democratic Armenia. The Azeris responded to this desire of the Artsakh Armenians to have the right to self-determination, with brutal force. Pogroms were organised and massacres of women, children and young men occurred.

On 27 February 2018, the thirtieth anniversary, the Armenian Australian community joined the rest of the Free World in condemning the Sumgait massacres of 1988, when rampaging criminal mobs looted Armenian homes and hunted for Armenians. It is estimated that the official death toll was more than 200; however, thousands more fled or were deported. Law enforcement bodies in Azerbaijan deliberately ignored massacres of the Armenian population and did not intervene or protect the Armenian minority in Sumgait. In some cases, they actively supported and were involved in these atrocities. The crimes that were systemically planned went unpunished and set a precedent for future massacres of Armenians in Baku, Kirovabad and other cities throughout Soviet Azerbaijan.

The Armenians—men, women and children—fought back heroically to protect their historic motherland. Eventually breaking away from the Soviet Union—amongst a flurry of referendums by countries including Armenia and Azerbaijan—the Armenians of Artsakh exercised their right to self-determination. They sought freedom and democracy. They held a referendum and declared independence, with more than 98 per cent voting for the republic, which was recently renamed to its historical title of the "Republic of Artsakh". This independence has been recognised by New South Wales, and I stand proudly in support of that and recognise the Republic of Artsakh. Ultimately, the atrocities committed in the city of Sumgait 30 years ago reignited the memory of the atrocities committed in 1915 by the Ottoman Empire.

Both the Armenian Genocide and the Sumgait massacres remain unpunished and are denied by the governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey to this day. I make it clear—not only for the Armenians in my electorate of Prospect but also for the larger Syrian population—that there was a genocide, there was a systematic cleansing and destruction of those peoples, and Turkey and other neighbouring countries who did this must recognise it, as should the world community. For more than a century, hundreds of Armenians—mostly women, children and the elderly—were killed and thousands more were forcibly deported. This is a shocking history and a manifest policy of ethnic cleansing, expulsion and discrimination carried out with impunity. Last month the Parliament of Artsakh made a number of statements regarding the pogroms and the massacre that happened 30 years ago. On the thirtieth anniversary of these mass pogroms and atrocities against the Armenian population of Sumgait, I urge that the parliamentary structures and international human rights organisations condemn these genocidal acts committed by Baku against the Armenians of Azerbaijan. I thank the House.

## NATIVE FORESTS

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (12:22):** There is a bit of a bustle in the hedgerows about Bellingen in the electorate of Oxley: The deep Greens are a stirring. Though, unfortunately, it is not for the benefit of the local community but for political reasons. The matron saint of The Greens, Christine Milne, visited town last week to speak at meetings and to talk up the latest campaign to save something—the so-called Great Koala National Park. A year out from a State Government election, we are starting to see that peculiar but typical Greens' behaviour of inciting fear about the future in their bid to control it. In and around the mid North Coast the actively stoked looming fear is for koalas and the need to declare more national parks as the wonder solution. It seems inevitable that The Greens will continue to deliberately simplify and obscure the truth to harvest votes. I stand here today to dispel myths and mistruths, to support the local timber industry and to set the record straight on forest management along the mid North Coast.

The timber industry has access to just 400,000 hectares of State forest in northern coastal New South Wales, and only 1 per cent to 2 per cent of this is used in any one year. Once harvested, these forest areas quickly regenerate across the landscape, supporting both wildlife diversity and, importantly, the koala. Our research shows

that koalas love living in our State forests. There are strict, well-established rules around native forestry, including that every area harvested has feed and shelter trees for koalas during and after harvesting. The claims that koala habitat is under threat by the 100-year-old timber industry on the mid North Coast is politically motivated: It is a ruse to get votes. We know that the biggest threats to koalas are vehicle strike, dog attack, wildfire, disease, urbanisation and habitat fragmentation. After an area has been harvested we know that koalas are detected in numbers equivalent to those in areas where no timber gathering has occurred.

I do not remember seeing or being told that the anti-forestry, pro-koala protestors have volunteered with, or raised money for, the good folk at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital or any of the other koala assistance facilities that are doing all the good work to help these animals. It does not make much sense to try to blockade a State forest when we all know that just changing tenure from State forest to national park is not the answer—that is, unless the true purpose is just to get media attention. It surprises me that Labor is not resolutely in favour of the timber industry, given it employs more than 4,000 people in northern New South Wales—good, blue-collar workers—and our State has the largest number of hardwood sawmills in Australia. What surprises me most about The Greens is that timber is used by us all yet they want to take from our communities our ability to use it. The range of products the industry supplies is staggering and there is simply no better alternative—certainly not one that can claim to be renewable and sustainable, which is what the Opposition and The Greens claim to want.

Do The Greens really want to take away from our communities power poles, high-quality flooring and decking timbers, furniture, artisan carpentry, pallets and other useful products? Have they not seen the magnificent timber at Barangaroo that is part of the recent developments? It is beautiful, hardwood timber that is renewable. We all know that our forestry industry standards are far better than in some other countries, particularly neighbouring countries. The hypocrisy of the Opposition in trying to claim moral superiority about timber has gone on for too long. It is time we acknowledge that those working on the ground know what they are doing. They are aware of and care about getting the balance right in looking after the forest estate and supplying us with renewable household products. We should not be fooled by those who are trying to get some political advantage from the timber industry by distorting facts and by scaremongering. The people and the voters of the mid North Coast are well aware that that is happening.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN HOST

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (12:27):** I, my electorate and, indeed, New South Wales are blessed with a professional, hardworking group of people who serve this great State in the Department of Planning and Environment. It is with great sadness that I share with the House news of the passing of Mr Alan Host, a longstanding and valued employee of the Department of Planning and Environment. Alan died on Wednesday 7 February 2018. He had worked for the New South Wales Government since 1989, first for the Department of Local Government and then, from 1998 onwards, for the Department of Planning and Environment.

Alan Host was a building surveyor by profession and was passionate about community fire safety and building regulation reform. Over his long career he was active in bringing about many policies and initiatives that made my electorate, and indeed New South Wales, safer. For example, he played a key role in introducing the Building Code of Australia to New South Wales in the early 1990s and in reforming it over the years. He was also instrumental in introducing legislative change to require smoke alarms to be installed in residential buildings and sprinklers in aged-care homes. Government, industry, students and the community at large benefited from Alan's considerable knowledge and dedication. He is dearly missed not only by his wife, Alison, their four sons, Adam, Ashley, Mitchell and Daniel, and the entire Host family, but also by his departmental colleagues, who held him in very high regard. This State will miss the contribution Alan would have made in years to come. Vale Alan Host.

#### ENERGY FROM WASTE INCINERATOR

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (12:29):** At the last parliamentary sitting, members in this Chamber debated a 12,000-signature petition opposing the proposed incinerator for Western Sydney. I did not get a chance to contribute to that debate as I was evicted from the Chamber for voicing my concerns about this development. It was obvious that the Government was trying to shut down debate on this important issue. Today I make a statement about the proposed energy from waste incinerator, and I acknowledge the efforts made by the No Incinerator for Western Sydney group in collecting a 12,000-signature petition in such a short time. With more than 12,000 signatures from the residents of Western Sydney, this Government can no longer deny that Western Sydney residents do not want this toxic facility near their homes.

In 2013 I was the first councillor at Blacktown City Council to raise concerns about the health impacts of this facility. In 2015, after being elected to this place, I again spoke in opposition to this proposal. I stand here in 2018 with the same view. This development is wrong and should never be built near residential homes or



schools. The children of our community deserve to grow up in a healthy and safe environment, not one that has been polluted through the negligent actions of a careless Government. I do not know of any other developer who has been given three chances by this Government to meet the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] standards. Why is the Liberal-Nationals Government bending over backwards to enable that developer to get the application approved?

The first development application, submitted in 2014, did not meet the requirements of the EPA and should have been refused. Instead, the Government told the developer to have another go and fix the shortcomings in his application. The second development application that was submitted also failed the EPA assessment. The process should have definitely been stopped there and then, and the application refused. Instead, this Government is determined to make this development happen and gave the developer a third chance to alter his application. No matter how many applications are submitted or how many chances are given by this Government, nothing will change the fact that this is a toxic development. The Government should stop the community anxiety and reject this application as soon as possible.

Time and again, the people of Western Sydney have been let down by a government that continues to pass on its problems. I ask again: Why Western Sydney and why this location? This incinerator, which will have a great impact on my constituents in Mount Druitt, is in the electorate of Mulgoa, and the member for Mulgoa is a Minister in the Berejiklian Government. She can influence her Government to reject the proposal now. This application should have been refused five years ago. The Government should stop procrastinating and determine the refusal without further delay. Enough is enough. The community has been stressed for the past five years while this Government has been delaying a decision in the hope of getting this application over the line. I thank the Western Sydney community for their efforts. I promise to keep fighting against this toxic proposal, which is supported by a toxic government.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (12:33):** The member for Mount Druitt did not participate in the debate on the petition that was put before this House because that contribution would have contravened the standing orders. It is completely false for the member to accuse the Government of preventing him from talking. Secondly, the member for Mulgoa has consistently stated publicly and on record her opposition to the development. Once again, I put on record my opposition to this particular incinerator. This incinerator requires the approval of the Planning Assessment Commission because this Government put that process in place as Opposition members, under the previous Labor Government, completely corrupted planning and removed any form of independence. I do not believe this incinerator should be built in Western Sydney, but I believe every person should have the right to a fair and independent hearing before— *[Time expired.]*

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner):** Order! The time allowed for a Parliamentary Secretary or a Minister to respond to a private member's statement is important. However, their contribution should be in support of the member's statement. Parliamentary Secretaries and Ministers should not use that time to refute comments made by another member. All members should be respectful.

### BANKING SECTOR

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Tourism and Major Events, and Assistant Minister for Skills) (12:34):** I draw the attention of the House to the concern and frustration being experienced by people and businesses that is known only too well to rural and regional members in this place. I refer to the continual withdrawal of services from our rural communities by Australia's major banks. Time and again this country's major banks have let down regional Australia. On behalf of my constituents in the Northern Tablelands and the many smaller communities that have suffered at the hands of the major banks, I say, "Enough is enough."

As members know, the banking sector is one of the largest contributors to our national economy. However, in most cases in rural and regional New South Wales and, dare I say, in rural and regional Australia generally, where they have hundreds of thousands of loyal customers, they refuse to contribute to the social fabric and the economic prosperity of local communities. Our big four banks are amongst the most stable and profitable financial institutions in the world thanks to the considerable support and policy certainty offered in difficult economic times by the Australian Government and Australian taxpayers. However, when times are good, they have no compunction in gouging resources, branches and employees from our small regional communities which can least afford it.

Individual and businesses in rural and regional communities have shown nothing but loyalty to these institutions, often banking with the big four throughout their lives. For the record, last year the big four collectively recorded a profit of more than \$31.5 billion. Despite that, during that same period they closed 38 branches across regional Australia. In September last year, the ANZ Bank closed its branch in Glen Innes, which has a community

of about 5,000 people. It claimed that its customers preferred to bank on their phones or tablet rather than to walk into the branch. It said, "Don't worry, you can all access services in Armidale." That is great, given that Armidale is 110 kilometres away! That will be terrific for a pensioner or someone with a disability; they will be able to use a phone app to do their banking!

How does a farmer bank a cheque using a phone app? How does a grandmother use a phone app if she wants to deposit money into her grandson's account as he is heading to university? Those customers will face a two-hour round trip to access basic banking services. Farmers who have banked with the ANZ throughout their lives are taking their accounts elsewhere. Why would they not? In fact, I encourage them to do so. It is ridiculous to suggest that a two-hour round trip is convenient. That was the response offered by city-based bankers who have no understanding of country communities and no loyalty to the people who generate billions and billions of dollars in profits and shareholder returns annually. It would appear that shareholders are far more important than people who have banked with these institutions throughout their lives—and, for some families in country areas, that could be for generations.

Despite posting a record profit of nearly \$19 billion between 2015 and 2017, the National Australia Bank [NAB] shut more than 50 branches and scrapped more than 6,000 jobs during that period. People in the Northern Tablelands can forget about banking with the NAB in Uralla on a Tuesday or a Wednesday because the branch is closed on those days. The Guyra branch is also closed two days a week. In January this year, staff of the Westpac branch in Moree could not be bothered letting locals know that its opening hours had changed. They simply blu tack a handwritten note to the door each Friday telling customers that the branch is closed and that they should do their banking at the Narrabri branch, which is a 200 kilometre round trip. That is great! That happened at the same time Westpac announced an \$8.1 billion profit.

Despite that, it has no qualms in charging the good people of Moree \$7.50 to receive a paper statement in the mail showing how much of their money the bank is holding. Not to be outdone, the Commonwealth Bank—the biggest of them all—sent me a letter last week advising that its Guyra branch would be absorbed into the Armidale branch. I have seen a fair bit of spin in this place but that takes the cake. The bank is actually shutting the branch in Guyra and those people will have to travel to Armidale for their banking, despite the bank posting a \$9.93 billion profit last year. Elderly people and those with disabilities will have bugger-all banking facilities in the community of Guyra. This trend is being seen right throughout rural New South Wales. My message to the people of my electorate is to give two big, fat middle fingers to the big four banks because that is what they have been giving them, and giving them consistently, for years.

#### **LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE WOMEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (12:40):** This coming Thursday marks International Women's Day. Just down the road at the International Convention Centre, exceptional women from across this State will gather to celebrate with their peers and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of some. I am extremely proud to say that among that special group of women will be three from my electorate of Lake Macquarie who have been named as finalists in this year's Women of the Year awards. I am equally proud to say that I have known each of these women for many years and was delighted to be able to nominate them for their extraordinary contributions. Andreena Kardamis is a finalist in the Young Woman of the Year category, Christine Mastello in the Community Hero section and Selena Archibald in the Aboriginal Woman of the Year section.

Christine began her longstanding service to the community at just 13 years of age when she volunteered to collect donations for the Epilepsy Association at a local railway station. A couple of years later she decided to devote one day a month to taking underprivileged children to a local park, and a couple of years later she began visiting nursing homes just to talk to those residents who had no regular visitors. As well as being involved with established organisations, Christine has founded more than 15 groups that connect local people with others or with valuable community services such as a young parents' playgroup. She has been involved with a youth suicide prevention group, a domestic violence support group and Scouts, and she has been an active organiser of an annual Christmas party for children with special needs.

She has also found the time to work on a number of boards, including Northern Lakes Family Centre, Southlake Community Services, Southlake Business Chamber and Community Alliance, Community Drug Action Team and Toukley Women's Refuge. She is an extraordinary woman doing extraordinary things, much like Andreena Kardamis, whom I have known since she was a young school student on a clear path to one day becoming a great leader, whether or not she recognised that fact.

I first met Andreena in 2010 when I was still Mayor of Lake Macquarie and she was selected as a youth councillor for the Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council. She has been representing her peers locally and abroad for much of the time since. She has been a youth member of Parliament for Lake Macquarie, shadow Youth Attorney-General for the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament, Youth Ambassador for Hunter Life Education

and President of the Newcastle Law Students Association, and she has even travelled to Cambodia for the University Scholars Leadership Symposium.

She has juggled most of those roles while studying for a law degree at the University of Newcastle. Earlier this year she was named as Lake Macquarie's Citizen of the Year, having won the Young Citizen of the Year award only a few years ago. Award ceremonies do not get much attention in Andreena's life, though. She was unable to attend this year's Lake Macquarie ceremony because she is currently serving a six-month posting in Bangkok as a youth advocate for the United Nations. There she is giving voice to the many young women around the world who have suffered, or are suffering, domestic violence.

Lake Macquarie's other finalist, Selena Archibald, is known to many people locally as Aunty, Mum or Ma. She is a much-admired educator who has been supporting students at Morisset High School since 1999. Selena was not just the founder of the Itji-Maru Aboriginal Resource Centre at Morisset High School but also a popular role model for Indigenous young people who in the past have struggled with modern-day life as well as their cultural identity. She helps these young people identify future goals and then creates educational and cultural programs to help them get there. I know there were many tears shed at Morisset High School on the day that Selena's first group finished year 12 and obtained their Higher School Certificate. I have spoken to some of Selena's students over the years and they tell me how much they love and respect her and how she has been able to push them further than ever they felt they could go. One of those students went on to become Morisset High School's first ever Indigenous school captain.

On a personal note, I have always found Selena to be one of the people I trust to give me valuable advice on issues pertaining to the local Aboriginal community, and I greatly appreciate that. I am proud of these three women and all they have contributed to the Lake Macquarie community over many years. I am also grateful that we can now recognise and celebrate their achievements on a much bigger stage. Our community would be much poorer without these exceptional people. I congratulate them and I wish all the finalists well for the award ceremony on Thursday. I congratulate the Minister, Tanya Davies, and the Government for giving each and every member of this House the opportunity to recognise these wonderful contributions to our community.

#### **CAMPBELLTOWN-CAMDEN GHOSTS CRICKETER OLLIE POPE**

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (12:45):** I commend Ollie Pope, one of the cricketers at the Campbelltown-Camden District Cricket Club, also known as the mighty Campbelltown-Camden Ghosts. Ollie has played with us this season in first grade cricket. He came to Australia to play our summer season as part of the Global Cricket School, Surrey County Cricket Board and the English and Wales Cricket Board. Ollie hails from the county of Surrey and plays in the First IX team in the English County Cricket Championships, which was captained last season by former Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara.

Ollie showed true talent as a wicketkeeper and top order batsman and represented England in its under-19 national team tour of India. He has maintained his good form throughout an outstanding season with the Ghosts. Ollie has the highest runs scored and leads the club's dismissals as a wicketkeeper. Ollie played 23 games, including 17 first grade games and six games in the Poidevin-Gray Shield under-21 competition. Ollie amassed 996 runs for the season, which included three centuries, and 38 dismissals—an accomplishment Ollie should be very proud of. We certainly are. Ollie was only the third player in the 120-year history of the Sydney first grade competition to score a ton and take five wickets in one match. That match was against the Bankstown District Cricket Club, and Ollie took five dismissals and scored 128 runs.

Ollie's contribution to the Ghosts' cricket has been outstanding. Off the field he has been an absolute gentleman and a wonderful role model with a strong work ethic. Ollie has shown respect for the game and his fellow players—a true sportsman in every sense of the word. Ollie is a fantastic trainer and he was very generous with his time, skill and experience, which benefited all the grade players at the Ghosts. His wealth of knowledge as a first class keeper was shared with all the keepers at the club and I know they all gained from Ollie being at the club. My son, Tom, a lower grade keeper at the Ghosts, learned a great deal from training alongside Ollie. I am sure Ollie's family is extremely proud of him.

This year Sydney had one of the hottest summers on record and on some weekends the playing atmosphere was horrendous. This never seemed to faze Ollie—although on the odd occasion, after wicketkeeping for 96 overs in high 30 to low 40 degrees, he was heard to mutter something along the lines of, "Jeez, we have nothing like this heat at home." Sadly, Ollie is leaving us to return to England for the English cricket season and in less than a week he will represent his country in Barbados. We wish him every success. Ollie's parents and sister were able to come to Sydney towards the end of Ollie's New South Wales season, and the family fell in love with all we have to offer in Sydney and beyond. I am sure Ollie will miss our sparkling beaches, which he frequented after his training at the New South Wales cricket facilities. I am confident we will one day see Ollie

back in Australia playing in the Ashes for England, just as we saw 20-year-old Mason Crane playing the fifth test this year. Mason played this season and the previous season with Gordon District Cricket Club.

I thank the Ghosts Cricket Club Committee, of which I am the very proud Vice-President, for its initiative in bringing Ollie to play in our cricket season. I also thank the President and former Premier, Morris Iemma; Secretary, club stalwart and life member, Jason Ellsmore; Treasurer Peter McKell; life members Allan Connolly, Trevor Ray and Mick Shanahan; Chris Hollis; Graeme "Crackers" Hardy; Karen Barnes; Luke Webb; Mark Richardson; Jeff Mumford; and first grade captain-coach Jarrad Burke. I thank the many others who contribute to the competition each weekend and assist with training during the week.

Jarrad, our first class captain/coach, is only the fourth person in the 120-year history of the Sydney Cricket Association [SCA] first grade competition to get 10,000 runs and more than 600 first grade wickets. He is a major reason for the success of the club this year. I wish Ollie all the best for his future in the game, although I know with his raw talent, his commitment to training and his work ethic—and because he is the outstanding young man he is—he will be a huge success. Last year the Ghosts were the wooden spooners—twentieth out of 20. Today, with one round to go, we are on top of the table. We went from last to first—with one round to go—and that is in no small part due to Ollie's contribution. The job is not yet done though.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (12:50):** It is a rare moment that a New South Wales member of Parliament speaks with such passion about an Englishman, but if a person is hitting hundreds and taking five dismissals in a match for the cricket club he is so passionate about—as is the case for the member for Camden and his beloved Campbelltown-Camden Ghosts—it is understandable that the member would extol the virtues of Ollie Pope and his contribution to the team. Today the member for Camden has spoken about the significant turnaround in form that has happened in this cricket club over the last 12 months. Whilst I might call myself more of a Penrith Panther when it comes to the conduct of the Sydney district cricket competition, it is always fantastic to see sides from Western Sydney doing so well. That, as the member for Camden said, is in no small part due to the contribution made by Ollie Pope to the team.

#### ILLAWARRA REGIONAL PLANNING

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (12:51):** Today I speak to, I suppose, seek advice from the Government about the area that I represent called the Illawarra. Most of us who have lived in the Illawarra for any period of time do not consider ourselves to be a part of Sydney. That is a good thing for those of us in the Illawarra. We always say the best thing about working in Sydney is leaving. But something unusual came to my attention the other day. As a way to get away from the stadiums debacle, the Government copied most of Labor's policy around the redistribution of funds from the sale of Snowy Hydro to go to all regional and rural areas. I thought, "Good on them. They've taken up our policy—good move, smart move." Then I thought I had better check because once or twice this Government has backflipped on some stuff—just once or twice.

I checked, and—hang on a minute!—the Illawarra is not included as a region. I thought, "That's funny. I'm sure I read something somewhere in a report—or 15—that we are a region." I thought, "I won't fire off any strong emails or get on the phone just yet. I'd better just keep my powder dry." I looked at the Department of Industry's website. For the benefit of those opposite, as I know they do not know what he does, the Deputy Premier is actually the Minister who looks after this department—a minor thing. I looked at a section called "Regional NSW"—it is fairly simple, two words, which even The Nationals can understand. Listed underneath that heading is a range of regions. Sydney is not mentioned, but the Illawarra is listed—that is exhibit A.

Exhibit B is Future Transport 2056—my child will be 60-odd years of age in 2056. This plan also includes nine regions. Sydney is not mentioned; Illawarra and Shoalhaven are mentioned as a region. There are not many women opposite, but for the purpose of this argument I refer to the report entitled "Women in NSW 2015". Under the heading "Sydney or NSW region"—I have highlighted it for The Nationals so they can go straight to the page—Illawarra is listed as a separate region. That is exhibit C.

For the greenies amongst us—I know there are a few on the other side—I did not want to carry on too much about this one. The Office of Environment and Heritage, National Parks and Wildlife, South Coast region covers 1.36 million hectares extending from Stanmore Park, north of my electorate and that of the member for Wollongong, down to Batemans Bay in the south. That is south of my colleague the member for Shellharbour. That is the Office of Environment and Heritage. I thought, "Hang on a minute, is there something from the planning department?" Yes, there is. The 2036 Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan. It is a long-term plan—my son will be about 30. That is exhibit D.

For some reason this is what has happened: The Government announced the sale back to the Commonwealth of the Snowy. It says it is for regional and rural New South Wales. However, it forgot a region

that it identifies as a region—dopey. I know, even for The Nationals, it is difficult. I understand that. I will table these documents. I have tagged and highlighted them so the Government can clearly see that the Illawarra is a region and deserves part of the \$4 billion in proceeds coming back to the State. The member for Wollongong, the member for Shellharbour and I will fight every minute of every day to make sure we get our fair share.

### MURRAY MEANDER RIVER CHALLENGE

**Mr AUSTIN EVANS (Murray) (12:59):** A number of members in this place have noted that I have nail polish on. It is not, as many have assumed, as a result of Mardi Gras. I will take the opportunity that erroneous assumption provides to congratulate Hay on its Mardi Gras, the Rainbow on the Plains Festival. It was held last weekend in my electorate. By all accounts, it was a highly successful and well supported event. I congratulate the organisers, Kerri, Krista and Kerry. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend because I had already committed to attend the Murray Meander, which is where I acquired the nail polish.

The Murray Meander is a non-competitive event where participants take a tinny down a third of the river over a week. This year the third of the river travelled was from Briganbong Bridge near Corryong to Echuca-Moama. It is a great way to see the Murray and appreciate the way that the river operates and some of the nuances that affect its operation. This event is a fundraiser—which is a key driver. It is where I acquired the nail polish. It is \$1 per nail in the colours representing the two charities received funds from the Murray Meander this year. The pink represents the OTIS Foundation. The OTIS Foundation offers retreat accommodation at no cost for women facing the challenges of breast cancer. It provides the gift of time and space, and the opportunity for guests to relax, reconnect and rejuvenate with their families and loved ones. Accommodation facilities are available in most States. The OTIS Foundation has been supported with funds from all the Murray Meander events.

The blue represents the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and the scholarship program it has operated since 2009. It provides national scholarships for nurses to undertake study through Latrobe University to better equip them to assist men with prostate cancer. Those cancers are among the worst in Australia. In 2017, 17,730 cases of breast cancer and 16,665 cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed. Worse still, again in 2017, 3,452 deaths resulted from prostate cancer and 3,114 deaths resulted from breast cancer. They are shocking diseases that have a terrible effect on our communities. This is likely to be the last time the event is run. The committee that has run it for 13 years has done a fantastic job. It is an incredibly well run event—one of the best that I have ever been involved with—but the committee is talking about not running it next year. It has been a big job, and the committee members are looking to focus their energies elsewhere.

It is important to recognise the incredible work that Dick Phillips and the various committees have done. Well over \$1 million has been contributed to these and other charities over those 13 years, which is a fantastic achievement by this small group of organisers and participants. I was lucky enough to join the Murray Meander just downstream of Yarrawonga, and travelled the Murray through my electorate all the way to Moama. I note that the Murray River in this area is part of my electorate, but that my electorate stretches way past Moama, along the river, all the way to the South Australian border.

The other worthwhile aspect of this journey was that I undertook it with some of my National Party colleagues from State electorates in northern Victoria. It provided a great opportunity to discuss some of the cross-border issues that make life difficult for constituents on both sides of the border—vehicle licensing and registration, working with children checks, trade licences etc. It is extremely encouraging that Victoria will follow New South Wales' lead in appointing a cross-border commissioner, which should streamline the process of dealing with these types of cross-border issues. The difficulties we face across the border have been a major focus for me as the member for Murray. This afternoon I will meet with the New South Wales Cross Border Commissioner to try to address these issues. I congratulate the Murray Meander on raising money over the past 13 years for these important charities.

### HEATHCOTE ELECTORATE RAIL SERVICES

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (13:01):** After seven years of asking, pleading, begging, yelling and now sobbing, I stand here to put a stake in the ground. The rail line known as the T4, which services my electorate of Heathcote, has been missed or overlooked, and my constituents and I have had enough. In 2013 timetable changes added 142 more services to the line from Sutherland station, south. As a result of the changes, more frequent services during peak hour were achieved and travelling times into the city were reduced, but that came at a cost to the small villages along the escarpment such as Stanwell Park, Coalcliff and Scarborough where services were severely restricted, forcing those commuters to drive to the hub stations of either Thirroul or Helensburgh. Commuter and freight traffic on the Illawarra line has now reached 110 per cent capacity. How much more can be crammed onto this line? I have had briefings on the Illawarra line, warning that the critical mass will be reached

in 2021. As a result, parking has become dire in those areas. In 2014 we built a new parking area, now in the electorate of Keira. Can I have thanks from the member for Keira?

**Mr Ryan Park:** Thank you.

**Mr LEE EVANS:** But, alas, Helensburgh still has increasing parking pressures as more and more people choose to use the train to get to work. Over the seven years that I have had the honour of representing the people of Heathcote I have spoken against the Government in this House only once to plead for common sense. On that occasion I spoke about coal seam gas. Today, which is the second time I have spoken against the Government, I speak about fixing the T4 line. After 70 years, and six years of lobbying from local members of Parliament, the F6 is finally being built by the Coalition Government, and we thank the Government for that. I call on the Coalition Government to focus on the forgotten people of the south once again. It is time to spend some time on the Illawarra line; we need some serious loving. First built in the 1880s, in 1926 the Sutherland line was the first line to be electrified. In *Stations & Tracks*, the spaghetti junction that is the T4 is described:

The Illawarra Line commences at Illawarra Junction at Redfern and travels on the 'Illawarra' (eastern pair) tracks. A dive tunnel allows Intercity services from the South Coast Line to cross underneath the main suburban lines to access Central station. The Illawarra lines are also connected at this point to the Illawarra Relief Lines which emerge from underground and lead to the Eastern Suburbs Line.

From Illawarra Junction, four tracks head south through Erskineville and St Peters to Sydenham station. The 'main' pair of tracks are used by Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra Line and South Coast Line trains and the 'local' pair by Bankstown Line and peak hour Airport, Inner West & South Line trains. At Sydenham, the Bankstown railway line branches off but trains from the Airport, Inner West & South Line continue along the Illawarra line until Wolli Creek, where a junction to the East Hills line exists. South of Wolli Creek station, a crossover allows trains from the 'main' pair of tracks to switch to the 'local' pair. This is used by peak hour all-stations Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra Line trains. The four track section ends at Hurstville. The line then continues as two tracks south towards Sutherland, crossing the Georges River via the Como railway bridge between Oatley and Como. At Sutherland the Cronulla line branches in an easterly direction.

The main line then heads in a southerly direction, parallel to the Princes Highway to the west and bordering the Royal National Park on its eastern side until Waterfall, the last suburb in the Sydney metropolitan area. The track continues south from here as the South Coast Line through the Royal National Park towards the Illawarra region.

As members have just heard, this railway line needs urgent attention to untangle the web that has grown organically over the decades without a proper stepping back and looking at the bigger picture. I stand here asking for urgent planning for the future of the T4 and Illawarra lines to ensure that we have an efficient and flexible rail network from the south, which will provide commuters all the way from Bomaderry into the city with faster, more efficient travelling times. The time for sitting back has finished. We need action. This is my call for action.

#### **CAMPBELLTOWN ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:05):** I congratulate the dozens of sporting clubs, community groups, parents and citizens associations and other community members in my electorate of Campbelltown who have benefited from Community Building Partnership grants over the past three years. Since 2015 every dollar available in my Community Building Partnership funding has been spent on local projects throughout Campbelltown and the surrounding areas—a total of 45 grants across three years, with a combined value of \$900,000. Although I would love the opportunity to speak at length about all 45 projects and the wonderful benefits they will all bring to our community, time constraints prevent me from doing so. Instead, I will focus on a handful of projects that have not necessarily received as much local media attention, but nonetheless will be of enormous benefit to our community.

