



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

Presiding Officers

ABSENCE OF THE SPEAKER

The Clerk announced the absence of the Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (The Hon. Thomas George) took the chair at 12:00.

The Deputy Speaker read the Prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given.]

Private Members' Statements

HELENSBURGH-STANWELL PARK SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (12:12): Last weekend I was honoured to attend the annual presentation ceremony of the Helensburgh-Stanwell Park Junior Surf Life Saving Club. The club has a long and proud history in the Heathcote electorate, with the involvement of many local families over many years. Helensburgh-Stanwell Park Surf Life Saving Club was formed on 11 February 1908, and thus is one of the first surf life saving clubs that was formed in the Commonwealth of Australia. Two months after its foundation, the club gave a display at Stanwell Park before a large crowd. This was followed on 2 May by a display at the local beach by 12 members of the Bondi Surf Bathing and Life Saving Club.

The club's first accommodation consisted of one room attached to a kiosk on the beach. In 1909, a clubroom was built at a cost of £40, which came from funds and loans provided by members. The club's first boat was launched on Saturday 17 February 1912, four years after the formation of the club. That was a creditable achievement, as it was the first surf boat in the Illawarra branch and among the foremost in the State. The boat was called the *Grace Darling*, named after the heroine who rescued a number of persons who had been shipwrecked off the treacherous Fame Islands, a rocky outcrop a mile or two from the shore of Northumberland on the north coast of England, on 7 September 1838.

I particularly acknowledge the years of service and dedication to the Helensburgh-Stanwell Park Surf Life Saving Club of Karen Gallagher, who has stepped away from the junior activities committee this year. I wish her well in her future endeavours, and I know that she will be back at the club. I also acknowledge the age members of the club who, as anyone involved in children's sports understands, are a part of the team of volunteers who make it all happen. As chairperson Steve Agnew said, they make Sunday mornings run as smoothly as possible even though they contend with the unknown variables of weather and surf conditions. The age members this year were Heidi Luck, under 6s; Trent Bryan, under 7s; Ben Rogers, under 8s; Ian Manley, under 9s; Anthony Rooski, under 10s; Karl Weber, under 11s; Zoran Doenjak, under 12s; Stephen Agnew, under 13s; and Peter Gallagher, under 14s. In all sports, children participate with the support of and time given by their parents and family members.

I congratulate again the Helensburgh-Stanwell Park Surf Life Saving Club. Surf lifesaving provides a vital service for our community. Before moving into the senior ranks, junior lifesavers train on one or more days a week. Although they are having fun and getting fit, by participating in the club activities they are preparing to play an important role in the future community. I commend each and every one of the junior lifesavers on their awards. Through this year's Community Building Partnership grants, I joined with my parliamentary colleagues to provide funding to Surf Life Saving Illawarra Inc. to purchase a replacement vehicle. This vehicle will allow members from escarpment clubs to transfer equipment and to travel up and down the coast to perform their vital work and duties. I thank the member for Keira and the member for Wollongong for joining with me in this collaboration to raise money through the Community Building Partnership program for the betterment of lifesaving in the Illawarra.

WALLSEND BAPTISTCARE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (12:16): The Wallsend BaptistCare Community Centre has served the disadvantaged residents of Wallsend for seven years. I sat down with the Centre Manager, Craig Budden, to talk about what the centre provides and its needs as an organisation. According to Craig, the primary issues faced by those who use the centre are domestic and family violence and homelessness, along with a host of accompanying issues including substance abuse and mental health problems. The centre includes a food bank,

which is open to everyone. It offers a range of groceries to all in need, as well as being a drop-in space that provides free all-day breakfasts. The centre has facilities to assist local homeless people, such as showers and laundry facilities, and provides hot lunches three days a week. Craig estimates that the centre provides 1,500 meals and distributes more than two tonnes of donated food a month.

Recorded client occasions, where centre staff interact with those seeking assistance, total more than 1,500 a month. As well as these ongoing commitments, the centre provides 100 emergency relief packages each month to people in acute crisis, including the homeless and those fleeing domestic violence. The packages, which are funded from the centre's own budget, are provided on referral or as a matter of practicality. The centre's social groups include a women's mosaic group, parenting classes and assistance and support for those escaping abuse. The Living Beyond Abuse program and the Circle of Security program for carers of children with difficulties are key parts of the centre's commitment to the Wallsend community. Craig and his staff are concerned about the number of elderly people who lack any kind of social inclusion. Craig warns:

If they don't come here, they don't have anywhere to go. They're skipping meals because many of them live alone and they feel that living alone it is not worth cooking a meal for themselves. There has also been a spike in the number of people seeking support due to domestic and family violence. Craig warns that there is a call for women's services generally in Wallsend and that nothing in the local area provides direct services. In the five years to 2016, Wallsend BaptistCare Community Centre helped an average of 17 clients seeking relief from domestic and family violence each month. It is difficult to break the cycle of violence. Adequate community support is required and Wallsend BaptistCare is doing the best it can. There is not enough crisis accommodation in the Wallsend area. Craig has been pleading with local landlords to open up empty rooms to provide shelter to those escaping crisis situations.

The majority of homeless clients helped by BaptistCare are middle-aged, and many have substance abuse and mental health issues. There is simply not enough support in this area. The average wait time for a service to engage with a new client upon referral is three weeks, by which time, Craig warns, a lot of people have already slipped through the cracks. I will do everything I can to support the Wallsend Community Centre. I urge the Government to ensure that the relevant organisations are given the help and resources they need to protect the community, particularly in the areas of aged care and domestic violence.

OXLEY ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (12:21): I acknowledge the work of the Urunga and Wauchope communities in my electorate of Oxley, and I am delighted that, through hard work, good decisions and good economic management, the Government is able to share its bounty with our communities. The Urunga lido development is important. For a couple of decades, the community had a beautiful swimming hole—a natural lido—at Urunga where the Bellinger and Kalang rivers meet and flow to the ocean. After a big storm in 1997 and concrete cancer, the former lido fell into disrepair and was dangerous. Last Friday on the shores of Urunga, my beautiful hometown, the long-awaited tidal swim facility upgrade was given the green light with a grant of more than \$500,000 from the New South Wales Government. The development is also supported by Reflections Holiday Coast Parks, formerly known as North Coast Holiday Parks. It contributed \$75,000 to the project, given its proximity to its popular Urunga caravan park.

For this wonderful seaboard community and the whole region—from Bellingen and Dorrigo, north to Coffs Harbour and south to Valla and Nambucca—this is a place where families can swim safely and enjoy the beautiful environment. The community has fought hard for a long time for this new structure. It will feature elevated walkways and floating pontoons, and it will use new and durable materials. This project will attract locals and tourists alike and complement the existing reserve. I acknowledge and thank everybody who fought to keep this development on the Government's agenda. I am very pleased that we can contribute to that project. The community deserves it.

On Saturday, I attended the fantastic 108th Wauchope Show. Agricultural shows are the heart and soul of our local communities. I thank everyone involved in bringing these stellar events to fruition. I particularly acknowledge the enormous amount of work done by Neil Coombes, the President of the Wauchope Show Society. Before he took the job on a few years ago he had a full head of hair; it is a different case now. This was a special show for a number of reasons. I acknowledge the work of Lesley Olsen, who for many years has developed and held a strong showgirl competition. It is not a competition about beauty and glamour; it is a competition that brings confident young women together and teaches them important skills, such public speaking and how to present themselves. On the weekend many of these young women told me it has enhanced their ability to apply for jobs and feel confident about themselves.

Lesley has put an enormous amount of energy into the competition. For the past three years at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, there has been a State finalist from Wauchope. Nikki Gibbs from Wauchope recently won gold at the Royal Sydney Easter Show. She was the showgirl winner at last year's 107th Wauchope Show and presented to the girls at the 108th show. This was a beautiful day. Nikki is a fabulous girl and belongs to a family that is entrenched in the Wauchope Show community. Her mother, Wendy, was the deputy ringmaster on the day.

It was pleasing to learn that this year we had a record number of beef exhibitors at Wauchope Show, with many of our local schools—Bellingen, Kempsey, St Paul's and Wauchope High—taking along their breeding cattle. This augurs well for our agricultural sector. Many of the kids involved want to work on a farm, study agricultural economics at university or do TAFE-aligned work. It was very exciting to see the heart, spirit and soul of so many children and young adults wanting to be involved in the show.

We were very excited to be able to present \$22,000 to the Wauchope Showground Pavilion from the ClubGRANTS program. That is particularly important because just over 12 months ago terrible fires occurred at Pappinbarra, and Wauchope showground becomes a refuge during an emergency. However, it became clear that the doors of the showground were not fire safe in the modern environment so it was necessary to replace five showground doors at Wauchope showground, and it was very exciting to be able to make that announcement during the opening of the show. An enormous amount of work goes into the Wauchope Show and I thank everybody for their contribution.

TRIBUTE TO GREGORY DESMOND ADCOCK

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (12:26): Unfortunately 2018 did not get off to the best start in Lane Cove with the passing of one of Lane Cove's finest standard-bearers. I refer to Gregory Desmond Adcock, who passed away just a month short of his ninety-fifth birthday. This military veteran, husband, father and business genius for many years put the style into my Lane Cove electorate and beyond. Born in Parramatta in 1923, he was the third of four sons born to Edward and Katherine Adcock. His dad was in retail, a path he was later to follow with distinction.

After a solid King's School education Desmond signed up for service in World War II aged 18. He was assigned to Army Transport and spent the next 4½ years in uniform in far North Queensland. Upon discharge Desmond married Nancy and they had two children, Elizabeth and Gregory. They opened a successful menswear store in Padstow. In 1962 they moved to Longueville, where he resided for over 50 years. After Nancy passed he married Beverley, a magnificent lady, and they had 30 loving and happy years together. It was Beverley who described her husband as a quiet, strong gentleman of great faith and impeccable taste, who was always ethical, honest and kind. That is exactly how I would describe Desmond. In 1972 Desmond opened his menswear store on Longueville Road with the logo "fine clothes for men", and his range was indeed fine. Beverley said her husband's menswear store brought a touch of Bond Street to Lane Cove. *The Village Observer* got it right in an article about his life, which stated:

His high-end store sold suits, shirts, ties and shoes with customers coming from all over Sydney to purchase tailor made and off-the-shelf clothing.

Every year Desmond would travel to Italy to select and purchase the finest fabrics to be turned into fine suits by his skilled tailors. This wonderful businessman dealt in fashion and dressed fashionably. His daughter, Elizabeth, recalled his daily fastidious choice about fit. He would lay his outfit out, pairing just the right tie with the right pocket hanky and shoes, always polished with an inch of their lives. In 1995 he set about rebuilding and reinvigorating an almost defunct local chamber of commerce and it was here, when I was on council, that I got to know Desmond so well. With time on his hands, having retired from the menswear store, he busied himself by becoming a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels at Lane Cove Community Aid.

In 2000 Desmond was accepted as a volunteer driver for the Sydney Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. This man of many talents was also a member of the New South Wales Sculptors Society and regularly exhibited his works. He also loved gardening, travelling and fly-fishing. This unassuming, quiet, honest man was presented with a Commonwealth Recognition Award for Senior Australians in 1999. In that same year, as mayor I was proud to see him awarded with a citizenship award for leadership from Lane Cove Council. He was also a life member of the Lane Cove Chamber of Commerce. He served in various capacities with Lane Cove RSL. I am forever grateful for his association with, his guidance and his cool professionalism within the Liberal Party.

In 1997 Desmond moved his family to an older house in Dunois Street, Longueville. Desmond personally restored by hand the 1924 ceilings to an excellent standard. To this day, young apprentices call by to inspect the quality of this restoration. Desmond had a huge heart and a caring nature. For many years he dressed the clergy at St Michael's Church in Lane Cove pro bono. He donated Italian suits to Montefiore Home in Hunters Hill so residents had a suit to wear to their synagogue. Desmond was also an active supporter of Caritas and St Vincent de Paul as well as the Asthma Foundation of New South Wales. Gregory Desmond Adcock was a loving husband and father. He was also a good bloke and a friend to the community. May he rest in peace after a life well lived.

MACARTHUR REGION ROAD AND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:30): I have spoken about this topic repeatedly since entering this place and I will continue to do so until I leave. I speak about the desperate need for significant

investment in road and rail infrastructure in the Macarthur region. It is fitting that I acknowledge the presence in the House of the Minister for Western Sydney, as well as that of my colleague the member for Strathfield and shadow Minister for transport and roads, Jodi McKay. It is far from my first time addressing this topic in this House. I say at the outset that this is about the needs of our people, both existing residents and the many future residents to come. This is not about politics for me. I begin by drawing attention to roads.

The Menangle/Spring Farm link road would connect Liz Kernohan Drive in the Camden local government area [LGA] to the Hume Highway as well as Menangle Road and through to Appin Road. I have no blinkers on when it comes to infrastructure, particularly roads. This vital piece of infrastructure would benefit not only the people of Camden but also our region more broadly. It would consequently remove many heavy vehicles from the notorious Appin Road and create an important connection to provide for the southern developing region of Campbelltown and the broader Macarthur region. The vital east-west connection between the Camden and Campbelltown LGAs has been widely acknowledged as essential. It would also relieve pressure on Narellan Road where works are nearing completion. This connection needs to be delivered as soon as possible due to the residential development in the southern areas of Camden and Campbelltown and the future developments around Gilead and Menangle.

The Federal Government promised \$50 million to upgrade Appin Road to a dual carriageway but, disappointingly, to date only \$5 million has been delivered. The Federal member for that area, the Hon. Angus Taylor, continues to speak about the matter but unfortunately there is no sign of delivery as an outcome. I acknowledge and appreciate that the State Government has carried out some resurfacing and realigning work but nothing like the scale of attention that is needed. The Labor Opposition has committed \$50 million as part of the \$200 million Illawarra package to get this infrastructure on the right track, but it does not stop there. More than 20 lives have been lost on that road in 20 years. Those lives are no way to substantiate the upgrade but they are an indication of the unsafe nature of the road.

Any upgrade should include sufficient wildlife protection and measures to save Campbelltown's koala population. The Raby Road junction at the Hume Highway and the opening of the Gregory Hills Drive connection that runs off Eagle Vale Drive will see congestion. There needs to be a replication of the Raby Road junction, much the same as exists on Narellan Road with access onto the Hume Highway and the F5. The extension of the toll on the M5 South-West for decades beyond its scheduled expiry in 2026 is truly disturbing and of concern to many local residents. I will address the toll in more detail at another time.

With the north-south rail link, it is vital that the link from the Macarthur region to the Western Sydney Airport happens sooner rather than later. The north-west connection is an important connection. The Campbelltown and Macarthur element of that connection must be given the same priority by governments as is given to anywhere along that connection. I am not saying that one deserves more than the other, just that it needs to be equally prioritised and given the attention that it requires. The city deal included funding for the rail link between St Marys and Western Sydney Airport, which is encouraging, but those of in our city and our region would like the same attention delivered for Campbelltown and, indeed, Macarthur. I urge the Premier, the Ministers and the Cabinet to take note of these issues—I will have more to say about the matter in future, of course—and to go and make the necessary investments in the road and rail infrastructure that the region needs in the lead-up to the budget in June. I thank the House.

HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (12:35): I am excited to talk about the \$300,000 investment in the Holsworthy electorate through the 2017 Community Building Partnership grants. All of the grants are given towards extremely committed community groups, ranging from local sporting groups to disability services and local schools. I have had the pleasure of visiting many of the recipients of the Community Building Partnership grants and I have been able to see the hard work that goes into these community groups. Providing a comfortable environment for students to learn has always been a priority of mine. That is why I am pleased to announce that \$27,930 has gone towards putting air conditioning in the Holsworthy High School hall and \$17,699 has gone towards air conditioning in the Chipping Norton Public School hall. This investment could not have happened without the hard work of our parents and citizens associations [P and Cs]. I am proud to have delivered this funding on top of \$40,000 I was able to secure in previous years for hall air conditioning upgrades at Wattle Grove Public School and Holsworthy Public School. It is important that kids are able to learn and have a nice, cool environment to do that in.

I am extremely proud of the community coming together to play sport and to get active. That is why I was delighted to announce \$30,000 from this program towards a new awning over the public seating area at Southern Districts Soccer Football Association. This will enable all the spectators to comfortably gather to watch local games and to cheer on our local team. I thank Andy Favaloro and Gino Marra—I went to school with a guy with a very similar name—and the rest of the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association team for their

commitment and hard work. It is one of the most dedicated, driven clubs in the area and I am glad to see it receiving additional funding to help the community. Another sporting association I am happy to announce is receiving a grant is the Moorebank Sports Soccer Club. The investment is \$13,200 and it is going towards the installation of a players shelter. This will provide a more comfortable rest area for the players.

The safety of our local students is also a priority of mine. I am pleased to announce that \$25,000 is going towards installing a security gate at Dalmeny Public School. This is in addition to \$18,000 I recently secured for the P and C to extend the school's car park. Once again I thank the school's P and C for its persistence and hard work. As most members of the House know, I am extremely passionate about increasing disability services. This is why I have great pleasure in announcing \$48,627 towards the Australian Foundation for Disability [AFFORD]. This will mean \$14,127 is going towards providing innovative sensory resources and furniture at its Chipping Norton disability centre. Additionally, the Prestons disability business enterprise is receiving \$34,500 for a bundle wrapper and new lockers to assist the employees with disabilities.

I was delighted to visit Prestons AFFORD at the end of last year and advised the foundation of the grant it was receiving. I know the funding I provided will go to good use and I thank the New South Wales Government for continuing the program. Seeing the welcoming and smiling faces is so rewarding and I hope to see more of the positive results the foundation is delivering in future. In fact I am smiling at the moment just thinking about how happy the people there were. They were particularly happy to receive the lockers so that their belongings are looked after in a nice way.

Other projects that were allocated funding in my area include Illawong Athletics Inc, which received \$6,523 for a storage container to safely secure athletics equipment; the Sutherland Shire Christian School Association Ltd, which will receive \$25,000 for the renovation of the Prep playground; Jenko Sutherland Shire Pony Club, which will receive \$28,700 to replace its boundary fence; Moorebank Sports Club, which will receive \$14,410 to install a soft-fall surface around the children's play equipment; Liverpool District Men's Shed, which will receive \$5,000 to upgrade its new premises; Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Association, which received \$13,300 for a new synthetic wicket; Sydney Madinah, which will receive \$8,000 towards its youth engagement project.

Menai Bushfire Brigade, which received \$5,000 for a new community noticeboard; Moorebank High School Community Focus Group, which will receive \$11,611 towards an interactive classroom for hospitality training; and Holsworthy Public School parents and community association, which will receive \$20,000 for a new outdoor learning area and sensory garden. One of the most important parts of our jobs is making our community better and stronger. That is why I have worked with my local groups to secure this funding. I hope it will improve the services and safety of people in the Holsworthy electorate. I thank all these community groups for their commitment to their causes in applying for these grants. I cannot wait to see the positive results of these grants in our local area.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (12:40): I bring to the attention of the House an issue that has impacts far beyond the jurisdiction of this Parliament but that we have the power to influence—the issue of climate change. From the coral reefs to the bushfires at Tathra, Australia is experiencing many of the consequences of climate change. It is easy to rest on the belief that the threat of climate change is somehow amorphous and will impact on other people—maybe in the Marshall Islands, maybe in other countries—but not in Australia; but, of course, the opposite is true. My electorate of Balmain sits on a small peninsula in Sydney Harbour. While that brings us a variety of environmental riches, it also puts our local area at risk in the future due to sea level rise. Increasing global heat—driven by the burning of fossil fuels in particular—is exacerbating extreme weather events around the globe, in Australia and in New South Wales. Tackling climate change is a serious concern in my work but also should be of urgent concern for this Parliament.

The electricity sector is Australia's biggest polluter, so any credible climate and energy policy needs to ensure that the electricity sector achieves substantial reductions in greenhouse gas pollution. Sadly, many conservatives, in particular in this country, are so ideologically entangled in coal that they are obstructing the forward march towards electricity reform. This week's media controversy around the Liddell plant sale is evidence of this. The good news is that moving away from coal and gas power stations can cut pollution and electricity prices at the same time. Earlier this year, the Climate Council released a report titled "Clean and Reliable Power: Roadmap to a Renewable Future", which established 12 key policy principles for assessing the merits of any climate change and energy policy. This Parliament would do well to reflect on its proposals. The roadmap starts with a look at the Federal Government's feeble policy offering: the National Energy Guarantee [NEG]. The NEG proposes a limit of 28 to 36 per cent renewable energy in 2030. It risks winding back renewable energy targets already committed to by State governments—sadly not this one—and fundamentally low-balls the pollution reduction opportunity in the electricity sector.

The roadmap shows that our electricity sector has the greatest potential to reduce pollution. It recommends transitioning away from ageing, polluting and inefficient coal and gas fleets and encouraging investment in a new, clean power supply. Across the country there have been a range of innovations—for example, the reverse auctions in the Australian Capital Territory—that deal with climate change by reducing greenhouse pollution, as well as cutting electricity costs for consumers. In order to tackle climate change, the electricity sector needs to cut its carbon pollution by more than 60 per cent over the next decade and then head towards zero pollution. This transition is possible, but it requires forward-thinking energy policies that are informed by evidence and due process, particularly allowing for sufficient public engagement to ensure that the community understands the issues and what is at stake. This Government would do well to reflect on recent survey results that show that 77 per cent of Australians now acknowledge climate change and a small percentage support ongoing use of coal.

Community groups and organisations have done a fantastic job of informing the public and transforming climate change and energy policies from niche green considerations into national priorities. In my electorate of Balmain I am proud to have the Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle, a community group that aims to inform locals about the dangers of climate change, to speak out in a non-partisan way against the ongoing use of fossil fuels, and to champion the growth and development of renewable energy resources. I acknowledge the following committee members: president and public officer Dominic Case; vice president Angela Michaelis; secretary Rob Garnsey; treasurer Derek Bolton; committee member Michael Johnson; committee member Jemima Garrett; and committee member Meg Wallace. I acknowledge past members of the group: Alison, Sabina, Fiona, Sue and Lucy, and more recently, Neil, Steve, Gavin, Kim and Kate. I recognise in particular the work of Jenny Curtis, who led the campaign to establish this great organisation.

This local community group does regular doorknocking campaigns, runs "climate in the pub" and a whole range of awareness campaigns that distribute information. It keeps residents informed and engaged on climate issues and close to 1,000 people in our local community alone are on its email list. It works with members of the community and speaks out to ensure that the community is educated in order to inform debate. As I mentioned earlier, the climate in the pub series brings experts from around the country to local watering holes, in particular the 3 Weeds, Rozelle. Organisations such as Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle bridge the critical gap between big picture thinking and local detail. I pay tribute to the tireless and remarkable local activists who continue to give of their time and expertise to such an important cause. I thank all those in the Parliament who consider the issue of climate change and I encourage them to work collaboratively to do all they can to reduce carbon pollution.

BUNGENDORE HEALTH SERVICES

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (12:45): Today I congratulate the community of Bungendore and in particular I congratulate a fantastic local champion, Deborah Olde. I met Ms Olde last year. She was concerned about the availability of health services in Bungendore. Bungendore is a 20 to 25 minute drive from the Australian Capital Territory and 20 minutes from Queanbeyan. It is a beautiful heritage town that has seen significant growth. The Headquarters Joint Operations Command [HQJOC] is situated there. There has been significant investment in residential greenfield sites at Bywong and Wamboin with a population of about 5,000 people. What has been lacking is an ambulance service in the Bungendore area. There is an ambulance service in Braidwood which is 50 minutes away, and in Queanbeyan which is 25 minutes away. For a growing town with a population of 5,000 people, it is clear that this service is lacking.

The community has championed this project. Before Christmas 2017 Ms Olde started a petition to help me and to work with me to champion the cause to receive a funding commitment from the Minister for Health for an ambulance station. The Government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to make safe the Kings Highway which links Bungendore, the Australian Capital Territory and the South Coast. In peak times there is a significant amount of traffic on the Kings Highway. Unfortunately, over the years there have been fatalities and incidents on that road regardless of the amount of money that has spent to make it safer. The Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council includes the growing areas of Bungendore, Bywong and Wamboin. If we take into account the heavy traffic during peak times on the Kings Highway the case for an ambulance station at Bungendore has merit.

Ms Olde petitioned the community and received 2,000 signatures on a petition which shows that many people are passionate about the ambulance service. A couple of weeks ago Ms Olde, community members and representatives of emergency services were present to hear me announce that the Liberal-Nationals Government has made a multimillion dollar commitment to build an ambulance station at Bungendore. The Government is currently working with Queanbeyan-Palerang Council to identify appropriate land for the ambulance station. There are a couple of options on the table. In a meeting yesterday with the council we established that the options have been reduced to two sites in Bungendore. I have been advocating for this project for some time but without the support of the community through the petition I do not believe the response from Government would have been as quick. I congratulate and thank Minister Hazzard and his office on working with the community and with

me to deliver a vital piece of infrastructure for the community. It is not just about building an ambulance station; it is about providing adequate services for the people of Bungendore.

In Bungendore, one of the areas we are seeing some interest in is aged living. When an area has aged living, it also needs health services for the community. I believe the commitment by the Government to commit to building an ambulance station for the community will also allow preferred developments within the region to consider Bungendore for investment in aged living, which is something that Bungendore lacks. For those who do not know Bungendore, it has a beautiful village centre, but people are predominantly rural and live on their farms. But with an aging population, which many of our regional and rural areas have, it is important to start providing options for people to move off their land and into town.

More investment in aged living would be the first option and a fantastic option for Bungendore. I congratulate Deb Olde and all those who signed the petition—the small businesses that had the petition in their windows and on their counters, those who signed the petition online, and everyone who worked together in good spirit to get a service and a commitment. As I said a couple of weeks ago, the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals have committed to a multimillion-dollar investment in an ambulance station in Bungendore.

PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE PROPERTY DEVELOPER PHILLIP DONG FANG LEE

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (12:50): As the member for Port Stephens, I represent one of the most beautiful parts of the world. It is blessed with pristine waterways, an abundance of wildlife and the most stunning beaches. Many people choose to retire in Port Stephens because of its sheer beauty. Particularly popular areas are Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest. According to the most recent census data, Tea Gardens can boast that it has the oldest population in Australia. Unfortunately, not everyone buys property in the area because they appreciate and respect the environment. Mr Phillip Dong Fang Lee has bought three properties near to Tea Gardens. He now owns more than 3,000 hectares of land in the area. All the properties are in environmentally sensitive areas. One of the properties is known as Fame Cove, which is a pristine headland abutting the national park and the marine park, has enormous environmental and cultural significance.

I have spoken in this place before of the desecration by a grader that was taken to a creek bed within the marine park sanctuary on this property. It is also a culturally significant site. Fines have been issued. Land and Environment Court orders have been imposed. And although the focus has been on trying to stop the devastation at Fame Cove, something awful was unfolding elsewhere. A 17-kilometre long, 20-metre wide trench was being dug out at another of Mr Lee's properties, known as The Pines. The works were not authorised. I have seen the pictures, and more are published in today's *Newcastle Herald*. It looks as though a 17-kilometre long highway has been forced through the trees. It has been reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that in 2015 Mr Dong Fang Lee bought Point Piper mansion Mandalay for \$40 Million. It has also been reported that Mr Lee has strong connections with the Chinese Government.

It is safe to say that Mr Lee is wealthy and powerful—a multimillionaire, possibly a billionaire. It is also safe to say that the fines meted out so far have had little impact: They have not changed Mr Lee's attitude toward compliance with authorities or respect for our environment, which brings me to what the response has been so far from the authorities. Let us look at MidCoast Council first, which is a newly merged council formed by the amalgamation of Great Lakes Council, Gloucester Shire Council and Greater Taree City Council. Two out of the three councils were deemed not fit for the future and, contrary to promises made by this Government, all residents are facing a special rate variation in an effort to make ends meet. The MidCoast Council and its residents cannot be expected to have the resources to manage a frequent offender such as Mr Lee. Court proceedings are not inexpensive exercises. If the council briefs one barrister, a man of significant means, such as Mr Lee, will turn up with four barristers. With complex jurisdictional, cultural and environmental issues at stake, there is a need for state agency control and response. The question is, has that occurred?

Late last year I heard rumours of Mr Lee's activities at The Pines. In January this year I wrote to the Minister for the Environment seeking information and clarification about what is happening on the site and a briefing from any agencies involved. No information was provided. My request for a briefing was ignored. Since then I have learned that there is a potential threat to the aquifer, which is the town water supply for residents living in Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest. There is also a potential threat to nearby waterways, which could impact on commercial prawning and oyster farming. Given this information, when did the Environment Protection Authority [EPA] respond to the concerns of environmental harm on the site? Was it December when it was first informed or January? No it was not. The first time anyone from the EPA stepped onto the site was last week.

Today it was reported that there are a lot of rumours and speculation about what is happening on the site, and that is true. Once again, none of the relevant agencies have provided any information; instead, there is a wall of silence so of course the vacuum will be filled. In today's report, Mr Rick Wraight—whom I respect—is defending Mr Lee's actions. I thank Rick for shedding some light on what has happened and on what are Mr Lee's

intentions for the property. To date, all requests for information have been ignored. We have heard the patronising response from this Government, "Just trust us", but we do not.

A disturbing overlay to all of this are the actions of Mr Glenn Handford, the General Manager of the former Great Lakes Council, who became the General Manager of the merged MidCoast Council. Mr Handford abruptly left council just before Christmas, which coincided with talk of the 17-kilometre trench. Concerns have since been raised with me that Mr Handford is now undertaking work for Mr Lee on a contractual basis. If this is true, they are serious issues that warrant scrutiny, especially given the decade-long history of environmental infringements by Mr Lee. I hope those concerns are not true.

I urge the Minister for the Environment, and the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Regional Water to step up to ensure that any environmental harm is properly examined and rectified to ensure the town water supply is protected and that strong action is taken to stop future environmental destruction of our beautiful area. I will also refer matters of governance to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The residents of Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest, North Arm Cove, Bundabah and Pindimar deserve better than this

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing) (12:55):

It gives me pleasure to talk about the programs that are making a huge difference in regional communities. This Government has injected more money into the bush than has ever been seen in history, thanks to the Stronger Country Communities Fund, which is part of our Regional Growth Fund, which amounts to \$1.3 billion in total. Money is being allocated to local government areas where communities can decide on the projects that will make a difference to their lives. The funding announcements have already made a difference. For years the communities of regional towns have been asking for projects to fix dilapidated playgrounds and dilapidated halls, and to update facilities that are in desperate need of repair. This Government is making a huge and significant difference through the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

There is no doubt that the funding announced will improve the lives of the people in the Bathurst electorate. Over the past couple of weeks I have announced 18 projects in total through the Stronger Country Communities Fund. Those 18 projects will receive funding of just under \$4 million that will help to build parks, playgrounds, footpaths and other projects that matter to local communities. It is a cash splash, it is a bush bonanza, and it is making a difference to the lives of country people. For the first time this significant investment is supercharging our regions. It is making people in those areas proud to live in the country. They now have similar facilities that we see in other areas.

One project in Lithgow includes \$1 million that will go towards building an adventure playground. This project is important for the Lithgow community because many families wanted activities to do after school, on weekends and during school holidays. Currently they either travel 60 kilometres to use the facilities in Bathurst or further to Orange. They deserve their own adventure playground and I am pleased that the New South Wales Government has allocated \$1 million for the construction of a new playground. The Lithgow Basketball Stadium has been allocated funding of \$225,000. I had the opportunity to talk to the players, the coaches and managers. More than 100 people turned up to hear the Government announcement. This funding will improve the local basketball stadium for its users and enable future competitions to be held in Lithgow, which will make a huge difference to that town.

In Bathurst, Riding for the Disabled—which is a great organisation that provides opportunities for people with disability to take riding lessons—also has animals on display, including horses, llamas, donkeys and cows. The local children who come to pat the animals as pet therapy have issues getting in and around the facility. To address that, the Government is providing more than \$100,000 for the installation of footpaths and to improve the yards. The Government has also allocated \$150,000 to the Kelso Community Hub for an extension to its facility, which is used by 15 community groups every week. It has a breakfast club for school children who need to be fed, and sporting clubs play there in the afternoon.

I had the opportunity to visit Rylstone yesterday, where I announced the allocation of \$100,000 for an extension to the preschool. The facility already has 30 children, but the management wants to break them up into groups and to improve the facilities for the staff and families who use it. That will make a big difference. The Government has also allocated new money to Oberon and Blayney for new skate parks. Blayney will receive \$270,000 and Oberon will receive \$500,000. These projects are making a difference to the young, the elderly and the community groups that have been calling for assistance. I am pleased that this Government is continuing to deliver. [*Time expired.*]

RYDE ELECTORATE SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (13:01): A new primary school, a new high school and more public open space are coming to Ryde. Over the past three years I have been working hard to ensure that we get upgrades to existing schools and new schools for our community. Ryde families are set to benefit from additional local school building projects being delivered through major upgrades to Kent Road, West Ryde and Denistone East primary schools. Smalls Road Primary School is very close to the start of its construction and will open its doors to students in 2020. The old Peter Board High School, which was sold in 2006, will also be bought back to build a new high school.

Meadowbank Primary School will be relocated to a state-of-the-art new primary school, just 10 minutes walk from its current location. It will be located at the northern end of Ryde TAFE. This site will have a new high school and the TAFE will be upgraded to create a new Meadowbank Education Precinct. The primary school in the new education precinct will have double the capacity and will accommodate up to 1,000 students. It will have the latest innovations in school architecture, providing flexible learning spaces specifically designed to cater for changes in teaching methods and technology. This investment in schools is unprecedented in our area and is part of the New South Wales Government's \$4.2 billion investment in school infrastructure. Our community has asked, "What about the old Meadowbank school site? What is happening to that land?" I am pleased to announce that that land—the site of Meadowbank Primary School at Thistle Street, Meadowbank—will remain in public hands.