The first round of Community Building Partnership grants that I had the privilege to be involved with back in 2015 had a very strong focus on an area very close to my heart, disability support services. A total of more than \$108,000 was awarded to four different disability service providers, with the funds going towards vital projects including bathroom renovations at a group home in Campbelltown for people with moderate to severe physical disabilities, an outdoor playground area for a service provider specialising in care for children and adolescents with mental and intellectual disabilities, restorations to a historic building currently occupied by a local service provider, and the expansion of a community hub for disability services in the heart of Campbelltown.

If 2015 was the year of disability services, 2016 was definitely the year of investing in the protection of Campbelltown's rich heritage. Most notable was the upgrade to the electrical system at the Campbelltown Theatre Company, which currently occupies the original Campbelltown Town Hall building—one of our city's oldest and most precious treasures. Also benefiting was Campbelltown Community Preschool, which is one of Campbelltown's oldest early childhood education centres. The preschool celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in the best possible way with a grant of just over \$15,000 to upgrade its outdoor playground, enabling it to serve Campbelltown's children for another 60 years and beyond.

The good news for our local kids did not end at that preschool. The Campbelltown Public School—the oldest school in our region, having been built in the mid-nineteenth century—received a grant of more than \$20,000 to upgrade its dilapidated outdoor play equipment. The final investment in Campbelltown's heritage that was funded in the 2016 Community Building Partnership grants was the installation of a new perimeter fence at the St David's Presbyterian heritage cemetery, which is bordered by two of Campbelltown's busiest roads, the Moore Oxley Bypass and Broughton Street. Its old, shorter fencing was in a state of disrepair, leaving the cemetery and its almost two centuries' worth of gravesites vulnerable to vandalism and other undesirable behaviour.

In addition to investment in our heritage, the 2016 Community Building Partnership grants invested heavily in our local schools—a theme that was continued in the most recent grants in 2017. Over the past two years, almost \$291,000 worth of grants was awarded to nine different local public schools, which represents more than 48 per cent of all grants in that period. The funded projects were incredibly diverse, ranging from all-weather playing surfaces at the Bradbury Public School to supporting the great work of Kathy Low in providing healthy canteen food at the Blairmount Public School and the installation of a sensory learning and play area at the Beverley Park School that caters for students with a wide range of ability levels.

I am sure just about every member of this House would agree that few things are more important than investing in and supporting the great work of all types of groups and organisations in our communities who selflessly aim to improve the lives of others. I once again congratulate all 45 grant recipient organisations in Campbelltown over the past three years. I look forward to engaging with community groups involved in the program and supporting another round of worthy applications for grants in a few months' time.

#### **CAMDEN ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ACHIEVERS**

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (13:10):** Today I draw to the attention of the House to students in my electorate who were high achievers in their Higher School Certificate examinations last year. Recently I attended a Camden Council reception that recognised the students for their outstanding efforts. Their families, friends, schools, communities and I are extremely proud of them, so I acknowledge each student who was successful. From the Broughton Anglican College the high achievers were: Briana Araujo-Tough, Gurminder Bhatia, Julian Bines, Lauren Browne, Luke Carson, Vanessa Chang, Jasmine Deol, Braddon Evans, Lachlan Hutchinson, Vishaal Lingam, Corey Markovski, Benjamin McAuley, David Nichani, Madeleine Noble, Lachlan O'Hare and Jack Rerekura.

At St Patrick's College they were: Lauren Beasley, Megan Bull, Michaela Cornmazzetto, Brooke Davey, Montana Fulton, Jessica Goodsell, Faith Irwin, Gabrielle Mangion, Tahlia McKee, Angela Nguyen, Bridget O'Neil, Diasha Perera, Renee Picot, Payten-Rae Salter, Emily Swain, Hannah Sweeney, Aiprille Torres, Georgia White, Kate White and Emily Woods. From the Bellfield College there was Nazanin Sharifi. From the Camden High School they were: Isabella Boone, Brody Butler, Emma Downey, Benjamin Foster, Annalise Johnson, Tiaan McLean, Elaine Murphy and Liam Richards. From the Elderslie High School they were: Alexandra Berry, Madison Bloor, Danielle Cazalet, Naomi Christie, Olivia Garcia, Kyle Grenfell, Corwin Hedges, Deni Hoxha, Gillian Kowalick, Emilia Laria, Madeleine Leehy, Shannon McAleese, Isabella McKenzie, Ashleigh McMurdo, Brianna Milburn, Jeremy Olliffe, Adam Osborne, Ashlee Osborne, Lillian Ralston, Paige Reilly, Natalia Rimceski, Isabelle Robinson, Emily Simpson and Hannah Trethewy.

From the Elizabeth Macarthur High School they were: Zainab Al Nakeeb, James Arnault, Kyle Avery, Oluwayemi Edagbami, Jake Fitzalan, Brayden Fitzsimmons, Alex Kolokatas, Nicholas Lazo, Nicholas Sebesten, Kyle Singleton, Dylon Stevenson, Alexis Tram, Codey Tse, Benjamin Weeks and Brittney White. From the Macarthur Anglican School they were: Sarah Alexander, Melissa Bentley, Christopher Browne, Monique Drieman, Megan Fortescue, Noah Gray, Joseph Hartono, Stephanie Hennings, Akshay Jaikumar, Jack Jansen, Hayden Keers, James Key, Julia Kokic, Sarah McDonald, Alexander Munro, Mia Mylonas, Matilda Offord, Laura Perich, Dante Petrin, Sophia Seton, Kaitlin Taylor, Cate Ward, Emma Whitelaw and Kenneth Wong.

From the Magdalene Catholic High School they were: Peta Alvaro, Madeline Boaro, Roisin Bolwell, Julia Boustani, Ashleigh Clarke, Melissa Ebejer, James Gibson, Jessica Gunner, Chloe Laxade, Alex Nies, Kaitlyn Paroz, Alexandra Willis, Bailey Wray and Lauren Wright. From the Mount Annan Christian College they were: Thalia Broadstock, Sarah McGinnes, Kiran Suresh, Dominique Willes and Lois Yeuk Yu Wong. The high achiever from Mount Annan High School was Karla Dinclik. From St Benedict's Catholic College the high achievers were: Madison-Leigh Colmenar, Sarah Elliott, Kody Fletcher, Mariah Kent, Jackson Lewis, Maddison Maher, Heather Mannion, Shanae Slattery, Michael Smsarian and Joshua Taylor.

From St Gregory's College they were: Riley Alcorn, Joseph Andreotti, Kyle Berkhout, Dylan Bordignon, Connor Doherty, Joel Fincher, Adam Fitzpatrick, Vincent Hreszczuk, Rohan Indap, Nicholas Joeng, Derek Komban, Tanmay Kulkarni, Dylan Lamaro, Cort Langford, Daniel Lowe, Sean Mabin, Taine Martin, Kurt Mills, David Nguyen, Jack Nixon, Lachlan O'Neill, Dominic Paine, Samuel Price, Declan Ryan, Joseph Stewart, Robert

Warcaba, Zakariya Assaad and Habiba Naanai. It makes me wonder whether there were high achievers anywhere else in New South Wales. All of those students achieved high marks in one or more subjects in their exams. It is important to recognise them for their hard work in becoming a member of an outstanding club. I congratulate the students, their parents and their teachers; reaching such a goal takes a combined effort. I wish all of the students in my electorate who sat the 2017 Higher School Certificate—I will not name them—all the best no matter what they choose to do after their incredible effort.

*Community Recognition Statements*

**FAIRHAVEN SERVICES**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:15):** I congratulate Fairhaven Services on the opening of Windiji and Wahroong housing for people with intellectual disabilities in Ettalong. Windiji and Wahroong is the last phase in a fabulous transition from old model group homes in Kincumber to providing a dignified choice of lifestyle accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities in our community. The development has evolved with incredible sensitivity, including a profound smoking ceremony recognising Aboriginal remains located on the site. "Windiji" means "friends" and "Wahroong" means "home" in Darkinjung language.

I compliment Fairhaven and the Department of Family and Community Services for working with the Guringai Tribal Land Council to respectfully and sensitively repatriate Aboriginal bones identified during the build. We are all looking forward to an ongoing relationship with Aboriginal peoples at the site. I am confident that Julie, Jo-Anne, Ruth and Lindy-Sue have made great choices about their flatmates. I am sure that they enjoyed the cruise they took during the extended wait on the build and that they are enjoying cooking, socialising and living as a normal part of a fully inclusive Ettalong community. I congratulate Fairhaven on its ongoing commitment to #accessforall.

**OXLEY ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:17):** The last day of the school year in 2017 represented the end of an era when Oxley Island Public School closed its doors. It was sad for the students, staff and families, along with the wider Oxley Island community, to hear the school bell ring for the last time. While it was disappointing, the community understood that the decision had to be made. I am pleased to inform the House that a farewell and school reunion was held on Saturday 17 February, where Sue and I enjoyed talking with the large crowd in attendance. The Parents and Citizens Association, led by Julie Barlin, recorded stories from the school's past that will be collated into a book and kept with the memorabilia and archives. The Oxley Island Public School Historical Preservation Society has been formed and is working with the Department of Education to secure items of historical significance for archiving and display in the future. May the school motto of "Be a good citizen" long be remembered by the Oxley Island community and all in this House.

**FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE TET FESTIVAL**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:18):** During the last weekend of February, the Fairfield Showground was alive with cheer and festivities as our local community welcomed the Lunar New Year at the 2018 Tet Festival. The Vietnamese Community in Australia [VCA] NSW Chapter outdid itself with a festival that was bigger and better than ever. Each year the Tet Festival brings in tens of thousands of visitors from across the Greater Sydney region to join in and embrace everything that Tet has to offer. It was an honour to be among our Vietnamese brothers and sisters as we welcomed the new year.

Our community brought in the new year with traditional dance, music, a vast array of great food and, of course, a wide variety of traditional entertainment throughout the weekend. I thank the VCA organising committee and all of the community groups and volunteers who helped make this year's festival possible. I also commend the students who were recognised at the festival for receiving an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 99. It was great to see young members of the community being acknowledged for their academic achievements in the 2017 Higher School Certificate examination.

**KINGS LANGLEY LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:19):** The Kings Langley Little Athletics Centre in my electorate of Seven Hills does a fantastic job in supporting and encouraging local athletes. I congratulate the athletes who recently qualified for the State championships: Rachel Bardney for javelin, discus, triple jump and shot-put; Jayden Duncum for discus; Ryan Green for long jump; Jack Mantarro for the 3,000 metre sprint and 1,500 metre sprint; Blake Metcalfe for the 400 metre hurdles, 200 metre hurdles, discus and shot-put; Lachlan Metcalfe for discus and shot-put; Koby Owen for hurdles; Mia Robson for long jump; Niamh Sanday for the 3,000 metre sprint, 1,500 metre sprint, 800 metre sprint and 1,500 metre walk; and Salote Wolfgramm for discus



and shot-put. I wish the 11 athletes good luck. They deserve the praise of this House for their efforts in qualifying for the New South Wales State championships through their incredible dedication and perseverance.

#### **BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ACHIEVERS**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (13:19):** Last month I had the pleasure of popping into the Bass High School to join my good friend Principal Mr David Horton in congratulating Kien Nguyen and Mark Luu on their performance in the 2017 Higher School Certificate [HSC]. It was a pleasure to meet such fine young role models. Kien and Mark both scored a spectacular 99 per cent in mathematics and scored highly in music, with Kien scoring 95 per cent on the guitar and Mark 85 per cent on the piano in their HSC music courses. I wish both students the best in their endeavours. I understand both Kien and Mark will be doing engineering degrees at the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney respectively. I have no doubt they will succeed in any path they choose. I am proud of the many milestones that Bass High School students reach. They are testament to the amazing staff, committed parents and wider community that have helped to forge so many opportunities for the students. I congratulate Mr Horton, Mr Azar, Bass High School and, of course, Kien and Mark.

#### **BREAKERS COUNTRY CLUB BEST RESTAURANT AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:20):** I congratulate the Breakers Country Club, located in Wamberal in my electorate of Terrigal, on being named the best restaurant in a club, pub or tavern in New South Wales. More than 850 restaurants across New South Wales were in the running for this award, with judging criteria based on the experience of members and guests. I congratulate the Breakers Country Club Chief Executive Officer Ken Pearson and the entire Breakers Country Club team on this achievement. In recent years, the Breakers Country Club team has worked to transform the club, and I am so pleased that their hard work has paid off. I strongly encourage everyone in the Terrigal electorate and those visiting the Central Coast to go to the Breakers Country Club to experience dining at the best restaurant out of all the clubs, pubs and taverns in New South Wales.

#### **HIS HOLINESS MAHANT SWAMI MAHARAJ SYDNEY VISIT**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:21):** At the moment, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader of Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha [BAPS], is visiting Sydney. I was delighted to join the congregation in its thousands for a number of events over the last weekend. I joined the Minister for Women in addressing the women's event on Saturday, which was followed by a special initiation ceremony for two monks, or sadhus, including the first ever from Australia, Viral Mundias Swami. As a sadhu, the monks leave their families for good to commit their lives to religious service. I met the monks' very proud but also sad mothers that afternoon. On Sunday, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj blessed the foundation stones for the proposed new mandir at Kemps Creek, Nutan Mandir Sankul, which will support the rapidly growing congregation at the Rosehill mandir. His Holiness' visit was inspiring for many BAPS members, even those in India whom I met recently in Hyderabad. I congratulate all the organisers for making the visit such a success. Jai Swaminarayan.

#### **ARTEXPRESS EXHIBITION AWARD WINNER BLAKE RAYMOND**

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:22):** I congratulate Glenmore Park artist Blake Raymond on the selection of his Higher School Certificate [HSC] visual arts body of work, which will be displayed as part of the prestigious ArtExpress 2018 art exhibition. Blake used diverse mark-making techniques across four large linocut panels to showcase the natural beauty of the Blue Mountains. His intricate carvings are truly stunning, capturing the rugged yet fragile mountain landscapes, sweeping hills and fauna that the Blue Mountains have to offer.

Blake found inspiration for his artwork from the beauty found within the natural landscapes and highlighting the area before construction begins on the Badgerys Creek airport. For his body of work, Blake was also awarded the S&S Creativity Unlimited Award. The award recognises the artwork that demonstrates the most creativity across a range of mediums. Blake's artwork *Flight 24/7* will be on display in three selected exhibitions across New South Wales and is currently on display at the Art Gallery of New South Wales until 25 April. Once again, I congratulate Blake on this remarkable achievement.

#### **CARRINGTON COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (13:23):** I thank the many members of the Carrington community who banded together to help a homeless couple in the area to get back on track. The captain of the Rogue Scholar Brewing Cricket Club, Adam Hardy, noticed the homeless couple, David and Denise, living in their broken down car near the Carrington Oval and decided to help. David and Denise could not afford the repairs needed for the car and had spent months living near the inner-city park. Adam enlisted the help of his friend and mechanic Mick Marendy and auto electrician Stephen Cave to source a second-hand car for the couple. The cricket

club paid for the car, while Mick and Adam gave them a few hundred dollars' worth of fuel vouchers. Carrington IGA donated \$300 worth of food vouchers and the Newcastle Night Angels staff members Samantha Banks and Jodi Duffield helped with the paperwork. The homeless couple were overwhelmed by the community's act of generosity and said it would help give them a fresh start.

### **RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:24):** Recently the New South Wales Government accepted the concept of the Computers in Cells program for people in custody, thanks to the continued efforts of the Hon. John Dowd, AO, QC, President of the Community Justice Coalition. For some time now, John, who contacted me last year about this initiative, has been working with the Government to achieve this important step forward. Primarily, the program will be utilised to deliver online counselling services and, in time, education, legal and communication services will become available.

Many prisoners spend significant hours in their cells and they should be encouraged to make the best use of this time. The program, by reducing the level of isolation during imprisonment, aims to assist rehabilitation and lower recidivism rates. It is estimated that in its first year—thanks to the counselling work in relation to reducing prisoner violence upon release—hundreds of women and children will see immediate benefit. Lives will be changed, if not saved. I congratulate the Community Justice Coalition and, in particular, the Hon. John Dowd on this initiative.

### **WOLLONGONG ELECTORATE TET FESTIVAL**

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (13:25):** On 24 February I joined with hundreds of people from the Vietnamese community in Wollongong to celebrate the Lunar New Year at the annual Tet Festival. Lion dances, fireworks, traditional dances and recognition of the success of students from the Vietnamese school were all part of the night's festivities. This year, which marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Tet Offensive, was also an opportunity to reflect on those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. It was good to see representatives of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia in the Illawarra attending the celebrations.

It was also an opportunity to recognise a couple of hardworking members of the Vietnamese community in Wollongong who have contributed so much over many years. Ms Viet Do, one of the first Vietnamese residents of Wollongong, was recognised for her contribution over 26 years to helping and supporting new migrants from Vietnam as well as her efforts to make sure that traditions of her homeland continue. Ms Kim Chau was recognised for the time, energy and effort that she contributes in her role as master of ceremonies for so many community events. My congratulations to Teresa Tran and everyone who was involved in contributing to the celebrations as well as the sponsors whose support made it possible.

### **ALBURY ELECTORATE WOMAN OF THE YEAR JENNIFER VINGE**

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (13:26):** I recognise today the Local Woman of the Year for the Albury electorate, Jennifer Vinge. Jen became the driving force behind the Jingellic and District Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Society [JDPAH] in the face of some very significant issues. The hardworking committee of the JDPAH was struggling with the obligations imposed on committees by governing bodies and insurance companies. The council deemed key showground infrastructure unsafe, including its historical pavilion, and the 2016 Jingellic Show had to be cancelled. Jen had the vision to recognise the steps necessary to reinvigorate and re-educate the committee by seeking community assistance and new members and by bringing in talented people to prepare grant applications and improve governance and risk management.

Bold grant applications were written, which were supported by a strategic plan. It all worked. The committee received \$240,000 in grants to develop a new building with office, kiosk, bar, exhibition space, commercial kitchen, toilets and amenities, solar panels, sports field lighting and security. Jen was hands on during the development and construction phase, facilitating community meetings to fine-tune plans, coordinating contractors, supporting volunteers, sourcing quotes and helping paint the building, which was opened in August 2017. Congratulations Jenny Vinge.

### **COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR GRANT RECIPIENT JESS GEOSITS**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:27):** I congratulate my constituent Jess Geosits on being awarded the top grant in Beyond Bank Australia's annual community entrepreneur program. The grant was awarded to Jess and her team for the development of EzyAid, a device created to assist patients, carers and medical professionals with the challenges of nasogastric and oral gastric feeding tubes. Jess, who has experienced firsthand the struggles of tube feeding with her son, Matthew, started a company which has developed a product to improve the lives of tube-fed people around the world. The current method that is used to adhere a feeding tube to a patient's face is time consuming and traumatising for both patient and carer. EzyAid has been developed to overcome these

difficulties, particularly for tube-fed babies once they have returned home. The \$30,000 grant will allow the EzyAid prototype to be completed and for a move to secure a patent in Australia, Europe and the United States. Congratulations Jesse Geosits.

#### **HORNSBY ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ACHIEVERS**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (13:28):** Today I congratulate one of the great schools in my electorate, the Galston High School. The year 12 graduating class of 2017 achieved some incredible results for their Higher School Certificate [HSC]. The school ranked seventeenth in the State out of all public and co-ed schools, and was named by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as one of the top 10 biggest improvers in the HSC. The school had a total of 13 students named on the Distinguished Achievers List, which is a phenomenal effort. Bo Reynolds, who was named dux last year, achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 96.3, while Chloe Skewes-Weir achieved a perfect score in English Extension 2, meaning she was ranked among the top 20 students in New South Wales.

Last year I met with an amazing young woman, Kianna Munro, after she received one of the awards for excellence from the Minister for Education. Kianna also was named on the All Rounders List for gaining a band 6 in at least 10 units—another incredible achievement showcasing Kianna's hard work and determination. I applaud incredible principal Jillian Turlas and all the staff and students of Galston High School for these amazing results for 2017.

#### **PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR LEAH ANDERSON**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:29):** This week we are celebrating International Women's Day when we recognise the gains that women have made and the areas where we still need to press for progress to achieve gender equality. It was my honour to formally recognise someone I have admired for years who has been pressing for progress in my community. Leah Anderson is the Port Stephens Local Woman of the Year for 2018, and she has contributed to the community of Port Stephens through empowering local businesswomen and taking on leadership roles as well as generally offering her time and energy to many community efforts.

Leah is currently the President of the Tomaree Business Chamber, past president and co-founder of Port Stephens Women in Business, past president and ongoing active member of the Rotary Club of Salamander Bay, and owns and operates her own local financial services company. Within these roles Leah has worked hard to create more economic opportunities for local women through networking, mentoring and leadership. Thank you, Leah, for making such a significant contribution to our community, for being such a great role model to others and for pressing for progress over many years in Port Stephens. Congratulations for being Port Stephens Local Woman of the Year for 2018.

#### **JOHN LAING LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT CHRISTINE DEL GALLO**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:30):** Today I congratulate Christine Del Gallo, who is the Principal of the Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus, who recently won a John Laing Award for outstanding leadership. The John Laing awards recognise the essential contribution that principals make to support the development of teachers and school leaders. They celebrate the principals who demonstrate outstanding leadership in providing professional learning in schools. Through Christine's work with associations such as the New South Wales Board of Studies and the New South Wales Secondary Principals' Council, she has fostered the professional learning of Mackellar Girls' school leaders. I thank Christine for the substantial contribution she has made to education in New South Wales, particularly in Manly, over many years.

#### **TRIBUTE TO UNCLE STAN MITCHELL**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:31):** Uncle Stan Mitchell, a well-respected Djirrbal elder from Atherton, sadly passed away on 9 February in Campbelltown, the city he loved and had made his home for many years. Truth, justice, love and respect were the values Uncle Stan taught and lived by. He spoke his mind but showed his gentleness, always asking after loved ones by name. Uncle Stan grew up on a dairy farm with his cousins and saw many country towns while travelling with the Bullen Brothers Circus, followed by a stint in a boxing tent, before marrying his beloved Judy and being blessed with his three sons, Wayne, Stanley and Ricky. Uncle Stan will be deeply missed by his family. His good deeds will be treasured by everyone who met him. The Tharawal people of Campbelltown have lost a strong family man and great role model, and our community has lost one of its finest people. Rest in peace, Uncle Stan.

#### **MILTON SHOW**

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (13:32):** Last weekend it gave me great pleasure to attend, as I do every year, the 149th Milton Show. The Milton Show has been described by many as the friendliest and

most entertaining country show on the New South Wales South Coast, and this year it did not disappoint. As usual the event was a huge success, enjoying good weather and drawing thousands of visitors and locals alike over the course of the weekend. I believe the Country Women's Association made a profit of \$3,000 over the weekend—a great result. Fantastic produce, crafts, livestock and talent from the southern Shoalhaven and the whole of the South Coast were on display, showcasing what our region has to offer. Months and months of preparation go into organising the show, and it can be a mammoth undertaking involving hundreds of volunteers. I offer my congratulations to the Milton Show Society, its volunteers, its committee, and President Roy Johnston on their organisation of what was a great weekend. I also congratulate all the show's competitors and winners, and especially Emily Jane Joyce, who was crowned the 2018 Milton Showgirl.

#### **TEMPE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDRAISING**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (13:33):** I bring to the attention of the House the amazing efforts of the Tempe Public School community and parents and citizens association [P and C], who are raising money to send badly needed school resources, such as desks and other school supplies, to the children of the remote Kip village in Papua New Guinea. The school community is hoping to send a shipping container full of surplus school supplies to assist the many children who attend the village's school. The costs of shipping such a container are huge, for which the P and C has set a goal of \$10,000. The container will be carried from the town of Mendi across an enormous mountain range to the incredibly remote village of Kip. This generous donation will go so far in improving the lives of those children. I commend the generosity and hard work of the school community and the P and C, and I encourage all to make a contribution to the "Container for Kip" GoFundMe page.

#### **LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:34):** Lunar New Year is a time of celebration for many communities, including for people of Chinese, Singaporean, South Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese descent. Again this year we saw the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge turn red on Friday 16 February to mark the occasion. Among other celebrations, I was pleased to attend the opening of the Chinese New Year Lantern Festival on Friday 23 February. It was a wonderful occasion, with the illumination of more than 3,000 individual lights joining six major lantern displays across Darling Harbour.

I congratulate the organisers; the Australia China Economics Trade and Cultural Association, presenters; the Nan Hai Culture & Media (Australia) Group Pty Ltd; and the more than 200,000 people who participate in this activity every year. Other related events I attended were the Rotary Club of Chatswood International's auspicious eighth anniversary and, on 20 February, Chinese New Year celebrations. I appreciate the organising efforts of the club's leaders and wish everyone a happy Year of the Dog.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDER NATALIE GILBERT**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (13:35):** I bring to the attention of the House the achievements of Ms Natalie Gilbert. Natalie grew up in Lake Illawarra in the electorate of Shellharbour and graduated from the Warilla High School in 2010. Eight years ago, at a school careers expo, she first saw the Australian Defence Force recruiting and it caught her eye. In early 2011, Natalie joined the Army as a movement operator and has since served on two deployments to the Middle East. She has now taken on the role of psychology examiner, helping to assist psychologists and provide mental health education to people deployed overseas. Natalie is currently deployed in the Middle East as part of Operation Accordion and is due back in Australia in April when her 3½ month deployment finishes. I thank Natalie for her service and for the example she has set our community. Our community is both proud and grateful for the work that you do.

#### **EURONGILLY PUBLIC SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (13:36):** There is a tiny school of 19 students located in the Junee Shire that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this month—Eurongilly Public School. This is a significant milestone for any school, especially in a small rural community. In 1918 the nation's first electric train service began, Australia was involved in World War I, and May Gibbs published *Snugglypot and Cuddlepie*. Eurongilly Public School is the heart of the district and children attending small rural schools create a bond with each other that lasts a lifetime. I look forward to joining in the celebrations on 24 March with the community, students and former students and taking the opportunity to remember the past, and celebrate and share the present, as well as look forward to the school's future.

#### **IRRAWANG PUBLIC SCHOOL SORRY DAY COMMEMORATIONS**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:37):** Ten years ago, former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said sorry to the stolen generation on behalf of the Australian Government. This historic occasion was recently recognised at Irrawang Public School in Raymond Terrace, at a very special and moving event. Worimi

elder Aunty Margo shared her story of loss and grief, alongside Aunty Judy and Aunty Mary. Their stories were heartbreaking beyond words. They are stories that every Australian should hear. The school's year 5 and year 6 students heard their stories.

They listened with respect to tales of the pain suffered by too many innocent people at the hands of a bad government. Aunty Margo has told her life story in a large mural that now adorns the school hall. It took me a while to realise that the shirts the school staff now wear are a copy of the artwork. I thank Aunty Margo, Aunty Judy and Aunty Mary for sharing their difficult stories with our school and our community. I also thank Gina Ascott-Evans from the Thou Walla service for organising the event, and Stacy Mathieson, Irrawang Public School's principal, for her leadership in ensuring that genuine reconciliation is practised every day.

#### **RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYER HAYDEN ESSERY**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:38):** I congratulate Hayden Essery of Killawarra, who played his first game in the Harold Matthews Cup under-16 rugby league competition with the Balmain Tigers recently. A talented halfback, Hayden attends Wingham High School and has been travelling to Sydney since he started trialling with the Tigers last October. I also recognise Hayden's parents, Matt and Belinda, who made the Sydney road trip supporting their son as he played four trial games and trained up to three nights a week at Leichhardt Oval, Balmain's home base. The Manning Valley has produced some of this State's favourite Rugby League players such as Danny Buderus and Boyd Cordner. Hayden has played locally with both the Wingham Tigers and the Taree Panthers, and I look forward to watching his progress.

#### **GOSFORD MUSICAL SOCIETY**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:39):** A huge round of applause to the cast, the band and the massive team that supported the Gosford Musical Society's current showcase special "We Will Rock You". I sat on the edge of my seat, smiling, clapping, laughing, singing along and generally feeling a part of the show. Gosford Musical Society is a community organisation powered by volunteers and "We Will Rock You" is a culmination of the work of 180 people. Thank you all for your fabulous contribution to our wonderful community. I congratulate Director Darryl Davis lead Jesse McGrath, who played Galileo, and lead Teaghan Thompson, who played Scaramouche, and the whole fabulous cast. I also thank the Central Coast Council. The Laycock Street Community Theatre is an excellent community resource. Our community is thrilled to know that the New South Wales Government promised to contribute \$12 million for a new performing arts centre in Gosford.

#### **SEVEN HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL INDUCTION CEREMONY**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:40):** Last week I attended the Seven Hills Public School leadership induction ceremony. I acknowledge the new 2018 school captains Elijah Villa and Sophie Stancic and new colour house captains Byron Aspin and Sanmeet Brar for blue, Max Jahshan and Joye-Marie Boursianis for yellow, Thomas Osbourne and Mikayla Galea for red, and Reuben George and Irene Suryathyo for green. I know all the fantastic year 6 leaders will do a great job representing their school and colour houses over the next year. I also spoke to the student representative council leaders—Aiden Clark and Effie Cho for year 3, Lewis Savic and Lily Maher for year 4, and Thomas Pollard and Florencia Wanandy for year 5. Seven Hills Public School is led by Principal Ms Diamond, who does a great job in fostering a good learning environment for all the kids. The school is lucky to have such hardworking and dedicated teachers educating energetic and eager to learn students.

#### **WOLLONGONG OLYMPIC FOOTBALL CLUB FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (13:41):** On 24 February this year the Wollongong Olympic Football Club marked its fortieth anniversary and hundreds of former and current players, coaches, administrators and supporters celebrated this milestone. An idea hatched on a bus trip to Luna Park in 1975 has now grown into a club which is a mainstay of the Premier League competition in the Illawarra. I extend my congratulations to everyone currently and previously involved in helping the club reach this milestone. We all know that a fortieth anniversary is not possible without 39 years of hard work and dedication before it.

Over the last 40 years the club has had successes such as winning the Premier League grand final in 1985, winning the Bert Bampton Cup in 1986 and 2016, and becoming the Premier League champions in 1994 and Premier League grand finalists in 2000. It was great to see Eleftherios Manoliadis and Nick Bexim recognised on the night for their years of contribution to the success of the club off the field. I congratulate the Wollongong Olympic Football Club, and Chris Agno and Doreen McKibbon Agno for putting together such a fun and successful night.

#### **STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:42):** Terrigal is often described as the jewel in the crown of the Central Coast's beaches and it is important that we ensure Terrigal has adequate traffic management and parking.

That is why the State Liberal Government is delivering funding to improve this important beachfront strip. Through the Stronger Communities Fund \$2.2 million has been allocated to this project as part of almost \$10 million provided to Central Coast Council following its successful amalgamation. Community consultation is now underway on the proposed traffic and pedestrian changes in the Terrigal central business district [CBD].

I strongly encourage all locals to provide their feedback and opinions to the council. Members of the community can view the plans and make submissions at [www.yourvoiceourcoast.com](http://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com). All levels of government are working to deliver this project for our community. I thank Central Coast Council for its ongoing work. I acknowledge the Federal member for Robertson Lucy Wicks, who has secured Federal funding for 200 smart parking sensors in the Terrigal CBD.

#### **LAKE MACQUARIE YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR TEZA SANKOORIKAL**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:43):** I congratulate Teza Sankoorikal, Lake Macquarie Young Citizen of the Year 2018. Teza is a young powerhouse of a woman who was elected President of the Leo Club at Merewether High School and facilitates meetings to discuss socially relevant projects based on environment, drug awareness, public service and youth welfare. Teza was also chosen to represent the electorate of Charlestown in the 2017 Youth Parliament. As a strong advocate for multiculturalism, Teza was elected Minister of the Multicultural Affairs Committee. Teza also led the success of the Cultural Exposure Bill 2017 being passed in Parliament, contending that every New South Wales citizen is entitled to live in a society where diverse cultural and ethnic communities are understood. Teza is a strong advocate for equality, diversity and understanding in our community. I congratulate Teza on receiving a very well-deserved award.

#### **MULGOA ELECTORATE BUILDING GRANTS FUNDING**

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:44):** On 28 February this year I had the privilege of attending and presenting to Mr Edwar Dinkha, Principal of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, together with staff and student leaders, \$850,000 towards a new two-storey building with four classrooms, a performing arts workshop, music practice rooms, hospitality and textile workshops, and a covered outdoor working area. St Narsai Assyrian Christian College officially opened on 21 January this year and Mr Dinkha and the school community were grateful to receive a share of the \$2.5 million from the Building Grants Assistance Scheme [BGAS].

Al-Faisal College in Liverpool will receive \$1.1 million, Mamre Anglican College will receive \$50,000 and Thomas Hassall Anglican College will receive \$500,000. I look forward to seeing these developments take shape. Supporting new facilities like these ensures students access high-quality educational facilities so they can succeed and thrive in the twenty-first century. The BGAS grants are part of a \$33 million New South Wales Government program directed towards independent and Catholic schools with the greatest need to help them cater for growing enrolments and to refurbish or build new facilities.

#### **MOSMAN NETBALL CLUB**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:45):** I congratulate Mosman Netball Club, which recently held its annual general meeting at which the club elected and farewelled committee members. Nic Bannister, Coaching and Grading Convenor; Iris Chen, Senior Umpire Convenor; Edwina Harper, Uniform Coordinator; Tammy Hewlett, Equipment Coordinator; and Liz Van Vliet, Social Media Liaison, were all thanked for their service to the club and they will be greatly missed. I also extend my sincerest thanks to them for the countless hours they have given to serving our community. I also congratulate the newly elected committee members: Jacqui Knight, Nicole Castellan and Nashi Blair. Without these exceptional people in our community such important sporting clubs simply would not exist.

I make special mention of Rachel Beretta, who is stepping down as president of the club. I was very glad to see Joann Rutherford take up the challenge of this role. I have been working very closely with these women to obtain funding for lighting for the club. I wish everyone in the Mosman Netball Club all the best for a fantastic year and I look forward to seeing them succeed in their endeavours this season.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner):** I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

#### *Announcements*

#### **MEMBER FOR HOLSWORTHY**

**The SPEAKER:** I bring to the attention of the House that the member for Holsworthy, Melanie Gibbons, has given birth to a beautiful baby girl, Elizabeth Donna Johns. Elizabeth was born on Saturday 24 February 2018,

weighing in at 3.3 kilograms. Mother, father and baby are doing very well. Congratulations to the member for Holsworthy and her family.

#### **MEMBER FOR WOLLONDILLY**

**The SPEAKER:** I bring to the attention of the House the birth of the member for Wollondilly's third son, Chase Rowell. Chase was born this week on 3 March 2018, weighing in at 3.84 kilograms. Older brothers, Will and Menzies, are very excited. Mother and baby are also well and will be home very soon. Congratulations to the member for Wollondilly and his family.

#### *Visitors*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome all visitors to the gallery. I extend a very warm welcome to Tim Maher, who is interning in my office, a guest of the Speaker and member for South Coast. I also welcome Asha Douglas, who is interning in the office of the Hon. Courtney Houssos, MLC, a guest of the member for Lakemba today.

#### *Commemorations*

#### **CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR**

**The SPEAKER (14:17):** A century ago this week, a two-seater fighter aircraft was successfully launched from a battle cruiser for the first time. This breakthrough was the result of numerous naval aviation experiments involving HMAS *Australia*, the flagship of the Royal Australian Navy. For months, German Zeppelins had tracked and bombed Allied naval operations in the North Sea, largely with impunity. Operating at altitude against convoys far out to sea, the zeppelins were beyond the range of the ships' artillery and of land-based aircraft. Seaplanes winched by crane from the decks of battle cruisers, meanwhile, could only rarely be used due to rough seas. The solution was developed aboard HMAS *Australia*. Special nine-metre-long ramps were constructed over the ship's 12-inch gun turrets and launch tests were carried out with Sopwith Pups, Camels and 1½ Strutters.

Within three months, the trials concluded on 8 March 1918 with the successful launch, into the prevailing wind, of a two-seater Sopwith 1½ Strutter biplane from a rotating platform. The test demonstrated the capacity to launch reconnaissance and combat aircraft in a range of weather conditions without the ship having to alter course or speed, or to break formation. Within months, every capital ship in the Grand Fleet was equipped with two aircraft. These planes proved not only an effective defence for the fleet, but crucial assets in attacks on German naval facilities along the North Sea coast. The naval aviation tests of early 1918 were one of the great and lasting contributions the crew of HMAS *Australia* made to the war effort. Lest we forget.

#### *Governor*

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New South Wales:

T F BATHURST  
Lieutenant-Governor

Government House  
Sydney, 19 February 2018

The Honourable Thomas Frederick Bathurst, AC, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New South Wales, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that, consequent on the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), being absent from the State, he has assumed the administration of the Government of the State.

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Governor of the State of New South Wales:

DAVID HURLEY  
Governor

Government House  
Sydney, 19 February 2018

General David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that he has re-assumed the administration of the Government of the State.

*Bills***VEXATIOUS PROCEEDINGS AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2017****HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017****TEACHING AND EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT) BILL 2017****Assent**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of messages from the Governor notifying His Excellency's assent to the abovementioned bills.

*Question Time***SYDNEY STADIUMS**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:27):** I direct my question to the Minister for Sport. When the Government abandons its stadium policy, will the Minister do the decent thing and resign?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Kiama, the Minister for Health and others will stop shouting. Members who interject will be called to order. I call the member for Kogarah to order for the first time.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (14:27):** The New South Wales Government is ensuring that Sydney retains its status as the major events capital of this country. It is doing that by ensuring that the two sporting precincts in Sydney at Sydney Olympic Park and Moore Park provide the best possible facilities for all sporting content, major event content and music content. The major events economy in this State is worth \$33 billion and it employs more than 129,000 people. Those people come to plenty of sporting events at Moore Park and Sydney Olympic Park. After attending those events they then go to regional New South Wales. I know the Minister for Tourism and Major Events is acutely aware of that.

The Government has adopted its stadium policy because, after 30 years of operation, Allianz Stadium is no longer compliant with the Building Code of Australia. It is now the oldest major stadium in this country. Etihad Stadium in Melbourne has been rebuilt and the Melbourne Cricket Ground has been rebuilt since the early 1990s. The only things left standing were the light towers. The Adelaide Oval has been rebuilt, a new stadium has just been opened in Perth, and a new rectangular field at the Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane has been opened. Members opposite want to ensure that the people of New South Wales have access to the oldest and the least safe facilities in the country.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Bankstown to order for the first time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** If that is the Opposition's policy position, members opposite can own it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Gosford to order for the first time. I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** This Government is proud of and committed to its investments across Western Sydney. Parramatta Stadium is now under construction. That project is well supported by everyone across the football community, including the rugby league community and the rugby union community. This is a great opportunity to continue to grow the major events economy and the tourism economy across Western Sydney. The ANZ Stadium at Olympic Park is the jewel in the crown of the major events economy of New South Wales. Since the Olympic Games—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time. He will cease shouting.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** Representatives of all major events have told the Government that the stadium must be upgraded to a purpose-built rectangular facility—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** —that can be used for all of the events that must keep coming to New South Wales. At the moment, only one side of politics in this State wants to upgrade that stadium, and that is this side of politics. Only this Government can do that because it can manage the New South Wales economy well. The sale of Snowy Hydro has not only allowed the Government to invest \$2 billion in stadiums but will also allow it to invest \$200 billion in health and education. It will allow the Government to invest more than \$7 billion in family and community services, because on this side of the Chamber it is not a case of either/or, it is a case of



delivering two stadiums and looking after families. This Government can deliver stadiums and build schools; it can deliver stadiums and build hospitals.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** The Leader of the Opposition still has not committed the Opposition to building a hospital in my electorate; he still has not committed to building Campbelltown hospital; and he still has not committed to upgrading Westmead Hospital. Not only do members opposite want to evacuate Western Sydney stadiums but they also cannot build a hospital there. Members opposite have also abandoned schools.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Gosford to order for the second time. There is too much noise in the Chamber.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** This Government is committed to ensuring that the people of New South Wales who work in major events, who work in sport and who work in tourism have a government that backs them. That means we must provide the best quality infrastructure. While this Government is building stadiums it is also ensuring that it looks after art galleries. Members opposite will not support the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta. They also have not supported upgrades at the Opera House and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. They do not like art galleries, they do not like powerhouses, they do not like stadiums, they do not like hospitals, they do not like railway lines, they do not like schools, they do not like highways, and they do not like managing the economy very well. What do they like?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Bankstown to order for the second time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** We have an Opposition which is devoid of ideas, which has no vision for this State, and which has no policies. Every time members opposite ask questions of Ministers about the Government's policies, we are happy to oblige by answering them. They will not support the construction of the tunnel under Parramatta Road.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Bankstown to order for the third time.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** They will not support the duplication of the M5 tunnel. They can add roads to their anti-Sydney policies. There has never been a Leader of the Labor Party who has been more anti-Western Sydney than Luke Foley.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Given the level of noise in the Chamber, members who have been called to order once or twice are now on three calls to order. I will issue no further warnings. The members who are not listening may be surprised when they are removed from the Chamber. As I said, those who have been called to order are now on three calls to order.

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** Does that include me?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Of course it does.

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** I did not know whether I had been called to order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! That is because you do not listen.

#### WESTERN SYDNEY INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (14:33):** I address my question to the Premier. How is the New South Wales Government working to secure the long-term success of Western Sydney?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:34):** I thank the Minister for Western Sydney for his impassioned plea to those opposite to actually support Western Sydney, because we are already doing that. I thank the member for Camden for his question because he, alongside every single member in Western Sydney, knows how significant the city deal was that we signed on Sunday. We are not only the party of the workers and the party for families but also the party for Western Sydney. You do not need to ask us—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the member for Rockdale to remove himself from the Chamber for three hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Rockdale left the Chamber at 14:33.]*

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We are getting to your region next—do not worry. I was obviously very pleased to be out there on Sunday with the Prime Minister, with the Minister for Western Sydney, with the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and of course with the eight councils who put their communities first. Those eight councils who put their communities first are unlike those opposite. I thank the Mayor of Camden, who came to represent her community. I thank the Mayor of Campbelltown. I was very disappointed to hear the

comments of the member for Campbelltown this morning in the press. He does not support jobs or infrastructure in Western Sydney—but his local mayor does.

I thank the hardworking Mayor of Liverpool. She was a trooper. She told us how much this would help her community. It is a pity that the member for Liverpool does not support the city deal. I especially thank the Mayor of Penrith, because we know that not only he but every single Labor mayor was put under pressure from Sussex Street not to sign the city deal. The Leader of the Opposition and Sussex Street did not care about the community. They did not care about jobs or infrastructure. All they ever care about is the politics. I also thank the Mayor of Wollondilly for her support and the Mayor of Blue Mountains for signing up to the agreement—indeed.

On that point, the member for Blue Mountains needs to do her homework because Labor commissioned three trains that could not go on the Blue Mountains line. The Waratahs Labor ordered are the ones that cannot go on the Blue Mountains line. And Labor members have the hide to get up and move a motion like that! They also forget history. But guess what? We will not forget history; neither will the people of New South Wales. Anyway, where was I? Here we go: I also thank the Mayor of Hawkesbury for her support on Sunday. I also thank the Mayor of Fairfield, in particular. Just ask why: He was a member of the Labor Party but saw the light. It was very telling.

**Mr John Sidoti:** So was Guy Zangari, nearly.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Drummoyne will cease interjecting.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Mayor of Fairfield had said, "I will only sign the city deal if those benefits are significant for our residents with fair and tangible outcomes for our community without any mandated impacts or costs to residents." And guess what? That is exactly what we are delivering. I say to those opposite: When we are talking about 200,000 jobs for Western Sydney; when we are talking about a new north-south rail line, new bus links, livability, new parkland, new open space and new jobs, that is what everyone in this House should be supporting. If the Labor mayors, hand on heart, can put their communities first, it is an absolute pity those opposite leave Western Sydney stranded. In Government they promised so much and delivered nothing. The Liberal and Nationals sat down with all community stakeholders and put the interests of Western Sydney first and, of course, will continue to do that. I am pleased to say the benefits are already tangible. [*Extension of time*]

Northrop Grumman, a fantastic defence company from North America, has already put down \$50 million to set up shop in the new aerotropolis in the Western Sydney Airport precinct. Yesterday I was so pleased to be out in Western Sydney with Minister Davies, the member for Mulgoa, and the Minister for Planning. Costco announced it is setting up its national distribution base in Western Sydney. Not only are we attracting the best jobs and the best brands to Western Sydney but we are also providing hope for the future. When people stand at Parramatta they will not be looking east for the best jobs, they will be looking west. That is the vision we are delivering on.

This is on top of the infrastructure we have already delivered for that community. The south-west rail line that those opposite promised for decades we have already built and delivered. The north-west rail line is near completion. We are delivering the Metro West and also now the north-south rail line. Those opposite can talk all they like, but the people of New South Wales will not forget their record. That is why we are not only the party of the workers, we are the party for Western Sydney. You do not have to trust us or believe us—trust the Labor mayors who have signed up to our city deal.

### SYDNEY STADIUMS

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:40):** My question is directed to the Premier. When the Premier inevitably capitulates on her stadiums policy, will she require the resignation of her Minister for Sport?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:40):** I am glad I was asked this question because it is really surprising the kinds of quarters one gets support from in relation to this policy. I want to quote someone who gave a speech at the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue on 11 April 2016. He said:

I'm with Chris Brown—let's invest in the Olympic Stadium ...

Who do you think that was? It was the Leader of the Opposition. He went on to say on 25 November last year—there was a slight shift in his policy:

They are banking on me saying I'll still build Olympic Park; I've got to think about that ...

But guess what? It has been three months. Have you had enough time to think about it? Are you or are you not investing in Olympic Park?

**Mr Luke Foley:** What's your policy? No-one knows. You don't know your own policy, Gladys.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** What is your policy?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition is shouting in an over-the-top manner. I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time.

**Mr Luke Foley:** What is it today?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Isn't this interesting? The Leader of the Opposition gets very sensitive when you ask him what his policy is. We put our policy on the record; what is yours? He does not have one. What is it? You said last year you support it; you said in April 2016 you will support it. What is your policy? It is also curious, when we talk about this policy, that he lumps in the cost of Parramatta Stadium and Western Sydney Stadium. I say to you: What have you got against Western Sydney Stadium and Parramatta? Why have you lumped that in?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Prospect on three calls to order. He will cease behaving in an aggressive manner. Order! I direct the member for Prospect to remove himself from the Chamber for a period of three hours. If the member continues to behave in an aggressive, bullying manner, he will not return.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Prospect left the Chamber at 14:43.]*

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Their lack of position on this is absolutely consistent with everything else. Every time we build a new road, they say, "We don't want any tolls." What is your policy? They do not actually have one. Every time we announce a project, they oppose it. WestConnex they oppose. The metro rail they oppose. Every single thing we announce they oppose. What on earth do you stand for, Mr Foley? Nothing. You stand for nothing. The people of New South Wales know that when we make an announcement to deliver for the people of this State we do it because it is in the best interests of the people of this State. We stand by what we say and we do what we say. The Leader of the Opposition was all for supporting Olympic Park. Last November he said he will think about it. He has been thinking about it for 3½ months and he still cannot tell us what his policy is. We are proud of our record. We are proud of what we have done in this State, and we will continue to build the services and infrastructure that the people of New South Wales need. Let those opposite work out exactly what they stand for, because nobody knows.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Maroubra will come to order.

#### SNOWY HYDRO SALE

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (14:44):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. What benefits will the sale of the Snowy Hydro bring to the real regional New South Wales?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:44):** I thank the member for Barwon—otherwise known as the billion-dollar electorate, or billion-dollar Barwon—for his question. The Liberals and Nationals have spent more than \$1 billion in his electorate, building the infrastructure that the community deserves. The member for Barwon is part of a government that will design the vision that comes from the Snowy Hydro transaction. On Friday I had the pleasure, with the Premier and the Treasurer, to announce the transaction between the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government in relation to Snowy Hydro, which is in my electorate of Monaro. Established decades ago, its legacy lives on today. It was visionary at the time. It is iconic, and one of the largest pieces of engineering infrastructure this country has ever seen—one that stands tall today. The legacy of Snowy Hydro is still felt within the community in my electorate. Members have heard me talk previously about the legacy of a strong multicultural community. I believe Snowy Hydro was the melting pot of multiculturalism in Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Blacktown will come to order.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** People from all over the world worked shoulder to shoulder to build this fantastic piece of infrastructure—an engineering feat of its time. That project is just as relevant today as it was then—not only for water storage, but also for the energy market. Without Snow Hydro the lights would go out. Power can be switched on up in the Snowy Mountains and the electricity can be delivered to Sydney within six seconds. That is the guarantee that that infrastructure offers the people of New South Wales. The member is asking about what comes from that \$4.154 billion that is committed to regional and rural New South Wales. The Government's definition of "regional and rural New South Wales" excludes Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. We are not ashamed to say that. If Cobar has to compete with Wollongong we know that, under Labor, Wollongong will always win. If Bourke has to compete with Wollongong, under a Labor Government Wollongong will always win.

In questions from the Opposition to the Hon. Duncan Gay, when he was in the upper House—it is in *Hansard*—Labor members said that Campbelltown and Liverpool were regional. This morning I was listening to the member for Keira, the shadow Treasurer, who cannot add up; he said, "Two words: regional New South Wales." And then he had the nerve to say that members on this side were dopey! "Regional New South Wales" is four words. If members do not believe me they can read it in *Hansard*. The member for Keira knows; he is embarrassed.

I stress today that the Liberal-Nationals Coalition will not rush to a decision on how to spend the money, unlike those opposite. From when we announced that we would start negotiations with the Federal Government the process has taken more than 12 months to complete. Those opposite spent the money. In his budget reply speech last year the Leader of the Opposition had already committed 100 per cent of the proceeds technically to renewable energy. He then went out with Labor candidates to make announcements, electorate by electorate, about projects at the local level—projects such as roads, schools and ambulance stations. Why did the Leader of the Opposition make those announcements? He did that because Labor will take the opportunity, during an election, to pork-barrel from this fund.

The Liberal-Nationals Government will treat this fund as precious. This Government will treat the fund with the respect that it deserves and will build on the legacy of Snowy Hydro. The men and women who were part of the scheme many decades ago—under State and Federal governments of different political persuasions, with a number of different premiers and prime ministers—delivered a scheme that has left a lasting legacy. It is the Prime Minister's vision that Snowy 2.0 will form a legacy that will be part of the electricity market—underpinning the renewable sector investment and the security of electricity supply. The Government will take the time to make sure that it invests this money in a way that protects and grows regional New South Wales—real regional New South Wales, as the member for Barwon commented. I will continue to fight. I am happy to debate those opposite anywhere in regional New South Wales about why they believe Wollongong and Newcastle should be redefined as regional New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Keira is on his final warning.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** We have heard similar things from the Opposition. Even if one were to believe that Labor would spend the \$4 billion in regional New South Wales—including Wollongong, Newcastle, Liverpool and Campbelltown—this morning the member for Keira referred to the industry website and talked about a region. Yes, there is a region called "Illawarra" and a region called "Newcastle", but that does not make them regional; it does not make them rural. The Government's commitment is to regional and rural New South Wales. The Government will ensure that the next generation of families and the communities of regional New South Wales is part of this exciting time. There is more than \$4 billion. Those opposite can only promise this money. The Government, has invested 30 per cent of Restart NSW—it was guaranteed; we ring fenced it—for regional New South Wales. From the time this Government was elected in 2011 the forward estimates have shown that this Government is investing more than \$40 billion in regional New South Wales.

Members opposite want to offer regional New South Wales—that includes Wollongong, Liverpool, Campbelltown and Newcastle—10 per cent of what this Government has already promised or delivered. The Government will not squander this opportunity. The Snow Hydro legacy will live on in the many projects that the Government will fund—generational, productive infrastructure that will change the landscape in regional New South Wales—for today and for the future. We owe it to our kids, to our communities and to regional New South Wales. As I said earlier, I am prepared to fight those opposite, town hall by town hall, in regional New South Wales. I will get them to explain why Wollongong, Newcastle, Liverpool, Campbelltown—and God knows what other Labor electorates—should be redefined as regional New South Wales.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Port Stephens will come to order.

#### SYDNEY STADIUMS

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (14:52):** My question is directed to the Premier. Will the Premier confirm that the \$705 million costing for the Allianz Stadium rebuild was based on a field that is not big enough to play a rugby match?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:52):** I wonder who put the member up to that question. She should be very careful.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! We do not need commentary from Government members on the questions.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** As I have said, when the Government gets the final business case we will, of course, discuss it with the community. I ask the member for Granville why she will not support the

Government's investment in her electorate. Why will she not support every single bit of infrastructure that this Government is delivering in the Granville electorate? Her leader opposes all those road programs and rail projects.

**Ms Julia Finn:** You're not building the rugby ground in my electorate; the council is.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Granville that this is not a discussion or a debate.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I have been to the Granville electorate and I have doorknocked there. I have heard what people say about the member for Granville.

**Ms Jodie Harrison:** Point of order: The Premier is arguing directly across the table with a member on this side of the House.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no standing order in relation to that, so long as the Premier speaks through the Chair.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Enough about the member for Granville. I know she was put up to asking that question. I say to the people of New South Wales: In a response to an earlier question today I explained how nobody knows what those opposite stand for. Nobody knows what their policies are on different issues. But it is very curious that the Leader of the Opposition cannot even keep his promises while in opposition. He promised the Government that every two months he would publish his diary and details of those with whom he met. The last entry was due on 1 March, but the Government still has not seen his diary. I raise this issue because if the Leader of the Opposition cannot keep his promises when in opposition, how on earth will he keep promises when in government?

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. Multiple times we have heard what the Premier has been saying, but it has nothing to do with the question asked by the member for Granville.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier has answered the question that she was asked.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** What I am saying is new: The most recent diary was due on 1 March, but the Leader of the Opposition has not produced it.

**Mr Ryan Park:** No.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** It was. I have a copy of the web page showing the website on which the Leader of the Opposition was supposed to publish his diary.

**Mr John Barilaro:** What is he hiding?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** What is he hiding? With whom has he met? What has he discussed? That is an issue for another day. If the member for Granville genuinely cares about her constituents, as she says she does, she should ask her leader why he will not support infrastructure projects.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The member for Granville would do well to ask her leader why he does not support the M4 extension, the M5 extension, the link, which is WestConnex, between the M4 and M5, and why he does not support other things in her electorate, such as hospitals and schools. Every single infrastructure project announced by the Government has been opposed by the Labor Opposition. There is not a single infrastructure improvement in the Granville electorate that has been supported by the Labor Opposition. Time and time again the Coalition has demonstrated that it is the party for Western Sydney. Coalition members are the ones delivering for Granville whereas Labor could not deliver for Granville. This Government will continue to do that. On a friendly note, I say this to the people of Granville: I care deeply about the people of Granville. I doorknocked that electorate recently.

**Dr Hugh McDermott:** Doorknock Willoughby. You don't need Granville.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** No. Actually, I doorknocked Granville. I have not doorknocked Willoughby lately. The people of Granville deserve to have a member who supports what this Government is doing.

**Mr David Elliott:** We will give them one.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Exactly. I say to the people of Granville: Fear not, and stress not.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! What is the member's point of order?

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. If the Premier wants to attack a member of this House, she should do so by way of substantive motion and not by a grubby attack.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There has been a bit of that from both sides of the House this afternoon. There is no point of order. The Premier has answered that question.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Saying that the Coalition has set its sights set on the electorate of Granville is not an attack. It is just a statement of fact.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! What the member for Maitland accuses others of doing, she is now doing.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Coalition says to the good people of Grandville: Labor failed you, but this Government will continue to deliver for you. We will provide you with infrastructure and services, and make sure that you have great representation.

### SNOWY HYDRO SALE

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (14:57):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will he update the House on the Government's successful sale of Snowy Hydro and how this Government is delivering for regional New South Wales, but particularly the Illawarra? Is the Treasurer aware of any alternative policies compared to this outstanding Government's success?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:58):** I thank the member for Kiama, who single-handedly turned around the fate of the people of Kiama after 16 years of misery by the oppressive former Labor Government. As the Deputy Premier quite eloquently pointed out, recently the Government completed a deal.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Eloquenty? I think "eloquenty" is a stretch.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I thought it was eloquent—loud, but eloquent. The deal will mean \$4.154 billion in infrastructure for regional areas in New South Wales, 5,000 new jobs for the Monaro region, and 2,000 extra megawatts of new energy. As Labor's new mentor and Liberal voter, Paul Keating, would say—that is what you call a beautiful set of numbers. This deal is yet another initiative in a long line of asset recycling initiatives: Ausgrid, Transgrid, Endeavour, and the Land and Property Information [LPI] service. Now Snowy takes its place in the New South Wales asset recycling hall of fame. This deal was conceived by the New South Wales Government, planned by the New South Wales Government, and executed by the New South Wales Government. It represents nine months of hard work and we are getting a great result for the people of New South Wales.

But while members of this Government were toiling away on this deal, where was Luke Aquinas Foley? Like any good Labor leader, he was trying to claim the credit without doing any of the work. As the Deputy Premier said, the Leader of the Opposition was splashing the cash around before the deal was even done. Spending other people's money and bludging off the hard work of others is typical Labor leadership. Who else has been saying some stupid things lately? Would you believe the shadow Treasurer is one of that group?

My second favourite newspaper, the *Illawarra Mercury*, cites the shadow Treasurer as having said, "This is another 'kick in the guts' for the Illawarra. We are sick and tired of missing out on accessing important funds." I was a bit disappointed by that statement, so I fact-checked that claim. In Shellharbour, during the last seven years of the former Labor Government, investment was \$154 million, which is pretty reasonable. However, under the Liberal-Nationals in the past seven years, the investment was \$197 million. What about the electorate of Wollongong? Where is Noreen?

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** She has gone—like Foley's going.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Who is the member?

**Mr James Griffin:** The scarlet pimpernel.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Paul Scully—okay! During the last seven years under the former Labor Government investment in Wollongong was \$223 million whereas under the Liberal-Nationals, it has been \$424 million over seven years. As I now discuss the electorate of Keira, things get a little bit awkward. Under the last seven years of the Labor Government, investment was \$148 million whereas under the Liberal-Nationals, investment has been \$364 million, with an extra \$244 million in additional projects for Illawarra electorates. The bottom line is that the Illawarra does twice as well under a Liberal-Nationals Government than it does under Labor. The additional investments are the fruits of a good government.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Blue Mountains will come to order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** This Government's investment in the Illawarra and everywhere else across New South Wales occurs only because of strong reform, financial discipline, budget surpluses and the Government's asset recycling program. As we know, Labor opposed the asset recycling program at every single turn. The figures make sense because this Government's investments always will be bigger than Labor's because this Government recycles the State's assets and makes better use of those assets. Despite that, Labor Opposition members have the audacity to complain in this House about not having access to \$4 billion that will be allocated to regional areas of New South Wales. As the Deputy Premier pointed out, Labor is talking \$4 billion whereas this Government is talking about \$40 billion in investment from 2011 to over the forwards. [*Extension of time*]

As the Premier said, the Labor Opposition not only has opposed the means of financing infrastructure but also has opposed the Government's infrastructure projects at every turn—the WestConnex, the NorthConnex, the Sydney metro and the light rail. Because the Labor Opposition always says no, I have come up with my own plan to remind the people of the state of Labor's opposition. In future, every single infrastructure project that is officially opened will have two plaques: one that states, "Opened by the Premier of New South Wales, Gladys Berejiklian" and the other that states, "Opposed by Luke Foley and the Labor Party." When the Sydney metro trains rock up every four minutes and there is an announcement, "The train will arrive in the next four minutes." I will ensure there is an announcement, "Labor wanted to stop the trains."

We will put plaques on the metros, motorways, every one of the 120 new and upgraded schools, and every one of the 40 new and upgraded hospitals. We will let every person in the community know that Labor has opposed these projects, as they opposed the building of the M2. Labor came into this place and called the M2 the "road to nowhere". We will ensure that the people of this State never forget Labor's opposition to every infrastructure project. We will take *Hansard* to the people so that they know that it is only a Liberal-Nationals Government that will deliver infrastructure to improve the lives of people across this State.

#### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (15:04):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. As well as importing trains that do not fit the tunnels—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will cease arguing across the table. The member will ask his question.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** As well as importing trains that do not fit the tunnels, will the Minister confirm that his privatised inner west bus service will import bus drivers from overseas, rather than train young Australians?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:05):** It is interesting that Labor is censuring me today for introducing 1,200 new services in Newcastle—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Port Stephens that she is on three calls to order. She will be the next person removed from the Chamber if she continues to interject.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** The member for Blue Mountains is complaining that the Government is doing some infrastructure work, having procured brand new trains—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Blue Mountains will be removed from the Chamber if she continues to interject.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I remind the House that Labor commissioned three models of trains, but, guess what? None of them could fit through the Blue Mountains tunnels. I will give a history lesson to the member for Blue Mountains. In the 1970s, when Labor introduced the V-set trains, guess what they had to do? They had to fix the tunnels—widen them, lower them and everything else. In 2018 the people of the Blue Mountains deserve world-class trains, as do the people of the Central Coast, the Hunter and the Illawarra. Therein lies the point. This Government has the largest procurement of trains in the State's history underway because we have managed the State's finances well, which means that we can procure the trains. Labor's tactic on public transport is strange. I am quite prepared to stand by the record of the Premier, who was the transport Minister before me, and the record that is being delivered now. It is a very proud record, and one on which we are delivering—

**Mr Michael Daley:** You should drive down Anzac Parade.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Billy Big Head has spoken. We will stand by our public transport record every day of the week, compared to the record of those opposite. The member for Blue Mountains does not want trains to her electorate and the member for Swansea does not want an additional 1,200 services for the people of the Hunter.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Newcastle will cease shouting. I call the member for Blue Mountains to order for the first time.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Members representing electorates covering the Hunter will be interested to know that I will disclose the patronage figures during the debate on the censure motion—if I can be bothered appearing—because they are quite telling.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cessnock is on his final warning.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Not only will I compare the patronage figures of the State Transit Authority of NSW [STA] service from 12 months ago with today's figures, but I will also look at how it was operating in 2010 under those opposite.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Campbelltown that he is on three calls to order. I call the member for Charlestown to order for the first time.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** We are proud of our record of delivering transport across this State. More than \$40 billion is being spent on brand new infrastructure in the next four years. Members will recall that during the last question time, the member for Strathfield said that she does not care if the contract for region 6 is privatised or not. There is a fantastic video circulating on social media, which I encourage members to watch. This is the issue with Labor. At the last election, the Leader of the Opposition said that he was not averse to privatisation. But, as soon as the Rail, Tram and Bus Union [RTBU] started to pull the strings, all of sudden the position changed.