On many occasions I have worked hard with our community to reduce overdevelopment. Our community fights have won changes to the Allengrove Crescent development, which has been reduced from 11 storeys to five storeys; the Whiteside Street development, which has been reduced from 11 storeys to five storeys; the Blenheim Park development, which has been stopped entirely and the land will be rezoned to expand the park; and the Meadowbank Foreshore development, which has been reduced from 23 storeys to 10 storeys. We have also saved the site at Smalls Road and ensured that it remains an educational facility. The new school on the site will be opened in 2020.

Our community has also come together to fight against development and to stand up for open space. Last Saturday supporters of the Save TG Millner Field campaign held their first community rally, which was attended by more than 150 residents. Many spoke passionately about keeping the area as public open space. The overwhelming community support for this movement was inspiring to see. I thank Tobias Lord for coordinating last weekend's rally, and for his unfaltering community leadership and hard work throughout the campaign. In more good news, City of Ryde Councillors Trenton Brown and Jordan Lane announced that they had submitted a notice of motion to the City of Ryde to buy back the TG Millner Field to secure its use for public open space. I thank Councillors Brown and Lane for their commitment to preserving this precious piece of open space. I also thank the mayor for supporting the motion. I have written to the Ryde councillors expressing my unswerving support for this proposal, which will be made public in due course.

As Councillor Trenton Brown indicated at the rally, Ryde Council has been flushed with development funds as a result of the significant development that has been taking place in Ryde over many years. As a result of those section 94 contributions council has ample funds to buy back various pieces of real estate for community use. TG Millner is a classic piece of real estate that will be bought back for the benefit of the community in perpetuity. It was so refreshing to have the three levels of government represented at the rally: John Alexander, the Federal member for Bennelong; the member for Epping and I; and Councillors Laxale, Lane, Brown and Yedelian. We were unanimous that the TG Millner Field remain in public hands. I am grateful that council has shown its commitment to buy back that site using available funds from section 94 development contributions so that it can once again return to public hands.

DISABILITY ADVOCACY FUNDING

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:05): I thank all the people with disabilities from across New South Wales who joined us to fight for the continuation of disability advocacy funding, so our voices can be heard. I especially send our love and gratitude to our beautiful colleague the member for Canterbury, Sophie Cotsis, who is not in the Chamber today but who has been integral in getting this matter off the ground and pushing the momentum forward. Stand by Me is a fabulous campaign run by the Disability Advocacy Alliance. It is a group of disability advocates that provide information and represent peak organisations that empower people with disabilities across New South Wales to have a voice.

I am sorry that, along with the stressful for some transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS], for more than six months we have lived in fear of having advocacy money being stripped from us. It has been a joke. It is frightening to know that the Government considered it okay to strip funding, to shut down organisations and to destroy a knowledge base of, in some cases, up to 60 years of working with government and law makers to get things right for people with disabilities in New South Wales. Advocacy funding is far longer

than a term in Parliament; it is our everyday representation and access to health, education, housing, justice and human rights. It is our voice.

As Michael Sullivan said today, we could fight a battle for social inclusion every single day. However, it is nice to know that we can go to advocacy agents who can support us to get things done—for example, some people with disabilities are not quite living where they should be living in New South Wales. I thank people for coming out in force today in the city. I also thank them for coming out across New South Wales over the past few months, especially in regional areas where we feared the impact would hit us hard. I thank the Council for Intellectual Disability for publishing its postcard with a gagged person on the front saying, "Don't silence us." Michael Sullivan's voice was heard loud and clear at Parliament House today. He said, "Everyone has a right to be treated equally and to be heard ... it is our human right to speak up."

I thank the Physical Disability Council of New South Wales, Information on Disability Education and Awareness Services, People with Disability Austral, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, First Nations people with disability, the Stroke Recovery Association of New South Wales, and the list goes on. I thank them all for mobilising their members and running the fabulous media and online campaign. I thank them for stepping up to the plate for all of us to have a voice. It is a fabulous reward for people who came into Parliament House today to slam this Government. I especially liked the call from a lady who said, "We want a real Minister", implying that the Minister for Disability Services does not really understand the needs of people with disabilities. There were loads of calls from across the room about the fact that the Federal funding that seems mysterious to the Minister for Disability Services is clearly not for advocacy. Did the Minister read the recommendation of the Ombudsman and the Productivity Commission, which said, "Do not fully privatise the disability sector in New South Wales"? It is only a ploy to get through the next election.

What has the Minister done? Privatised caring for people with disabilities and even our voices to the point that we have had to hold rallies across this State. I thank the people on the Central Coast who stood up for the privatisation of Wyong Hospital. I know the voice of people with disabilities will continue to be heard. Our friends and our families stood together to protest against the funding cuts to advocacy services. I thank them for turning out in Gosford. I look forward to getting together again in Terrigal because we have a long way to go. We want full social inclusion. We need to continue to fight to have a voice in decision-making. We want to belong. Luke Foley and the Labor Government have committed to ongoing advocacy funding for people with disabilities. The Labor Party is not holding out to try to win election points. That is why I put up my hand for the Labor Party: We want justice, fairness, equity and inclusion for all.

The Labor Party will continue to fight for the vulnerable people of New South Wales—for example, the people in rural and regional New South Wales who need a voice but who cannot get to Parliament House. I give them a shout-out so they know that we are working for them—for social inclusion in our schools and hospitals, not the \$2 billion splurge on stadiums. It is exciting that the \$13 million has finally been promised and we now have a strong, united group of people with disabilities. I look forward to working together for inclusive tourism through a new "It's everybody's community" campaign on the Central Coast.

On behalf of people with disabilities across New South Wales, I express my disappointment that this commitment to funding the voice of social inclusion is only temporary. I congratulate the wonderful team of advocates who previously focused all their energy on advocating for others and who have now come together to form a strong, united voice for people with disabilities across New South Wales. I thank them so much for the campaign; they give me the energy to keep fighting. It is far from over, and I say, "Bring it on!"

SYDNEY CLEARWAYS STRATEGY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:10): I place on record my support for the Sydney Clearways Strategy and advocate on behalf of my constituents who would like to see the implementation of a clearway along the Spit-Condamine-Pittwater roads. The corridor—which is, in part, covered by my electorate of Manly—is important to my constituents who commute and travel across Sydney. Using comparable data from around Australia and internationally, the benefits of clearways are obvious. For instance, in Victoria clearways delivered travel time reductions of 9 per cent and mitigated the equivalent of nearly five years worth of congestion. Those are the types of improvements I want for my constituents.

In December 2013 the then Minister for Roads in the other place released the Sydney Clearways Strategy—a document that outlined the New South Wales Government's commitment to improving travel times across both the public transport and the regular road network. The strategy outlined 100 major roads where both morning and evening peak travel times could be improved by the introduction of a clearway. Since 2011, the Government has implemented a suite of initiatives to cut congestion on roads around New South Wales, including allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to the Pinch Point Program targeting traffic hotspots. When this report was originally presented in 2013, the Government could not have foreseen the success of the B-Line

project for commuters. The B-Line is already saving my constituents nearly 10 minutes travel time from Manly Vale to Neutral Bay, even without the full suite of road upgrades having been fully implemented.

It is the small yet absolutely vital changes to the Military and Spit roads corridor, such as indented bus bays and lane widenings, that have contributed to the success of the B-Line project. New commuter car parks have opened in Dee Why and Brookvale and one will open later this year at Manly Vale, complete with a living, rotating, modular green wall system that I hope will become a new standard for the infrastructure built by this Government. Given the dramatic travel time savings generated by these changes, it is important that the Government continue the hard work. That is why I am advocating for Roads and Maritime Services to continue doing the work to determine the benefits of a clearway along the Spit-Condamine-Pittwater roads corridor to improve traffic flow and cut down travel times.

There are already some existing clearways on the corridor; however, it is my view—a view that is shared by many both north and south of the Spit Bridge—that a holistic clearway strategy needs to be implemented for the entirety of the lower North Shore and northern beaches. The Sydney Clearways Strategy outlined four main criteria for a clearway to be considered for a major State road. First, traffic flows must exceed 800 vehicles per hour—and, in the case of the Spit-Condamine-Pittwater roads corridor, this means that if more than 1,600 vehicles are using the centre and right-hand lane in a given period, it would satisfy one of the requirements to introduce a clearway in the left-hand lane. Secondly, travel speeds must be 30 kilometres per hour or below during peak periods. In the two years following the release of the strategy, average speeds on the Military Road, Spit Road and Manly Road segment of the corridor dropped from 20 kilometres per hour to 18 kilometres per hour as traffic volumes have increased by approximately 1 per cent each year across Sydney.

Thirdly, the road must be a strategic bus or freight transport corridor; and, fourthly, alternative public parking close to local businesses can be found that is reflective of the quantity and usage of the parking being removed. Clearways have been implemented already on segments of the corridor, whether they are from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. or 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m., weekend clearways or a combination of all three. With the additional commuter car parking being built across the northern beaches in concert with the B-Line project, it is my strong view, based on the evidence and data collected as part of the clearways strategy, that it is time for the Government to seriously consider establishing clearways between 6.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. both city bound and north bound from Monday to Friday.

Whilst this proposal would implement clearways between the morning and afternoon peaks, B-Line statistics show that patronage between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. has already increased by 9 per cent, which is evidence that commuters are willing to travel to, from and around the northern beaches without needing to park their car along our main roads. This proposal will bring significant overall benefits regarding congestion on the northern beaches. If the Government can secure sufficient alternative public parking close to businesses on the corridor then a clearways proposal is the next logical step in alleviating congestion in my electorate and across the northern beaches more broadly. I look forward to considering further the data and evidence in order to identify how the clearways strategy can best serve my constituents.

Community Recognition Statements

SYDNEY YOUTH CONNECT

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (13:15): I pay tribute to Sydney Youth Connect for its efforts to support the Tathra community in the aftermath of the 18 March bushfire that destroyed 65 homes and had a devastating impact on the Bega Valley district and community. Youth members and mentors made the six-hour trip to Tathra to host a free sausage sizzle for the local community. Working with Engadine fire brigade, the volunteers cooked more than 1,000 sausages and kebabs for Tathra residents. Granville Boys High School chaplain Shaykh Wesam Charkawi established Sydney Youth Connect 10 years ago.

I pay tribute to Shaykh Wesam for all he has done to grow this local youth organisation. Based in Lidcombe in my electorate, Sydney Youth Connect focuses on bringing together youth with community enablers who come from all walks of life. The community enablers work at the grassroots to ensure that local youth remain engaged in our community, are resilient and are inspired to deliver positive change for society. Shaykh Wesam firmly believes engagement is the key to success, whether it is through mentors engaging with youth or youth engaging in civic duties and exploring activities.

MANNING-GREAT LAKES POLICE BRAVERY AWARDS

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:16): I commend senior constables Brad Greenwood and Timothy Thumpston from the Manning-Great Lakes Police District, who have been acknowledged for their bravery in the line of duty and presented with an Australian Bravery Decoration from Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove. Last year the police officers also had Valour Awards for conspicuous merit and exceptional bravery

conferred on them by the NSW Commissioner of Police at the Police Force Academy at Goulburn. In the early hours of 4 May 2013 the officers responded to a domestic incident at a Godwin Street residence in Forster. As they approached the home they could see smoke coming from the house as well as large flames coming from the garage. After alerting fire services, they noticed a woman attempting to douse the flames with a garden hose and a man banging on a front window. They entered the smoke-engulfed house and managed to move the man towards the open door and to the safety of outside before checking the home for other occupants. Both officers risked their lives in the line of duty and have done themselves, their families and the uniform proud.

FAIRFIELD ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:17): On Monday 2 April 2018 the Assyrian Universal Alliance [AUA] and the Assyrian Australian National Federation [AANF] hosted the Assyrian New Year Festival at Fairfield Showground. The event commenced with the official opening of the Dr Donny George Exhibit, which the Assyrian Cultural and Social Youth Association had organised. The theme of the exhibit was to raise awareness of post-empire Assyria. I thank Miss Melanie Alkhas, who was the compere of the formalities that were attended by local, State and Federal representatives. I acknowledge the organisers and volunteers who made the festival a success. I congratulate Mr Hermiz Shahen, the Deputy Secretary General of the AUA, and Mr David David from the AANF on being the driving forces behind the festival.

During the event a number of awards were presented. The 2018 Young Australian Assyrian of the Year Award was presented to the Assyrian Cultural and Social Youth Association. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, AM, Metropolitan was awarded the Australian Assyrian of the Year Award and the Friend of Assyria Award went to Dr Paul Burgis. I wish the Assyrian community happy new year 6768.

VOLUNTEER MUSICIAN JOHN STEVENS

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (13:18): As Plato once said, "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." John Stevens loves making music and since 1999 has been entertaining the Albury community at local retirement, nursing and aged-care homes. John's volunteer music program is a great hit at the numerous venues he visits as he brings back many nostalgic memories for residents through the variety of music he performs, which ranges from singalong and classical to movie and folk music. I congratulate John on his commitment to entertaining and his dedication to bringing music and memories to so many seniors.

CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE SCHOOL LEADERS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:19): I congratulate the school leaders of the high schools in my electorate: Warners Bay High School, St Pius X Adamstown High School, Cardiff High School, Kotara High School, Hunter Sports High School, Whitebridge High School and St Mary's College, Gateshead. These students attended the annual school leaders morning tea, which I recently co-hosted with the Federal member for Shortland, Pat Conroy, in my office. Democratic leadership at all levels is an important and valued trait of our community and is something to be celebrated. At the morning tea, the young leaders participated in a group discussion regarding leadership qualities and values. These young people demonstrated outstanding maturity and insight into their roles as elected representatives. I wish them all the best in the year ahead. I thank the teachers and students who attended and look forward to hosting the event again next year.

HOLI FESTIVAL

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (13:20): The Holi celebration, more commonly referred to as the festival of colours, celebrates the opportunity to meet new friends, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships through the amusing activity of colour throwing. The festival is unique to the subcontinental community. The colour throwing is a symbolic statement that once we are covered in countless colours we all look the same and become one. On Saturday 24 February, I had the pleasure of joining my dear friend Mohit Kumar of the Council of Indian Australians at the Plaza Park in The Ponds to celebrate this deeply treasured cultural festivity. I thank Mohit for the opportunity to revel in a day of colour and promote community harmony across our great State.

BLUE MOUNTAINS NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (13:21): On Saturday 8 April, I attended the opening ceremony of the 2018 winter competition with the Blue Mountains Netball Association. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of netball in the Blue Mountains. Among the netball community and all of its families across the mountains was the wonderful Carmel Higgins, who was recently awarded 2018 Blue Mountains Citizen of the Year. I look forward to joining her and others in the new walking netball initiative. The girls in the march-past

were fantastic representatives of their clubs and association. Today in Parliament I honour the clubs: Blaxland Redbacks, Blaxland Warrimoo, Faulconbridge, Lapstone/Glenbrook, Katoomba, Mid Mountains, Panthers Premier League, Springwood District and St Finbars. Thanks to president extraordinaire Mrs Alison Yates and the fantastic executive committee, particularly the stalwart Jenny Walker, who ensure that everyone is welcomed and organised and enjoys their sport.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDALLIST BRAD WOODWARD

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:21): Congratulations to Central Coast local Brad Woodward—or Woody, as he is more commonly known—for last night beating his personal best and scoring a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games 200-metre backstroke. It was an Aussie trifecta for that race, with fellow Australians Mitch Larkin from Queensland receiving the gold and Josh Beaver from Victoria receiving the bronze. This is Brad's Commonwealth Games debut. He has enjoyed enormous success over the last few days, having also won a silver medal in the 100-metre backstroke. Brad is a 19-year-old surf lifesaver at Shelly Beach on the Central Coast and trains at the nearby Mingara One pool complex. Congratulations again to Brad on his amazing performance in the pool. Thousands of fans on the Central Coast have been cheering him on. As a former backstroker, it was fantastic to watch him competing in both of those races.

CENTRAL COAST PENINSULA PETROL PRICES

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:22): I love the Central Coast peninsula, which encompasses Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Blackwall and Booker Bay. It is where I live, work, play and shop. It is home to approximately 35,000 people and has the highest population of over-80-year-olds in Australia. The peninsula is a model for future Aussies as we age—except that on the peninsula we are ripped off on our petrol. People who live on the Central Coast peninsula are surrounded by water on three sides and are connected by a bridge to Gosford, Empire Bay and a trek through the national park to Kariong.

The five petrol stations on the peninsula are known to often charge 30¢ a litre more than the cost of petrol at nearby suburbs, knowing full well that many of our pensioners have restricted licences and cannot drive out of the peninsula area. Life was made even worse when the Government shut our local Roads and Maritime Services office. According to the Government app, the area regularly rates in the top five for areas with high petrol prices in New South Wales. I commend and support the local community for their decision to shop off the peninsula for their fuel in order to get a better deal. Hopefully, the petrol companies will listen to the people, realise that we are not a captive community and can shop elsewhere, and reduce the extremely high prices.