Ultimately, the reason we are securing the contract for region 6 is that we have benchmarked the performance of private bus operators around the State for the STA and there is a marked difference in performance. That is why 80 per cent of bus services delivered in this State are delivered by the private sector. It amused me when someone—no doubt a member of the union—decided to jump in their car one weekend with a "Don't sell our buses" placard and drive all the way to Bega to stick the placard on my electorate office window. The only problem is that the 170 buses in the Bega electorate are already privatised. People could not understand it. The Labor Party and the union are saying, "Don't sell the buses". But we are not selling the buses; they remain in public hands. It shows that those opposite do not understand how franchising works. This Government will continue to deliver fantastic services across the State.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Gosford will cease interjecting. This is her final warning.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** We will continue to make major investments in infrastructure. Labor has introduced a silly censure motion in the House. I welcome the debate and look forward to putting the patronage figures on the table.

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:11):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing. Will the Minister update the House on women's economic participation in New South Wales and any other related matters?

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (15:11):** I thank the member for her question. She has been a tireless advocate for the economic advancement of women in this State. This Thursday, women across the world will celebrate International Women's Day under the theme "PressforProgress." The day is an opportunity to highlight the contributions that women make to their communities and to celebrate their wonderful achievements. Importantly, it is also an opportunity to reflect on what still needs to be done to accelerate gender equality, including in New South Wales. It is my privilege as Minister for Women to press for progress for women across New South Wales. The vision of the New South Wales Government is that all women and girls in New South Wales have full access to opportunity and choice, are valued for their diversity, are recognised for their contribution, and are able to do anything they wish in all aspects of life freely and safely.

We know that access to work and financial security are critical to women's wellbeing throughout their lives. Staying connected to the workforce fuels ambition and broadens career prospects. It also helps women better prepare for a more secure future after retirement. Women's participation in the workforce is vital also to the economic prosperity of New South Wales. Employment growth in New South Wales continues to surge, with the number of women entering the workforce helping to drive this trend. At the last election, the Liberals and Nationals promised 150,000 new jobs over four years. Since the last election, 246,300 jobs have been added. Women are driving our jobs boom. There are 152,100 more women in jobs since the last election, which accounts for 62 per cent of all new jobs.



An incredible 87,900 women found employment in 2017. This Government's excellent economic management, investment pipeline and reforms across a range of sectors have enabled this increase in women's economic participation, which has delivered our election commitment one year ahead of schedule. These results speak for themselves and are a clear win for women in this State. However, there is still more work to be done. On this side of the House, we are committed to supporting women in the workforce and are leading the way with our own workforce. Encouraging and supporting women to transition back into the workforce after the birth of children is critically important. As part of the response to this complex issue, the Liberal-Nationals Government is leading by example and has committed to ensuring that 100 per cent of government sector roles are flexible.

The NSW Public Service Commission will establish a job-sharing register to facilitate this and will rollout training to senior leaders, so they can understand why flexibility is important. In December 2017, the Public Service Commission released the "Make Flexibility Count" framework. The framework and its implementation plan are available publicly on the commission's website. We want to better position caring roles as a shared responsibility where possible, so that women are supported to stay in the workforce. Implementing flexible work practices and workplaces for both men and women will achieve this. Flexibility will be the norm rather than the exception. In doing so, women and men will be able to pursue a career in the New South Wales public service while also meeting the needs of their families.

This week, in the lead-up to International Women's Day, the community shines a spotlight on how we are performing in advancing women's issues. Today I released the "Then and Now" report, a snapshot of achievements over the past four decades across a range of indicators, focusing on the spheres of work, leadership and education. The report celebrates the phenomenal achievements in this State. This report highlights that we need to understand the work needs of growth industries and the skill sets required to perform jobs of the future that will provide better scope for creating access and opportunity for women entrepreneurs and small business owners. Boosting economic participation requires facilitating access to under-represented industries and occupations.

Data tells us that women are largely under-represented in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM]. We want to improve this by attracting women into non-traditional industries and entrepreneurial opportunities. Challenging stereotypes associated with different types of work will facilitate a diverse workforce and reduce sex segregation across occupations and industries. This work and education must begin in the formative years. Yesterday I was privileged to meet a young woman, Christina Suarez, a year 10 student at Randwick Girls' High School. Christina is a shining example of breaking ground literally against workplace gender stereotypes. Christina is studying a Certificate II in Civil Construction through TAFE NSW. *[Extension of time]*

Every week Christina travels to the Sydney Metro construction site at Chatswood, where she helps the teams with digging, drilling and jackhammering. She is inspiring her peers, who now also want to get involved in construction. Her experience on the site has ignited her passion and she sees her future in construction and engineering. As a government, we are supporting young trailblazers like Christina. The share of women who have completed an apprenticeship or traineeship increased by 13.9 percentage points from 1995 to 2017, representing an average annual growth rate of 1.9 per cent per year.

A number of government programs are focused on resolving the issue of gender inequality in STEM subjects through a change of mindset in the earliest years of schooling. We are investing \$25 million to set up the NSW STEM Foundation, a partnership with the CSIRO focused on supporting young women considering a STEM career. The foundation will work closely with industry and education providers to develop programs that attract more diverse high-potential students into STEM higher and vocational education, and retain high-performing students in STEM industries.

We are focused on building upon the positive gains women continue to make in public life, decision-making and leadership. It is clear that under this Liberal-Nationals Government women's participation in the workforce is booming. This Government is creating economic opportunities for women in this State. We are making great strides in advancing the status of women, but there is more work to do, which is why the International Women's Day theme is a strong call to motivate and unite friends, workplaces and whole communities to think and act together. We, as a government, cannot advance women's equality on our own; we need the whole community to support this cause.

#### EMERGENCY VEHICLE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (15:18):** My question is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Following my representations and written questions to the Minister last year regarding the introduction of a 40 kilometre per hour speed limit for the protection of emergency services personnel performing

their duties on and near roadways, will the Minister now implement an enforceable speed reduction to provide protection to the men and women who work to protect us and so prevent another tragedy from occurring?

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (15:19):** I thank the member for Orange for his interest in this issue, which is an interest that this Government has had for many years. We will strive to get the safety balance right to ensure that emergency services vehicles—in fact, all vehicles—are shown the respect they deserve on our roadways. This is an important issue, which is why in 2013 this Government introduced a new offence relating to this very issue, safe passing of emergency vehicles and personnel, as part of the Government's Breakdown Safety Strategy. This strategy meant that an offender, for the first time, could be charged with negligent or reckless driving around breakdowns and emergency response situations. Tough penalties apply including fines and/or imprisonment.

The NSW Road Rules also contain provisions requiring drivers to keep clear or give way to police and emergency vehicles displaying flashing blue or red lights, or sounding an alarm. Members might recall that in November 2017 Transport for NSW relaunched the "Slow down and give us space" campaign to support positive and safe driving behaviour around emergency vehicles and to reinforce existing road rules. The challenge to ensuring the safety of emergency vehicles is to make sure that other drivers show respect, whether by passing legislation or by making sure that common sense is involved, but sometimes that is not given. This was evident in the recent terrible accident in Western Sydney that resulted in severe injuries to two serving police officers. At that incident, the driver of the offending vehicle had his head down for 20 seconds prior to the accident, which resulted in the maiming for life of those two police officers. This was a dreadful situation.

It is important that legislation reflects community expectation for appropriate safety. That is why we have established a joint committee involving emergency service personnel with Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers from the Rural Fire Service [RFS] and Bernard Carlon from the Centre for Road Safety. This committee will work alongside the RFS, the State Emergency Service [SES], police and road safety officials to ensure that we get the balance right. We also have to be cognisant of the fact that if people are travelling on a motorway at 110 kilometres an hour and there is no warning that they are approaching an emergency situation, they can put themselves and other drivers in more danger if they slow down too quickly. Those are the types of considerations we need to take into account.

I acknowledge that we did the right thing in 2013 but road safety is not static; it needs to keep pace with changing circumstances on our roads. We need to ensure that we engage with all appropriate people—the NRMA, the tow truck association, the SES, the RFS, the fire brigade, the police, the heavy vehicles industry and all other road users—to ensure that whatever changes we need to make to respond to incidents are appropriate and measured. We will always take this approach. That is why I have met with the Rural Fire Service Association [RFSA] and why the Minister for Police and I have held discussions about this very issue. It is an important issue, but it is important that we make the right decisions and that we do not rush to make decisions without taking appropriate precautions when dealing with complicated matters and issues such as this.

#### WESTERN SYDNEY INFRASTRUCTURE

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (15:22):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Western Sydney. How will the Western Sydney City deal drive economic growth and deliver jobs of the future for the people of the region?

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (15:23):** I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney for his question about the importance of the Western Sydney City deal. I might update the House: Yes, rugby test matches can be played at the Allianz Stadium, including the one we are building. The city deal was signed by the Commonwealth Government, the State Government and eight Western Sydney councils that make up the Western Sydney Parklands, as defined in the Greater Sydney Commission plan for growing this city. To ensure that all members are aware, those councils are Camden, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Penrith, Wollondilly, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Fairfield. All those councils came together over the weekend, after 18 months of working collaboratively together, to develop the Western Sydney City deal. This deal is a game changer for outer Western Sydney, the part of New South Wales that will play such an important role in driving economic growth and creating new job opportunities as our population continues to grow whilst making sure that those job opportunities are firmly entrenched in knowledge-based jobs.

Over the past 18 months we have seen some amazing work with the Commonwealth Government and these councils to make sure that we develop a clear plan and a vision for how Western Sydney continues to grow. We got the first cut of that—the commitment from all those councils, the State and Commonwealth governments—with the launch this weekend of the Western Sydney City deal which comprises a number of key components. The first and most important component is a commitment to a north-south rail line across outer

Western Sydney with the first stage of that rail line running from the T1 Western Line near St Marys to the new aerotropolis land to the south of the airport via the airport site. We are also making sure that we commit 114 hectares of land next to the airport site to develop a world-class job-creating aerotropolis. We are making sure that we attract investment to this region through the development of an investment attraction office. We also want to streamline planning opportunities to make sure that we cut through red tape, get jobs on the ground, get infrastructure on the ground and get houses on the ground.

We have also partnered with eight councils to create a new \$150 million livability fund, giving opportunities for us to invest in parks, open spaces and riverfronts. This will continue to improve the quality of life across Western Sydney as we develop more than 200,000 jobs to secure its economic future. This has come with some fantastic endorsements. Chris Brown, head of the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue and a well-known Labor man, said that the city deal was a massive win for Western Sydney. Danny Rezek from Deloitte in Western Sydney described it as a fantastic result for the community.

But let us look a little further and see what the councils have to say. Let us go through the Labor councillors. George Brticevic, the Mayor of Campbelltown and a passionate supporter of the city deal, said that the Western Sydney City deal will benefit Western Sydney greatly through reduced travel time for workers. Wendy Waller, the Labor Mayor of Liverpool, said that the city deal will allow Western Sydney to have the infrastructure now and for the next 20 years, and around the airport we will see the aerotropolis. The city deal has seen cross-party support that we have not seen in 20 years, which is what communities are asking for. They are asking us to put aside our politics, to put people first and to make sure that the infrastructure is on the ground to allow this to happen.

It is important to consider what took place in the lead-up to this deal. Luke Foley sent out his stormtroopers—backbenchers and the General Secretary of the Australian Labor Party—to heavy all those Labor mayors to try to talk them out of signing. Every Labor mayor stood firm because they knew that this was not the time for politics; it was the time to put infrastructure on the ground in Western Sydney. They knew it was an opportunity to make sure that the airport was not just an airport; it was also an opportunity to create 200,000 jobs across outer Western Sydney. Those mayors all stood strong because they, unlike Opposition members, want to put the people of Western Sydney first. I thought it was also important to get some sort of response from the Labor Party after the city deal announcement. [*Extension of time*]

The hallmark of the city deal—our line in the city deal document announced by the Premier, the Prime Minister and the eight mayors—was to create the first stage of the north-south rail. It is critical to develop the north-south rail line so that the north-south corridor in the Western Sydney City comes to life. The member for Londonderry said on her Facebook page that this investment was long overdue in Western Sydney. She referred also to this Government's commitment to north-south rail, which I thought was fantastic stuff. She did not get the message out to all those who were ringing Labor mayors and saying, "Do not back out on the city deal." I then wondered whether that was really Labor policy. Are Labor members really that committed to the north-south rail?

I thought I would check to see what the Leader of the Opposition said. He said, "We will start the first stage of building a rail link between Leppington and Bringelly to the Western Sydney airport." There appears to be some confusion. Leppington to Bringelly runs east-west; there is nothing north-south about that. The Leppington to Bringelly rail line goes nowhere near the electorate of the member for Londonderry; it will not create job opportunities along the north-south spine. The Leader of the Opposition, outstanding backbenchers and the General Secretary of the Australian Labor Party heaved Labor mayors and tried to talk them out of signing the city deal. The mayors looked them in the eye and said, "Put aside your cheap Labor politics; we are backing the people of Western Sydney." Worse still, their north-south rail commitment is not a north-south rail commitment at all; it is a commitment for a rail link between Leppington and Bringelly and goes nowhere near places such as Penrith, Camden or Campbelltown. Labor has no plan to deliver a north-south rail line at all.

#### *Documents*

### **PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS ADVISER**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with clause 6 of the resolution of the House relating to the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser I table a copy of correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser enclosing advice provided to the Hon. Jillian Skinner, former Minister, dated 5 March 2018.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY****Government Response: Violence Against Emergency Services Personnel**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt of the Government response to report 1/56 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety entitled "Violence Against Emergency Services Personnel", received on 8 February 2018 and authorised to be printed.

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Government Response: 2017 Review of the Annual Reports of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Children's Guardian**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt of the Government response to report 3/56 of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "2017 Review of the Annual Reports of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Children's Guardian", received on 14 February 2018 and authorised to be printed.

**STAYSAFE (JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY)****Government Response: Driver Education, Training and Road Safety**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt of the Government response to report 3/56 of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled "Driver Education, Training and Road Safety", received on 14 February 2018 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***AUDITOR-GENERAL****Reports**

**The CLERK:** In accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled "Detecting and responding to cyber security incidents", dated 2 March 2018, received on 2 March 2018 and authorised to be printed.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Bankstown will leave the Chamber for two hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Bankstown left the Chamber at 15:31.]*

*Committees***LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 50/56**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled "Legislation Review Digest No. 50/56", dated 6 March 2018. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN:** I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding Legislation Review Digest No. 49/56, dated 13 February.

*Business of the House***SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (15:31):** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to:

- (1) Permit the consideration of the motion of censure, notice of which was given this day, before determining the motion to be accorded priority.
- (2) Provide for the following speaking time limits:
  - (a) mover – 5 minutes;
  - (b) member named – 5 minutes;
  - (c) one non-government member – 5 minutes;

- (d) one other government member – 5 minutes; and
- (e) mover in reply – 5 minutes.

I give Opposition members a piece of unsolicited advice with regard to being a good opposition as they will be there for some time: They should not be predictable; they should be adventurous. They have already tried this stunt and it went nowhere. I even googled it. I thought Labor members were trying this on because they were getting good media out of it. They did in the *Loco Express*. I thought it strange that a Spanish newspaper called the "Crazy Express" would be interested, but it is the newsletter for the Rail, Tram and Bus Union [RTBU], which is rather disappointing. Apart from one story in the *Loco Express*, Opposition members got nothing; nobody noticed them. Given that nobody noticed them it is only appropriate to move the same motion that was moved last time and to give this ridiculous attempt at censure the status it deserves. The Government will not get in the habit of enabling outer shadow Cabinet's relevance deprivation syndrome. It is a terrible and infectious illness that seems to be moving and spreading across the Opposition's middle bench. The Government has important things to do this afternoon. We have given notice of two significant bills and we intend to get on with them.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:33):** Let me correct the Leader of the House on one thing. He said that the Government—

**The SPEAKER:** The member will speak to the motion.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** I am talking to the motion. The Leader of the House said that the Government has important things to do this afternoon. It has one important thing to do this afternoon—there is only one bill to be debated. The Leader of the House just adopted a new standard when dealing with business that is transacted in this place. In doing so he is seeking to belittle those members who several weeks ago moved a motion to censure the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure in this place. He is now saying that if what members say in this House is not widely reported in the media they are a joke, it is a stunt and they are wasting their time. The Leader of the House is saying to all those members who make statements every evening that are not picked up in the media that it is a stunt. That is what this Parliament has become under the failed leadership of the member for Lane Cove. The Premier should pull him aside and tell him to treat this place properly. During debate on the last censure motion the member for Lake Macquarie said that a motion of censure was a serious item of business.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Maroubra will speak to the motion. This has nothing to do with the motion that has been moved.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** I am, Madam Speaker; I am saying that we do not agree with the motion to suspend standing and sessional orders.

**The SPEAKER:** This is to permit the censure motion.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** The Leader of the House moved a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders. He should not have moved a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders; this motion should be fully debated which will give every elected member an opportunity to question the Executive about what is happening. We are not here just to rubber stamp government business; we are here to transact business for the people in our electorates. On 19 February the member for Swansea, the Leader of the Opposition and 1,000 people attended a public meeting at Belmont. They do not want debate on this censure motion to be reduced by one-quarter; there should be six speakers and debate should continue for 70 minutes. The time that is being allocated for debate on this motion will now be reduced to 20 or 25 minutes, which is less than half. The 1,000 people who attended the public meeting at Belmont were so inflamed that they were screaming. The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure did not attend the meeting; he sent his Parliamentary Secretary, so it was left to the Leader of the Opposition to placate those who were attending the meeting.

Good old-fashioned Belmont cannot be referred to as a hot bed of crazies; it is comprised of young families and retirees who wanted only one thing that night—they wanted their bus service back. They want the Minister for Transport to explain himself. They want a full debate. They want him on his feet for the time that is allotted to him—15 minutes, not five minutes. This is an insult to the Parliament and to the Minister for Transport. If I were him I would want every minute of the time that was allotted to me. He needs to explain why there have been train cancellations, why he is called Ferry McFerryface, why there have been maintenance cuts, why trains do not fit through tunnels and why the member for Swansea is accusing him of acting belligerently towards workers. I would want every second that was allotted to me. But here we go again with this Government trying to truncate debate.

This afternoon the Minister for Transport said to Opposition members that if they proceeded to criticise him on the decimation of the bus service in the Hunter he would release patronage figures. The Minister still does not get it; this is a continuation of his arrogant behaviour towards ordinary working class people. The people of the Hunter do not want the patronage figures that the Minister wants to release to Opposition members; they want

figures that show just how many buses do not turn up. Schoolchildren who used to be able to catch a single bus to school, which took them 50 minutes, now have to get up at 5.30 a.m. to catch three buses, which takes them 2½ hours. The Minister needs to explain himself. [*Time expired*].

**Mr Greg Piper:** I seek leave to contribute to debate on the motion to suspend standing and sessional orders.

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** I have had this conversation and I am happy to—

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** Point of order: This is a single question to be put to the House.

**The SPEAKER:** That is correct.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** Members cannot contribute to debate on the motion; no opportunity is given to them to contribute to debate.

**The SPEAKER:** Leave is granted.

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (15:39):** By leave: I thank the Leader of the House for allowing me to speak in debate on the motion to suspend standing and sessional orders. I speak on behalf of six members on the crossbenches, two of whom are from minor parties and two of whom are Independents. I do not know how each crossbench member will vote in this censure motion. A few weeks ago I participated in debate on a similar censure motion moved by the Opposition. It is the right of Opposition members to move such a motion. Members of the public expect standing orders to apply generally which would enable six speakers to contribute to debate for a period of up to 70 minutes.

Much more time has been wasted on less important matters; this is one of the most important matters to be brought before this Chamber. Members should respect standing orders and the importance of this motion, regardless of how they might vote. Disparate positions might be put by crossbench members, which is what occurred when we last debated a censure motion and the member for Orange and the member for Sydney voted with the Government. On that occasion other crossbench members, including me, voted with the Opposition. I believe that crossbench members should be given an opportunity to contribute to this important debate.

It is not appropriate at this time to refer to some of the matters that have been raised by other speakers. On the last occasion that we debated a censure motion I requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss these matters but I crossed paths with staff in the Minister's office. I did not attend the meeting at Belmont but I am aware of the importance of this issue to members of the public. I am working with a small but important group of people in my electorate who have been affected in an attempt to try to resolve these problems. On this occasion the Minister's staff, obviously with the Minister's imprimatur, opened an avenue for communication, which I appreciate. I appreciate that people in the electorates of the member for Swansea, the member for Charlestown and the member for Wallsend are also affected.

I believe that we should respect the censure motion regardless of how we might vote. It would be good if the merits of these debates were the basis upon which members voted. However, apart from crossbench members, that is not what members will do. I ask the Leader of the House and the Government to reconsider their position. In future, if such an important motion is moved—as inconvenient as it may be—I ask that the Government allow it to be debated in full and that it respect crossbench members by allowing them to make a contribution. I cannot support the motion.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Ayes .....49

Noes .....34

Majority..... 15

#### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Davies, Mrs T  
Evans, Mr A  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G

Aplin, Mr G  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr L  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D

Ayres, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Fraser, Mr A  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A

## AYES

Notley-Smith, Mr B  
 Pavey, Mrs M  
 Provest, Mr G  
 Speakman, Mr M  
 Toole, Mr P  
 Ward, Mr G  
 Wilson, Ms F

O'Dea, Mr J  
 Perrottet, Mr D  
 Roberts, Mr A  
 Stokes, Mr R  
 Tudehope, Mr D  
 Williams, Mr R

Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
 Petinos, Ms E  
 Sidoti, Mr J  
 Taylor, Mr M  
 Upton, Ms G  
 Williams, Mrs L

## NOES

Aitchison, Ms J  
 Barr, Mr C  
 Chanthivong, Mr A  
 Dib, Mr J  
 Finn, Ms J  
 Harris, Mr D  
 Hornery, Ms S  
 McKay, Ms J  
 Park, Mr R  
 Scully, Mr P  
 Warren, Mr G  
 Zangari, Mr G

Atalla, Mr E  
 Car, Ms P  
 Crakanthorp, Mr T  
 Donato, Mr P  
 Foley, Mr L  
 Harrison, Ms J  
 Leong, Ms J  
 Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
 Parker, Mr J  
 Smith, Ms T F  
 Washington, Ms K

Bali, Mr S  
 Catley, Ms Y  
 Daley, Mr M  
 Doyle, Ms T  
 Greenwich, Mr A  
 Hoenig, Mr R  
 Lynch, Mr P  
 Minns, Mr C  
 Piper, Mr G  
 Tesch, Ms L  
 Watson, Ms A (teller)

## PAIRS

Gibbons, Ms M  
 Hancock, Mrs S  
 Rowell, Mr J

Cotsis, Ms S  
 Lalich, Mr N  
 Haylen, Ms J

**Motion agreed to.***Petitions***PETITIONS**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following petitions signed by fewer than 500 persons have been lodged for presentation:

**Pet Shops**

Petition opposing the sale of animals in pet shops, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

**Companion Animals on Public Transport**

Petition requesting that companion animals be allowed to travel on all public transport, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

**Route 389 Bus Services**

Petition requesting more reliable 389 bus services, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to a petition signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Victor Dominello—Mambo Wetlands Land Sale—lodged 6 February 2018 (Ms Kate Washington)

*Motions***THE HON. ANDREW JAMES CONSTANCE, MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE****Censure**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:51):** I move:

That this House censures the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure for:

- (1) His failure to provide the people of the Hunter with an adequate public bus service.
- (2) His arrogance in refusing to reinstate the essential bus routes that the people of the Hunter rely on.
- (3) His insolence in refusing to hold an independent review into the privatisation of the Hunter's buses that is the fundamental cause of the poor service that has been inflicted on the community.
- (4) The incompetence he has demonstrated, and the belligerence he continues to display, in performing his ministerial duties.

We saw more of that arrogance and belligerence earlier today. His contribution during question time was further evidence of this Minister putting his head in the sand and ignoring the people of the Hunter. The Premier agreed by saying that the people of the Hunter were simply complaining. The Minister promised that under a privatised model we would get a world-class transport system. The Minister's so-called "world-class" transport system has delivered poor connectivity, blowouts in journey times, a reduction in operating hours and, most importantly, an inconvenient service. I do not know what world the Minister lives in, but it certainly is not the world I represent.

The Minister's changes to the transport system have meant that people have been late for school, late for work and late for appointments. Some have missed job interviews and some have even had to leave their job. Most worryingly, many have been robbed of their independence and left isolated in our communities. A few weeks ago, the Minister disgraced himself and the Government with a display of arrogance and belligerence towards the people of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. He came into this place and pretended that he had not been alerted to the fact that people with a disability were experiencing serious difficulties as a result of his changes. Was the Minister being wilfully blind or was he simply telling another porky? The Minister also did not tell the House that he had received an enormous amount of correspondence from me about the problems facing people with a disability. The Minister's disdain towards public transport users is another blight on this Government's record.

Two weeks ago, we had a public protest meeting to demand a solution to fix Newcastle buses. There were 1,000 people in attendance. I was told by security that at least 300 people were turned away. They came to demonstrate that Newcastle Buses is in chaos and it needs to be fixed. I am not making this up. This is a real problem for people whose lives are being destroyed by the decisions made by the Minister and the Government. This Minister has forgotten the basic rule of decency and is refusing to listen or acknowledge that his decisions are ruining people's lives, and he continues to ignore it.

Deadset, this bloke could not lie straight in bed. First we had the Ferry McFerryface debacle, then there was the doubt around the signing of the tender for the inner west bus service, and he definitely lied about introducing and delivering a world-class transport system. Members, there is a pattern in this Minister's behaviour. It is no wonder the people of Newcastle have completely lost confidence in him as Minister when he is so loose with the truth. When the Minister came to this place, one of the first things he said was:

The political process touches the lives of everybody, every day. Arrogance and elitism should never characterise government. Politicians should never see themselves as above and beyond the people; rather, they must stand alongside and work with the communities they represent.

If the Minister no longer believes his own words then the only honourable thing he can do is resign—unless, of course, he is telling another porky and he was telling one then as well. I promised my community that I would represent them in the New South Wales Parliament. Two weeks ago they voted unanimously to support a motion. They rejected outright the new network and they said:

We ... call on the Minister for Transport to urgently intervene and conduct a full and thorough review of the timetable and routing which is transparent and consultative and restores essential bus services to our community.

I challenge the Minister to listen to my community and do just that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I did not call the House to order while the member for Swansea was speaking because all the noise came from her side of the Chamber. A number of Opposition members are on three calls to order. If the next speaker is not heard in silence, those members on three calls to order will be removed from the Chamber.



**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:57):** I have one challenge for those opposite. I want every member of the Hunter Labor Party in this House to disclose any conflict of interest they may have with the union movement involved in this. I am not going to say anything further.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the member for Keira to remove himself from the Chamber for a period of two hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Keira left the Chamber at 15:58.]*

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I sat quietly and listened to that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All Government members sat quietly. The Minister will be heard in silence. I will stop the clock until he is able to be heard in silence. The Minister may resume.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** There is my challenge: I want those Labor members from the Hunter to disclose the relationships they have with the unions in the Hunter and whether any of them were involved in negotiations concerning this contract. I make the point that when Labor were in office the passenger numbers in Newcastle's transport network dropped by 2,000 patrons a week. It was written up in the *Newcastle Herald*; it is there for people to see.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Wow.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Do you think that is "wow"? Do you think it is acceptable that the taxpayers of this State have to run a transport network that people do not catch? That is the point. Opposition members wanted a transport network that people were not catching. There was a 13 per cent decline in bus patrons over a five-year period, which was driven by those opposite. When the Premier was the transport Minister she started to clean it up. I have some news for those opposite: There is going to be a review of the timetable. We said all along it would be three months after the timetable was introduced, to give the community a chance to start to use the services.

I took the January 2017 patronage numbers and compared them to January 2018. In January 2017 the patronage numbers were 304,330. In January of this year they were 319,360, so they are up 5 per cent. Those opposite with their union mates are very happy to continue the union featherbedding that was going on in Newcastle. They were running a network that was in union members' interests as opposed to customers' interests. Then there are the numbers. Guess what else we are doing? We are delivering an extra 267,968 service kilometres. Earlier I heard the member for Maroubra say in this place that kids are not able to catch school buses. Guess what? The school services are exactly the same. We did not change them. Billy Big Head comes into this place with these big statements and makes a goose of himself—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I remind the member for Maroubra that he is already on three calls to order.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Unless you know what you are talking about, shut up.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** You have been here five minutes, and your behaviour is juvenile.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will be heard in silence.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I will give Opposition members a history lesson about my commitment to the Hunter. I was the disability services Minister who made the decision to introduce the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS] there. I am getting a lecture from those opposite about commitment to communities when I made that decision. I have been part of this Government very proudly making decisions with the Premier to allow Newcastle—the second-largest city—to revitalise. It has received \$2 billion of private sector investment since we ripped up the heavy rail line, which those opposite wanted to keep.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Cessnock that he is on three calls to order.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** We took a tough decision to lease out the port and recycle that capital into major investments in transport in Newcastle. Those opposite continue to run-down Newcastle, generation after generation. But this Liberal-Nationals Government has transformed the place. It is alive. The university is booming.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Newcastle that he is on three calls to order.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** We are seeing development along the corridor. We are delivering 1,200 extra transport services since Keolis Downer took on the contract six months ago. I have said there is going to be a review of the timetable. What is wrong with Opposition members? They were in this place only two weeks

ago trying to bring on a big publicity stunt. We debated a motion in this House, and today they have turned up with this stunt. Patronage is up, a review is on, and we are going to make sure that we deliver more services and more service kilometres. Is the best those opposite can do to come in here with this? When we on this side of the House were in opposition we moved censure motions with good reason and purpose, such as corruption—things we saw Labor Ministers doing in the health system that they should not have been. I am happy to debate the fact that we are introducing 1,200 extra services in Newcastle. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (16:03):** The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure wants to talk about statistics. He wants to talk about the fact that the Government has increased services. It is pretty simple maths: If there is one run going down to Swansea and it is chopped into three, that is three runs instead of one. Multiplied throughout the Hunter, that might well come to 1,000 or even more. Government members say there is an increase of 1,000 routes—that is because they have chopped and chopped and chopped. People who were formerly getting one run on the bus—which might have taken them 45 minutes—now take an hour and a half or even longer to get to their destinations. That was my answer to the first argument; it was a furphy.