REGIONAL SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:23): Local sporting facilities are important places for communities to gather, to play and to stay active together. I am pleased that the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils [NSROC] has performed a thorough review of regional sportsgrounds management. Recently I attended the strategy review launch, together with the Minister for Local Government, Gabrielle Upton, the member for Ku-ring-gai, Alister Henskens, and numerous local mayors and councillors. The report identifies a shortfall of sportsgrounds in northern Sydney and a need to increase current supply capacity by approximately 26 per cent, equalling 62 hectares of playing space, by 2026. There is also an ongoing need for State government agencies and local councils to work in partnership to develop more local sports areas, particularly in high-density zones. I congratulate NSROC and all involved on assembling this timely and useful resource. I note happily that the State Government announced this week a \$120 million boost for open spaces and the creation of more inclusive playgrounds.

SEAHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:24): The students elected to parliament at Seaham Public School would not feel out of place in this Chamber. The school parliament comes complete with a prime minister, governor general, opposition leader and speaker and even a serjeant-at-arms for unruly members. Recently I was honoured to attend the opening of the school parliament. I congratulate the school parliament's Prime Minister Ash Wade and Opposition leader Charli Codrington and the many Ministers and shadow Ministers for the portfolios of sport and recreation, Josh Ferry and Joe Batchelor; technology, Travis Charlton and Marc Walker; education, Zac Tomkins and Luke Young; health, Alana Johnson and Clair Harding; student welfare, Tommy Melia and Dylan Salter; functions and finance, Isis Sullivan and Asha Collins; and environment, Ella Lucas and Bailee Lucas. The team is ably assisted by Speaker Clare Moir. Other roles in the school parliament are filled by Max Leggett, Jye Auld, James Jacobs, Bridie Gillon, and Ben Moroney. I thank Principal Craig Partridge and the school staff for supporting such a terrific initiative.

ANZAC MEMORIAL CENTENARY PROJECT

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:25): I congratulate St Aloysius College on its participation in the Anzac Memorial Centenary Project. As we approach the 100th anniversary of the First World War, the New South Wales Government is enhancing the Anzac Memorial. This will allow the memorial to tell the stories of our State's involvement in all wars and peacekeeping missions and to honour those who have served. As part of the centenary project, artist Fiona Hall has devised a public art project to include soil samples collected by local residents from every town, suburb and locality around New South Wales that enlistees for the First World War gave as their place of residence. I recently joined Father Ross Jones, principal Mark Tannock, John Williams, Joe El-Khoury, Murray Happ, Neville Williams, Hamish Bragg, Josh Levy, Michele Curtin and Oliver Boyle at the St Aloysius College Junior School campus, which was once the Milsons Point Public School campus, for a moving ceremony where soil, which was destined to become part of the public art project in the Anzac Memorial, was removed and blessed. May we never forget the sacrifice that young men and women have made for this nation.

COMMONWEALTH BANK TEACHING AWARDS RECIPIENT JOHN GOH

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:26): Principal John Goh of Merrylands East Public School was recognised recently as one of 12 recipients of the 2018 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards, having been selected from more than 400 educators from across the country. The awards were created to recognise and reward great teachers and principals, especially those who work in challenging and socially diverse communities. John's school is culturally diverse, with 85 per cent of its approximately 380 students coming from a non-English speaking background. John is passionate about the use of technology in learning and student engagement and has developed an amazing partnership between the school and Atlassian. He used Gonski funding to introduce hearing and speech pathologists, an occupational therapist and a community nurse to address issues ranging from hearing problems to a poor pencil grip. Correcting these basics will set up students for life, and will help them to avoid hand cramps when writing. I congratulate Mr Goh, all his hardworking staff and the wider school community.

ENVIRONMENTALIST MANFRED KOCH

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (13:27): Today I acknowledge the lifelong work of Manfred Koch. Manfred is the author of several books about nutrition and has a lifelong interest in both natural and river health. He is also passionate about stormwater systems and reducing street litter from entering stormwater drains. Manfred has been working tirelessly for the past decade to help draft legislation to reduce the amount of litter that enters our marine environments. He has spent years studying the effects on marine life from litter flowing out to sea from stormwater drains. I pay tribute to Manfred's continued enthusiasm for environmentalism, as well as his many efforts to reduce litter in our waterways and oceans.

MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE SENIORS EXPO

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:28): For the past 60 years the New South Wales Seniors Festival has encouraged seniors to be active, social and healthy and has provided an opportunity for seniors to get involved in their communities. Last Saturday I opened the Seniors Expo, hosted by the Quota International Club of Forster Tuncurry. The club was awarded a \$1,000 grant by the New South Wales Seniors Festival Committee. The expo featured representatives from more than 30 local organisations, including the Probus club, the croquet club, the men's shed, the art society, the Country Women's Association, Dune Care, the pink ladies, the Great Lakes Hospice and the Forster Digital Photography Club. I make special mention of club president Elizabeth Fisher, who had the original idea and applied for the grant; Christine Armstrong, the efficient secretary who put in a tremendous amount of work; Pam Bowen, the catering manager who ran the café and provided a wonderful selection of sandwiches, cakes and slices; and all the Quota club members in their blue shirts who contributed to the success of the day.

NEWCASTLE JETS PLAYER CASSIDY DAVIS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:29): I bring to the attention of the House the outstanding sporting achievements of my constituent Cassidy Davis. I am sure that Temporary Speaker Hornery knows all about her. At the age of 18 Cassidy signed with the Newcastle Jets for their 2013-14 season and has proven to be a consistent and integral player to the squad year after year. Cassidy's achievements include being named the Westfield Women's League Newcastle Jets Player as well as the 2018 Coach and Player of the Women's Premier League Warners Bay. Passionate about both football and teaching, Cassidy, when not busy completing her education degree, spends the off-season coaching two development squads at the New Lambton Football Club. This year, Cassidy is a Rebel Football Week Ambassador—with good reason. She is a real go-getter who is proud to represent her hometown. Her community is proud that she is doing so.

YOUNG INNOVATORS DELEGATE FINLAY CAMPBELL

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (13:30): Congratulations to Finlay Campbell of Albury, who this month has been selected to join a Young Innovators Delegation to San Francisco for a tour of some of the top technology companies in America, including Facebook, Google, Twitter and Rocket Lab. Finlay, who is a year 10 student at the Trinity Anglican College, Thurgoona, will be joining 11 students from other countries for the two-week tour. Finlay and his school friend Thomas Summerfield created a music streaming platform called Defani One. What a wonderful achievement for a 15-year-old student. We hope you enjoy the experience, Finlay, and that it assists in your choice of career.

DISABILITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:31): I recognise and thank the hundreds of people with disabilities, their supporters and their advocates, who attended Parliament House today to have their voices heard. I pay particular respect to Serena Ovens, Matthew Bowden, Cecile Elder, Mark Grierson, Jim Simpson and Diana Palmer for their constant hard work and effort on behalf of the Disability Advocacy Alliance, which was formed to support people with disabilities and to organise funding going forward for disability advocacy services in New South Wales.

I particularly acknowledge my colleagues the member for Canterbury, Sophie Cotsis, and the member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch, for standing by the Disability Advocacy Alliance from its beginning. I pay special tribute to the Leader of the Opposition, Luke Foley, for committing Labor today to funding disability advocacy services in New South Wales in perpetuity. Recognition of disability advocacy was a battle that was partly won today, but there is so much more to do.

KINCUMBER VILLAGE ROAD UPGRADE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:32): I draw to the attention of the House the upgrade of a very important roundabout in my electorate of Terrigal at the intersection of Empire Bay Drive, The Scenic Road, and Cochrone Street in Kincumber. Approximately 25,000 cars pass through this intersection every single day. During peak times, traffic banks back for several kilometres. In fact, more often than not, I am one of the unlucky drivers stuck in that traffic. I am pleased to inform the House that on 19 March the final round of community consultation was opened before the design is finalised, and construction commences within months.

Following a very successful community drop-in session at the Kincumber Village shops last Thursday, there have been 25 submissions to Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] so far. I thank all local people who have provided their valuable feedback through that process. This project was an election commitment that I made to our community. I look forward to continuing to work with RMS and our fantastic Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, to ensure that construction begins as soon as possible on this very worthwhile project.

LAKE ILLAWARRA HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL DISPLAY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (13:33): I bring to the attention of the House the recent achievements of the Lake Illawarra High School's agricultural students. Lake Illawarra High School recently represented the southern region in the Schools District Display category at the 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show. Lake Illawarra High School competed against four other schools from across the State in that category, and ultimately claimed the first prize for its display. The display was put together by year 10 agricultural students from the school and was made out of produce such as peas, lentils, grains and seeds. The students had been working on the display since the beginning of the year and all of their hard work undoubtedly paid off. On behalf of our community, I congratulate each and every one of the students and teachers at the Lake Illawarra High School who helped with this display. The award is a fantastic achievement, and you should all be incredibly proud of your efforts.

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:34): The Forestville RSL Club Dance and Social Section recently celebrated its twenty-fifth silver anniversary with an evening of dining and dancing. The event was held in the auditorium of the Forestville RSL Club and was attended by 65 members of the Forestville RSL Club Dance and Social Section and some visiting members of the Hornsby dance club. The Forestville RSL Club Dance and Social Section holds dances open to the public on Wednesday nights and themed dinner dances every second month. I commend the Dance and Social Section President Ray O'Brien and his wife Betty for their longstanding service, which began when the Dance and Social Section held its inaugural meeting on 9 December 1992. Ralph and Lillian Schubert, two of my constituents, are also members of the Dance and Social Section, and were

recently pictured in a *Manly Daily* article on the group. I congratulate all involved in the Dance and Social Section's long history and wish them well for the future.

CHARLIE'S RUN 4 KIDS FUNDRAISER

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:34): I recognise the outstanding fundraising efforts of Cheyne Waddingham. Cheyne is the founder of Charlie's Run 4 Kids, an initiative which raises funds for young children who are battling serious illness. Cheyne's group runs 150 kilometres from Seal Rocks to Dudley each November and has raised more than \$450,000 so far. During the first year of Charlie's Run 4 Kids, Cheyne's group raised \$39,000 for the John Hunter Children's Hospital paediatric oncology unit to assist with the refurbishing of rooms. This year the run will go from 1 November to 5 November to raise funds for little Logan Taylor, a four-year old undergoing treatment for medulloblastoma—a brain cancer that has also spread down his spine. Cheyne's commitment to fundraising for sick kids is truly inspiring to our community. Keep up the great work, Cheyne.

COMBINED AUSTRALIAN HANSA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITORS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:35): I congratulate the Middle Harbour Yacht Club on its strong participation in the 2018 Combined Australian Hansa Class Championships, which was held at Kogarah Bay Sailing Club over the Easter long weekend. Competitors from seven States and Territories, Japan and New Zealand travelled to take part in the competition. Middle Harbour Yacht Club came away as the South Wales champion in two classes and took two podium places in the national championships. Lachlan Clear returned to competition in the *Liberty* to finish third in the 11 boat Australian championships fleet and claimed the New South Wales championship.

Two sailors from Sailability Middle Harbour, Natasha Garrity and Chester Bendall, competed in the national championships for their first regatta, after only a couple of practice runs at Sunday afternoon club racing. Chester sailed in the Hansa 303 one-person competition, finishing a creditable twentieth. Natasha combined with past two-person champion David Staley to win the Hansa 303 two-person New South Wales championship and finished second in the Australian championship. David also sailed in the Hansa 303 one-person competition, finishing fourth in the national championship and second in the New South Wales championship. I congratulate the club members and directors, Andrew Hurt, Neil Padden, Phil Clinton, Peter Lewis, John McCuaig, Nigel Smyth and Greg Young, on their endeavours.

CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE SCHOOLS LITERACY AND NUMERACY RESULTS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:37): I highlight the outstanding efforts of the teachers of Hillsborough Public School, Kotara High School and St Mary's Catholic College. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has identified students at these schools as having achieved substantially above average gains, compared to the national average, in their National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy results. I was pleased but not at all surprised to be notified that these schools had shown significant improvement compared with other schools with similar socio-educational backgrounds and compared with students with the same starting score. The teaching staff and principals at these schools have been working hard to improve the students' educational performance, focusing on using the best possible tools and working with individual students so they could achieve their full potential. Good results are achieved when the learning environment is right, and that environment is set by teachers, students and families in the classroom and at home. I congratulate teachers, students, and families at Hillsborough Public School, Kotara High School and St Mary's Catholic College.

NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:38): It was a great honour to present the NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards and recognise those in the Myall Lakes electorate who contribute to making our community the wonderful place it is to live. Patricia Trotter of Taree has given 17 years of service to the Taree Rescue Squad. Patricia dedicates time to fundraising days and conferences, along with ensuring the wellbeing of members after attending road accidents. At 81, Herbert Blackley is still a showman. He has been singing and entertaining at senior citizens associations, nursing homes and charities for the past 20 years. Jack Weekes of Tinonee is 83 and still out and about with Meals on Wheels. He assists with grounds work at Manning Adventist School. Wingham resident Anne Gribble has spent a lifetime helping the Country Women's Association, Australian Red Cross and Wingham Court auxiliary. Every Christmas, Anne bakes Christmas puddings for the stalls and during the year supplies the stalls with homemade jams and pickles.

NATIONAL ATHLETICS COMPETITION WINNER HUGH SHARMAN

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:39): Today I congratulate all-round junior sports star Mr Hugh Sharman on his outstanding success in recent State and national athletics competitions. Hugh, who is 14 years old and lives in Redhead, performed brilliantly and made the Hunter proud at the 2018 Australian Junior Athletics Championships and at the Little Athletics NSW State Championships, both held in March this year. Hugh took home a silver medal at both events in the 100 metres, running a personal best time of 11.39 seconds during the under 15s national final. Hugh was also in the Knights junior rugby league squad over the summer. With limited training for the meets, he also managed to take home bronze in the under 15s national long jump with a jump of six metres. I congratulate Hugh on a stellar performance. I am sure we will be hearing about his sporting achievements for many years to come.

ACTIVE KIDS REBATE PROGRAM

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:39): I update the House on the fantastic Active Kids Rebate program right across the Central Coast. I am very pleased that the communities in the Terrigal electorate are leading the way on the Central Coast, with new figures showing a huge 7,100 vouchers have now been claimed, compared with 6,634 in the Wyong electorate, 5,327 in the Gosford electorate and 4,819 in The Entrance electorate. As I have said before, this is a great new initiative from the State Liberal Government, which was rolled out on 31 January. With the beginning of the winter sports season last weekend, I encourage all families across the Central Coast to ensure they have claimed their Active Kids Rebate. This great program provides \$100 per school-aged child per year towards sporting and recreation costs. Not only does it relieve cost of living pressures for our hardworking families but it also encourages kids to get more active and involved in physical activity. We know that active kids are happy kids.

SHELL COVE PUBLIC SCHOOL FETE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (13:41): I congratulate Shell Cove Public School, a school within my electorate that has a fantastic parents and citizens committee. I congratulate the parents and citizens committee and all the parents and teachers who participated this weekend in the end of summer school fete held at the iconic The Farm, which is located in the Killalea State Park. The fete was well attended by students, their parents, grandparents and friends, and by the broader community. There were markets and games, and a dunking station, which luckily I did not have to participate in. It was a fantastic day—the weather was perfect—and much-needed funds were raised for the school. I extend my congratulations to the parents and citizens committee, the teachers and the students, who truly do live and thrive in a beautiful school environment.

FORESTVILLE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:42): Motorists and pedestrians making their way through the Warringah Road and Starkey Street intersection at Forestville can now enjoy a safer and smoother trip with a new pedestrian bridge delivered three months ahead of schedule. The installation of this new bridge and the completion of the intersection upgrade is great news for the community, who can now cross Warringah Road more safely and enjoy improved access to public transport. The essential intersection upgrade, funded by the New South Wales State Government, has also improved traffic flow for the more than 80,000 vehicles that use the intersection each day by removing the existing pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights on the western side of the intersection of Warringah Road and Starkey Street.

A number of key features of the pedestrian bridge and surrounds will serve the community for years to come. Those features include new lifts accommodating up to 15 passengers as well as scooters, bicycles and prams; access via curved stairs; new bicycle racks installed on both sides of the bridge near the lifts; new fencing at the intersection along the centre median strip; better footpaths near the bridge and bus stops; safety fencing, throw screens and a protective roof over the pedestrian bridge; and the relocation of the eastbound bus stop and shelter to the eastern side of the intersection.

GLENROCK VOLUNTEER WORK GROUP

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:43): Today I recognise the work of Glenrock Volunteer Work Group, which is a bit like a men's shed. The volunteers care for the beautiful space that is Glenrock Scout Camp at the northern tip of my electorate. Glenrock Scout Camp is in Glenrock State Conservation Area, an area used for camping and weekend activities, not just by scouts but also by local schools for activities such as band camps, as well as by community groups from right across New South Wales. Glenrock Volunteer Work Group was recently successful in achieving Community Building Partnership money to build a storage shed for all their large gardening equipment and tractors. They have done a wonderful job of building that shed and I certainly take my hat off to them.

**OCEANIA AND AUSTRALIAN LASER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PARTICIPANT
CHARLOTTE ALEXANDER**

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:44): Today I acknowledge Charlotte Alexander of Loreto Kirribilli, who competes keenly in sailing competitions which require extraordinary levels of dedication and commitment. Over the summer, Charlotte competed in the Oceania and Australian Laser National Championships at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron as part of her training for the larger team boat she races competitively in for the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. The regatta held eight days of racing in a variety of conditions and 75 competitors took part in the Laser Radial Division. It was tough racing in a fleet of Masters sailors, open sailors and youth sailors. Charlotte was ranked seventh Female Youth Sailor at the end of the regatta.

She was also selected as one of the five crew members to represent Australia and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at three of the elite Youth Match Race Program's biggest events for the year: the Hardy Cup International Youth Match Racing Championships, the Nespresso International Youth Match Racing Championships and the Centreport International Youth Match Racing Championships. This was a new team that competed against men's teams and international champions and they made it through to the quarter finals, which was an amazing achievement. My sincerest congratulations go to Charlotte.

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

Visitors

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to Mr Ed Wilson and Mr David Milton, guests of the Government Whip, and member for Camden. I also welcome to the Chamber Elijah Israel from North Ryde Public School, guest of the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure, and member for Oatley. I acknowledge in the gallery Laura Butler, who is currently being mentored by the Hon. Courtney Houssos, MLC, as part of the UNSW Arts & Social Science Career Ready Mentoring Program, guest of the member for Lakemba. I also acknowledge and welcome to the Chamber a delegation from the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance.

Commemorations

CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (14:21): In just two days in late March 1918, the German army overwhelmed Allied forces with artillery and gas, and reclaimed almost all the territory in the Somme region they had relinquished over the preceding two years. They were prevented from consolidating their gains, however, by the extraordinary actions of Australian troops at the town of Villers-Bretonneux. In defending the town on 5 April, the 9th Australian Brigade suffered nearly 700 casualties, almost a third of their number. Their efforts, however, halted the fortnight-long German advance towards Amiens. When the Germans seized Villers-Bretonneux on 24 April in a sudden resumption of their offensive, two Australian brigades were enlisted for an immediate counterattack. The manoeuvre involved the Australians encircling and trapping the Germans in surprise attacks from the north and south under the cover of darkness with no artillery support.

Before dawn, on the third anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, the Australians broke through the German positions, but at horrific cost. Of the nearly 4,000 Anzacs involved in the battle, more than half were killed or wounded. With their sacrifice, the town was recaptured and the German offensive on the Somme finally ended. The people of Villers-Bretonneux later presented a plaque to Australian personnel. The town's mayor declared: "Soldiers of Australia, whose brothers lie here in French soil, be assured that your memory will always be kept alive, and that the burial places of your dead will always be respected and cared for." Today Villers-Bretonneux is the site of the Australian National Memorial for the casualties of the Western Front and the Sir John Monash Centre, which will open on Anzac Day this year. Lest we forget.

*Bills***JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018****PROPERTY, STOCK AND BUSINESS AGENTS AMENDMENT (PROPERTY INDUSTRY REFORM) BILL 2017****SAINT JOHN'S COLLEGE BILL 2017****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****STATE DEBT RECOVERY BILL 2017****WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL 2018****Assent**

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

*Question Time***SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT**

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:23): My question is directed to the Premier. When the Premier announced the awarding of the contract for the Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail in 2014, she issued a press release claiming that major construction would finish in 2018. Will the Premier confirm that, at the current rate of progress, her pet project is on track to be delivered in the 2020s?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:24): I will get to light rail in a second, but on Friday the Leader of the Opposition announced that he was going to put priority for the west metro. The only problem is that in 2010 the Labor Party had to give \$80 million back to the Federal Government because it had not planned for the west metro—and that is just the tip of the iceberg. We also know that when it comes to metros—because again it is relevant to this issue of infrastructure—the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Luke Foley: Talk about anything but light rail, Gladys. Don't talk about light rail.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I am getting to that—don't you worry. The last time those opposite were involved in a metro, they wasted half a billion dollars with nothing to show for it. Don't we all remember the CBD to Rozelle metro? Don't we remember that project: half a billion dollars and not a single thing to show for it? The Leader of the Opposition talks about light rail. I am getting to light rail.

Mr Luke Foley: Point of order: You are wasting \$3 billion on light rail and businesses are going broke, so why do you not talk about that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The Leader of the Opposition refers to light rail as a vanity project—"a project only for hipsters" is what he says. This is what is really interesting: I place on the record that not only do I support light rail but I support it with every bone my body because it is in the best interests of the people of New South Wales. Last week the Minister, Tanya Davies, and I were able to participate in a seniors concert. I asked all of them: "How did you get to the concert?"

Mr Paul Lynch: Not through light rail.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Actually, they did. Many of them from Newcastle and the Central Coast told me that they caught the train to Central and then got the light rail to the convention centre. I even spoke to people from Western Sydney.

Mr Guy Zangari: That is a first.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I talk to them more than the member for Fairfield does, and I have stories on that, but that is another story. Here we had seniors telling us how much they enjoyed using the light rail.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Don't those opposite like me talking about light rail?

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: It is 129. The question was specifically about when the CBD and South East Light Rail will be completed. If she does not know, she should just say she does not know. What is the date?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As I was talking about light rail, when we came to government, those opposite were talking a lot about the inner west light rail. They wanted us to build it. When we came to government, we had to tear up the rail that they had put down and start the project from scratch, and now we have commuters using that light rail and they love it.

Mr Jamie Parker: They love it.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Jamie Parker is there to confirm they love it, and any member in the inner west knows that they love it. And guess what? When the CBD Sydney—

Ms Jodi McKay: You have one minute and 20 seconds to tell us when it will be opened. When will it be opened?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Why don't you ask me a question?

Ms Jodi McKay: That was the question. Have you forgotten the question?

Mr Tim Crakanthorp: Answer the question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: And the member for Newcastle interjects. First of all he says he does not want the Newcastle light rail; now he says, "Build more of it."

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: It is 129. We have 47 seconds left. The question is about CBD and South East Light Rail and when it will be opened.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Premier has been relevant to the question she was asked. She has been talking about light rail. The member for Strathfield will resume her seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: All that information is on the public record. Why do those opposite not look it up? It is on the interweb. I find it very ironic because when those opposite were in government they could not stop talking about light rail—but were they able to lay a single track? No. I say to the people of New South Wales: Whether it is light rail, heavy rail or metro rail, we on this side are committed to building infrastructure that the people of this great State want and need.

URBAN GREEN SPACE

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (14:29): My question is addressed to the Premier. What is the New South Wales Government doing to ensure communities have access to abundant open and green spaces so that they can enjoy the best quality of life?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:29): It is a good segue from my previous response, because—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. Members will come to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I thank the member for Seven Hills for asking me this question—a very good question—because I know even those opposite who do not accept it publicly will note that this is great policy that we announced yesterday, the beginning of a policy that will ensure our communities have all the open space and green space that they need, and the upgraded playgrounds. Today I was very pleased to announce with the Minister for Education that over the school holidays, over next fortnight, at least 80 public schools will be open to the public. This is a new policy which we have piloted previously over the summer break. We are hoping to make this a permanent fixture, because we know no matter which suburb people live in, they always crave the open spaces. But of course we do this—

Mr Ryan Park: We appreciate it. Thank you. We announced it a few years ago, that is all.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Excuse me?

Mr Ryan Park: We announced it a few years ago.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: And you never did it—that is the problem, buddy.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order. The member for Keira will resume his seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: That is the whole problem. They announce a lot of things and they do not actually do them. We get on and actually do it.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is a Dorothy Dixier, for heaven's sake.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Keira will address his point of order to the Chair.

Mr Ryan Park: I have said it 15 times.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you have not. The member for Keira will resume his seat.

Mr RYAN PARK: You are in government; we are in opposition. I know it is difficult, but you are in government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I place the member for Keira on three calls to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The shadow Treasurer needs to keep reminding us we are in government, they are in opposition—and don't we want it to stay like that? But I think that is the first time any member in this place has taken a point of order on a question from the Government, but anyway, we will keep going. Those opposite say now we need more open space—of course we do—which is why we announced our policies yesterday, today and will continue to do so. They want us to forget their part 3A policies—remember those part 3As? No consultation with the local community, rubberstamping overdevelopment—that was the Labor way. Not only did they impose part 3A on the community, but they failed to build the roads, the rail, the schools and the hospitals that our communities need. They failed to do all that.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We came into government and we fixed up our budget. We inherited deficits and debt from those opposite—we have fixed all that. We have inherited an infrastructure backlog of tens of billions of dollars, and we are addressing that. And now the next stage is we know what our communities crave: It is not just the infrastructure—the schools and hospitals, the roads and rail. They also want to have livable communities. They want to know that their children and community can benefit from the open and green spaces. That is why—

[Interruption]

Those opposite do not like to hear about this stuff, do they? They are very sensitive. We are very pleased that yesterday we were able to announce a \$290 million package. I thank the Minister for Planning because his department will ensure and oversee that not only do we upgrade and enhance at least 200 playgrounds across greater Sydney and New South Wales but that, where possible, we will actually purchase land and give it back to the community.

[Interruption]

In my experience interjections always increase when those opposite are very sensitive about a topic. Not only is this a government that delivers a strong economy and infrastructure, it is a government that also delivers those things that matter most to our communities. We know that livability and open space are so important, and this Government is pleased to provide that. *[Extension of time]*

I am very pleased to say—I know the members for Mulgoa and Penrith, in particular, are interested to know—that recently the Department of Planning and Environment purchased some space in Western Sydney, which the Government has returned to the community. The historic Fernhill Estate in Mulgoa is now secured for future green space. The extension of the Western Sydney Parklands was achieved by this Government acquiring more than 81 hectares of land, securing it as open space. The Government has also dedicated 16 hectares of land in West Hoxton, because the Government knows that it is important. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The Government knows that not only does its communities want a competent government that can manage the economy and build infrastructure, they also want a government that cares about the community and that cares about amenity, and that is exactly what they have.

SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (14:36): My question is directed to the Premier. Given that the Auditor-General found that the Government's \$539-million blowout on the CBD Light Rail project was caused by omissions, errors and mispricings, and not from customer enhancements as the Premier erroneously claimed, was it not inevitable that the Government would eventually be sued for misleading and deceptive conduct, which that is?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:36): After being in opposition for how many years those opposite still ask the same questions. Those opposite asked me this question last year, or whenever it was.

Mr Michael Daley: You never answered it.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Calm down. I say to those opposite: The Government will continue to deliver those projects they could never deliver. The member for Maroubra used to lobby me up and down the corridor saying, "Will you get the light rail to Maroubra?"

Mr Michael Daley: Not once.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Rubbish! He does not have to take my word for it; members can read the member for Maroubra's local paper, which talks about Maroubra missing out on the light rail. That is the Labor Party: It will take whatever is the convenient political message of the day. It does not care about infrastructure. What it defines as a transport policy is axing a transport project. So far it has axed the Metro South West. Why should people in Bankstown not have high-quality metro rail?

Ms Jodi McKay: They don't want it.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The shadow Minister for Transport says, "They don't want it." I went to a chamber of commerce function, where there were about 300 people in the room urging me to build the Metro South West. The member for Bankstown was there; she witnessed it. She was at the function. Those opposite say they want to build the Metro West, but one needs a network of metro to build the Metro West. A second harbour rail crossing needs to be built, which those opposite say they do not support. In the road space, the M4 extension is needed, as are the M5 duplication and the M4-M5 Link. Light rail is needed in Sydney, Newcastle and Parramatta. The West Harbour Tunnel and the Beaches Link are needed. These are all projects that those opposite have said they will axe. That is how much they care about infrastructure. During Labor's 16 years in office, the Government has already built—

Ms Jodi McKay: You haven't opened anything.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Has the member ever heard of the South West Rail Link? This Government built that project, which is six months early and \$300 million under budget. Has she heard of the Inner West light rail project? Has she heard about all the other projects we are building? I think the member for Strathfield needs to do a bit more homework.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the Member for Strathfield to order for the first time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I do not know where the member for Strathfield was at the time, but I recall one of my proudest moments as a Minister was when I opened the South West Rail Link, a rail line that will benefit so many communities. So far, Labor has axed seven transport and roads policies. That is the response of those opposite.

Mr Michael Daley: Rubbish!

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The member for Maroubra says, "Rubbish!" He made a statement on each of those projects and why they should not happen. He says "Rubbish!" now. He should clarify his position and tell us what it is.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: Would you ask the Premier to direct her comments through the Chair?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! What is the member's point of order? Do not wave your finger at me.

Ms Jodi McKay: The Premier should direct her comments through you, out of respect for you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Premier to direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I will. So far the Government has opened the Inner West light rail extension and the South West Rail Link. The Government is building the North West Rail Link, the second harbour rail crossing and the metro down to the south.

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order—

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: That is a long way from Cessnock.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it is. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Clayton Barr: My point of order is Standing Order 129. The question was about the Auditor-General's report and the misleading comments that had been made at the time and subsequent to that. I ask you to call the Premier back to the question instead of the fantasyland she is currently entertaining.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member was doing well until his last sentence. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: In 16 years Labor promised about 12 different rail lines. Those opposite promised a Parramatta rail line, but it only made it to Epping.

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND

Mr AUSTIN EVANS (Murray) (14:41): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. How is the New South Wales Government helping regional communities become better places to live and work?

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:41): I thank the member for Murray for his great question. He is someone who advocates for regional New South Wales. Many of us who live in regional New South Wales know we live in some of the greatest parts of the State. We have great communities, cities and towns, with families that are close, great businesses and a great environment—everything about country living that we would not swap for anything in the city. For all of us we cannot spend much more time advocating or promoting how fantastic regional New South Wales is. Of course, there is always more that the Government can do.

The question from the member for Murray is about what the Government can do to make sure that regional communities have in place fantastic amenities and investment in our communities that make them a great place to live, raise a family, call home and work. I congratulate the member for Murray on his hard work through the Stronger Country Communities Fund, which has invested \$1 million in the central business district [CBD] precinct of Leeton, a fantastic regional town in the Riverina. I must confess, my wife grew up there. Her grandparents are there and we still visit Leeton. It was built off the back of strong migration in the day—rice farmers. Other agriculture came out of the area. The Stronger Country Communities Fund, advocated and fought for by the member for Murray, works with local government.

Part of the New South Wales Government's commitment is to work with local government to ensure that we deliver great places and great communities, and invest in the amenities that make a difference. The rejuvenation of the Leeton CBD is fantastic. The initial announcement for the Stronger Country Communities Fund was for \$200 million, but because the Government saw the take-up very early on it added another \$100 million. We now have a \$300-million fund working with local government areas across the State. Rather than decisions being made in Macquarie Street by government and bureaucrats, the fund returns the power to the people, which is fantastic and something I am proud of. The Government is giving communities a say in the projects they would like funded.

We encourage community groups to work with councils to lodge their projects with the Government, work with their local member and identify those fantastic projects such as footpaths, playgrounds, community amenities, sporting fields and cultural areas that make our communities fantastic places. We have been able to bring people to that decision-making part of the process. Anyone in that community has an opportunity to support, vote for and encourage a project. I think that has been the success of the program thus far. Why? Because the Government is delivering amenities and projects that the community wants—not what the Government wants, but what the community wants—and, more importantly, that will help the community grow into the future.

In round one across the State, members are making significant announcements, regardless of where they are. In the electorate of Cootamundra there have been some significant announcements: \$153,000 for the refurbishment of the Woodstock war memorial; \$334,000 for the restoration and renovation of the Gooloogong Log Cabin; and \$768,000 for the revitalisation of Grenfell's Main Street. In addition, the Viaduct Park Youth Recreation Hub—including a state-of-the-art skate park—will receive almost \$1 million from the New South Wales Government. In the electorate of Murray, \$486,000 for the Griffith Memorial Park upgrade. I have mentioned Leeton. In the Northern Tablelands electorate, \$229,000 for the Bingara Swimming Pool improvements and \$325,000 for the Wialda Memorial Hall upgrade.