Secondly, the Minister says that the statistics do not add up. In counting the patronage previously, I believe he was not counting the fare-free zone; now he is. Maybe he is being a bit dodgy with the statistics again. He was talking about school runs. Students who want to get to Merewether High School for 8 o'clock have to get a 5.30 a.m. bus. I remind the Minister for Transport that there ain't any school buses running at 5.30 a.m. Maybe he should take back the statement that all school runs have stayed the same. Quite simply, they have not. In the last sitting period, Hunter members and I focused on one thing—getting Newcastle and Hunter buses fixed. We submitted notices of motions and questions on notice demanding answers. The response we got from the Minister—look at him yawning; he is totally uninterested—was unbelievable. He claims that it is a great service and that I am exaggerating the facts. He says that there were no issues that we brought to his attention. Maybe the Minister needs to look at the Newcastle experiment.

Maybe he should call the schoolchildren who have been left on the side of the road and talk to the elderly who no longer have a bus service—who have had to sell their house which previously had a bus stop out the front—and cannot get to essential medical appointments. Perhaps the Minister should talk to the commuters who now have to drive their cars because they can no longer get the bus. The Minister should talk to the disabled people. The Minister said that he was the Minister for Disability Services but when I went to see Disability Access Industries the people there said they had not been consulted on this, although they had been there for 40 years. Keolis Downer has said that it was not even aware that the organisation was there. Everybody else in Newcastle knows that it was there.

Maybe the Minister needs to come to Newcastle and talk to people. How many people attended the Belmont 16s Sailing Club meeting? There were 1,000 people—600 sitting, 100 standing and 100 out in the foyer. We had to turn away 200 people on a Monday night—a school night—who had gone to enormous trouble to get there. That is because this issue is really biting the people of Newcastle and the Hunter. I can see the Minister, who is standing with his back to us. He is showing the arrogance which has caused the member for Swansea to move this censure motion. He has shown his arrogance by refusing to reinstate the bus service and his insolence by refusing to hold a review. The incompetence of this Minister is obvious.

There was one person from the other House who managed to get to the public meeting. It was the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Mr Scot MacDonald. The Minister has been telling every media source that he was not invited, but it was a public meeting and anyone could turn up. He did not need an invitation. We would have liked to have seen the Minister there—the Minister who dropped into Newcastle, announced that he would be privatising our public transport system and providing a "world-class service", and then went off to hide in his Sydney office while the Newcastle experiment crashed and burned. The Minister will not come back to Newcastle to see how the experiment is going.

I have continued to receive story after story about the new timetables. On Sunday I got a piece of correspondence from a blind man who was sitting in the sun waiting for a bus for half an hour when someone came up to him and asked, "Are you waiting for a bus?" He said, "Yes, can you look at the timetable for me?" The bus had left 20 minutes ago and he had another hour to wait in the sun. The person offered to call her boyfriend to give the man a lift home because she did not want the man to be sitting in the sun for an hour and a half. That is a typical story.

Warren from Eleebana is another vision-impaired man who wrote to me. Erin, a student at Merewether High School has experienced overcrowded buses, and there was correspondence from a blind couple from Adamstown. The list goes on and on. This Government should review this as a matter of urgency and talk to the people in the Hunter. The Government should reinstate these bus services and provide a decent service that fits the needs of the people. It should do proper consultation.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:08):** As has been indicated here today, the Government will oppose this ridiculous censure motion. The Minister and this Government are doing an outstanding job delivering transport services across New South Wales, including in both the Hunter and my own electorate on the Central Coast. I ask Opposition members whether, if they were in power, they would tear up the existing contract with the Newcastle transport system? What would be their answer? 16:29 This Government has introduced Newcastle Transport—a new model for public transport, with a single operator running multiple modes to deliver timetable efficiency, easy connections and a locally based approach to ensure the best services for customers. The new model will deliver the transport system Newcastle needs to support the extra jobs and activity that revitalisation will bring, and provide Novocastrians with the world-class transport they deserve.

I note the numbers that the Minister for Transport quoted earlier today. In 2017, 314,330 people were using that transport network; in 2018 there is now 319,360. That is an increase of 5 per cent. If Newcastle Transport is such a disaster why has patronage increased by 5 per cent? The reality is that the new, revised Newcastle transport network was unveiled on 30 November 2017 and implemented on 14 January this year. The new network provides more than 1,200 extra weekly bus and ferry services, and better connections between buses, trains and ferries.

Four direct routes have been implemented from the suburbs to the city centre, running every 15 minutes between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The bus connections have been improved to key locations such as the John Hunter Hospital, the University of Newcastle, major shopping centres and Newcastle's beaches. Timetables were released on 2 January 2018. As I said before, the benefits include more bus and ferry services, better connections between modes, increased frequencies on core routes, more choices for week days and weekend travel, viable alternatives for car trips, stronger cross-city connections, increased operating hours and better access to the beaches.

The supply of on-demand services is another key driver of the Minister and the Government. Customers have improved choices, convenience and accessibility thanks to a new on-demand bus trial, which started during off-peak periods in January this year. Areas of Dudley, Mount Hutton and Warners Bay have been chosen for the trial, which started on Sunday, 14 January. On the Central Coast a trial will be run in the electorate of the member for Gosford, on the peninsula. That trial will start around Easter. Hopefully the member for Gosford will promote what a great service this will be for the people of her electorate. I think it is a great idea to roll this program out. Customers will be able to book a service and pre-pay by credit card by phone or mobile phone app, at the Newcastle Transport Hub or by paying the driver with cash.

The Government has been working closely with the community to design a network that locals want. The Government has listened, and the design of the network is influenced by the ideas from the Voice of Newcastle program. The review does not stop there. As the Minister told us few minutes ago, Keolis Downer has been awarded a 10-year contract to design and run Newcastle Transport, and will be continuously reviewing the network during this time.

I challenge those opposite to answer my question: if they ever found themselves in office, would they tear up this 10-year contract? What is their answer? Will they tear up the contract, and who will pay any compensation? The new network has been designed to provide more frequency, improved connections and better services to where people want to travel, based on Opal data and feedback from the community. Under the Labor Government, patronage declined by 13 per cent—that effectively means 2,000 people a week were not using the transport system. As I said before, the new network has been designed to provide more frequency. The former network went for more than 10 years without any major changes and patronage dwindled to less than 3 per cent under the Government of those opposite.

It is natural that, as with most major overhauls and programs, that changes will take some time to get used to. Everybody knows that. However, some tweaks and improvements will need to be carried out, and the Minister has made it perfectly clear that that review will take place three months after the introduction of the timetable. That is exactly why this censure motion is spurious and should be rejected. Shame on those opposite.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:14):** In reply: I begin by expressing concern that the member for Terrigal did not address the motion, which is a censure motion against the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Not once did the member for Terrigal defend the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Not once did the member for Terrigal say what a great transport Minister the Government has, and not once did the member for Terrigal explain to the House why the transport Minister should not be censured. I can only extrapolate from that that the member for Terrigal probably agrees with me.

I will put a few facts on the table. Firstly, the Minister said that school bus services have not changed. The Minister needs to note a very important point: There are some schools to which schoolchildren travel by using a public bus service. Keolis Downer did not engage in any consultation directly with schools before implementing the program. That left children who go to selective schools in Newcastle and Broadmeadow stranded. After

I consulted Keolis Downer—and I tell the House that I have done a great deal of that—the bus service added a special school bus from Swansea Heads to Broadmeadow. That one bus is full after travelling 2½ kilometres. The total kilometres of that bus route is 45 kilometres. The Minister might like to get his facts straight. I think he has pretty good staff, but I have to tell the Minister that I think they are telling him a load of rubbish.

The Minister said during this debate that he was the disabilities Minister, so we should trust him. I know all members will find it incredibly surprising to know that Keolis Downer did not consult with one of the key stakeholder groups, Access Industries, which employs more than 100 disabled people in the Hunter community. Access Industries was not even given the courtesy of a phone call. The Minister should not try to tell me that stakeholders were consulted or that because he was the disabilities Minister there is any hope that he will deliver good policy. The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure has absolutely screwed up. He should admit that and fix the problem. I turn now to discuss patronage. The Minister can cite all the statistics in the world, but I want to know whether those statistics include Dwayne, who is an intellectually disabled man from Redhead whose best option for getting to work on time, according to Transport for NSW's Trip Planner, is to leave the night before. Dwayne, according to the trip planner, should leave the night before to get to work.

What about the blind couple from Adamstown who have had to sell their house? Can members imagine what it was like to have that conversation with that couple? It was heartbreaking. They have had to sell their house because the bus stop that formerly was outside their home has been relocated. John, from Marks Point, who previously caught a bus and a train to arrive at work now has to catch two buses, walk from Callaghan to Birmingham Gardens, and then get another two buses to Warabrook for a 7.00 a.m. start. What about Kim from Valentine, who has epilepsy and who cannot drive a motor vehicle? Out of necessity she books monthly appointments with a specialist in Charlestown a year in advance. We all know what it is like trying to get an appointment with specialists. All of her appointments have had to be rescheduled because it now takes her two buses to get Charlestown; not only that, but for the connecting bus between Lake Macquarie Fair and Charlestown, she has to wait 50 minutes.

The people of Newcastle and the Hunter were promised conductivity but have received absolutely nothing. I repeat the motion that the community has called for: "This community rejects the changes of the Newcastle transport network which were implemented in January 2018 because it has led to longer journey times, poorer connectivity, cuts to services, reduced operating hours and more inconvenient service. We, the community"—a community of more than 1,000 people—"therefore call on the Minister for Transport to urgently intervene, conduct a full and thorough review of the timetable and routing which is transparent, consultative, and restores essential bus services to our community." I commend the motion to the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....27  
Noes .....50  
Majority.....23

#### AYES

Aitchison, Ms J  
Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Foley, Mr L  
Hoenig, Mr R  
McKay, Ms J  
Scully, Mr P  
Washington, Ms K

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harris, Mr D  
Hornery, Ms S  
Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
Tesch, Ms L  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harrison, Ms J  
Lynch, Mr P  
Minns, Mr C  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

#### NOES

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Davies, Mrs T  
Elliott, Mr D

Aplin, Mr G  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A

Ayres, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Donato, Mr P  
Evans, Mr L

## NOES

Fraser, Mr A  
 Griffin, Mr J  
 Henskens, Mr A  
 Kean, Mr M  
 Marshall, Mr A  
 Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
 Petinos, Ms E  
 Sidoti, Mr J  
 Taylor, Mr M  
 Upton, Ms G  
 Williams, Mrs L

Goward, Ms P  
 Gulaptis, Mr C  
 Humphries, Mr K  
 Lee, Dr G  
 Notley-Smith, Mr B  
 Pavey, Mrs M  
 Provest, Mr G  
 Speakman, Mr M  
 Toole, Mr P  
 Ward, Mr G  
 Wilson, Ms F

Grant, Mr T  
 Hazzard, Mr B  
 Johnsen, Mr M  
 Maguire, Mr D  
 O'Dea, Mr J  
 Perrottet, Mr D  
 Roberts, Mr A  
 Stokes, Mr R  
 Tudehope, Mr D  
 Williams, Mr R

## PAIRS

Cotsis, Ms S  
 Haylen, Ms J  
 Lalich, Mr N

Gibbons, Ms M  
 Hancock, Mrs S  
 Rowell, Mr J

**Motion negatived.**

*Motions Accorded Priority*

**SNOWY HYDRO SALE****Consideration**

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (16:24):** My motion on the Snowy Hydro transaction and Labor's redefinition of regional New South Wales should be accorded priority. Of course, those opposite claim that they have the interests of regional New South Wales at heart. Earlier, they came out with their concept of a policy, which stated that 100 per cent of proceeds would go to regional New South Wales. Last year, during the budget in reply debate, we heard the Leader of the Opposition commit 100 per cent of those funds twice over, so there is nothing left for regional New South Wales. The definition of regional New South Wales will be important over the next 12 months. Those opposite are going to make many promises about the fund during the election.

Since 2011, members on this side of the House have clearly defined regional New South Wales to include anything outside of Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle. We have been successful in delivering for regional New South Wales, be it through water storage, pipelines, rail, roads or schools. We have defined regional New South Wales to include places such as Tamworth, Gunnedah, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Cooma, Queanbeyan, Dubbo, Bathurst, Kelso, Blayney, Orange, Molong, Lismore and Tweed—that is regional New South Wales. However, those opposite have consistently tried to argue that regional New South Wales includes a city centre such as Wollongong.

The member for Campbelltown has argued that Campbelltown should be included as a region. When he was preselected as the candidate, he echoed the words of his then leader that Campbelltown should be included in the definition of regional New South Wales, along with Liverpool. It is important that we clearly understand what the Opposition's definition of regional New South Wales looks like. The shadow Treasurer, the member for Keira, put out a press release that states that Wollongong would be defined as part of regional New South Wales. Those opposite cannot hide from that. I am sure they will say the same for Newcastle. Depending on how polling goes in marginal Labor electorates as we get closer to 2019, Labor will do what its track record proves that it will do: ensure that a minimal amount of money goes to the real regional and rural communities that members on this side of the House have represented. [*Time expired.*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Newcastle has been called to order on numerous occasions. If he is called to order on one more occasion, he will be sent out of the House.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

### Consideration

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:29):** I notice that the Minister does not have the intestinal fortitude to hang around and listen to me. My motion must be accorded priority because the farce that is this Government's mishandling and bungling of public transport matters must eventually come to an end. It simply has to stop. The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure is on the record telling the people of New South Wales that in the ideal world of his boyhood fantasies, the New South Wales Government would not be providing public transport at all. Minister Constance is kept up at night with visions of a fully privatised transport system that delivers mega profits to big business and does not employ a single worker. The failed New Intercity Fleet procurement project is testimony to that.

We have a government that is so opposed to using skilled domestic manufacturers that it is ordering a discount train from overseas that does not fit the tracks. It beggars belief that now the Government has to spend hundreds of millions of dollars re-engineering the train lines, tunnels, platforms and signalling equipment between Springwood and Lithgow to make the new fat trains fit the tracks. If we believe the transport Minister, the Government planned for this all along. But if that was the case, the Government would be able to put a dollar figure on the final cost, and it cannot. It did not know. It did not have any idea. If we believe the transport Minister, these upgrades are a good thing. The trouble is that a tunnel built in 1905 from sandstone blocks cannot be made much wider than it already is. It is little wonder that the transport Minister's solution is to cut back on safety, rather than to cut into the tunnel walls to allow enough room for the trains to fit through.

We need to remember the last time the transport Minister had a bright idea: the timetable fiasco. The transport Minister was advised by his workers that the new timetable would not work, but he pressed ahead anyway. He did not hire more drivers or lay more tracks; he simply pressed ahead and pushed the train network to its absolute breaking point. Here we go again. Do we trust the "Minister for Incompetence" when he says, "Trust me: This will work fine"? I do not trust the Minister at all. I have completely lost faith in his capacity to do the job—and if we walked outside and asked Joe Public what he thought, I am sure that would be his view too. The Premier must sack the Minister. She must not compromise on safety. She needs to sack the Minister and save what she can of the transport system. When Labor comes into government in 2019 we will have to fix the bungled mess made by the no-hopers opposite.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion of the member for Monaro be accorded priority.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....49  
Noes .....32  
Majority..... 17

### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Provest, Mr G  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Aplin, Mr G  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Donato, Mr P  
Evans, Mr L  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Roberts, Mr A  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

Ayres, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Fraser, Mr A  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

## NOES

Aitchison, Ms J	Atalla, Mr E	Bali, Mr S
Barr, Mr C	Car, Ms P	Catley, Ms Y
Chanthivong, Mr A	Crakanthorp, Mr T	Daley, Mr M
Dib, Mr J	Doyle, Ms T	Finn, Ms J
Foley, Mr L	Greenwich, Mr A	Harris, Mr D
Harrison, Ms J	Hoening, Mr R	Hornery, Ms S
Leong, Ms J	Lynch, Mr P	McKay, Ms J
Mehan, Mr D (teller)	Minns, Mr C	Parker, Mr J
Piper, Mr G	Scully, Mr P	Smith, Ms T F
Tesch, Ms L	Warren, Mr G	Washington, Ms K
Watson, Ms A (teller)	Zangari, Mr G	

## PAIRS

Gibbons, Ms M	Cotsis, Ms S
Hancock, Mrs S	Haylen, Ms J
Rowell, Mr J	Lalich, Mr N

**Motion agreed to.**

**SNOWY HYDRO SALE****Priority**

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (16:38):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Supports the Government's plan to invest all \$4.154 billion in proceeds from the Snowy Hydro transaction into rural and regional communities.
- (2) Condemns the Opposition's attempt to redefine regional New South Wales in order to free up Snowy Hydro transaction proceeds for the benefit of metropolitan Opposition seats.

Normally, and often, Labor breaks promises after an election, but it is clear today that those opposite have sent a message to regional and rural New South Wales that Labor plans to redefine what "regional and rural" means to the people of New South Wales. Since 2011, we have made it absolutely clear through Restart NSW funding and Rebuilding NSW that the definition of regional New South Wales is all areas excluding Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. Why have we done that? We have done that to give small regional towns and cities a real chance of receiving genuine investment. As I said earlier today, since 2011 and including this financial year and the forward estimates, investment by the Liberal- Nationals Government in regional New South Wales will exceed \$40 billion. That was confirmed today by the Treasurer. That is the commitment from members on this side of the House, and that investment is happening in genuine regional cities like Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Dubbo and Goulburn.

We are also investing in smaller cities like Gunnedah, Armidale and Cooma. These areas deserve their fair share of investment. Not only have those opposite not backed in the recycling of assets in New South Wales such as the electricity poles and wires—and remember 30 per cent of that money went to regional New South Wales—and not backed in our fiscal decisions for regional New South Wales, but they have also made a false commitment to give 100 per cent of the proceeds of the Snowy Hydro transaction to regional New South Wales. However, today it has been made clear by those opposite that to them regional New South Wales includes Wollongong and could possibly include Liverpool, Campbelltown and Newcastle.

When those opposite speak in debate on this motion they must answer this question: What is their definition of regional New South Wales? They must be absolutely honest with the regional communities of New South Wales. They must make their definition of regional New South Wales absolutely clear, so that when they go to Dubbo, Wellington, Cowra, Cootamundra, Griffith, Cooma, Bega or Lismore they can honestly tell people that they believe regional New South Wales does not include Wollongong and Newcastle. Today they have the opportunity to rule out of their definition of regional New South Wales places like Wollongong, Newcastle, Campbelltown and any other area they can dream up.

Unless they categorically rule out Wollongong and Newcastle and say that they do not count as regional New South Wales, Labor once again will be making a false promise to regional and rural New South Wales. Those opposite can stay in Macquarie Street and pretend in this House that they care about regional New South Wales and will match our track record of spending on regional New South Wales each and every day. However, we know that those opposite do not support the Broken Hill pipeline or the investment in regional New South Wales that has come off the back of the poles and wires transaction, because they did not support the poles and wires transaction.

We already know that those opposite have spent the money from the Snowy Hydro deal twice. All that is irrelevant. What they have to make clear in this debate when they stand at the lectern is the Labor definition of regional New South Wales. They must exclude Wollongong and Newcastle. Our definition is easy, because it has been in place since 2011. We have said clearly that our definition of regional New South Wales is every community outside Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle. Our definition is absolutely clear, so those opposite must take the opportunity today to rule out Wollongong and Newcastle from their definition of regional cities. If they cannot do that, they have misled the people of regional New South Wales. The shadow Treasurer issued a press release when the Labor Party reshuffled positions in the New South Wales Parliament. He said:

Having the Shadow Treasurer from a regional city is I think a positive move in making sure that regional areas are given a priority when it comes to funding ...

I thought that East Kiama was not a regional city, and this press release shows the reality that those opposite are not interested in regional New South Wales, are not interested in Moree, are not interested in Bourke, are not interested in Cobar, are not interested in Cooma or Jindabyne or Tamworth or Gunnedah. What they are interested in is making sure that they shore up marginal Labor seats. They are going to squander the opportunity created by the Snowy Hydro transaction.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (16:43):** I move:

That the motion be amended by leaving out all words after "That" with a view to inserting instead:

"this House notes that the Government has adopted the Opposition's plan to invest all \$4.154 billion in proceeds from the Snowy Hydro transaction into rural and regional communities."

**Mr John Barilaro:** What does regional mean? What is your definition?

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** I will get to that in a minute; don't worry, mate. I have to invent you. You ought to be thanking me. What I announced last May, you got around to adopting in March.

**Mr John Barilaro:** When did the transaction happen? You spent the money on the credit card before it even happened.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** It took you 10 months. Barnaby is quicker than that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Alister Henskens:** Point of order: The Leader of the Opposition should direct his comments through the Chair.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** You got me there. On 17 May 2016 in the electorate of the Deputy Premier we announced that under Labor 100 per cent of the proceeds to New South Wales of any transfer of our State share of the Snowy Hydro to the Commonwealth would be spent in regional New South Wales. They ask about the definition. I will give them that in a second, and they will not be disappointed. It took them 10 months to get around to matching the Labor commitment. I had to go to the electorate of the Deputy Premier to campaign for this, and he argued against it. I had to stand up in Googong and promise people in that very fast-growing suburb south of Queanbeyan a new school because the Country Party would not.

Remember when there used to be a Country Party and it stood up for country communities? The Deputy Premier challenges us to say what is our definition of regional for the purposes of the \$4.154 billion. I rule out Wollongong and Newcastle—there you go. Sorry to disappoint him. There goes his campaign. He says Labor will pork-barrel Labor electorates. I will not pork-barrel Labor electorates when I can pork-barrel his, because I am going to take him out of this place. I will be in all their electorates spending \$4.154 billion to roll the bunch of them out of here, that is what I will be doing.

**Mr Troy Grant:** Leave me alone.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** I will leave him alone because the National Party used to have a leader who believed in a few things before his best mate stabbed him in the back. I think Dubbo ought to do pretty well out



of the Snowy Hydro proceeds. Monaro will do better; Monaro will do better under me, do not worry about that. A lot of things will be opened with Bryce Wilson's name on it, will they not? We will adopt whatever definition of rural and regional that the current Government of New South Wales abides by. But let us look at the farce of the Regional Relocation Grant under this Government, where one literally crosses the road in Windang and gets \$7,000. Be clear, because our understanding under this policy is that Lake Macquarie is part of regional New South Wales but Newcastle is not. The suburb of Charlestown, which is 10 minutes from the Newcastle city centre, is part of regional New South Wales. That is the Government's policy.

Gosford and Wyong are part of regional New South Wales. Under the Government's policy there are plenty of parts of the Illawarra close to the Wollongong central business district [CBD] that are part of regional New South Wales. The Government had better be clear. I can assure members that when it comes to the Snowy Hydro proceeds 100 per cent will go to regional New South Wales. We are glad the Government followed. We will not spend any in the Newcastle CBD or the Wollongong CBD or Campbelltown; we will spend it in the Tweed and in Lismore—the Deputy Speaker will be pleased to know. We will spend it in the Monaro, do not worry about that. We are very glad that 10 months later the Government got around to adopting Labor's policy, the one it argued against all last year. Bring it on.

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (16:48):** There has never been a better time to live in regional New South Wales, as we all know. It is fair to say that this Government's record investment in regional infrastructure will go down as possibly its greatest legacy. Regional New South Wales is already seeing unprecedented investment in infrastructure through the turbocharging of local economies in our regional communities. Last Friday, 2 March, the good news continued with the historical announcement that the New South Wales Government, along with the Victorian Government, will transfer its share of Snowy Hydro to the Commonwealth Government. The Commonwealth Government will pay \$6 billion to the two State governments. From this sale the New South Wales Government will receive \$4.15 billion for its share.

New South Wales has agreed with the Federal Government to spend the proceeds from the transaction on productive infrastructure. One hundred per cent of the proceeds to the New South Wales Government for the sale of its share of Snowy Hydro will be spent on infrastructure projects in regional New South Wales. That is, outside the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The proceeds from the Snowy Hydro will make sure that we build visionary infrastructure that will improve the lives of people living in regional New South Wales for generations to come. Snowy Hydro is an iconic project and a symbol of great achievement for people living in regional New South Wales. We will make sure we invest in projects that honour that legacy, with regional iconic infrastructure creating and sustaining local jobs.

This is why the Federal Government is continuing to give back to the Snowy legacy, paving the way for the nation-building Snowy 2.0 project—a Federal Government investment of more than \$3 billion that will create more than 5,000 direct jobs in the Snowy region. This is truly a win-win-win for all in regional New South Wales, and particularly for the Albury electorate. I can see a centre of economic growth with internal State migration from Sydney. Just think of something like an inland freight and training airport positioned near major highways and a major rail hub. That would be a game changer project for which there is already a need, with Qantas announcing a desire for a regional pilot training academy.

Since last year's budget the people of Albury have already seen record investment in infrastructure projects, including the \$3.7 million TAFE Connected Learning Centre at Corowa, and new Multipurpose Service facilities valued at \$30 million each for Culcairn and Tumbarumba. The transfer of Snowy Hydro will go down as the largest regional investment program this country has ever seen. It is a program that never could have been implemented under a Labor government, and it comes as no surprise that the Leader of the Opposition's plan for the funds are a complete and utter mess. During its time in government Labor had no plan on how to fix the budget, let alone find the money to do what we have done. Because we have fixed Labor's mess we have been able to deliver more investment to the regions, which in turn allows them to deliver more back to our economy. We will never forget the men and women who gave us the iconic Snowy Hydro and I assure you we will never forget the iconic way the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals invest this money in regional New South Wales. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (16:54):** In many walks of life they say that imitation is the greatest form of flattery and we thank the member for Monaro for not only flattering us with imitating our policy in toto but also providing us with a terrific own goal of his. Earlier today the Leader of the House stated one of the new values of the House, and that is if it does not make it into the media it does not matter. Unfortunately for the Deputy Premier, some of his responses to the Leader of the Opposition's announcement that 100 per cent of the proceeds would go to regional New South Wales did make it into the media. On 10 May last year the Deputy Premier stood in this place and in respect of Snowy Hydro said:

More importantly, 30 per cent of any proceeds from that transaction will go to regional New South Wales.

On 22 June, he again restated that position when he spoke about 30 per cent of all asset transactions going to Restart NSW. If that was not enough, a comment that made it into the media was reported on 17 May 2017 in the *Canberra Times*:

Mr Barilaro said he would prefer regional NSW receive 30 per cent of all state asset transactions than 100 per cent from one sale.

It does not make sense.

**Mr John Barilaro:** Now we have both.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** He cannot have both. He says as he is sitting here, "Now we have both." We do not have both. Under Restart NSW, 30 per cent of transactions from the proceeds of asset sales which go into Restart NSW, which is all of them, have to go to regional New South Wales. According to the Restart NSW annual report and the Auditor-General, in the 2016-17 year, 14 per cent of the proceeds went to regional New South Wales. The year before it was 10 per cent and the year before that it was 25 per cent. In fact, the average over a six-year period is 19 per cent. This Government, which is promising to spend 100 per cent of the Snowy transaction in the regions, has its record to stand on, and it is a record of complete and utter failure.

It is no wonder that when I spoke to country mayors last week in the Jubilee Room with the Hon. Peter Primrose, many of them said, "We don't care what Gladys Berejiklian is announcing today. She forced greyhounds upon us, she forced council amalgamations upon us and we don't trust the process that this Government will undertake when it comes to expenditure." We made a promise to them, which we will keep: When we are elected in March 2019 we will sit down with regional communities and ask them where they want their money spent. They certainly do not trust those opposite. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (16:55):** In reply: This is all about trust, is it not? Who can you trust to ringfence funding for regional New South Wales? Even though on average the Government has spent 19 per cent of Restart NSW, the reality is that 30 per cent is ringfenced, locked away, legislated to go to regional New South Wales. With the support of the Premier and the Treasurer, the Government has been able to ensure that 100 per cent of these funds go to regional New South Wales.

Today we have seen that the Labor Party will continue to flip flop under Flip Flop Foley, because today he sanctioned his own shadow Treasurer who, as of this morning, as of today, as of his private member's statement and press releases said that if the Labor Party were elected, it would change the definition of regional New South Wales. There is a real dilemma here—will they either sack the shadow Treasurer or is a leadership spill on its way for the Leader of the Opposition? That is the first point.

The second point is that when Labor was in government prior to 2011, it used regional development funding to move the showground from the Sydney central business district to Western Sydney, out to Homebush. That is the track record of those opposite on regional development. When it comes to trust, let us think about those opposite. It is absolutely clear. The Leader of the Opposition just said, "If we win, when we win the election in 2019 we will sit down with regional New South Wales and see where the funding will go." If we go back to his budget reply speech, we see that he has already spent the money twice. He is making all these promises to win an election.

Unlike those opposite, the Liberal-Nationals will not squander this opportunity, these precious funds resulting from the sale of Snowy Hydro, which was built by men and women many decades ago. We will invest it in the next legacy—infrastructure in regional New South Wales that will make a real difference. But to do that, it has to be part of a vision. It is only those on this side of the House that have a vision for regional New South Wales beyond 2019, beyond 2023, beyond 2030. It is those on this side of the House who want to invest in the generational infrastructure that will change regional New South Wales forever.

We have already heard this morning that those opposite will use the funds to campaign to win seats and politicise regional New South Wales. The truth of all this is that when Labor is elected, it will spend the money where it suits Labor, as it always does. The Leader of the Opposition will not be able to hold his leadership, keeping all his backbench happy, keeping Sussex Street happy and keeping the unions happy. This is a matter of trust. Since 2011 we have delivered, and we have committed in the forward estimates to \$40 billion plus to Restart NSW. We have taken 30 per cent, we have taken 100 per cent, we are 100 per cent for the bush.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the words proposed to be left out stand.

**Amendment negatived.**

**Mr David Harris:** Point of order: Three Labor members voted no. We listened to what you said and we said, "No."

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** To the point of order: There was no call for a division from members opposite. Members opposite called for the ayes, therefore your ruling is correct, the ayes had it.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is the way I took it and I uphold my ruling.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: The problem with the point of order that was put to you by the member for Coffs Harbour is that the member for Wyong has already stood up in good faith and advised you that he in fact did call a division.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I stand by my ruling. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....50  
Noes .....30  
Majority.....20

#### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Donato, Mr P  
Evans, Mr L  
Grant, Mr T  
Hancock, Mrs S  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Piper, Mr G  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

Aplin, Mr G  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Fraser, Mr A  
Griffin, Mr J  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Provest, Mr G  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Ayres, Mr S  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Roberts, Mr A  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

#### NOES

Aitchison, Ms J  
Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Foley, Mr L  
Harrison, Ms J  
Leong, Ms J  
Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
Scully, Mr P  
Washington, Ms K

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lynch, Mr P  
Minns, Mr C  
Tesch, Ms L  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hornery, Ms S  
McKay, Ms J  
Parker, Mr J  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

#### PAIRS

Berejiklian, Ms G  
Davies, Mrs T  
Gibbons, Ms M

Cotsis, Ms S  
Haylen, Ms J  
Lalich, Mr N

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills***LIQUOR AND GAMING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018****CASINO CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL 2018****GAMING MACHINES AMENDMENT (LEASING AND ASSESSMENT) BILL 2018****REGISTERED CLUBS AMENDMENT (ACCOUNTABILITY AND AMALGAMATIONS) BILL 2018****First Reading**

**Bills introduced on motion by Mr Paul Toole, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing) (17:08):**

I move:

That these bills be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the cognate Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018, Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018, and Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill 2018. Through these bills the New South Wales Government is ensuring that regulation of the liquor, gaming and clubs industries continues to evolve to meet changing circumstances and that it remains fit for purpose. These bills make a significant number of amendments to 16 pieces of legislation, and they represent the most significant set of reforms to New South Wales gaming regulation in more than 10 years. They also build on the Government's existing measures that are designed to protect those most impacted by gambling-related harms.

This legislation streamlines regulatory complexity where risk of harm is low. At the same time, the package tightens certain legislative provisions and in some areas places additional constraints on industry. In short, this reform package is about ensuring that regulators have the right tools to intervene to address misconduct where it arises and to minimise gambling-related harms. The legislation reflects a number of review processes conducted over the past year involving input from the community, local government and industry.

The Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill has two main objectives. The amendments improve the predictability and transparency of decision-making while also increasing opportunities for community input on decisions about the location of gaming machines. For the first time, there will be red zones where there can be no increase in the number of gaming machine entitlements. The Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill introduces a gaming machine entitlement leasing scheme to complement the existing trading scheme. The amendments to the Registered Clubs Act 1976 update amalgamation and de-amalgamation requirements for clubs. They also shift responsibility for some low-risk accountability requirements for clubs from the regulator to ClubsNSW, thereby allowing the regulator to focus its resources on more serious issues.

The Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill makes a number of changes to liquor and gaming legislation, including providing for tougher penalties for wagering operators that breach gambling advertising restrictions and a risk-based approach to post-employment restrictions for public officials regulating the liquor and gaming industries. The amendments to the Casino Control Act 2018 implement aspects of the Government's response to the Casino Modernisation Review. They will ensure a closer alignment between regulatory risk and the level of regulatory oversight, thereby allowing the regulator to focus on where more serious problems arise.

Given the breadth of changes being made, I will go through the bills individually to provide the House with a detailed picture of the individual and cumulative impacts of the changes. I will deal first with the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill. The local impact assessment scheme is the mechanism for clubs and hotels to seek an increase in the number of gaming machines they are allowed to operate. To be clear, any increase in the number of gaming machines venues can hold—that is, an increase in their gaming machine threshold—does not and cannot increase the number of gaming machine entitlements in New South Wales. Filling an increased threshold means getting existing gaming machine entitlements from someone else.

Due to forfeiture requirements, the number of gaming machine entitlements in New South Wales can only ever decrease. The amendments to the local impact assessment scheme follow a comprehensive review of the scheme by Liquor and Gaming NSW. The 2017 review involved extensive consultations with industry, community organisations, gambling harm minimisation services, local government, and individuals. The local impact assessment scheme was introduced in 2009 and was designed to ensure that additional gaming machines are introduced into an area only when the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority is satisfied that the additional gaming machines will provide a positive benefit for the community. While the review found that the local impact

assessment scheme remains a useful tool for the regulation of the movement of gaming machines, changes are necessary to ensure the scheme remains fit for purpose in measuring the impact of introducing additional gaming machines to a local community.

The package of reforms proposed in the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018 implements the review's recommendations. These amendments reduce the size of community boundaries compared with current arrangements. To do this, item [9] of the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018 replaces local government areas with local statistical areas for the purpose of classifying areas in the State under the local impact assessment process. Local statistical areas have been defined as statistical area level 2, commonly referred to as SA2s, which is a statistical boundary produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

SA2s are medium-sized statistical areas that are smaller than local government areas, and are designed around whole gazetted suburbs or rural localities. SA2s have a population range of between 3,000 and 25,000 with an average of 10,000, and more accurately reflect how communities interact. In New South Wales there are more than 540 SA2s, compared with 129 local government areas. This change would allow the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to utilise a more nuanced and sophisticated way of assessing the impact of gaming machines on a community. By using a smaller boundary, the relative impact of new machines will be easier to understand for venues, the community and government.

The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority would then rank all SA2s according to three factors: the number of gaming machine numbers per capita in the SA2, the gaming machine expenditure per capita in the SA2, and the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas score for that SA2. This would provide an understanding of the relative risk of introducing additional gaming machines into an SA2 when compared with other SA2s across New South Wales.

The weighting that the authority gives to each of those factors would remain a matter for the authority; however, the Government has recommended that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority place much greater weight on socio-economic factors when classifying SA2s, as well as when making decisions under this new model. Following the ranking, the authority will place all SA2s into one of three bands: band 1—low risk, band 2—medium risk and band 3—high risk. These bands will then be used to determine what increase to its gaming machine threshold a venue can apply for and what it is required to do as part of its local impact assessment.

To build on the introduction of a stronger method of classifying communities based on risks of gambling-related harms, the bill will, for the first time, create gaming machine "red zones". These will be no-go areas for additional gaming machines. Item [8] of the bill inserts a new section 32A into the Act to provide a new power to further restrict the movement of gaming machines into high-risk areas. The proposed section 32A grants the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority the power to prescribe a cap on the number of gaming machines that may be operated in an area. An "area" under section 32A includes all band 3 SA2s and the Fairfield local government area.

The area cap is intended to give the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority a power to stop the movement of gaming machines into areas where there is a high risk of gambling-related harms. While the power will be used at the discretion of the authority, the bill specifically prescribes that the Fairfield local government area will be subject to the cap. This is based on the fact that the Fairfield local government area already has a significant number of gaming machines and the risk profile of the community demanded that the Government needed to give Fairfield additional protections. Under section 32A a prohibited increase area will mean that no machines can come into that area. This will mean the number of machines in these areas can only decrease. The proposed "restricted increase area", however, will continue to be subject to section 35 of the Act, which prescribes that gaming machines may still be transferred under certain narrow conditions.

This bill sets in place reforms that strengthen the role that the community plays in the decision-making process. The Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018 also amends community consultation requirements under the Gaming Machines Regulation 2010, providing greater transparency and consultation than ever before. Amendments made by schedule 3 to the bill provide that venues will be required to notify additional local organisations that they are undertaking a local impact assessment. Venues will now be required to notify local welfare and emergency relief, Aboriginal health and legal assistance and gambling help providers that they have sought additional gaming machines. Venues will be required to provide a statutory declaration detailing who has been notified of the application.

Amendments to clauses 37 and 41 now prescribe minimum consultation requirements. Currently a class 1 local impact assessment only requires 30 days of public consultation. The bill will extend this to 60 days, giving individuals and community organisations longer to prepare submissions to be considered by the venue and the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. These changes complement the release today of gaming machine data.

This Government will be providing more information than ever before about gaming machine use in this State and it is available now on the Liquor and Gaming NSW website.

The Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018 will prescribe that financial contributions made by venues as part of the local impact assessment process will now be required to be made to the Responsible Gambling Fund. The Responsible Gambling Fund is established under the Casino Control Act 1992 and currently allocates funding to gambling harm reduction and treatment services from a levy on revenue from The Star casino. The bill provides the Responsible Gambling Fund with a new function of allocating funding to community organisations to ensure that money generated through the local impact assessment process continues to provide benefits for the community in which those machines are introduced. This will mean that hotels and clubs will for the first time contribute funding to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

Moving the collection and allocation of contributions to the community away from individual venues to a centralised fund will allow a more targeted response to addressing gambling related harms by providing funds to local non-gambling forms of entertainment and recreation, health and social services, and assistance to vulnerable communities. To effect these changes, item [15] of the bill reforms the way that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority assesses the positive impact of additional gaming machines on the community. The Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018 inserts a new section 36A which provides the Responsible Gambling Fund with the power to allocate funding to local community services from contributions made by venues during the local impact assessment process.

The bill is intended to allow the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to be satisfied of requirements under section 36 in circumstances where it considers that a financial contribution by the venue is required to evidence a positive benefit for the community, and that financial contribution is made to the Responsible Gambling Fund. The framework to allow the Responsible Gambling Fund to allocate this funding is prescribed in proposed new section 36A and the amendments to the Casino Control Act 1992 set out in schedule 4 to the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018.

The amendments to the Casino Control Act insert a new section 115B that will allow the fund to allocate funding to community organisations in the area in which the gaming machines have been introduced. It is currently intended that the Responsible Gambling Fund will establish specialist local panels to facilitate this purpose. The proposed new section 36B provides incentives for venues to invest in more harm minimisation and community contribution activities than they are legislatively required to do. The new section 36B will allow the authority to consider additional positive measures put in place that provide a benefit to the community. This may include harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures that are above and beyond what a venue is required to do by law; for example, by providing an in-house gambling help counselling service or making an additional contribution to the harm minimisation services through the ClubGRANTS scheme.

However, before the authority is able to take into account an additional positive benefit that would have the effect of partially satisfying a community requirement, the venue must show that the additional positive benefit has been put in place by the venue in connection with a proposed increase. This section is not intended to allow existing offerings to be taken into account but is intended to provide an incentive for venues to actively identify new opportunities to provide gambling harm minimisation services to their patrons and the community.

To maximise the effectiveness of the extended community consultation period, the bill inserts section 36C, which creates a clear power for the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to issue guidelines on the local impact assessment process. The proposed guidelines will allow the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to clearly detail guidance for venues, individuals and community organisations on the local impact assessment process. These guidelines are intended to provide direction for applicants and those interested in making a submission, and will continue to be subject to requirements imposed on the authority's decision-making powers. As part of the guidelines, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority intends setting a clear formula for determining an appropriate level of community contribution. As noted above, under these amendments this is money that will now go directly to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

I turn now to amendments to section 35 made by item [12] of the bill that update requirements for gaming machine threshold increase applications to reflect the move from local government areas to SA2s. The bill provides that venues acquiring entitlements from another venue within their SA2 will continue to be able to apply for a threshold increase without a local impact assessment. This replicates the existing section 35 (2) but is now based on SA2 classifications rather than local government area classifications.

While the current exemption allows venues to acquire entitlements from any venue in its local government area without undertaking a local impact assessment, this exemption will be narrowed to restrict venues to be able to acquire entitlements from venues only within their local government area and where the entitlements move from an SA2 that is of the same banding or a lower banding. For example, section 35 (2) (c)

will allow a venue in a band 2 SA2 to acquire a gaming machine entitlement from a venue in a band 3 SA2 in its local government area without undertaking a local impact assessment as the entitlements are moving from a higher risk area to a lower risk area, thereby reducing the number of entitlements in the higher risk area, but will not allow it to acquire the entitlement from a venue in a band 1 SA2 without undertaking a local impact assessment. This is to ensure that the exemptions under section 35 do not operate to allow gaming machines to move from lower to higher risk areas without consulting the community and assessing the impact of additional machines in the area acquiring the machines.

The bill inserts a new paragraph under section 35 that will also allow venues in SA2s that share a common border to transfer entitlements without a local impact assessment, but again only where the entitlements move from an SA2 that is of the same banding or a lower banding. However, the bill will require all venues that use an exemption to the local impact assessment process under section 35 to now provide a local impact statement. The proposed local impact statement will ensure that the venue is required to communicate to local organisations that a decision has been made, which will complement the changes the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority is making to allow all decisions to be publicly available. This is intended to give communities a greater awareness of decisions being made in their area and ensure that this information can be used in future consultation processes.

In line with the Government's commitment to identify appropriate measures that can assist small regional pubs, item [5] of the bill introduces a new section 20A that prescribes requirements for the transfer of gaming machine entitlements held by country hotels. The new section 20A replicates the existing section 20 (5) of the Act, as well as providing that a small country hotel, which is defined as a hotel with eight or fewer gaming machine entitlements, may transfer its final six gaming machine entitlements in one transaction without forfeiture applying. The intent of this provision is to provide an incentive for country hotels to go pokie-free, or for owners of hotels to retire from the industry without having to delay retirement while they sell off their final entitlements. The section will allow these hotels to transfer up to their final six entitlements, but only where this transaction will result in the hotel's gaming machine threshold being reduced to zero.

The bill also extends existing exemptions under section 37A of the Act to allow for clubs establishing in new development areas in a band 2 SA2 to take advantage of reduced local impact assessment and forfeiture requirements. This exemption is intended to encourage clubs to establish in areas that are not currently able to take advantage of the services offered by clubs. The proposed extension will now allow clubs establishing in new development areas in band 2 SA2s to take advantage of incentives to improve community services but will continue to be subject to other harm minimisation requirements under the Act.

The bill also clarifies the time limits that a venue has to fill its gaming machine threshold following a gaming machine threshold increase under section 37. Following a class 1 local impact assessment, the time limit will remain at two years, a class 2 will remain at five years, with all other threshold increases now subject to a 12-month time limit. The bill also provides that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority has the discretion to extend these time frames. The amendments in this bill propose a shift in how the risk of gambling harm is measured, considered and responded to by government, hotels and clubs, and by the community.

Under the Gaming Machines Act 2001, following an increase in a venue's threshold it can acquire gaming machine entitlements to fill that threshold. Currently under the Act, a venue can acquire gaming machine entitlements only by trading with another venue, a club with a club, and a hotel with a hotel. The Act requires that entitlements are traded in blocks of two or three, and for every block of entitlements traded, one entitlement is forfeited to the authority. Since 2002 this process has reduced the number of gaming machine entitlements in New South Wales by more than 8,000.

While this trading scheme has secured an overall reduction in the number of gaming machines, it has also produced some unintended outcomes. For small pubs and clubs, gaming machine entitlements are often one of their key assets, but can often also be an asset with low returns. These small pubs and clubs are often required to hold on to their entitlements, despite the ability to sell them, as the entitlements are used to underwrite loans to the venue that help keep the doors open, and continue to provide social benefits to the community.

Since 2011 there have been more than 80 club closures in New South Wales, and more than 50 regional hotels closing since January 2016. This amendment will provide small pubs and clubs with the opportunity to lease out their gaming machine entitlements to other venues. This amendment will provide small hotels and clubs with an alternative pathway by allowing them to go pokie-free if they wish, to focus their offering on something other than gaming machines, whether that be live entertainment, dining or other facilities.

During the term of the lease, the entitlements would remain the property of the lessor venue, but the lessee venue would receive all revenue derived from use of the entitlement. The bill proposes allowing venues to enter into a lease for up to five years, with the lease payment to be negotiated and agreed by the venues. The proposed scheme would limit which venues are able to lease out entitlements to clubs with 30 or fewer

entitlements and hotels with 10 or fewer, and would continue to be subject to the local impact assessment scheme. Venues would not be able to sublet entitlements that they have leased from another venue.

The proposed leasing scheme set out in the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018 will not include any forfeiture requirement. However, the Government is confident that a reinvigorated local impact assessment scheme, a tightly defined eligibility cap on lessee venues, and a new Responsible Gambling Fund levy on all leases will ensure that gambling-related harms continue to be effectively managed by the Act. Because the scheme is limited to small clubs and pubs only, our analysis indicates that only around 11 per cent of total gaming machines in the State will be eligible to be leased and other commercial and practical considerations will mean that not all eligible machines will end up being subject to a lease. The scheme also will be subject to review after three years.

Under proposed new division 2A of part 3 of the Act, venues will be able to lease gaming machine entitlements, which is intended to sit beside, rather than replace, the current entitlement trading scheme. New section 24 sets out that eligibility to lease out gaming machine entitlements is limited to clubs that have a gaming machine threshold that does not exceed 30 and to hotels that have a threshold that does not exceed 10. All leases will need to be approved by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority, which will undertake a similar process to its processing of transfer applications. New section 24 will prohibit subleasing, which is intended to ensure the ongoing integrity of the proposed leasing scheme by ensuring that any approvals for leasing remain the responsibility of the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority.

New section 25 provides that venues may vary the terms of their lease except where the variation relates to the term of the lease and the number of entitlements leased. This is proposed to ensure that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority is able to effectively track the movement of lease entitlements and will be able to say where individual entitlements are at any point in time. New section 25 also will provide that evidence of financial interests for hotels will operate in the same way as requirements for transfer applications. New section 25A details that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority may release a model lease. A model lease will ensure that all venues are on an even playing field and that smaller venues have the confidence to enter into contracts with larger venues.

New section 25B details that during the lease period a lessor hotel continues to own the gaming machine entitlement, but the benefit of using the gaming machine entitlement will transfer to the lessee. That will allow a lessee venue to operate a gaming machine, retain the revenue from the operation of the machine as well as pay any taxes owed during the operation of the machine. That will allow the lessee to pay a lease payment to the lessor venue for each entitlement leased. This lease payment will need to be a fixed amount and cannot be a share of profits from the operation of the gaming machine attached to the entitlement. During the period of the lease, while the leased entitlements are not considered to be held against the lessor venue's gaming machine threshold, the lessor venue's gaming machine threshold would drop by the number of entitlements it has leased out. This ensures that the venue will not be able to lease out an entitlement and then immediately acquire an additional entitlement without undergoing a gaming machine threshold increase application.

For example, where club A leases five entitlements to club B, club B will be able to operate an additional five gaming machines during the period of the lease and retain all the revenue from those entitlements. During the lease, club A's gaming machine threshold will be reduced by five, but it will be increased by five at the end of the lease when the entitlements are returned. During the lease, club B will pay club A lease payments for the use of the entitlements, but club B will be responsible for paying any tax owed on the use of the gaming machines. New section 25B (2) clarifies that where a venue has received a gaming machine threshold increase by leasing entitlements from another venue in its SA2 or local government area in line with section 35 (2) (b) to (d), its gaming machine threshold drops once the lease ends.

The new section 25B (2) provision is to ensure that venues are not able to get around community consultation requirements under the local impact assessment by leasing entitlements from local venues and then using the excess threshold space to lease or purchase entitlements from outside of their local area. New section 25B also provides that where a venue enters into a lease agreement with another venue but the licensee of either venue changes during the period of the lease that the lease can continue to operate notwithstanding the parties of the lease have changed. The new licensee will be able to terminate the lease, but new section 25B will allow the lease to continue in circumstances where both the lessor and lessee licensees are happy to continue the lease.

Amendments to section 61A will restrict lessee venues from using leased entitlements to keep a multi-terminal gaming machine. This amendment is intended to limit the number of multi-terminal gaming machines in operation in line with current arrangements under the Act. Lessee venues will be required to pay to the Responsible Gambling Fund an additional annual levy that will be used to fund gambling harm minimisation and treatment services around the State. New section 25C provides that the levy is payable directly to the



Responsible Gambling Fund and must be paid in full at the time of the application. This is to ensure that the Responsible Gambling Fund is able to allocate funding to important community services from the time that the application is approved. The levy will be set by regulation and is proposed to be 5 per cent of annual lease payments.

As I noted earlier, registered clubs are an integral part of the social fabric of communities across New South Wales. They are not-for-profit, member-based organisations that support local projects and services, and directly provide facilities to their local communities, especially in regional and rural areas. They also make a significant contribution to the State's economy. The registered clubs industry supports more than 62,000 jobs in New South Wales, of which 23,000 are in regional areas. In recognition of those valuable contributions, the New South Wales Government is committed to a risk-based oversight of the club industry with the intention of minimising the burden of red tape on clubs, without compromising the regulatory objectives of ensuring integrity and public confidence in the industry and protecting club members and community.

The reforms within the Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill 2018 deliver on commitments the New South Wales Government has made to review and improve the club accountability framework and the club "amalgamation" framework—that is, the merger and de-merger framework. Liquor & Gaming NSW undertook reviews of the club accountability requirements, and the club amalgamation framework, under the Registered Clubs Act 1976 in 2015-16 and 2017 respectively. Liquor & Gaming NSW consulted with peak industry stakeholders, including ClubsNSW, Leagues Clubs Australia, RSL & Service Clubs Australia, the New South Wales Golf Association, the Royal New South Wales Golf Association and the Club Managers' Association of Australia as part of the accountability review and undertook a public consultation process for the amalgamations review.

Reviews of those frameworks identified improvements for greater regulatory efficiency, red tape reduction and improved industry outcomes. The changes proposed by the Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill 2018 will give effect to these improvements, including: strengthening the disciplinary powers of the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority in relation to individual club officials; implementing a co-regulatory approach with the industry for low-risk matters, with the regulator retaining enforcement powers and overall oversight; and increasing flexibility for clubs to merge and de-merge to help struggling clubs secure a more viable future, while strengthening safeguards for members to ensure they are appropriately informed and involved in any decisions.

The first key change under the bill is a strengthening of the disciplinary powers of the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority, enabling the authority to take action against individual club officials. Findings from recent disciplinary investigations by the authority also were considered by the accountability review. Those investigations highlighted that entire clubs are sometimes being held liable for the unlawful conduct of individual officers who act alone and outside of the club's control or influence. Currently the Act only allows disciplinary action be taken against the club itself. That has resulted in enforcement action and penalties being imposed on clubs and their members, even though individual club officials have acted outside of the clubs' accountability and governance safeguards. This also unfairly mars public confidence in club governance.

The proposed amendments to section 57F would allow the authority to take disciplinary action directly against a club's secretary or a member of a club's governing body by imposing monetary penalties of up to \$11,000, and by declaring a person ineligible from holding an official position with a club for a period that the authority thinks fit. Those measures align closely with the broader penalty provisions of the Liquor Act 2007 and will encourage club officials who do the right thing, as well as club members, to report problematic or unlawful behaviour. It is expected that the broadened scope for disciplinary action against individuals will serve as a greater deterrent to unlawful conduct by club officials.

The co-regulatory approach to the State's club industry provided for in the bill acknowledges the New South Wales Government's commitment to ensuring that regulatory burdens reflect regulatory risks. Under the existing framework, the focus of the regulatory action undertaken by Liquor & Gaming NSW for low risk accountability offences has been on complaint resolution and regulatory education. Of the nearly 150 complaints investigated by Liquor & Gaming NSW, which affected 122 clubs in the last two years, less than 1 per cent were of a serious enough nature to require prosecution. Investigating minor matters is not an efficient use of the regulator's time and resources. As such, the accountability review looked at what matters were low risk. Further, given that ClubsNSW—as the industry peak body representing the majority of clubs—already performs a regulatory-type role in requiring compliance with an industry code, it is well positioned to take on this expanded regulatory function.

ClubsNSW will only perform this function in respect to its members. The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority will continue to be responsible for oversight of non-ClubsNSW clubs. The co-regulatory model, which leverages ClubsNSW's existing dispute resolution mechanism, will allow a more efficient complaint

resolution response to clubs, individual club officials and club members. Under this model, the industry will have greater self-regulation and will take on co-regulatory responsibilities for certain low-risk activities. The new section 41C details these low-risk activities to include routine club disclosure and reporting requirements, restrictions on loans to employees and a new requirement for independent review of remuneration agreements with senior club officials. ClubsNSW's industry review body, known as the "Code Authority", will oversee these low-risk accountability requirements for ClubsNSW members.

The Code Authority is an arm's length panel of industry experts with experience in law, policy and governance. It already has enforcement powers approved by its ClubsNSW members and oversees the ClubsNSW code of practice. The Code Authority will also administer and resolve minor complaints brought by clubs, individual club officials or club members under this co-regulatory model. This will allow the regulator, Liquor & Gaming NSW, to focus its attention on high-risk matters, while preserving its capacity to intervene in matters delegated to the Code Authority where required. This will be achieved by transferring some low-risk accountability provisions from the Registered Clubs Act 1976 and the Registered Clubs Regulation 2015 into a registered clubs accountability code. The code provisions dealing with accountability will be prescribed in the Registered Clubs Regulation and, as such, will only be able to be amended by the Government.

The enforcement powers of Liquor & Gaming NSW will remain unchanged. The use of the investigative powers under the Registered Clubs Act 1976 and part 4 of the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007 will only be available to Liquor & Gaming NSW, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority and the NSW Police Force. While the proposed registered clubs accountability code is intended to be less prescriptive and reduce the regulatory burdens on clubs, breaching any of the obligations under the code will continue to be grounds for disciplinary action by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. In addition, breaches of certain accountability requirements under the code will be an offence that will carry a maximum penalty of \$5,500, in line with existing penalties under the Act.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Code Authority will only have powers to investigate and resolve complaints as provided for by the ClubsNSW constitution and the proposed registered clubs accountability code. The Code Authority will not have any powers assigned to it under the Act and will not have the power to impose penalties under the Act or Regulation. In addition to the new code, the bill also updates requirements for club secretaries to clarify how the law is intended to operate. Feedback from the clubs industry has indicated that the existing requirements for a person to act as a club secretary are complex and cause confusion for clubs and their members. The proposed amendments to section 34 seek to make the process for a person to act as a secretary of a club clearer for clubs.

According to the 2015 New South Wales club census, up to one-third of all New South Wales registered clubs are experiencing financial distress and viability challenges. In this environment, mergers can be an attractive option for clubs to sustain themselves so they can continue to deliver for their members. The 2017 amalgamation review undertaken by Liquor & Gaming NSW looked at how changes to the way mergers and de-mergers are regulated could make mergers more accessible to clubs and their members. The amendments contained in the Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill 2018 increase a club's flexibility to proactively seek and negotiate mergers while safeguarding the interests of its members.

Section 17AH of the Registered Clubs Regulation will be amended to remove the existing 50 kilometre radius local area restriction for mergers, which will allow clubs to search for viable merger partners across the State. This will particularly benefit regional clubs that may not have viable partnership options nearby. This will be complemented by a more transparent process for clubs to make and receive unsolicited merger offers, which will also be introduced. This will allow clubs the flexibility to proactively consider mergers to enhance their financial viability. In order to enhance protections for clubs, amendments to clause 4 of the Registered Clubs Regulation will seek to prevent predatory takeover behaviour from larger clubs by requiring clubs to call for public expressions of interest before putting an amalgamation proposal to its members. Clubs will also be required to disclose to their members any expressions of interest or offers received.

These changes are intended to give clubs greater flexibility in who they seek to amalgamate with, while ensuring an appropriate balance of safeguards and transparency to make sure the process benefits clubs and their members. The existing limit of 10 amalgamations per club under section 17AF will also remain in place, but will be modified to an adjustable cap so that it is 10 at any one time, rather than a fixed limit. This will mean that clubs that de-merge with one club can merge with another. Previously, this was not the case if the "parent" club reached the 10-club limit at some point in the past. While this will continue to prevent clubs becoming too large and disconnected from their local communities, it now allows some flexibility to merge and grow, or de-merge and downscale as suits their needs from time to time.

Protections currently exist under the Act that limit the ability of a "parent" club to strip or sell off the major assets of a "child" club once they have merged, including core property such as premises and facilities used

by members. Under the current framework, there is a maximum three-year period, during which the assets of the "child" club cannot be sold without the agreement of members and the approval of the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. Amendments to section 17AI will clarify that clubs can negotiate a longer enforceable period for preserving the major assets of the "child" club. Amendments to clause 7 of the Registered Clubs Regulation will impose a requirement for clubs to address risks relating to these assets and the intended treatment of these risks within the memorandum of understanding that underpins the merger.

The reforms contained in the Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill deliver on the Government's commitment to review and improve the club accountability and club amalgamation frameworks. The amendments follow careful review and public consultation. They will enable a contemporary risk-based regulatory oversight of the clubs industry, one that supports industry integrity and sustainability, reduces red tape and protects club members and the community.

I now turn to the amendments made to liquor and gaming legislation by the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. It is an ongoing challenge for the regulator to keep abreast of emerging issues and industry trends, while maintaining a robust but flexible regulatory framework. In order for the liquor and gaming regulatory framework to operate in a way that encourages responsible industry practice that the community has faith in, the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 makes a number of changes aimed at securing a stronger focus on risk. The bill will improve the management of risk associated with the post-employment activities of employees of Liquor & Gaming NSW. The bill will standardise regulatory powers across liquor and gambling legislation to promote consistency and certainty for industry participants, as well as ensure that the regulator has appropriate powers to investigate serious breaches of liquor and gaming regulation.

The bill will provide consistency of penalties for similar offences across liquor and gaming legislation, and ensure that penalties for misconduct are not seen as an insignificant "business expense" for operators. The bill will enhance director's liability provisions of the legislation to encourage cultural change in wagering operators. The bill will strengthen provisions prohibiting the offering of inducements to gamble and certain forms of gambling advertising. The bill also makes a number of miscellaneous amendments and provides for matters of a machinery nature that will enhance the operation of the regulatory framework.

The Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 proposes changes to the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007 to ensure that the restrictions placed on the post-employment activities of liquor and gaming key officials are risk-based. Currently the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act contains provisions to allow certain employees of the liquor and gaming regulator to be identified as "key officials" and for restrictions to be imposed on their post-separation employment. Those restrictions are intended to ensure the integrity of regulation and reduce the scope for real and perceived conflicts of interest. The application of these restrictions should therefore reflect the risk associated with post-separation activities. However, a number of issues with current arrangements have been identified including that the key official designation scheme is unnecessarily prescriptive and not widely used and the existing restrictions are limited to employment with licensees or their associates, and do not apply to employment with industry peak bodies or lobby groups, despite similar integrity risks.

The current four-year restriction period unduly extends employment restraints compared to the integrity risks and goes beyond comparable restrictions in other jurisdictions. It can have a disproportionate impact on an individual's capacity to seek employment relevant to their skills, knowledge, and experience. This restriction, if widely imposed, would make the regulator a less attractive employer. The proposed new arrangements are based on an assessment of actual risk, being mindful of preserving appropriate safeguards and providing the community with satisfaction that the regulator acts in a fair and professional manner.

The bill will amend the definitions of "key official" and "former key official" in the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act to provide for all Senior Executive Service [SES] officers at Liquor & Gaming NSW and the General Counsel to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to be designated as key officials and subject to a two-year post-employment restriction. Furthermore, it will include certain other non-SES roles at Liquor & Gaming NSW, where there is a degree of influence and control over outcomes for industry. These roles will be designated by the secretary as key officials and subject to a six-month post-employment restriction. This provision will not apply to existing non-SES employees of Liquor & Gaming NSW but to future non-SES employees considered to have a degree of influence and control over industry outcomes.

Section 16 (1) of the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act will also be amended so that the restrictions on working for a business that holds a liquor or gaming licence will also apply to working for an industry peak body or lobby group. This will enable the Minister to name certain liquor and gaming industry advocacy organisations as organisations subject to post-employment restrictions for key liquor and gaming officials. The bill will also provide greater flexibility for post-separation exemptions, particularly in respect to more junior staff. For example, there may not be a significant risk, real or perceived, with a former compliance team leader taking

a service role pouring drinks in a bar or club, or pursuing their master chef dream in seeking a licence to open a small bar or restaurant. Such a scenario is quite different to a Liquor & Gaming NSW official taking a senior role in a major hospitality group, which could be perceived by the community as being somehow linked to favourable regulatory treatment.

At present, the Secretary of the Department of Industry can provide exemptions to key officials and former key officials for specific activities, such as allowing a key official to serve as a director of a registered club. These exemptions are rare, largely due to the infrequent use of the key official designation and the limited number of activities eligible for exemptions. For other activities such as owning, operating or working at a licensed restaurant, key officials are currently not able to seek exemption. The new sections 16 (2) (a), 16 (2) (b) and 16 (2) (c) of the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act will expand the availability of exemptions to other restricted activities and ensure that decisions on exemptions are based on risk. Exemptions will be assessed against clear guidelines that consider the risks, both real and perceived, of a particular activity. It is expected that appropriate scope for exemptions will further incentivise the use of the key official designation.