The member for Goulburn is looking at me, "Where are the Liberal seats?" In Oxley, \$357,000 for the extension of the coastal pedestrian walkway at Horseshoe Bay, South West Rocks; in Dubbo, \$800,000 for the new outdoor water park near Mudgee; in Port Macquarie, \$434,000 for the sporting fields improvement program; and in Barwon, \$295,000 for the skate park at Lake Cargelligo. I could go on. Already, I can hear those opposite saying, "This is all about Nats seats. Nats seats, Nats seats, Nats seats." They are calling out, "Pork-barrelling!" They are saying, "Bara, this is pork-barrelling for the Nats! The Nats seats, the Nats seats." I say to those opposite that unlike the previous Labor Government, which took money out of the regions and sandbagged the Sydney

electorates that they were competing for against The Greens, the Government's program is about regional New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

This is not about Labor electorates or National Party electorates or Liberal electorates or The Greens electorates; it is about the communities that we represent and that we are so passionate about. For example, in Ballina, a shared pathway along the coastline has been installed for \$880,000. I appreciate that the member for Ballina says, "Thank you." In Orange, we see significant announcements, such as the Forbes Community Men's Shed, \$231,000; shared mobility access pathways at Manildra and Mullion Creek, \$271,000; upgrade of existing amenities at Central Coast Stadium in Gosford, \$700,000; playground shade programs for playgrounds in Cessnock, \$225,000; the new cycleway on the Cessnock Road in Maitland, \$950,000; construction of a recreational precinct at Robinson Reserve in Anna Bay in Port Stephens, \$700,000; and new playgrounds in Swansea, \$309,000.

It goes on and on. The member of Lake Macquarie says thank you for the community hall rejuvenation—\$800,000. I know there is no question that country Labor members are working quietly behind the scenes to make sure that the Liberals and Nationals are re-elected, because we are looking after them. During Labor's 16-year track record, it ripped money out of regional New South Wales, project after project. On Labor's watch, it ripped every cent out of regional New South Wales to sandbag those electorates here in Sydney. I will keep coming back this week, talking about those fantastic projects. I will focus on Liberal electorates in the regions, such as Wagga Wagga, Goulburn, Albury, Kiama—I know he will throw something else in there—and, of course, Bega. This Government is about delivering for regional communities. On this side, we have stopped playing politics. Those opposite are playing politics with the communities that we on this side are so passionate about.

SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (14:49): My question is directed to the Premier. In May 2015 the Government released detailed construction schedules for the CBD Light Rail and committed to completion of major civil construction in my electorate by April 2018—that would be now. But instead the Government is in court, the cost is blowing out and there is no end in sight. How many more months or years will it take for the completion of what the Government promised would be delivered this month?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:50): I thank the member for his question. As I have reiterated time and time again, this Government looks forward to completing that project. It expects every party that signed up to the project to stay on schedule. That is absolutely the Government's expectation. There are penalties if they do not. The Government will not be held to ransom by anybody. If somebody has signed up to do a job, they do that job and that is exactly what the Government will deal with.

I know for a fact that the member for Heffron cares deeply about public transport and roads in his community. I know that quietly he does support the light rail project because it is positive for his part of the electorate. But I know that he would be disappointed in his own side of politics, because going through the list of projects that those opposite have promised and cancelled, it is a very long list. At the top of the list is the Bondi Beach rail link, which was promised in 1998. I am sure that would have helped some of the member's constituents. That was one of the projects that those opposite managed to axe.

I remember the obstacles the Government faced when it was building the South West Rail Link and the issues that it had to deal with, not just with the contracting parties but also with the Federal Government because part of the line went through former Department of Defence land. The Government went through huge challenges on that project, but it brought the project in under budget and six months early. That is what good Coalition governments do. Similarly, on all our projects the Government has every expectation that it will work hard to deliver them on time and on budget, which is in stark contrast to those opposite. I have a list of at least a dozen rail lines that in 16 years never made the light of day.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: Unless I am mistaken, the question asks the Premier to confirm—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the member's point of order?

Mr Michael Daley: It is Standing Order 129. The question asks the Premier to confirm whether the timetable was on track. She is doing contortions to get out of saying it. We just want her to say whether it is on time and on budget—yes or no?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard the member's point of order. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The member for Maroubra should clean his ears out. Every contractor building a project for the Government is expected to deliver that project on time and on budget. That is the Government's expectation. As I said, I have a list of at least a dozen projects that those opposite announced, cancelled and announced again. This goes to the heart of infrastructure development and construction. I remember

when those opposite kept talking about the Parramatta rail line. The problem is that it was the only project in 16 years that they started.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: Standing Order 129. The Government has already spent \$17 million on legal fees for this project. We want to know if it is on time and on budget. This is not the Commonwealth Games gymnastics; it is question time and the Premier should answer the question she has been asked.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Those opposite promised 12 different rail lines. They announced and cancelled the north-west rail line about a dozen time. What year was it?

Mr David Elliott: 1985.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It was first promised in 1985. Yet out of the 12 rail lines Labor promised while in government, it started one—the Parramatta rail line. The problem was that it only stopped at Epping and it was double the cost for half the rail line. That is Labor's record after 16 years. To those opposite I say that a transport policy is not axing a policy. All those opposite know how to do is to cancel projects, rip up contracts and spend billions and billions of dollars with nothing to show for it. I say to members opposite that that is not how to rebuild New South Wales and it is not what the people of New South Wales expect. That is why the Government is pleased to be getting on with these projects.

URBAN GREEN SPACE

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (14:54): I address my question to the Minister for Education. How is the Government supporting schools by providing access to more high-quality open spaces to communities across the State?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (14:54): I thank the member for Wollondilly for his question and advocacy on behalf of the schools in his electorate. I also acknowledge his ongoing advocacy for the wonderful electorate of Wollondilly, which he has been proud to represent for so many years. Wollondilly is strategically located on the peri-urban fringe of Sydney and it is experiencing significant growth. As it continues to expand, one of this Government's focuses is ensuring there is appropriate and great access for growing local families to local playgrounds and open spaces. It is wonderful not only for communities on the fringes of growth areas but also in the heart of existing towns. That is why I am so pleased that schools in the member's community, such as Tahmoor Public School, Bargo Public School and Bowral Public School, are participating in the Share Our Space initiative.

This is a great initiative that is being rolled out by the Government to ensure that our public schools, which are often perfectly located to be the cornerstone—literally, figuratively and spatially—of our communities, are available for the general community to enjoy. It should be remembered that the communities we represent have a huge stake in our local public schools. Those communities fund and support them, and the best results depend on the educational outcomes they generate. It is only right and appropriate that when public school playgrounds and facilities are not being used for educational purposes that they be made available for the general community to enjoy. This is a policy that simply makes sense.

The initiative was overwhelmingly supported when it was trialled over the summer holidays at 41 schools. That is why the Premier and I were delighted to attend Taverners Hill Infants School earlier this morning to announce that the number of schools participating in the scheme will almost doubled to 81 during the forthcoming holidays. From 17 April to 26 April between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. local communities will be able to enjoy the playgrounds at local participating public schools and the benefits that that can offer.

The Premier and I were met by student ambassadors Kai, Caitlin and Thea, who welcomed us to the school. They all said that they would be taking advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the playground during the school holidays. The Premier and I had the opportunity to speak with many local parents, who were also excited about this opportunity. Many of them live in home units or on smaller blocks, which are typical of the inner-ring suburbs of Sydney. Providing their children with access to great play facilities is part of this Government's commitment to a growing green grid of networked parks and open spaces across the fabric of this great city.

The Government recognises that as Sydney continues to grow it is incumbent on it to provide not only the hard infrastructure solutions, such as roads and railways that are part of the systems that support the growth of the city, but also the soft social infrastructure, such as schools, childcare facilities and access to great open spaces. An enormous amount of public money has been poured into our schools over the years to ensure that they have great functional play spaces, delightful gardens and other areas to enjoy. Wherever appropriate, they should be open to the community to enjoy.

This is only one aspect of what the Premier has already spoken about as part of the Government's initiative to provide more open green spaces. The Government recognises that as the city transforms from a suburban model to a more urban model it must be conscious and thoughtful about the use of space. For many years Sydney developed in an ad hoc manner, sprawling out without much thought as to how spaces should be used and connected. This is one piece of the puzzle that the Government can use to ensure that local communities enjoy the benefit of generations of investment in quality local public schools and that public schools return a dividend not only to the school community but also to the wider community they serve.

SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:59): I direct my question to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. On 22 March the Minister wrote to Mr Jose Manuel Entrecañales, the President of Acciona, about his face-to-face meetings. Will the Minister confirm that he has never met Mr Entrecañales, that he has confused him with someone else and that this embarrassment typifies the incompetent way in which he has managed the CBD Light Rail project?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:00): Earlier in question time I looked at who was sitting behind the member for Strathfield, and I wondered why he was not on the crossbench.

Mr Jodi McKay: Point of order: If the Minister wants to go there, we can talk about him, her and him. It is important that we focus on policy in this House. The Minister should not go there. If he wants to, I am happy to do so.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I am happy to go there because Glenn Brooks did the right thing.

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The Minister's answer is completely irrelevant to the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has heard the question, and I am sure he will answer it or make comments.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: It was just a small observation I wanted to make, and it goes to the heart of leadership. Leadership for the people of New South Wales means being able to govern for everyone and ensuring that we build the infrastructure projects that matter to communities across the State. Earlier I heard the Premier talking about the Labor Party wanting to cancel a bunch of major projects, including the Sydney Metro Southwest at Bankstown—members opposite made an interesting announcement about that project the other day—the F6 Extension, WestConnex, and a raft of transport projects, including the CBD Light Rail. Members opposite want to cancel the light rail project. I did write to the Spanish subcontractor and I very clearly stated—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The question was asked, but members do not want to listen to the answer.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: This Government will not tolerate a go-slow on one of its major infrastructure projects resulting in the need to write a cheque for acceleration. That is a fact. This Government will not be extorted in that way, nor will it be fleeced. The people of this State will not be ripped off. Members opposite do not understand public-private partnerships, and they do not know the difference between a claim and a cost blowout. They certainly do not know how to deliver infrastructure.

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order: My point of order again relates to Standing Order 129. The Minister said—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister was being relevant to the question he was asked.

Mr Jihad Dib: The question asked whether the Minister met with the gentlemen.

Mr Luke Foley: He does not know; he thinks they all look the same.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I think that was a racist comment by the Leader of the Opposition. Does he wish to repeat it? To help out those opposite, I have to report my diaries and whom I meet with from organisations such as Acciona.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! An Opposition member asked the question. Opposition members will listen to the answer. Opposition members will come to order. The Minister has the call. I call the member for Kogarah to order for the first time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: My diary is a matter of public record, but we are still waiting for those opposite to produce their diaries. Opposition members can look at my diary and find out whom I met with from

Acciona; it is pretty clear. One thing we will not tolerate is the Spanish contractor with whom we do not have a direct contract—to help those opposite, it is called ALTRAC. We will get on and see this project built. Those opposite can make all they claims they like—they should learn the difference between a claim and a cost blowout. The reality is that the Government is not going to tolerate a go-slow with this project. We are going to see it built for the people of New South Wales.

WAGES POLICY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (15:04): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Government's sensible and effective wages policy delivering real results for the people of New South Wales, and how does it compare with other policies?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (15:05): I thank the member for Kiama for his question. For the past seven years in succession the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government has been working hard to create a New South Wales that is strong, free and fair. That means having the leading economy, the strongest budget position, and the best health, education and transport services across the entire country. Members on this side of the House know that we can deliver social outcomes only by delivering on financial outcomes first. Financial outcomes and social outcomes are two sides of the same coin.

Delivering budget surpluses, negative net debt and a triple-A credit rating allows the Government to deliver record investments and infrastructure and services that matter to the people of this great State. More than \$80 billion has been put to work to deliver a better future for us and for our children. Fundamental to our fiscal discipline was the introduction in 2011 of our 2½ per cent public wages cap, which strikes the right balance between fairness and responsibility. This decision was opposed by those opposite, but we know that the decision has saved the budget close to \$11 billion—\$11 billion that we have invested in schools, hospitals, roads and rail across the State. At a time when wage growth is constrained across the board—

[*Interruption*]

—as the member for Cessnock quite rightly points out—the New South Wales Government wages policy is among the most generous compared with every other State in the country, including Labor States. The former Labor State of South Australia—we all celebrated the great Coalition win there—had 1½ per cent growth in wages, the communist Labor State of Queensland had a maximum of 2½ per cent and the Labor State of Western Australia had 0 per cent, a pay freeze. Those opposite take a different approach to financial management, and that is a failure to commit to our wages policy. Who wants to wind back the New South Wales wages policy? It is none other than Luke Aquinas Foley—the most irresponsible Labor financial spokesperson in the country.

This thought bubble is not costed, so I thought I would do that myself. If we take into account wage growth under the former Labor Government of approximately 4 per cent—which I believe is being conservative; it comes naturally—Treasury modelling shows that the decision will rip \$5.8 billion from the budget over the next four years. That means a lot to schools and hospitals, but it also means a cost of \$2,227 to every family across the State of New South Wales. Over the next 12 months when Labor members talk about fairness what they really mean is taking more from everyone and giving it to the people who vote for them. That is what fairness means to the Labor Party.

[*Interruption*]

Opposition members do not like the truth. They have opposed every single step the Government has taken to put this budget back into surplus after the debt and destruction that those opposite left behind. Recently I read an article by one of my favourite journalists, Andrew Clennell, who was writing at the time for the *Sydney Morning Herald*—then the *Daily Telegraph* and then the *Australian*. [*Extension of time*]

He wrote about a former Treasurer by the name of Eric Roozendaal. Before question time I looked up Eric Roozendaal on LinkedIn to see what that former Labor Treasurer is doing. Would you believe it? He has become a full-time crisis manager. That is what happens to former Labor Party Treasurers: A Labor Party Treasurer has a great career in crisis management. But back to the story from Mr Clennell. Under Labor, employee-related Government costs rose from \$13 billion in 1998-99 to \$22.5 billion in 2007-08. In seven years the Labor Party doubled the wages bill of the New South Wales public sector. That is why Labor was unable to build any infrastructure for 16 years. Labor members are opposing projects now but they announced and closed projects for 16 years. The member for Baulkham Hills talks about the north-west rail line. Since 1983, those opposite have announced that project four or five times and closed it.

Mr David Elliott: Nineteen eighty-five.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I was three. Those opposite cancelled projects, they closed schools, they closed hospitals and they left a massive infrastructure backlog because they have never worked out that you cannot build infrastructure if you do not have any money. This is an Opposition that has its priorities wrong. Instead of putting the people first, those opposite put their unions first. We on this side of the House will continue to build a better New South Wales. [*Time expired.*]

COALMINING

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:13): My question is directed to the Premier. Given that more than 65 per cent of Australians oppose Adani's Carmichael coalmine and the amount of new coalmining output currently being assessed by the Government for New South Wales is 25 per cent greater than the total output of this Adani mega mine, will the New South Wales Government commit to protecting our climate and no new coalmines in New South Wales?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:14): I thank the member for Newtown for her question and note that at least she asked a question about something she believes in. That is in vast contrast to the questions asked by those opposite. I say to her, as I say to all the people of New South Wales, that we will continue to use coal so long as we continue to need to use coal. New South Wales will continue to be the most resilient State when it comes to energy requirements. Having said that, I also stress that we are investing heavily in renewables as well. I will go through the list, but first I want to say that this is in stark contrast to the Labor Party.

The Federal Labor leader has been promising coalminers in Queensland that he supports them. Then he promised The Greens in Victoria that he is anti-coal. It depends on where he is. The New South Wales Leader of the Opposition is no different. The Leader of the Opposition will give a response on energy depending on which electorate he is in and who he is talking to. The Government has remained consistent. I hear the interjections from those opposite. I would appreciate their respecting The Greens member who asked me the question, and allow me to answer it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I will order the clock to be stopped every time there is an interjection. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As I said, the Government is very pleased that New South Wales is the most resilient State when it comes to energy. The Government is also pleased that there are more than \$15 billion worth of energy projects comprising over 14,000 megawatts that are shovel ready or under construction in New South Wales. Just this month the Government approved Australia's largest wind farm at Liverpool Plains, which will power nearly 500,000 homes and deliver 800 jobs. We have also commenced construction of nine renewable projects, including three wind farms and six solar farms—including the Sapphire Wind Farm, the largest wind farm in New South Wales, and the Dubbo Solar Farm, which will power 10,000 homes and help the New South Wales Government meet its renewable energy target obligations.

The Government is also pleased that last year 14 large-scale renewable projects were approved in New South Wales, including 12 solar farms, 500 megawatts of gas plants and all these other projects. In New South Wales we have a very good balance of what our State needs. There are two drivers for the Government in terms of energy policy. The first is resilience. We need to make sure we have a continuous power supply. The second is to keep prices as low as possible. The Government knows that people throughout New South Wales are worried about energy prices, and we will make sure that energy prices are kept as low as possible.

This is why New South Wales strongly supports a national approach to energy. The reason New South Wales requests a national approach is that no matter what kinds of policies we have in New South Wales—no matter how good our policies are—other States let us down. Other States have not done the right thing. In fact, only recently an article was published in the *Daily Telegraph* that talked about the Victorian Government relying on the New South Wales Government over summer to provide Victoria's energy needs. The article stated:

NSW power stations kept the lights on in Victoria over the sweltering summer, including during the Australian Open when energy regulators warned of rolling blackout threats for our southern neighbours.