An important feature of the bill is the enhancement of enforcement powers under the Betting and Racing Act 1998, Public Lotteries Act 1998 and Totalizator Act 1997, and the provision of greater consistency with the way other liquor and gaming legislation is enforced under part 4 of the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act. The Gaming and Liquor Administration Act sets out the investigative and enforcement powers of the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority and Liquor & Gaming NSW with respect to key liquor and gaming Acts. These powers are exercised for specific purposes. They exist to determine whether there has been compliance with, or a contravention of, the respective legislation. They exist for obtaining information or records for purposes connected with the administration of the legislation. The powers govern the exercise of functions of an inspector under the relevant Act and the powers exist generally for administering the liquor and gaming legislation, and promoting its objects.

The bill will ensure consistency across all liquor and gaming Acts by replicating these Gaming and Liquor Administration Act powers in the Betting and Racing Act 1998, Public Lotteries Act 1998 and the Totalizator Act 1997. This will improve the capacity of inspectors to investigate occurrences of non-compliance by betting service providers, by expanding on the powers provided under the Betting and Racing Act 1998, which are currently limited to the inspection of records. These powers include requiring information or records, the entry and search of premises, questioning persons and the functions of enforcement officers in general. These changes will now give inspectors the powers they need to ensure that betting service providers are effectively regulated and continue to comply with their obligations under the Act.

Standardised regulatory powers will also give industry participants greater certainty about the powers of enforcement officers. The amendments are also intended to reduce the regulatory burden and compliance costs on industry participants who are often regulated by multiple pieces of legislation with different requirements, despite being administered by the same regulator. However, where particular areas of regulation require specific powers directly relevant to the subject matter, these provisions have been retained. In addition, the bill specifically protects an individual's privilege against self-incrimination by providing that requirements to furnish records or information or to answer questions do not abrogate a person's privilege against self-incrimination. These proposed amendments will aid in achieving the objectives of the Betting and Racing Act 1998, Public Lotteries Act 1998 and the Totalizator Act 1997 which are aimed at ensuring the integrity and safe conduct of certain lawful activities and minimising the harm associated with these activities.

The bill also seeks to ensure consistency of penalties for like conduct across liquor and gaming legislation, and to ensure that penalties are not seen as insignificant and a "business as usual" expense for operators. It has been found that in certain cases existing penalties have not been an effective remedy to misconduct by corporations, which are prepared to accept existing sanctions as a normal cost of their business model. For example, online wagering operators face a maximum penalty of \$5,500 per offence for offering inducements to gamble, but stand to make significant profits from doing so. Despite proactive prosecutions by Liquor & Gaming NSW, the current penalties have been insufficient to change behaviour, with magistrates often imposing the highest possible penalty for even relatively minor breaches due to the potential impact of the behaviour. To address these unacceptable practices, the bill will increase the maximum penalties provided for under the Betting and Racing Act 1998 and Totalizator Act 1997 for offering inducements to gamble to \$55,000 for corporations and \$5,500 for individuals.

Other significant penalty increases proposed by the bill include for offences under section 18C and section 19 of the Betting and Racing Act 1998 of providing a prohibited sports betting service, and accepting a bet on a declared betting event without authority, and under section 9 of the Totalizator Act 1997 for unlawfully conducting a totalisator. The bill will amend the penalties for these like offences to a maximum of \$27,500 for a

corporation and \$5,500 for an individual in respect of a first offence. A second or subsequent offence will carry a maximum of \$110,000 for a corporation and \$11,000 or six months imprisonment or both for an individual.

It is also proposed that amendments are made to the Gaming Machines Act 2001 to ensure that there are appropriate safeguards around the storage and use of gaming machine data gathered by the Central Monitoring System [CMS]. The CMS monitors each gaming machine in New South Wales hotels and clubs, calculating gaming tax and confirming that machines are operating at the required standard, as well as identifying other integrity issues such as possible money laundering. The CMS is operated under licence by a private provider. While there are rigorous safeguards in place to protect this sensitive data, there remains a risk that data collected by the CMS could be used unlawfully, including for commercial advantage. The bill will amend section 172 (1) (b) of the Gaming Machines Act 2001 to increase the maximum penalty that may be imposed on the holder of the CMS licence from \$250,000 to \$1 million to ensure potential risks are appropriately mitigated. Penalties for other offences across liquor and gaming legislation are subject to more modest increases under the terms of the bill, while it is proposed that a number of penalties for certain low-risk offences will be reduced or removed.

The bill will also amend the Betting and Racing Act 1998 to strengthen executive liability of directors and other corporate officers for certain offences under the Act, including offences relating to gambling advertising and inducements. The proposed amendments will allow that directors of betting service providers may be charged where the betting service provider breaches gambling advertising restrictions, including the offering of prohibited inducements. Where a director has been charged, they may be found liable where they are unable to demonstrate that they have taken reasonable steps to prevent breaches of relevant Acts.

The proposed amendments mean that directors who have allowed breaches of gambling Acts to occur will no longer be able to hide behind the corporate veil, but will now be subject to ongoing duties to ensure that their company plays by the rules. These changes are intended to offset circumstances of a director's wilful blindness, negligence, or failure to exercise due diligence, and the practice of penalties being seen as a "business as usual" expense for operators. This change could encourage personal responsibility for directors to be more diligent by ensuring that directors keep up-to-date with knowledge of activities of the betting service provider that are covered by the Act. It will ensure that directors establish an oversight framework for receiving and considering information relating to compliance with obligations under the Act, and it will ensure that directors take reasonable steps to prevent misconduct by the betting service providers, including by ensuring that appropriate resources are made available to prevent misconduct occurring.

The proposed new directors' liability provisions have been assessed against the Council of Australian Governments [COAG] Principles on Personal Liability for Corporate Fault. These changes are appropriate and respond to concerns in the community around the obligations of industry to contribute to minimising harm associated with gambling. I mentioned earlier that the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 will increase the maximum penalties for offences relating to the offering of inducements to gamble. These penalty increases recognise that offering inducements to gamble is a serious breach of the legislation, which is intended to protect problem gamblers and those who might be lured into gambling but who cannot afford to bet.

The bill takes the issue further with amendments to the Betting and Racing Act 1998 and Totalizator Act 1997 which will strengthen the provisions prohibiting the offering of inducements to gamble. At present, clause 12 (1) (h) of the Betting and Racing Regulation 2012, and similar provisions of the Totalizator Regulation 2012, provide that a non-proprietary association or licensed wagering operator, or an employee of an agent of a non-proprietary association or licensed wagering operator, must not publish any gambling advertising that, among other things, offers any inducement to participate, or to participate frequently, in any gambling activity, including an inducement to open a betting account.

Clause 12 (3) also creates an offence for other persons who publish offending material. Certain wagering operators have sought to exploit perceived loopholes in these regulations by offering inducements through third parties, and in particular by way of unsolicited offers on third party websites and other forms of social media. In response to these practices, it is proposed that these provisions be moved from the regulations to the relevant parent Act. This action is in recognition of the serious nature of these types of breaches, and to give effect to the proposed penalty increases mentioned earlier.

The bill will also amend the current wording of the regulations to futureproof the provisions against further loopholes by placing beyond doubt that: It is an offence to publish or communicate, or cause to be published or communicated, whether from in or outside New South Wales, any gambling advertisement that may be accessible to a person in this State which, among other things, includes any inducement to participate in any gambling activity; and a reference to 'inducement' in this respect includes an inducement that involves an offer that is not available to persons resident in New South Wales, but does not include an inducement published or communicated directly to a person who already has a betting account with the particular betting service provider,

for example gambling ads that offer a sign-up bonus but include a disclaimer that it is not available to residents in New South Wales will now be prohibited.

These are important enhancements which will address the practice of online wagering operators circumventing New South Wales law by publishing advertisements in this State that offer inducements to gamble, but carry a rider that the offer is not available to New South Wales residents. The amendments do, however, recognise that betting service providers should be able to make special offers directly to existing betting account holders. These amendments, coupled with the increase in penalties for offering inducements to gamble and enhancement of the director's liability provisions, are squarely aimed at encouraging betting service providers to advertise their products and services in a responsible manner. When they do not act responsibly, they will now face harsher penalties. The Government is raising the stakes, and we expect a fundamental improvement in how these businesses operate.

In addition to these changes, the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 contains several other miscellaneous amendments to liquor and gaming legislation which are aimed at enhancing the operation of the regulatory framework. It is proposed to remove the unnecessary requirement in section 79 of the Casino Control Act 1992 that the casino operator must notify the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority of an exclusion order. Currently both the casino and the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority retain a copy of the register of persons subject to an exclusion order. The proposed change will mean that only the casino will be required to keep this register, which they will be required to provide to the authority when requested.

It is proposed that section 80 of that Act also be amended to provide for a first instance review by the casino operator of a voluntary exclusion order, or an exclusion order made by the operator in relation to a problem gambler, instead of by the authority as is currently the situation. This is consistent with the casino's common law rights to refuse entry to persons, as well as ensuring that the authority is not overturning an exclusion order made to protect the person from gambling-related harms. The amendments make the exclusion regime consistent with that for hotels and clubs under the Liquor Act. It makes the casino operator accountable for its decisions to exclude persons, and the review of those decisions.

Part 1.4 of schedule 1 to the bill removes the requirements for key employees and inspectors to provide fingerprints and palm prints for oversight of two-up under the Gambling (Two-up) Act 1998. These amendments are about removing unnecessary red tape as the risks associated with two-up do not warrant the Government taking and retaining copies of individual's fingerprints and palm prints. Item [11] of part 1.6 and items [2] and [3] of part 9 to the bill remove penalty provisions for failure to provide required information on liquor and gaming licence applications. These penalty provisions are being removed as existing powers to refuse an application for failure to provide accurate information is considered sufficient to ensure compliance.

The bill will also amend the Gaming Machines Act 2001 to correct an anomaly in the legislation that severely hampers the lawful destruction of a gaming machine. It is proposed that gaming machines will now be able to be destroyed with the authorisation of the authority. It is expected that this will promote the proper disposal of damaged and obsolete gaming machines, and reduce the risk of machines being illegally re-purposed. Another straightforward reform is the proposed broadening of the definition of "tertiary institution" under section 4 of the Liquor Act 2007. At present the Act defines a tertiary institution as a university or TAFE establishment. These premises are able to apply for a special type of on-premises licence. However, this disadvantages other tertiary education institutions, such as the National Arts School at Darlinghurst, as they do not fall within the narrow definition in the Act. The proposed amendment will allow similar tertiary education institutions to apply for these licences, creating a level playing field for all institutions to provide services to their students and improve the social environment of their institution.

Changes are also proposed to the operation of existing identity [ID] scanner systems used in prescribed precincts. In 2016, Liquor & Gaming NSW completed a review of provisions relating to the Kings Cross ID scanner system. The review found liquor industry bodies, licensed venues and the NSW Police Force believed the effectiveness of ID scanners would be enhanced if venues could exchange data on patron bans they initiate. The review recommended the ID scanner system be configured so venues could share this data with other high-risk venues in the Kings Cross precinct, subject to confirmation this would not place at risk existing privacy controls and adhere to relevant privacy legislation. It is proposed that amendments be made to division 4 of the Liquor Act 2007, to allow the sharing of a person's ID data with other prescribed precinct venues, when they have been banned from premises in a prescribed precinct by a licensee.

This will enable the banned person's ID data to be used in other prescribed precincts—for example, the Sydney central business district entertainment precinct—if ID scanner requirements are imposed on venues in those areas in the future, or where those areas voluntarily opt in to the ID scanner condition. The proposed change builds on the success of existing ID scanner requirements, which have helped secure a fall in alcohol-related violence in prescribed precincts, while ensuring that appropriate privacy safeguards for the use of patrons' data

are maintained. These measures include the use of secure databases and IDs only being scanned where the patron consents.

Finally, the bill will empower the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to declare that a person is ineligible to stand for election, or hold a position of secretary, or be a member of the governing body of a club under the Registered Clubs Act 1976 for longer period than the current three years. This will align the authority's disciplinary powers over registered clubs under section 57H of the Registered Clubs Act 1976 with its powers under section 141 of the Liquor Act 2007, which does not have a time limit restriction. This proposal is also consistent with the intent of the package of reforms for governance of registered clubs contained in the cognate Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill 2018.

While some may classify the proposed legislative amendments contained in this bill as housekeeping, I believe that it represents an important exercise in the ongoing review of the regulatory framework and ensures that the Government's regulatory approach to the liquor and gaming sector is responsive to community and industry expectations, while remaining responsive to emerging trends driven by changes in technology and gambling markets. Importantly, the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 ensures that the regulator is able to intervene proactively and decisively where licensed wagering operators breach community expectations around gambling advertising.

The Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 amends the Casino Control Act 1992 to better align regulatory risk and regulatory practice in the casino environment. These amendments flow from a 2015 independent review undertaken by the agenda group to assess the regulatory regime for casinos. A key consideration of the review was to ensure that, with the pending entry of Crown Sydney into the New South Wales market, there was a consistent regulatory regime in place. This review itself included consultation with key stakeholders from industry, community groups, law enforcement, and other government agencies. The Government's draft response to the review was released in August last year and opened for public comment.

The Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 now implements the agreed changes. It will remove redundant and overly prescriptive legislative and administrative requirements and introduce an intelligence-led regulatory approach based on outcome-focused internal controls. The bill will provide competitive neutrality between the two casino operators, The Star and Crown Sydney, and the bill will improve harm minimisation measures. It is irrefutable that there is much about a casino's operations that require strong regulatory oversight. There are risks of money laundering and other forms of criminality, or of unfair games being conducted. However, it is also true that not everything that happens at a casino is high risk and warrants the highest level of control, legislative obligations and regulatory reach. With this in mind, the Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 will remove redundant or excessive provisions and allow the Government to adopt a risk-based approach to regulating casinos.

Section 31 of the Casino Control Act requires a periodic statutory review of a casino licensee's suitability to hold a casino licence. Ensuring suitability is clearly a fundamental element of the regulatory regime, but this does not mean requiring reviews at specific points in time is the only way to achieve this. As such, the bill allows for a decision to be made in the future to remove the fixed review period. Even if that was to occur, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority has existing power to proactively conduct investigations to ensure ongoing compliance with licence obligations at any time, including of a person's suitability. The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority could then take disciplinary action as it sees fit, including cancellation of a licence if it determines that the licensee is no longer suitable. If there is a concern, Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority will not wait to act.

The Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 also provides for greater flexibility in how requirements are met by providing for greater use of internal controls rather than prescribing everything in legislation. Internal controls are documented controls and administrative and accounting procedures, prepared by the licensee and approved by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. They can be quickly updated to reflect changes in community standards, industry circumstances, compliance and enforcement practices, or the level of risk presented by a given practice. For example, changes to section 65 mean that rather than requiring the casino operator to seek Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority approval of plans to rearrange its gaming areas, internal controls can establish expected outcomes for changes to gaming area layouts. Changes to section 45 mean that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority will no longer approve the form of identification to be worn by licensed casino special employees. Instead, the form of casino special employee identification will be dealt with by the casino via an approved internal control.

The changes to the Act are not a one-way street. While providing flexibility through greater use of internal controls, there will be stronger penalties for failing to comply with them. The bill amends section 124 of the Casino Control Act 1992 to introduce a new offence against an operator for breaching a specific internal control or administrative or accounting procedure, with a maximum penalty of \$22,000. Other changes acknowledge that some of the risks that the existing legislative requirements seek to manage can be addressed in

other ways. For example, section 65 will be amended to make it possible for operators to have CCTV monitoring, and information storage located off-site. The casino operator currently has to seek Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority approval of equipment to be used for monitoring and surveillance.

With the proposed amendments, licensees will be required to show, when requested, that their monitoring and surveillance equipment meets the standards set by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. Regulator access to monitoring equipment and evidence, and stored information, will be guaranteed through appropriate internal controls and existing powers under the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007. Liquor & Gaming NSW will consult with the NSW Police Force on the development, oversight, and enforcement of those internal controls.

The casino special employee licensing system, which is a key element in protecting the probity and integrity of casino gaming, is being updated. This will involve amending section 52 to permit the automatic granting of a special employee licence on application to the authority to a person who has already passed probity and been issued a licence under the Security Industry Act. The licencing system will involve amending section 59 of the Act to require the authority to advise the Commissioner of Police if it takes disciplinary action against a casino special employee who is also the holder of a licence under the Security Industry Act. The licence period will be extended from five to seven years. The amendments will make it easier for licensed casino special employees to transfer their employment between The Star and Crown Sydney.

The Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 makes changes to update the way gaming is conducted at casinos. The bill repeals the anachronistic section 67, removing the power of the authority to direct a casino operator to provide specific games, rather than allowing the casino to choose which approved games they offer. The existing provisions under sections 66 and 68 of the Act ensure that only games and gaming equipment approved by authority can be played or used at a casino, making section 67 redundant. Section 72 is amended to update the requirements regarding how and when patrons are notified about changes to the minimum bet limits at gaming tables. The changes mean information provided electronically on a table game will not have to be duplicated on a sign and they eliminate the potential for confusion among players due to different bet levels during the 20 minute notification period. Changes to section 75 will allow funds deposited by a player with an operator's sister properties in Australia to be available for play at The Star or Crown Sydney, removing the current need for the player to withdraw and re-deposit them.

The Casino Modernisation Review also made recommendations aimed at strengthening the regime for excluding persons from a casino, particularly those initiated by the Commissioner of Police. The Act currently allows for an exclusion directive from the Commissioner of Police to the casino operator to cover the casino precinct—that is, areas outside the boundary of the casino gaming areas. However, areas such as a restaurant on the premises but away from the gaming area may not be under the control of the casino operator. Therefore, an exclusion order from the Commissioner of Police could not prevent organised crime figures from congregating at the restaurant. The Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 amends section 81 of the Act so that an exclusion order issued at the direction of the Commissioner of Police can apply regardless of whether or not a part of a casino complex or casino environ is under the control of the casino operator.

The bill also amends section 81 so that a direction made by the Commissioner of Police to the one licensee automatically applies to both venues. This will mean that there are no confusion or timing discrepancies between the banning of an individual from The Star and Crown Sydney. Amendments to section 94 repeal the outdated requirement that the casino operator must "forthwith notify an inspector" when a minor is removed from the casino. Instead, the casino operator will have 24 hours to notify the authority when a minor is removed.

The Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018 also amends the Casino Control Act to ensure The Star and Crown Sydney compete in a neutral regulatory environment. The bill amends section 89A to align the regime of smoking exemptions for the private gaming areas at The Star with those for Crown Sydney's private-gaming-only facility. Both venues will be regulated in this regard by the Casino Control Act 1992 rather than by different pieces of legislation with different requirements. These changes affect only the member and premium player markets in which the two venues are competing. Areas outside the private gaming parts of The Star and the future Crown Sydney will still be subject to the indoor smoking ban established by the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000. To ensure the impacts of smoking in these restricted areas are minimised existing controls will be enhanced. The Minister for Racing will receive annual reports from The Star and Crown Sydney on the independent quarterly testing of their air quality equipment and be responsible for tabling those annual reports in the Parliament.

The premium player and junket markets are important to both The Star and Crown Sydney. The Casino Control Act already allows Crown Sydney, once operational, to provide credit to non-Australian residents participating in premium player or junket arrangements. Section 74 (5) of the Casino Control Amendment Bill provides a level playing field by enabling The Star to extend direct credit, noting that only premium and junket players who are not ordinarily Australian residents will be eligible. Amendments to section 70 will allow both



venues to provide complimentary chip vouchers to patrons in private gaming areas and premium and junket players. This bill also provides for a consistent approach to regulating changes to the casino gaming environment. For example, section 65 provides for the same requirements for the approval and location of monitoring and surveillance equipment to apply to The Star and Crown Sydney. Changes to this section mean that neither venue will be required to seek authority approval before they make changes to the layout of their gaming areas. This matter will be addressed by Internal Controls.

The Casino Modernisation Review report acknowledged that harm minimisation is a major consideration for the Government and operators and made recommendations to manage the risk of the casino causing gambling-related harms. The Casino Control Amendment Bill introduces some new gambling harm reduction initiatives to casino regulation in New South Wales. Proposed new section 86A provides that any winnings of excluded patrons and minors will be forfeited to the casino operator and then paid by the casino operator into the Responsible Gambling Fund under changes to section 115. The Casino Modernisation Review report noted that when this measure was introduced in Victoria it had the almost immediate effect of stopping some problem gamblers continually breaching their exclusion orders.

Under proposed section 90, a casino operator will now be required to pay any gambling winnings that are unclaimed for 12 months, whether monetary or non-monetary, into the Responsible Gambling Fund under changes to section 115. This bill amends sections 79 and 82 of the Act to significantly improve the current patron self-exclusion arrangements. Individuals will be able to exclude themselves simultaneously from both The Star and Crown Sydney. This removes a significant impediment to people wishing to exclude themselves—that is, having to go from venue to venue to get excluded. In addition this bill brings the self-exclusion regime for casinos into line with that for hotels and clubs by setting a minimum self-exclusion period of six months. This reflects a Productivity Commission report into gambling, which suggested that a minimum self-exclusion period of six months is needed to make self-exclusion effective. However, this does not prevent a casino operator from setting a longer minimum self-exclusion period under the agreement it establishes with a patron seeking self-exclusion. To reduce the administration of their self-exclusion schemes, the licensees will no longer be required to send their list of self-excluded patrons to the authority at the end of each day.

I am pleased to introduce the Gaming Machines Amendment (Leasing and Assessment) Bill 2018, the Registered Clubs Amendment (Accountability and Amalgamations) Bill 2018, the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, and the Casino Control Amendment Bill 2018. As I stated at the outset, this package represents the most significant change in the way that the liquor, gaming and clubs industries are regulated in New South Wales in more than 10 years. The amendments give the regulator stronger powers and tools to intervene to curb industry behaviour of concern, while also allowing the regulator to continue to work with responsible industry participants to tackle harm collaboratively. This Government is ensuring that the regulatory environment is responsive to changing circumstances. It wants to encourage responsible behaviour that minimises harm. There is no doubt that clubs and hotels make a significant contribution to New South Wales economy.

Clubs and hotels create jobs for tens of thousands of people, a large number of whom are based in regional and rural areas, and contribute billions of dollars to our economy. They also give back to the community and provide much-needed facilities and amenities to people who would otherwise not have access to these services. While the liquor and gaming industries provide significant economic and social benefits and entertainment opportunities for the people of New South Wales, the potential for harm cannot be ignored. There is a delicate balance, but the Government's view is that a risk-based approach to regulation of the liquor, gaming and clubs industry ensure the most benefits for communities in this State. The Government has struck this balance in all the bills before the House. I thank all those who have contributed to the formulation of the reforms reflected in them, including community organisations, industry, members of the community, and local government. I commend the bills to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

## **ROAD TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ROAD SAFETY) BILL 2018**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mrs Melinda Pavey, read a first time and printed.**

### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (18:31):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Road Safety) Bill is to improve road safety by enhancing our drug-driving enforcement, enhancing penalties for driving under the influence, and providing for the adoption of new and emerging camera technology to address the risks of mobile phone use when driving. These are the first legislative initiatives to be delivered as part of the New South Wales Government's Road Safety

Plan 2021, which I was pleased to announce alongside the Premier in February 2017. The plan outlines proven and priority measures to address key contributors to our road toll and to move us towards achieving our State Priority Target, which is to reduce fatalities by 30 per cent by 2021 compared to 2008 to 2010 levels.

The plan reflects the internationally recognised Safe System approach to improving road safety. It has been developed based on evidence and expert advice from across Australia and countries with the safest roads in the world. Development of the plan also involved input from road safety stakeholders, practitioners and the community. In total, more than 4,000 people helped to develop the plan through expert workshops, an online survey and community forums. As part of the plan, the key challenges of drug-driving and driver distraction are being tackled from a road-user perspective with a combination of enhanced enforcement, education and tougher penalties. Together with measures to improve the safety of our roads and vehicles, this will deliver an overall safer network for all road users.

The Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Road Safety) Bill will increase penalties for the offence of driving under the influence and provide clear powers so that NSW Police can take drug-impaired drivers off the road. Based on current driver licensing records, at least 1,000 driving under the influence offences are committed each year and these drivers will be subject to more stringent penalties. The bill also adds cocaine to the three "prescribed illicit drugs", cannabis—THC, speed/ice—methylamphetamine, and ecstasy—MDMA, that are currently tested during roadside drug enforcement, and will make it an offence to have cocaine present in oral fluid—saliva—when driving. This will make New South Wales the first jurisdiction in Australia to test through roadside oral fluid testing for this common illegal drug that can affect driving skills.

Drug driving is a key factor in the New South Wales road toll. In the 2016-17 financial year, there were 77 fatalities from crashes involving a motorist with one or more of the three current prescribed illicit drugs present in their system—or 22 per cent of the road toll in the 2016-17 financial year. Over the five years from 2012 to 2016, 308 people died in crashes involving a driver or rider with a prescribed illicit drug in their system. This represents 18 per cent of all fatalities over the five-year period. Data for impaired driving in the 2017 calendar year road toll is incomplete as laboratory blood and urine test results for all drivers involved in fatal crashes are not yet available, but prescribed illicit drugs were present in at least 45 fatalities from January to September 2017.

Under the Road Transport Act 2013, there are two distinct offence types relating to drug-driving. The bill will amend each offence type to strengthen our overall approach to deterring drug-driving. The New South Wales Government takes a zero tolerance approach to driving after illegal drug use, which is reflected in the law. Under the Act, it is an offence to drive with certain illicit drugs present in oral fluid, blood or urine in any detectable concentration—commonly referred to as a "presence offence".

Currently under the Act, the three "prescribed illicit drugs" that are illegal to be present in oral fluid, blood and urine while driving are tetrahydrocannabinol [THC], the psychoactive component of cannabis, speed/ice and ecstasy. These illicit drugs are not permitted in the system of drivers because of the effect they can have on driving skills. THC, the psychoactive component of cannabis, can slow reactions and reduces the ability to respond to situations. It can affect perception of distance and time, lower concentration and reduce coordination. Stimulants like speed or ice—methylamphetamine—and ecstasy can make drivers more likely to take risks or drive aggressively, and can affect fatigue levels and concentration in the period after use. These illicit drug types are also commonly used in the community or present in road toll statistics.

The "presence" offence is typically enforced through New South Wales' roadside, mobile drug testing [MDT] regime. Similar offences and roadside testing regimes are in place across all jurisdictions in mainland Australia. The intent of this enforcement and offence is to deter drivers from taking the risk of driving after drug use. Similar to the random breath testing [RBT] program, this deterrence is achieved with an efficient, high volume testing program that means drivers can be detected anywhere and anytime. In 2015, the New South Wales Government committed to tripling the number of roadside MDTs from around 30,000 per year to over 97,000 per year by 2017. This was achieved in June 2017 with 97,400 tests completed by New South Wales police in the 2016-17 financial year.

The Road Safety Plan 2021 makes a commitment to double the number of roadside drug tests to 200,000 tests by 2020 to increase the likelihood of drivers being detected, which will more strongly deter drug driving behaviour and help to drive down the road toll. The increase in tests means that New South Wales will have the largest roadside drug testing program in Australia. The first element of the bill complements this commitment by amending the definition of "prescribed illicit drug" to also include cocaine. The effect of this is to extend current powers relating to roadside MDT testing to include cocaine. This enables analysis of samples for the drug and establishes an offence for driving with cocaine present in oral fluid.

Cocaine use can impair the skills required for safe driving. The immediate effects of cocaine use can be distracting and disorienting, which affects concentration on the driving task. The drug can also produce changes

in reaction time, greater impulsiveness, and increased risk-taking. While there is an existing offence for driving with the presence of cocaine, this is currently limited to blood and urine testing, which is obtained in limited circumstances. The extension of police powers to enable roadside oral fluid testing for cocaine provides police with an additional enforcement tool that has far greater potential to deter drug driving after cocaine use. The addition of cocaine to the roadside drug testing regime will automatically also apply to drug testing for vessels under the Marine Safety Act 1998, which adopts the definition of "prescribed illicit drug" in road transport law. Consequential amendments to the Marine Safety Act 1998 are included in the bill to ensure ongoing alignment between the road and marine oral fluid testing regimes.

The second amendment to the bill relates to the other drug driving offence under the Act—driving under the influence. This is a serious offence that generally involves a driver who has shown signs of being impaired at the roadside, or while driving. Driving under the influence can involve impairment due to illegal or pharmaceutical drug use, or a combination of drug types, as well as alcohol. If a police officer has a reasonable belief that a motorist is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, based on their driving, or their manner or behaviour when breath-tested, they can require a driver to complete a sobriety assessment. If the motorist fails or refuses the assessment, the police officer can arrest them and require them to undergo blood or urine testing. Based on analysis of the laboratory results, the motorist may be charged with the offence of driving under the influence.

The New South Wales Government is sending a strong message to the community that impaired driving is not acceptable on New South Wales roads. The bill increases the maximum penalties for driving under the influence offences to reflect maximum fines, prison terms and disqualification periods available and applied to high-range prescribed concentration of alcohol [PCA] drink driving offences. At present, penalties for driving under the influence offences largely reflect those applied to mid-range drink driving offences. All driving under the influence offences involve court attendance and no change is proposed to this process, which is appropriate for serious driving offences. Penalties, up to the maximum available, are applied by the court according to the circumstances of the case.

The amendment means that for a first offence, a maximum penalty of 30 penalty units, which is currently \$3,300, or imprisonment for 18 months or both may be ordered by the court. In addition, an automatic licence disqualification period of three years would apply. The court may impose a longer or a shorter period of disqualification than the automatic period; however, it must not be shorter than 12 months. In the case of a second or subsequent offence, 50 penalty units, which is currently \$5,500, or imprisonment for two years or both may be ordered by the court. An automatic licence disqualification period of five years, with a minimum period of two years, would apply. Impaired driving, either by alcohol or drugs, is among the most serious of driving offences. The community expects that appropriate penalties will apply to drivers who put lives at risk by driving while impaired, whether that drug is illegal, a prescription drug or a combination of drugs.

The bill also provides police powers that are intended to limit driving by alleged driving under the influence offenders in the period between an offence and attending court, to more closely resemble the powers to act in the case of high-range drink drivers. This will involve a two-stage approach. Firstly, clearer police powers will prohibit driving in the immediate period after a suspected offence of driving under the influence. Under current provisions, police can take steps to prevent driving if they reasonably suspect a driver is under the influence. These steps can include temporarily prohibiting driving and confiscating keys or taking a vehicle for safekeeping. However, the circumstances and how long a driver can be prohibited are not explicitly outlined in the Act.

The bill will allow police to issue a driving prohibition of 48 hours to a driver who has been arrested to undergo blood and urine tests after they have failed or refused a sobriety assessment. This action is only taken if police have completed the steps under the Act and arrested a driver for the purpose of blood and urine testing because they are suspected of being under the influence. Drivers arrested for this purpose are typically detected by NSW Police because their manner of driving is affected, or they are stopped for a breath test and their condition, behaviour or appearance indicates they may be under the influence of a drug and they do not have an illegal level of alcohol. In this case, police may form a reasonable belief that the driver is impaired by a drug, and a driver can be required to complete a sobriety assessment. If a driver fails or refuses this assessment, they can be arrested.