Victoria, South Australia and even, to a lesser extent, Queensland do not have the resilience that New South Wales has. The Government has a sensible approach. Of course it encourages investment in alternative energy, but the Government also acknowledges that we need to rely on traditional sources as well. Meanwhile, two of Australia's largest solar farms are in New South Wales and we are also investing heavily in wind and other projects. Whenever the member for Newtown asks a question about energy policy I will say to her that the Government will be consistent no matter which electorate a member is standing in and no matter who that member is talking to. Those opposite will tell one group of people they oppose the coal industry forever and will then tell the miners that they are protecting their jobs. The Government is consistent. Government members will continue to be consistent and will protect the environment while also ensuring that we support our energy needs.

SYDNEY METRO

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:18): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. How is the New South Wales Government expanding metro services across Sydney to benefit communities? Will the Minister inform the House of any threats to the plan?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:19): Sydney Metro is Australia's largest public transport project. It is going to transform the city and provide high-frequency train services across the board. I am pleased to inform the House that we remain on track for stage one Sydney Metro Northwest to be open to customers in the first half of 2019. I remind the House this is a project that those on the opposite side of the Chamber promised three times when they were in Government, and they did not even manage to turn a sod. This new, world-class metro line will start before we know it, commencing in the booming north-west and extending to the central business district and out to Bankstown.

In 2024 Sydney will have 31 Sydney Metro stations and a 66-kilometre new metro track, with a new metro train running at least every four minutes in each direction as a turn-up-and-go service for commuters. We also recently signed a contract to build the Sydney Metro platforms in the Central Walk at Central station. This is a \$955 million contract to transform Sydney's busiest and oldest station. On top of all this, a number of weeks ago the Premier and I announced progress on the Sydney Metro West project, including a new underground station at Westmead. While those on this side of the House have been getting on and building Sydney Metro—making it a reality—guess what Labor has done in three years?

Mr John Barilaro: Nothing?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: No, I want to give Labor members credit for it—they have written a press release. It has taken them three years to write a press release. Guess what is in the press release? Plagiarism! Labor has supported Sydney Metro West, which we are already building. What is telling about this press release is that those opposite have said, "We don't quite know how to finance it because we do not support things like the sale of poles and wires or asset recycling." What did Labor members announce about how they were going to fund metro west? I put this at the feet of the member for Strathfield. Labor says, "We will cancel the metro to Bankstown." The Leader of the Opposition said in a press conference, "Cancelling this will save billions and billions and we will be able to put those funds into metro west." I presume he said that at the urging of the member for Strathfield.

When I heard that, I thought I would remind myself of the costings for that part of the project. Guess what? The cost is under \$1 billion. Metro west is likely to cost in excess of \$16 billion. Luke Foley's plan will not even pay for 5 per cent of the metro west project. But—wait for it!—the Leader of the Opposition has a better idea: He will cancel several other transport projects, including the northern beaches tunnel, the Western Harbour Tunnel, and the metro south-west to Bankstown. He will cancel light rail and the F6. And Labor was never, ever going to build stage three of WestConnex. The Leader of the Opposition is not only short on policy advice; he is now short on cash. Those opposite cannot manage money. They certainly cannot manage infrastructure builds.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. Opposition members will come to order. The Minister has the call.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I note that the member for Bankstown is saying a lot of things. I would like those opposite—

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I would like those opposite to tell people with disabilities, mums and dads with prams, and seniors why the Opposition is opposed to the accessibility that Sydney Metro will bring to people in Punchbowl, Wiley Park, Canterbury, Hurlstone Park and Dulwich Hill. Why are they opposed to it? They announced the cancellation of those lifts last Friday because their dopey leader does not know what he is doing. Their leader has cancelled their lifts.

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. I place the member for Bankstown on three calls to order.

Mr Jihad Dib: My point of order relates to the fact that the Labor Opposition is not opposed—

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

Mr Jihad Dib: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Labor is not opposed to easy access. Why does the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure not install it? He knows that it is ranked in the top 13. Put one up in Punchbowl.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member for Lakemba will resume his seat. I place the member for Lakemba on three calls to order.

[Extension of time]

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The Leader of the Opposition announced the cancellation of the Bankstown metro, which of course has five stations that are receiving accessibility upgrades. That is the reality. The good member for Lakemba says, "Govern for everyone." I do not know how many Liberal electorates there are along that corridor, but there would not be many. I am intrigued by a recent announcement about shoring up Summer Hill because The Greens are knocking at the door. What is this? Labor is opposed to the south-west metro but for what reason? Does Labor not want lifts for people with disabilities? Does Labor not want people with disabilities accessing the metro? Does Labor not want public transport and a train every four minutes on that line? What is the go?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. Members will come to order. The Minister has the call.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: This is proof positive that Labor Opposition members do not support the south-west metro. I note that the member for Maroubra made some interesting comments about Sydney CBD Metro being uneconomical, but it has been proven to be otherwise. To drive home the point to Labor members, I remind them of the words of Morris Iemma—that good former Liberal stooge—who said that metro transport "brings an opportunity to renew, reinvigorate and re-energise our community". Guess where he was talking about? He was referring to the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor. Labor members are a bit of a joke. They have had three years but developed only a one-page statement. Labor copped out on the Sydney Metro West project and will cancel a whole bunch of other projects that are needed right across the transport network to support the people of this State. That is proof positive that Labor members are not fit even to be an Opposition. Until the Labor Party starts preselecting capable people, we will continue to see rubbish like this.

Documents

REGISTER OF DISCLOSURES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I table a copy of the Supplementary Ordinary Returns by members of the Legislative Assembly as at 31 December 2017, together with the Primary Disclosures of the member for Blacktown, the member for Cootamundra and the member for Murray. I order that the documents be printed.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 52/56

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: As Chair: I table report No. 52 of the Legislation Review Committee, entitled "Legislation Review Digest No. 52/56", dated 10 April 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. 51/56, dated 13 March 2018.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to petitions signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Griffith District General Practitioner Shortage—lodged 14 February 2018 (Mr Austin Evans)

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Summer Hill Ambulance Station—lodged 14 February 2018 (Ms Jo Haylen)

The Hon. Rob Stokes—Lower Clarence High School—lodged 15 February 2018 (Ms Tamara Smith)

The Hon. Paul Toole—Brisbane Water Channel—lodged 14 February 2018 (Ms Liesl Tesch)

The Hon. Tanya Davies—Banksia Acute Mental Health Unit—lodged 7 March 2018 (Mr Kevin Anderson)

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 (3) General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) Nos 2400, 2402 to 2435 and 2437 to 2457 have lapsed.

Motions Accorded Priority

STATE FINANCES**Consideration**

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (15:30): This motion should be accorded priority because, even from opposition, the Labor Party has created a budget emergency that affects every single person and every single family across the State of New South Wales. This motion deserves priority because that needs to be dealt with urgently—right here and right now. New South Wales is on high alert for a return to the days of the financial and economic vandalism of the New South Wales Labor Party. By committing to removing the public sector wages cap, the Leader of the Opposition has committed to ripping \$5.8 billion from the New South Wales budget over the next four years. From opposition, Labor has already put the State on the road to debt and deficit in its very first announcement. Because of the Leader of the Opposition, every single working family in New South Wales will be sluggish more than \$2,000—thanks to the Labor Party.

This is Labor's serious policy; this is wilful ignorance and reckless indifference to prudent financial management. This motion deserves priority because the people of this State have a right to know about the looming financial catastrophe that the Labor Party wants to inflict on us all. What Labor will never understand is that government cannot deliver social outcomes without strong financial responsibility. We cannot build schools or hospitals and cannot provide the services that people need without being in a strong financial position. That is exactly what we saw during Labor's failed last term of government when all it managed to build was half a rail line.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Just last week, Labor announced its first cancelled project to keep up with its already ballooning wage bill. The Labor Party should appoint a spokesperson for cancellations, given the number of project cancellations Labor will announce over the next 12 months because of the projected deficits that will be delivered on day one post 2019. Instead of building, Labor closes down schools and hospitals, and cancels projects. Labor members not only are economic deniers but also are rewriting history. The dumped former shadow Treasurer denied in this place that the Labor Party ever delivered a budget deficit. I cite a 2008 press release from Eric Roozendaal that shows a deficit of \$897 million. What is more interesting is that a speech entitled "Labor's Economic Agenda", which was delivered to the central policy branch, states, "In 2008 we dipped into deficit." Who said those infamous words? It was Michael John Daley.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: This motion deserves priority because the Labor Party is a clear and present danger to the finances of New South Wales and is putting the budget into deficit from opposition.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Maroubra to give reasons why his motion should be accorded priority, I point out that, unlike other occupants of the Chair, I will not tolerate interjections or misbehaviour—regardless of whether it is a Government, Opposition or crossbench member.

Under Standing Order 52, members are accorded the right to be heard in silence. The member for Maroubra has the call.

SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Consideration

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:34): When I hear the words "Sydney CBD light rail", the first thing that comes to mind is the open canopy along Anzac Parade where 100-year-old fig trees used to be, before they were chopped down. Others have impressions of the light rail project. The public perception is one of chaos, congestion, poor planning, a lack of homework by the Premier, and environmental destruction. Beneath the public perception is a dark undercurrent—secrecy, untruths, hiding and misleading. That is the real story of this doomed project. From day one, the Premier was the architect of this project and of its disastrous public prosecution. This project—which the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Andrew Constance, tried to cancel—is the Premier's. From day one, the Premier has never been truthful about it.

The Premier's early claims were that the Sydney CBD light rail had the capacity to carry 9,000 passengers an hour. It is more like 6,000, despite the fact that we have the longest trams in the world. Journey times into the city from my electorate will take longer than originally claimed. According to the Auditor-General, a reported 30-minute journey will take closer to 40 minutes. The Premier said, "Businesses along the route are upgrading because they know the opportunities that will come to them will increase." Instead, the businesses are going broke. I spoke to business proprietors this morning who are losing \$80,000 to \$100,000 a week. They do not know how long they can go before they have to start laying off staff. The story is the same all along the route. Where there used to be parked cars and passenger activity there are now holes and hoardings.

The biggest issue of all has been the cost blowouts. The Premier said that this would be a big win for customers and that the customer enhancements would lead to a better project. That claim was wrong, and it is demonstrably and deliberately untrue. The Auditor-General poleaxed that claim. The Premier, who was the Minister for Transport at the time, and her department knew about the mismanagement and lied about it to the public. Now we have \$1.2 billion worth of unprecedented claims. On the weekend, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure conjured up his best Angry McAngry face and railed against the Spanish contractors saying, "We are going to throw the book at you." The public know about the lies and deceit behind this project—the project that the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Andrew Constance, calls "a dog of a project". It was the Premier's project and the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure wanted to cancel it. If anybody is going to throw the book at anyone, it will be the commuters and voters of New South Wales who will be throwing the book at the Government come March next year.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that the motion of the member for Hawkesbury be accorded priority.

The House divided.

Ayes49
Noes36
Majority.....13

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Barilaro, Mr J
Conolly, Mr K
Coure, Mr M
Dominello, Mr V
Evans, Mr L
Goward, Ms P
Gulaptis, Mr C
Humphries, Mr K
Lee, Dr G
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Perrottet, Mr D
Roberts, Mr A
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G

Aplin, Mr G
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Constance, Mr A
Crouch, Mr A
Elliott, Mr D
George, Mr T
Grant, Mr T
Hazzard, Mr B
Johnsen, Mr M
Maguire, Mr D
O'Dea, Mr J
Petinos, Ms E
Rowell, Mr J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Mr R

Ayres, Mr S
Brookes, Mr G
Cooke, Ms S
Davies, Mrs T
Evans, Mr A
Gibbons, Ms M
Griffin, Mr J
Henskens, Mr A
Kean, Mr M
Marshall, Mr A
Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Provest, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Taylor, Mr M
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Mrs L

AYES

Wilson, Ms F

NOES

Aitchison, Ms J
Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Dib, Mr J
Finn, Ms J
Harris, Mr D
Hornery, Ms S
Lynch, Mr P
Mihailuk, Ms T
Parker, Mr J
Smith, Ms T F
Washington, Ms K

Atalla, Mr E
Car, Ms P
Crakanthorp, Mr T
Donato, Mr P
Foley, Mr L
Harrison, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
McKay, Ms J
Minns, Mr C
Piper, Mr G
Tesch, Ms L (teller)
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Bali, Mr S
Catley, Ms Y
Daley, Mr M
Doyle, Ms T
Greenwich, Mr A
Hoenig, Mr R
Leong, Ms J
Mehan, Mr D
Park, Mr R
Scully, Mr P
Warren, Mr G
Zangari, Mr G

PAIRS

Berejiklian, Ms G
Hancock, Mrs S
Pavey, Mrs M

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

Motion agreed to.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Keira, the member for Bankstown and the member for Lakemba that they are on three calls to order, the member for Cessnock is on two calls to order and the member for Swansea, the member for Kogarah, the member for Strathfield, and the member for Port Stephens are on one call to order.

STATE FINANCES**Priority**

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations)
(15:44): I move:

That this House supports the Government's wages policy. The New South Wales Government wages policy strikes the right balance between fairness and responsibility. In this State, we have some of the best public servants—nurses, teachers and police—who make our State run well every day. I give a particular shout-out to the great public servants in Treasury. Our world-class Treasury not only makes New South Wales the best place to live, work, run a business and raise a family; it is also a world leader. It was great to host both Democrats and Republicans from the United States House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure last week, who came to learn from New South Wales the gold standard for financing and delivering infrastructure.

The Government's wages cap ensures that as wages increase each year the New South Wales budget stays in the black. That is important because we cannot deliver the social outcomes that we are entrusted to deliver in New South Wales if our finances are not in order. We can only engage in our schools and hospitals building revolution because we have our finances in order. In the last budget, the Government committed \$4.2 billion to education investment—we have more than 150 new and upgraded schools. It committed \$7.7 billion in health infrastructure investment—we have more than 40 new and upgraded hospitals. This investment can only happen because of our financial discipline behind the scenes.

The Leader of the Opposition has recklessly stated that he will not commit to the wages cap. In doing so, he is putting the New South Wales budget position on the path to ruin. The Leader of the Opposition claims to be an economic conservative. If it were not for double standards, this man would have no standards at all. When the Labor Party was last in government, wages spiralled out of control; there was an undisclosed \$5.2 billion black hole in the budget forward estimates; and the uncontrolled wages growth cost the budget an extra \$900 million over the last four years. The Labor Government had to beg the unions to forgo their negotiated wage increases so that the budget could remain in the black. Because Labor did not manage its money well, it had to go after New South Wales families.

The last Labor Government introduced 11 new taxes and increased taxes 21 times. The Leader of the Opposition has already promised to slug businesses across the State with even more tax increases. Now Labor has appointed probably the worst Treasurer in our nation's history, Wayne Maxwell Swan, as its new primary economic adviser. Because those opposite did not manage their finances well, they could not build anything. They left behind a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog. They promised 12 rail lines and had nine transport master plans and six transport Ministers—and only half a rail line was actually delivered. Because they did not manage their money well, they had to close things down. They closed 90 schools and left behind a \$1 billion backlog in school maintenance. They closed 37 maternity units in regional New South Wales and closed more than 2,000 hospital beds overall. They axed bus services, cut train services and slashed ferry services.

In contrast, because this Government manages money well and has a sensible wages policy, it can deliver more for the people of this great State. As I have said, a school and hospital revolution is occurring. New South Wales has never before seen the infrastructure investment that is now occurring. The Government has invested more in health infrastructure in seven years than Labor invested in 16 years. It is spending \$4.2 billion on schools, which is 17 times more than Labor announced in its last budget. The Government has hired more than 2,600 extra doctors, 4,500 extra teachers and 7,000 nurses. That is without mentioning the roads, rail, schools, and public transport that are currently being delivered across this State at an unprecedented level. Labor let wage growth spiral out of control, slugged families and businesses to plug the gap with excessive taxes, and slashed frontline services. That is why the Coalition will always do things better than those opposite.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:49): I ask Dominic Francis Perrottet—who is obsessed with middle names—what the Government's wages policy is. One pencil says 2.5 per cent, but my good friend Alex Claassens has a different number. Alex went into the negotiations with a very sharp pencil and came out with a figure slightly higher than 2.5 per cent. Alex Claassens, who represents one of the largest public sector unions, developed and got a policy of 3.45 per cent. Let us say we are somewhere around that figure at the moment.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr RYAN PARK: But there is a better deal. What do the public service senior executives and absolute top dogs get? We start to get to the lofty, beautiful heights that most of us have never seen. Not even politicians get to these heights. For the top dogs, we see figures around 18, 19 or 20 per cent. I thought Alex did a good deal, but the senior executives union did a better deal. Their pencil is razor sharp. They do not get 5, 10, or even 15 per cent; they get 18, 19 or 20 per cent. My advice to Alex has been, "Alex, you are short-changing the Rail, Tram and Bus Union. You easily could have got 17, 18, 19 or 20 per cent because that is what the senior executives get." That is what the top dogs get, and that is because the Government looks after a certain wage earner. Approximately 15 minutes ago, Dominic Francis Perrottet criticised the Labor Party, stating, "You pay nurses, teachers, firefighters and police officers way too much. How dare you pay those workers so much."