This amendment provides clear and consistent direction to police that, in circumstances where a driver is reasonably suspected of being under the influence, there is an expectation that the person will not be permitted to drive for a period after they are detected showing signs of being acutely impaired. A 48-hour period is considered an appropriate prohibition period to address an immediate road safety risk, while recognising that the driver in this circumstance is suspected but not yet charged with an offence.

Secondly, the bill provides for further licence action to be taken when a driver is charged with a driving under the influence offence. Drivers charged with a driving under the influence offence are typically allowed to continue to drive between being charged and their court date. In comparison, drivers charged with a high range

drink driving offence can be issued with an immediate licence suspension notice when charged, which remains in place until the charge is heard in court. A driver is generally charged with a driving under the influence offence once the laboratory results are received and reviewed, which can be some time after an offence. The bill enables police to issue an immediate licence suspension notice to a driver charged with a driving under the influence offence. This suspension will apply until the charge is determined by a court. Consistent with the Act, any period of suspension is required to be taken into account by the court when subsequently deciding on a period of disqualification. These changes will strengthen our drug-driving framework and are intended to deter motorists from driving under the influence of a drug.

The final amendments in the bill relate to the use of camera-based technology to enforce mobile phone offences. This amendment will place New South Wales in a position to be an early adopter of emerging technology. Research shows that taking one's eyes off the road for two or more seconds doubles one's risk of a crash. A driver travelling at 60 kilometres an hour who looks at a phone for just two seconds will have travelled 33 metres blind. A short lapse of concentration can have lifelong consequences. Between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2017 there were 184 crashes on New South Wales roads where hand-held mobile phone use by drivers was identified as a contributing factor. These crashes resulted in seven people being killed and 47 being seriously injured. Although this is only a very small fraction of the crashes and trauma on New South Wales roads over the five-year period, crash numbers are underreported due to the difficulty of obtaining evidence of mobile phone use at crash scenes.

The New South Wales Road Rules 2014 prohibit mobile phone use by novice drivers, and limit other licence holders' phone use. Learner, P1 and P2 drivers are not permitted to use any function of their mobile phones while driving. Unrestricted licence holders can only make or receive calls, or play music if this does not involve touching the phone or if the phone is in a cradle fixed to the vehicle. Heavy penalties, including double demerits, apply. While more than 40,000 infringements were issued by police for illegal mobile phone use in the 2016-17 financial year, emerging automated camera and software technology presents an opportunity to supplement police enforcement and further deter motorists from using mobile phones illegally. The use of automated camera enforcement to address speeding, and red-light running behaviour and trauma has been highly effective, with fixed speed cameras consistently associated with fatality reductions at camera locations of approximately 90 per cent. Red-light speed cameras are associated with a 42 per cent reduction in fatalities at camera sites.

There is the potential to achieve greater deterrence of mobile phone use through the infringement of drivers, and to reduce the behaviour across the network. Driver distraction, including mobile phone use, also represents a significant community concern. The purpose of the reforms in the bill is to drive innovation in robust enforcement technology that addresses mobile phone distraction. The reforms are intended to allow for technology to develop in different ways, while prescribing that automated enforcement in New South Wales will always be expected to meet minimum requirements.

All automated camera devices used for enforcement in New South Wales must be approved for a particular use. These amendments will allow enforcement devices that photograph mobile phone use offences to be approved for use. The amendments are designed to be broad enough to ensure that technology developers are not limited in their design, and allow existing infrastructure and technology to be used where appropriate. For example, this may allow existing traffic enforcement devices such as speed cameras to be used if they are deemed appropriate. The amendments will also include mobile phone offences within the definition of a "detectable traffic offence".

Evidence of a mobile phone offence obtained by an approved traffic enforcement device will be admissible in court proceedings and so-called "owner onus" provisions will apply. This means the responsible person for the vehicle, who is usually the registered operator, is deemed liable for the offence unless they nominate a different driver as responsible for the offence. This provides the avenue for efficient, automated enforcement. These amendments will facilitate the development of camera-based enforcement technology to be trialled for mobile phone offences.

The bill also makes amendments to the Transport Administration Act 1988 to ensure that once a robust enforcement system is established, fines from camera-detected mobile phone offences, such as camera detected speed and red-light offences, will be paid into the Community Road Safety Fund. In 2013 the New South Wales Government established the Community Road Safety Fund to fund dedicated road safety initiatives. In developing these amendments, and in addition to the consultation undertaken for the Road Safety Plan 2021, Transport for NSW has consulted with the NSW Police Force, the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services, and Roads and Maritime Services. The bill represents the Government's strong commitment to improving road safety, delivering its new road safety plan, and sending a clear message to the community that drug-driving and distracted driving is unacceptable. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Private Members' Statements***HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:50):** Housing was in the news again this week with the release of the Grattan Institute report into housing affordability. The report confirms that since 2012 home prices in New South Wales have increased by 70 per cent. It also confirms that New South Wales has one of the most expensive housing markets in the world. A consequence of that is a persistent level of homelessness in our community, which is a blight on our society. With that in mind, I was pleased to attend the opening of the first Australian project of the Tiny Homes Foundation at 25 Racecourse Road, Gosford, where four homes have been constructed for homeless people on the Central Coast in what I believe to be the first tiny home project to receive approval in this State, if not in Australia. The four homes will be a valuable addition to the less than adequate social housing stock on the coast.

The 2011 census indicated that social housing on the Central Coast comprised 3.18 per cent of total housing stock there. The 2016 census indicated that the proportion of social housing had shrunk to 2.95 per cent, demonstrating a reduction in the overall amount of social housing on the Central Coast. Comparing that with the statewide average of social housing of 4.2 per cent shows that the Central Coast has less social housing than the rest of the State on a proportional basis. The Tiny Homes Foundation has provided a great boost to social housing as a consequence of its project. The foundation was established in 2015 by the directors of Three Crowns Media Group Pty Limited, Australia's largest sports action media company. Tiny Homes Foundation Chief Executive Officer David Wooldridge is a cofounder.

The Tiny Homes Foundation has a housing first philosophy, which is the idea that the only solution to homelessness is a home, not just charitable goodwill. The Central Coast homes are built on council-owned land and are of very high quality. They are single room, self-contained, unique designs. They are small, but the design is sophisticated and provides a feeling of abundant space. I commend the Tiny Homes Foundation and everyone who contributed to the project. I particularly highlight the work of Project Coordinator Kellie Parkin, who coordinated all of the organisations that made contributions by donating skills, materials or time.

As quickly as I can, I will mention all the organisations that contributed because I think that is important. The partners were: 3CMG/Elmach, which made a philanthropic grant to get the project started; the Central Coast Council, which aided with planning and a short-term concessional lease on the land; Hunter TAFE provided training; NBRs Architecture did the design; Pacific Link Housing and Coast Shelter will find tenants and manage those tenants; Skinny Whippet Building Services provided building services; The Skills Generator provided training and construction; and Wilson Planning provided planning services.

Other sponsors were: A Man With A Chainsaw, which provided tree services; Castle, which provided soft furnishings; Catholic Protection Services, which provided an electrolysis report; Chase Burke and Harvey, which did the survey; Central Coast Tile Market provided the tiles; Mitre 10 provided hardware; Panasonic provided electrical products; Piecemaker Quilts Eastern Suburbs provided quilts; Ray White provided a market appraisal; Regional Development Australia provided facilities; Thitchener Consulting provided pro bono engineering; Wilkinson and Murray did acoustic assessments; and I did pro bono geotechnical services.

Solar hot water was provided by Apricus Australia. The Bendigo Community Bank provided a grant. Treehouse Creative did a video. Clayton Utz provided legal services. Em Mackenzie-Cain provided stylist services. Lily Fink provided interior design. Fairhaven Services provided pallet furniture. Hume Timber and Doors provided the doors, which are fantastic. Masterton Homes provided guidance. AusSteel, Domestic, Haymes, Professional Certification Group, Safetyline Jalousie, Surefoot, The Good Guys and Wall to Wall Design all did a great job—everyone did. I thank them all on behalf of this House. [*Time expired.*]

**ROAD ACCIDENT EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL**

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (18:56):** Tragedies often create ripples that move throughout and affect entire communities. The South Coast is certainly no stranger to tragedy, but recently has seen three shocking traffic accidents on and around the Princes Highway that resulted in the loss of eight lives. I am sure members saw some of the accident scenes on the evening news programs. Each recent accident not only has impacted forever the lives of the loved ones and friends of the victims but also—and this is what my speech will focus on—the lives of witnesses as well as emergency service responders and local police officers, who include the Highway Patrol, and paramedics and firefighters whose responsibility is to attend shocking incidents on our roads. None of us can imagine the horror of observing a highway collision, nor the emotional toll it takes on an individual.

Possibly the most horrific of the accidents we have seen in recent memory on the Princes Highway was on Boxing Day last year between Bendalong and Luncheon Creek Road. Sadly, the crash claimed five lives, four

of them from the Falkholt family and one other who was a local young man from Ulladulla—someone I taught at school. It affected the whole community. Lisa Elmas is a Narrawallee local who was at the scene of the accident. Lisa worked with a number of bystanders to stop traffic and to quell the flames coming from the underside of the four-wheel-drive vehicle involved. She was involved in an attempt to pull the victims from the vehicles before the wreckages caught fire—an act that paramedics say gave the victims a chance of surviving. She is quoted as saying, "I don't feel like a hero and I don't want to be. Every decision we make has consequences and right now I just need to try to deal with what I have seen."

The courage of Lisa and the bystanders who did their best to help the victims is nothing short of remarkable. Many people who find themselves in such a situation say they just go into "autopilot", with instinct taking over. This massively understates the bravery and resolution of their actions. Lisa has begun an online petition for mandatory first-aid kits and fire extinguishers for all motorists so that people who are put in the same position as she was will have emergency response tools and possibly will save lives. Any initiative that has the propensity to save even one life is worthy of discussion. I applaud Lisa for her strength and advocacy in this sphere. Lisa since has been awarded the Pride of Australia medal in honour of her selfless efforts at the scene of the fatal crash that day.

On a daily basis emergency services men and women across our State face horrific incidents, and this was one of the worst I have ever seen. We all have seen the news when heroes attempt to save lives after an accident, despite that being against all the odds. We also have seen the news when, sadly, they can never beat the odds. Our thoughts are always with the families and loved ones of the victims, but we must also support those who witness such tragedies too many times and often in horrific circumstances.

For police and emergency service responders these accidents can sometimes have lasting psychological effects, impacting work and family life. We cannot forget and must always support our emergency service personnel who too often find themselves putting their own lives at risk to save a stranger. Some may say that this is the job of the police or a paramedic, but no amount of training can prepare anyone to witness the loss of life. We need to support those who protect our communities every day in every circumstance imaginable.

On Sunday 11 March, the Ulladulla police in the Shoalhaven Local Area Command will gather with emergency service men and women from across the South Coast in a show of solidarity and support. I have also been invited to attend. This will be an important opportunity for those personnel who have attended the scene of a recent traffic accident—not only the accidents at Jerrawangala and Bendalong Road—people who live with those lasting images of horror and tragedy, to come together to share their stories, to obtain the support they need and, most importantly, not to be alone as they grapple with being witness to such tragedy. I commend the Ulladulla police on this initiative. We are all human and, despite our best efforts, we can still find ourselves in a position where we are distracted or need to take our eyes off the road for even a second.

This Government is working hard to make our roads safer—this week we will do that at Bendalong Road—and more forgiving in some cases so that small mistakes, which any of us can make, do not cost other people their lives. This is a job for all levels of governments: Federal, State and local. There has been too much loss of life on the South Coast recently to squabble about funding arrangements and whether certain roads are part of certain national networks. It is time to come together to deliver the safest roads possible for South Coast motorists and visitors—and in the coming months I will talk a lot more about this. Just as our first responders have the responsibility to do all they can to save the lives of victims involved in accidents, governments have the responsibility to ensure that our roads are reliable and that the people we represent understand the importance of road rules and safety.

#### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WILSON

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (19:01):** It is with much sadness that I inform the House of the death of Associate Professor Dennis Wilson, Clinical Director of Endocrinology, Canberra Hospital from 1990 to 2016, in the early hours of Monday 29 January, after an 18 month illness. His passing was peaceful, and he was surrounded by family. Dennis graduated medicine at Queen's University, Belfast, in 1972. He completed his training as an endocrinologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1979. He completed a Doctor of Medicine [MD] degree at Queen's that same year and moved to Melbourne as a clinical fellow at the Medical Research Centre, Prince Henry's Hospital.

Dennis was awarded fellowships with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1983 and the Royal College of Physicians in 1997. Dennis was appointed Staff Endocrinologist at the Woden Valley Hospital, Canberra, in 1980. He became Clinical Director of Endocrinology from 1990, and continued in that role until becoming unwell in 2016. From 1983 he was involved in diabetes research as a visiting fellow at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University. He was awarded the academic title of Clinical

Associate Professor in Medicine, University of Sydney, 1995 to 2006, and Associate Professor in Medicine, Australian National University, 2002.

Professionally, Dennis will best be remembered for his contribution to patient care as a clinical endocrinologist in Canberra and the surrounding region of New South Wales, including at the Queanbeyan hospital in my home town. As Clinical Director of Endocrinology, his greatest legacy is the long list of endocrinology trainees he supervised, now consultant endocrinologists, including five who now work as endocrinologists in Canberra. He highly valued the nursing and allied health staff who worked alongside him within the service. Dennis contributed in so many other ways, including as President of the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, 1990 to 1994; Chairman, Royal Australian College of Physicians (ACT Branch), 1990 to 1994; Senior Vice President Diabetes Australia (ACT), 1982 to 1989; and Chairman, Medical Staff Committee, Woden Valley Hospital, 1992 to 1996. His passion to improve the care of those with diabetes is evident in his contribution to the region.

I got to know Associate Professor J. Dennis Wilson, or Dr Wilson, through my father, who has dealt with diabetes throughout his life. My father was one of Dr Wilson's patients and spoke fondly of him, as did many who got to know him. Dennis will be sadly missed by those who knew him—his friends, patients and colleagues. They will miss his sharp wit, the odd Irish tale and his kindness and generosity. He enriched all of our lives. Along with all members of this place, I extend my condolences to Dennis's three children, Helen, Sharon and Michael, and his partner, Kirsti. As I said, in regional New South Wales we build close relationships with our surgeons, doctors and specialists. They become part of the family.

My father, who has suffered from diabetes for more than 45 years, became close to Dr Wilson and we would always hear about him. Sometimes, we would feel sorry for Dr Wilson because my father would take up a lot of his time, talking and talking as my father does. In recent years, Dr Wilson was dealing with his own illness. That impacted not only on my father but also on all Dr Wilson's patients, particularly those at Queanbeyan District Hospital. They felt the loss of the service of someone who cared and who was passionate about patient care. That is why Dr Wilson will be sadly missed by many in the Queanbeyan region and the Australian Capital Territory. He was a man who cared. It was not only a job or profession to him; he was someone who cared for mankind and his fellow humans. He did what he could to ensure that those who struggle with their health—and many do—had the best care. He was part of that. Vale, Associate Professor J. Dennis Wilson.

#### **TRIBUTE TO ANDREA "ANGE" LLOYD**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (19:05):** I pay tribute to Andrea Lloyd, or "Ange", whose death in July 2017 saddened many people in my community of Newcastle. Ange was a remarkable character. She was talented, eccentric, compassionate and always courageous. Born David Andrew Lloyd in Wales in 1947, he migrated to Australia as a young child. Andrew grew up and went to school in Newcastle, and married Vicki, his high school sweetheart. At the same time, he was developing his skills as a musical instrument maker and as a talented performer in the folk rock and jug band groups that were so prominent in the grassroots political life of the late 1960s and 1970s. Andrew was always there in support of a good cause, to raise profile or to raise funds, and he mended old instruments and gave them away to people who would use them.

After the birth of his two daughters, Clare and Briallen, Andrew went to university to do a degree in engineering. He subsequently went to work at RZM as an environmental engineer, specialising in the restoration of coastal sand dunes. It was during this period that Andrew came out to his friends as a transgender female. In the 1980s, for a middle-class professional, coming out was a hard thing to do. He moved to BHP, working in occupational health and safety, and became Andrea, accomplishing a social transformation in a very difficult environment. Andrea developed extensive connections in the transgender community, working with and advocating on behalf of people whose social disadvantage was complex and entrenched. She gained a qualification in counselling and became a volunteer worker for the AIDS Council of New South Wales.

It was how much of herself Andrea was prepared to give that made her so unusual; it was the depth and sincerity of her commitment. In 1998 she underwent gender reassignment surgery and legally became Andrea Lloyd. Everyone who knew her learned a lot from that experience. She was undaunted by heart surgery, which was followed by a diagnosis of leukaemia. In 2009 she re-enrolled at TAFE, renewing and extending her considerable fabrication skills in the diploma of fine arts course. In late 2012, when the O'Farrell Government stripped funding from TAFE fine arts schools, Andrea was there and became an active part of the community revolt that resulted in swift electoral changes.

Andrea joined the Australian Labor Party and became a member of the Mayfield branch. She supported social justice issues at the local level, opposed policies of deregulation and privatisation wherever possible, and always added unexpected insights to the debate. She never stopped giving pleasure to other people through her music, craftsmanship, wit, good humour and the gift of her time and patience. Her extraordinary generosity to her

fellow human beings never wavered. We cannot afford to lose such a person, but we have. Vale, Andrea Lloyd. I pay tribute to Andrea and her family.

### WESTCONNEX

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (19:09):** I condemn road changes between Alexandria and Moore Park that are planned to deal with new traffic spilling into the streets from the WestConnex motorway project. WestConnex is one of the biggest risks to Sydney's sustainability, livability and future economic viability. Congestion already costs our economy \$6 billion annually. By 2023, when WestConnex stage 3 is complete, it will deliver an extra 120,000 cars into our city each day, with a tenfold increase in particulate emissions. The cost of WestConnex has grown from \$10 billion to \$17 billion, with additional costs for road upgrades in adjacent areas bringing the total to a staggering \$50 billion.

There is serious concern that the New South Wales Government will make financial deals and guarantees with WestConnex buyers that will diminish future government budgets, preventing delivery of infrastructure and services such as public transport, education and health. It is unlikely that we will know what deals were made until after they are done. People in Western Sydney will be forced into paying thousands of dollars in tolls, increasing every year for 43 years. The vast majority of people in Western Sydney do not want to drive into the city. They prefer public transport, and the last business case for WestConnex showed that on key corridors public transport would be quicker.

Responsible governments around the world are investing in public transport over roads because it is more efficient, greener and has fewer impacts. If diverted to public transport projects, the billions invested in WestConnex could give thousands of Sydney residents real fast and affordable transport choices. The Government promised the community that the local roads network would be able to accommodate the additional cars arriving in the inner city from the St Peters interchange; it promised that the WestConnex project would benefit the inner city by removing surface traffic. This was never possible.

The \$500 million Alexandria to Moore Park connector is being proposed to manage the hundreds of thousands of extra cars coming off the St Peters interchange. The continuous flow intersection at Anzac Parade will have 12 lanes of traffic, with pedestrians required to cross five sets of lights, meaning it will take them 10 minutes to cross the road. The Alexandria to Moore Park project will widen parts of South Dowling Street, Dacey Avenue, Anzac Parade and Alison Road. Six-lane clearways, equivalent to the Pacific Highway, are planned, and speed limits along the densely populated streets of Euston Road, McEvoy Street and Lachlan Street will increase to 60 kilometres an hour. More than 100 trees will be destroyed including old-growth and significant trees. Moore Park land will be sacrificed and compulsory home acquisitions are probable.

It is no coincidence that this direct highway linking traffic from the WestConnex to Moore Park is being proposed at the same time as plans to knock down and to rebuild Allianz Stadium at a cost of \$2 billion. Indeed, there appears to be no traffic benefit for the Anzac Parade intersection other than to link cars from the motorway to the stadium. The current chair of the trust was a previous chair of the Sydney Motorway Corporation. Former Premier Barry O'Farrell, who committed to the WestConnex the day it was proposed, is also on the trust. This planned rebuild is a disgrace. There is no business case, and just over 18 months ago former Premier Mike Baird said the stadium could be refurbished for less than a quarter of the cost. The new stadium will be built up to the Sydney Cricket Ground [SCG] boundary with Moore Park, which will be used for spectator spillover. The trust wants to close Driver Avenue permanently so that it can set up fast food outlets and merchandise stands outside the stadium.

We lost significant Moore Park land for the \$38 million Tibby Cotter Bridge, which has no use for pedestrians or cyclists and was secretly planned as a link between Moore Park east, where the trust wanted to build a new stadium, and Moore Park west, where the trust wanted its car park. The light rail is already removing parkland including for infrastructure that should be underground, a massive station with paved walkways to the stadiums and to reroute the service away from Royal Randwick racecourse land. Sydney's apartment populations are rapidly expanding and future residents' wellbeing depends on access to adequate public green open space, clean air and public transport. But this Government is proving to favour private gains over public benefit.

The Alexandria to Moore Park road project is disastrous for the inner city and inner east, and it is opposed by the City of Sydney, Waverley Council, Randwick City Council and Woollahra Municipal Council. Traffic congestion is a serious problem and building more roads will only make things worse in the long term. We need a cross-agency approach to dealing with congestion that involves roads, transport, health, education, local government, bicycle groups and the private sector to find clean, efficient solutions including active and public transport. I call on the Government to withdraw this plan.



## WHITEBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (19:14):** I raise in this Chamber an issue which caused an incredible amount of community angst and anger for a couple of years and which the community and I thought had been put to bed. But no, it is back. That issue is a major development in the local suburb of Whitebridge, which will change the feel and amenity of Whitebridge forever. In December 2015, the Joint Regional Planning Panel [JRPP] approved a development application [DA] for a \$23 million development comprising 83 residential dwellings, mixed-use development, a stormwater management facility, roads and subdivision at 142-146 Dudley Road and at 2-4 Kopa Street, Whitebridge. This approval was given contrary to the views and submissions of the democratically elected council, and certainly contrary to the wishes and submissions of the local and broader community.

The DA was submitted in 2013 and approved two years later. Obviously it was contentious and had serious failings over that time. A key aspect of the final approval was the reduction in height of one of the mixed-use residential flat buildings—the highest one was reduced from four storeys to three storeys. The reason I raise this today is that SNL developments has submitted a proposal to increase the height of that building to four storeys again. That proposal would result in the height in the local environmental plan being exceeded by 40 per cent. How SNL can do this legally and morally outrages and confounds me. Somehow SNL has managed to navigate its way through a land use planning system, which allows it to submit a DA just over two years after a conditional consent was granted, which flies in the face of the stated requirements of the assessing body.

DA 131/2018 was submitted for an additional two residential dwellings on top of the highest point of the overall development. Prior to issuing approval to the original DA, the JRPP deferred the matter in July 2015, pending the submission of additional plans and details. The applicant was requested to delete the fourth storey on Lot 1, which is the highest lot. The fourth storey contained three units. From my reading of the plans, the additional two units now being applied for use exactly the same airspace and have exactly the same roofline as the fourth storey in the previous DA. But because of some fancy footwork and navigation of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, SNL has managed to lodge a new DA and Lake Macquarie Council is legally obliged to consider it.

Let us be clear on this. SNL has not had to go to the trouble of appealing the decision of the JRPP—which asked for the fourth storey to be removed—to the Land and Environment Court. SNL did not have to appeal the decision because it agreed to remove the fourth storey. Bingo! No legal bills for SNL. SNL has also not had to lodge a modification to the approved—and already in many people's minds, overdeveloped—DA. Of course, a modification application would be considered in the context of the 2015 approval, which was subject to the removal of the fourth storey.

Instead, SNL has decided, through the vagaries of New South Wales planning legislation, to lodge a new, completely separate development application. I cannot understand how these two units on top of a building that was approved a bit over two years ago and is yet to have the building foundations laid can be lodged as a completely separate DA. It defies belief. Yet, according to the legislation, Lake Macquarie Council must consider the application on its merits. The 2013 DA attracted much media attention. The land marked the site of a billboard that was illegally erected by the developer and more than 700 public submissions opposing the development were made over three separate notification periods.

I spoke about this DA last year in this place when we were debating the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Staged Development Applications) Bill 2017. What I said at that time, and what I say again today, is that developers are never going to consider community needs and wishes of their own accord. Developers are motivated by profit, not by the betterment of local communities. I stand with the members of the community in raising my concerns about this new DA and the snaky methodology being used by SNL to flout the system to get its own way.

## ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (19:19):** The ever-important F6 extension, whose corridor has been reserved since 1951, will eventually complete a missing link in the Sydney motorway network by connecting the new M5 and the Princes Highway at Loftus. In so doing, this vital piece of infrastructure will connect the Sutherland Shire to this State's ever-expanding motorway network, and provide improved access for shire residents to the city and Illawarra whilst clearing up capacity on our local roads.

This Liberal-Nationals Government is undeniably the national leader in rolling out infrastructure. That is why, for the first time in nearly 70 years, there is movement on this project, which will transform the traffic movements, connectivity and accessibility of our shire. Yet the local Labor members continue to fearmonger and stand in the way of progress instead of thanking this Government for delivering for its communities. As per its

announcement late last year, the Berejiklian Government is progressing with the development of the F6 extension stage 1 between the new M5 at Arncliffe and President Avenue, Kogarah. In its 16 years in office, Labor did nothing and ultimately failed to deliver for the people of southern Sydney, but especially the shire.

Stage 1 of the F6 extension alone will bypass up to 23 sets of traffic lights on the Princes Highway between St Peters and Kogarah. It will be built underground to minimise disruption to the community; assist in the reduction of traffic congestion, particularly along the Princes Highway through Arncliffe, Banksia and Rockdale, and The Grand Parade in Brighton Le Sands; provide shorter travel times for road users; and reduce the number of heavy vehicles on surface roads by up to a staggering 2,000 per day. For the residents of the electorate of Miranda, and certainly the shire more broadly, this is a positive and necessary start before we can progress this project further south. Furthermore, stage 1 alone will provide travel time savings of approximately 10 minutes from Taren Point to Mascot. The Liberal-Nationals Government understands that traffic congestion is a concern for many local residents, and that is why we want to ensure that they spend less time in their cars, and more time at home with their loved ones.

Since Labor cannot help but misrepresent the truth when it comes to the F6 extension, I turn to stage 2 and stage 3 of this project and on behalf of my community put my views firmly on record. In principle, I support the F6 extension and consider it to be a vital piece of infrastructure for shire residents. I mentioned it in my inaugural speech in this place and have continued to passionately fight for its advancement during my time as the member for Miranda. I will always fight to ensure that it is delivered in a manner which is appropriate for our community and which protects our local amenity. This means ensuring that as much as possible of this project is underground to protect our existing parklands and green space. There is no greater example of this than Miranda Park, which must be maintained in its existing form for all in our community to use.

I am heartened that this Government has proposed a four-kilometre continuous twin tunnel as part of the F6 extension stage 1. This establishes the precedent that the F6 is being built underground to minimise disruption to the community as much as possible, and is also being designed to minimise the impact on private property. If this is what is being delivered for St George residents, it must be honoured in our shire. The F6 has already been nearly 70 years in the making, and it is important that we get it right. I will stand by my constituents in the electorate of Miranda and everyone across the shire to ensure it is delivered, and delivered in the right form.

#### **DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE EVENTS**

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (19:24):** Today I pay tribute to my community. As the member for Drummoyne, my electorate is home to a diverse multicultural community. Since the start of the year I have been active and working hard for my constituents. In January I attended many events, including Canada Bay council's Australia Day citizenship ceremony that was held in a new location at The Connection in Rhodes. It was heartening to see more than 50 people from the local community receive their citizenship certificate. I saw firsthand how proud they felt to live in my electorate—I like to call it God's country.

In January I attended the opening of the Embroiderers Guild NSW head office located in Concord West. I effectively advocated for the guild and secured a \$177,000 contribution from the Government towards the construction of new premises. It was a pleasure to see the project come to fruition. That is the essence of this Coalition Government. Under Premier Berejiklian's leadership, we are supporting our local community groups and getting results for our constituents. February was a month full of celebrations when I spent time with many multicultural groups in my electorate. The month kicked off with an Indian cultural night organised by Strathfield Rotary. It was a great experience to engage with and to learn so much about this unique and vibrant culture, all while supporting Australian Rotary Health.

Later in February I was privileged to have the opportunity to celebrate Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year celebrations in New South Wales seem to get bigger every year. Over the two-week Chinese New Year Festival more than 100,000 overseas visitors travelled to New South Wales, and I attended six Chinese New Year functions during that time. The highlights were representing the Premier at the Australian Chinese Charity Foundation New Year celebration dinner, raising awareness and important funds for Lifeline. Another highlight was officially opening the Australia China Economics, Trade and Culture Association Chinese New Year Lantern Festival in Tumbalong Park with Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Ray Williams.

The third highlight was attending the Chinese New Year Inspirational Lantern Festival gala dinner. At the celebration a famous television presenter by the name of Liang Yi was a guest speaker. She shared her inspirational story about overcoming adversity after becoming paralysed. At the event Liang Yi spoke about building the motivation to continue to succeed professionally through her work in communications and to seize every moment of every day. Her enthusiasm for life and her resilience are a testament to her fighting spirit. She is a remarkable woman. Nearly a quarter of a million people living in New South Wales were born in China, and

I am very glad that we have extensive Lunar New Year festivities. As a State built on multiculturalism, it is vital that we continue to grow these cultural traditions in the future.

I note that community consultation for the Concord Hospital redevelopment has commenced. We should not forget that Labor in government neglected Concord Hospital for many years. Last year the Government vowed to invest \$341 million in the construction project that will improve the facilities and services offered by this great hospital. It was interesting to hear feedback from my community about what they believe to be important. This will be a hospital built for the people and for the workers. I cannot wait for building works to commence. I am so excited to see the visions of the fantastic staff, doctors, nurse practitioners and the community come together to bring the project to life.

I cannot forget the Italian community in my electorate. During February I was delighted to represent the Premier once again, this time at a fundraising event for the Dementia Australia Research Foundation at Le Montage. I was also an attendee at the Italian Opera Foundation Awards Presentation the other night. Over the weekend I attended the Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund Italian-Australian Community Charity Lunch supporting the Dementia Australia Research Foundation, the Concord Cancer Centre, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, and Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets.

I have spoken many times in the House about how proud I am of my heritage and it brings me great joy to see other Italians contributing to our society. Before I conclude, I highlight that March has kicked off in full swing. I started the month with the New South Wales Community Cabinet and it was very insightful to speak with so many community groups in Goulburn. Last night I attended another great Canada Bay council citizenship ceremony, and I have just represented the Premier at Government House and joined the Governor-General in celebration of the Sir Roden & Lady Cutler Foundation. I am so proud to represent an inclusive community that promotes cultural awareness and respectful understanding. I vow today to continue to be the hardworking member for Drummoyne. This year has kicked off with incredible flair and I will continue that trend for the rest of the year.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:29 until  
Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 10:00.**