Mr Kevin Anderson: Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 75 which states that a member will address other members by their correct titles.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will address members by their correct titles.

Mr RYAN PARK: Ryan John Park will do that. The sixty-third Treasurer said, "Bad Labor Party for paying nurses, teachers, dock workers, police officers, those in the rail sector and firefighters way too much. How dare you." But the Treasurer will not pay the fat cats 4 percent. No, 4 per cent is not good enough for them. They want 18, 19 or 20 per cent. The Labor Party left this Government with a triple-A credit rating and 15 out of 16 surpluses and it paid down \$10 billion of their grubby debt. We will not be lectured by Government members on fiscal management, especially by the guy who said that the Fire and Emergency Services Levy would be the greatest taxation reform in the State's history.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (15:54): Having listened to the contribution to debate on the motion accorded priority by the shadow Treasurer, I have discovered that absurdity is no handicap to advancing to the Opposition front bench. The shadow Treasurer giving a lecture on fiscal management is like Hannibal Lecter giving a dissertation on vegetarian cuisine. I am not going to be lectured by the shadow Treasurer on numbers because recently he came into this place and reminded us that "regional New South Wales" consisted of two words, when in fact it consists of four words. To help the shadow Treasurer, that is the number he has for the leadership plus three—which is four more than I have.

In response to the shadow Treasurer's comments, I take members back to 2011 when we came to government after 16 years of financial mismanagement by those opposite. They were more interested in propping up the likes of former Labor Ministers Eddie Obeid and Joe Tripodi. Those opposite cannot claim to be the

workers' party or even the party of the public service. They were the guilty party and their management of this State left us with a \$50 billion debt and a \$5.2 billion budget deficit.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Stop the clock. I warned Opposition members about interjections and noise. Every Opposition member in the House is now on three calls to order. If they are called to order again they will be removed from the Chamber. Any member who wishes to challenge my ruling will be removed from the Chamber.

Mr GARETH WARD: The State also had a \$30 billion backlog in infrastructure left by those opposite. They did not build things in this State and they did not manage the State's budget. We inherited that mess and we needed to clean that mess up, which we have done. I remind members that in 2008 New South Wales was ranked eighth amongst the States, whereas today we are proudly ranked number one again. Those opposite talk in this Parliament as if they could have turned around this State. They talk as if under their management this State would have the lowest unemployment in the nation, the highest standard of living and the strongest business confidence, which we on this side of the House are proud to have achieved. In relation to the Treasurer's motion before the Parliament today, those opposite have not even singled out what their public sector wage policy would be.

Mr Clayton Barr: You haven't mentioned it.

Mr GARETH WARD: I acknowledge the interjection from the member opposite. We legislated for our public sector wage policy and I was in the Chamber when we voted for it. We know that we need to manage our fiscal trajectory. When we came to government, the budget was controlling this Parliament. Today, we control the budget as a result of the hard work of the current Treasurer and those who came before him who realised we had one hell of a mess to clean up, and we have cleaned it up. That is why project after project is being undertaken around this State—new rail lines, new roads, new hospitals and new schools. We are not going to make the same mistakes made by those opposite. We have fiscal discipline and we are prepared to make sure that this year's budget is one that this State can be proud of, so that we can spend on frontline services. Those opposite talk about the plight of workers, but under their government the numbers of frontline workers, like nurses, teachers and firefighters, were cut. Today there have never been more jobs for these important workers.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (15:57): This motion accorded priority is not about wages; it is about hypocrisy and double standards. Those opposite want to talk about wages in this Chamber. They should be talking outside the Chamber about the TAFE workers, the teachers and support staff, who were sacked under this Government. Let us talk about the wages of these 5,600 TAFE teachers and support staff who were employed to train our young people in the skills they need to get jobs. If those young people cannot get the skills training they cannot earn a proper wage. Those opposite talk about wages in this place, while they should be talking outside the Chamber about the wages of the TAFE teachers and support staff and the public servants who have been sacked. Those opposite have taken away the wages of these sacked TAFE teachers and support staff and the public servants.

At a time when the cost of living is spiralling out of control, this Government's wages policy is making life harder for the people of New South Wales. This Government has increased the tolls on every road we travel on and has sacked public servants. This Government has privatised services and sold off everything that this State owns, which has led to a drop in State government income from these public assets which was used to pay the wages of frontline staff. We know that assets can only be sold once, but this Liberal-Nationals Government thinks it can sell assets 1,000 times while at the same time funding frontline staff. In fact, our frontline staff will get nothing from this Government.

The biggest winners from this Government's wages policy are the lobbyists, the lurk merchants, the spin doctors and the thousands of consultants that this Government has paid to promote the spin that somehow this Government is doing well for the workers of New South Wales. We know that our well-to-do public servants do not get the low wage rises given to our frontline workers. Those public servants do not get wage increases of 2 to 3 per cent; instead, they get wage increases of 10, 15 or 18 per cent—pretty big increases, I would have thought. But those opposite talk about wages while forgetting about the most important workers, who deserve to earn good wages—that is, the frontline staff who support essential services in our health system, our TAFEs and our education system. In talking about wages, those opposite are displaying nothing but blank hypocrisy, double standards and a lack of a sense of reality about what is happening in the real world. [*Time expired.*]

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (16:01): In reply: In his contribution to the debate on this motion accorded priority, we saw Ryan John Park—

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order: Mr Assistant Speaker, I refer to your earlier ruling under Standing Order 75 about using members' correct titles.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I note that the member for Keira identified himself as Ryan John Park, but I draw to the attention of the Treasurer Standing Order 75.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: There was a lot of hand waving and the little pencil trick, but underneath all of the pencil sharpening are the undisputed facts and the truth. What are the facts? The fact is that Labor opposed our wages policy when we brought it into this House, and the decision that we made has saved the budget more than \$5 billion. This saving in turn will save each family across this State more than \$2,000. Those opposite talk about transport. I remind them that a key tenet of our policy has been that if employee-related savings can be found then those savings can be offset as part of the wages policy. We recommend all agencies look at better ways of doing things, but I am proud to say that as Treasurer of New South Wales we have some of the most highly paid public servants, including frontline public servants, in the country. These highly paid public servants include our teachers and our nurses. They received a pay increase of 2½ per cent and they have some of the most generous employment conditions in the country.

We acknowledge that in the private sector wages growth is running at about 1.7 to 1.9 per cent. The reality is the private sector employs mums and dads across New South Wales, and we need to make sure that we use their taxpayer dollars in the best way possible. We cannot provide the best services and build the infrastructure that this State needs if we are not in a strong financial position. The member for Macquarie Fields said that if those opposite win government they will do away with our wages policy. I remind those opposite that such a move would plunge the budget immediately into deficit. That would mean that we cannot provide the quality education, the best health care and the best road and rail infrastructure for the people of this State.

It is always the case that the Labor Party is all care and no responsibility. Those opposite talk about fairness and social outcomes, but they are never in a position to deliver on their promises. That is why when we came into office after the Labor Government had been in power for 16 years, as rightly pointed out by the member for Kiama, this State was in deficit and, importantly, had the worst performing economy in the nation. What have we done on this side of the House? We have turned it all around. We have a budget strongly in surplus, we have the leading economy across the board, we have more jobs growth than ever before, and every single step of the way there has been one roadblock on the path to that success, and that is none other than the Labor Party and Ryan John Park.

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

The House divided.

Ayes48
Noes35
Majority..... 13

AYES

Anderson, Mr K	Aplin, Mr G	Ayres, Mr S
Barilaro, Mr J	Bromhead, Mr S (teller)	Brookes, Mr G
Conolly, Mr K	Constance, Mr A	Cooke, Ms S
Coure, Mr M	Crouch, Mr A	Davies, Mrs T
Dominello, Mr V	Donato, Mr P	Elliott, Mr D
Evans, Mr A	Evans, Mr L	George, Mr T
Gibbons, Ms M (teller)	Goward, Ms P	Grant, Mr T
Griffin, Mr J	Gulaptis, Mr C	Hazzard, Mr B
Henskens, Mr A	Humphries, Mr K	Johnsen, Mr M
Kean, Mr M	Lee, Dr G	Maguire, Mr D
Marshall, Mr A	Notley-Smith, Mr B	O'Dea, Mr J
Perrottet, Mr D	Petinos, Ms E	Provest, Mr G
Roberts, Mr A	Sidoti, Mr J	Speakman, Mr M
Stokes, Mr R	Taylor, Mr M	Toole, Mr P
Tudehope, Mr D	Upton, Ms G	Ward, Mr G
Williams, Mr R	Williams, Mrs L	Wilson, Ms F

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

NOES

Dib, Mr J
Greenwich, Mr A
Hoenig, Mr R
Leong, Ms J
McKay, Ms J
Minns, Mr C
Piper, Mr G
Tesch, Ms L (teller)
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Doyle, Ms T
Harris, Mr D
Hornery, Ms S
Lynch, Mr P
Mehan, Mr D
Park, Mr R
Scully, Mr P
Warren, Mr G
Zangari, Mr G

Finn, Ms J
Harrison, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
McDermott, Dr H
Mihailuk, Ms T
Parker, Mr J
Smith, Ms T F
Washington, Ms K

PAIRS

Berejiklian, Ms G
Hancock, Mrs S
Patterson, Mr C
Pavey, Mrs M

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

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (SYDNEY METRO) BILL 2018****First Reading**

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Andrew Constance, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (16:13): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am very pleased to introduce the Transport Administration Amendment (Sydney Metro) Bill 2018. The purpose of the bill is to amend the Transport Administration Act 1988 to establish Sydney Metro as a standalone transport agency and statutory corporation, charged with end to end responsibility for the delivery and operation of Sydney's world class metro system. In this way, Sydney Metro will play a critical role in delivering whole-of-government strategies and policies, including the Future Transport Strategy 2056, Infrastructure NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy and the Greater Sydney Commission's Greater Sydney Region Plan and District Plans. After 16 long years of neglect under Labor, where the people of New South Wales were promised 12 rail lines—of which only half of one line was actually delivered—had nine transport master plans and six transport Ministers, this Government has gotten on with the job of actually building tomorrow's Sydney, because Sydney Metro is a game changer for Sydney, revolutionising the way we get around our great global city for generations to come.

Australia has seen nothing like this new metro system before, so the time is right to take the great work done by the Sydney Metro Delivery Office and transform it into an enduring statutory corporation overseen by an expert decision-making board. The bill will support the delivery of the biggest urban rail infrastructure investment in Australia's history and allow Sydney to get maximum benefits from what will be one of the world's great metro rail systems. Sydney Metro is the centrepiece of the New South Wales Government's vision for Sydney's future. Since 2015, the Greater Sydney Commission has been leading metropolitan planning for the Greater Sydney region, with a focus on aligning infrastructure decision-making and land use planning, while also promoting the supply of housing and supporting improvement in productivity, livability and environmental quality of our great city. Sydney's new metro network will deliver the necessary step change in rail infrastructure to deliver our vision for Sydney's three 30-minute cities.

By providing safe, fast, frequent, turn-up-and-go services 24/7, Sydney Metro will make Sydney an easier and quicker place to get around and destinations across the city more accessible. This rapid transport solution will be complemented by a range of other transport solutions and investments underway, as detailed in the Government's Future Transport Strategy. This strategy recognises that transport is an enabler of economic and social activity and contributes to the long-term economic, social and environmental outcomes of the State. Sydney Metro delivers on every outcome identified in the Future Transport Strategy, including customer focus, successful places, growing the economy, safety and performance, accessible services and sustainability.

As noted in the Future Transport Strategy, Sydney Metro is Australia's first fully automated metro system, using technology that has been in operation on metro railways around the world. Sydney Metro is much more than just a state-of-the-art railway system. It will provide future mass transit, high frequency, high capacity metro passenger services using cutting edge technology. These technological advances will not only change the way services are delivered in future; they will also revolutionise the passenger experience. Customers will not need timetables on Sydney Metro; they will just turn up and go. New world-class metro services will start before we know it. In the first half of next year, services will begin in the north-west. Sydney Metro Northwest will provide eight new stations, with a further five existing stations being upgraded. There will also be an additional 4,000 new commuter car spaces to support the metro system.

It will not be long before we see the first metro services delivered in the north-west. Indeed, more than 94 per cent of rail track is already laid and the first of 22 metro trains was delivered last year, and testing is currently being done on commissioning systems including brakes, passenger information displays, and light and door operations. Sydney Metro Northwest will be just the beginning of this world-class metro system. It will be extended from the north-west, under Sydney Harbour, through new underground stations at the central business district [CBD], and beyond to Bankstown in 2024. The first of five mega tunnel boring machines for the Sydney Metro City and Southwest project will be in the ground before the end of the year.

In 2024 Sydney will have 31 metro stations and 66 kilometres of new metro rail. Sydney's new metro trains will run every four minutes at full operational mode in the north-west and there will be an ultimate capacity to run a metro train every two minutes each way under the centre of Sydney with the further extension of metro services to Bankstown by 2024. This is a level of service never before seen in Australia. I am also pleased to confirm that planning is well underway for the Sydney Metro West project, which will provide a new direct underground metro link between Sydney CBD and Parramatta. It will also service key precincts at Olympic Park and the Bays Precinct. Detailed community and industry consultations are currently underway on further station locations for Sydney Metro West.

I also recently announced that one of the major milestones for the Sydney Metro City and Southwest project has been achieved with the commencement of the Central Station upgrade works. New metro platforms will be delivered under Central Station as well as the landmark east section of Central Walk, a new underground pedestrian concourse to help customers get around Sydney's busiest railway station. This is the first step in the renewal of Central Station, creating a new pedestrian gateway to Chalmers Street and better linking the suburban rail network. These will be the biggest improvements to Central Station in decades and will ensure the metro system is fully integrated with other transport modes, including trains, light rail and buses. It will open up the "rabbit warren" that is currently Central Station to provide seamless passenger services for the more than 400,000 commuters expected to be using Central Station by 2036.

I am pleased to say that safety has always been one of the Government's key concerns when it comes to the delivery of Sydney Metro. Importantly, Sydney Metro, and its subcontractors, will be subject to the Rail Safety National Law (NSW) and oversight by the National Rail Safety Regulator. Sydney Metro will be required to have a safety management system in place under the Rail Safety National Law (NSW) and will be required to have other management plans including a security management plan and an emergency management plan. In addition, as a public transport agency under the Transport Administration Act 1988, Sydney Metro will be required to exercise its functions in accordance with the objectives and service delivery priorities of the Act as a whole, which include providing safe transport services in accordance with an appropriate safety regulatory framework.

Further to this, one of Sydney Metro's express objectives will be to deliver safe and reliable metro passenger services. Sydney Metro will also be subject to directions issued by Transport for NSW and the Minister. These directions are an important means by which transport agencies are required to align with Transport for NSW policies. The fact that Sydney Metro is using the most cutting-edge technology is a further demonstration of our commitment to safety. Metro technology that is being used in Australia for the first time includes platform screen doors, barriers, and doors which keep people and objects like prams away from tracks and allow trains to get in and out of stations much faster whilst also providing the maximum safety for passengers.

Sydney Metro will be Australia's first fully-automated rail system. Expert rail controllers will monitor the entire system from a brand new operations centre. Each train will have 38 security cameras inside, including on the front and back of the trains. Inside the train, you will be able to see from one end to the other, which provides a significant security benefit. The state-of-the-art signalling and communications systems will control the trains, the tunnels, the tracks, the platforms, the platform screen doors and the skytrain to ensure we deliver a safe and reliable journey to our customers. All these systems will be talking to each other and controlled by the expert train controllers back in the operations centre.

We need to focus on more than just the first day of operations of Sydney Metro. We want great outcomes for all of Sydney for generations to come from this \$20 billion-plus investment. The Sydney Metro Board will

have skills and experience relevant to the administration of Sydney Metro, to maximise Government's already significant investment in the metro and future growth. The proposed role and composition of the board is intended to attract and leverage appropriate local and global expertise to assist the business in exercising its functions. Establishing the Sydney Metro as a dedicated statutory corporation is a demonstration of this Government's commitment to delivering world-class, customer centred transport services to meet the needs of the community, both now and into the future.

Importantly, Sydney Metro will be owned by the New South Wales Government and will be part of the Government's transport cluster, operating as a transport agency similar to Sydney Trains, NSW Trains, and Roads and Maritime Services. This means the Sydney Metro Delivery Office, which has been working successfully as part of Transport for NSW since 2011, will be transitioned into the new corporation. The Government announced in 2014 that passenger services on the Metro Northwest system will be operated by the private sector under a public-private partnership. It is intended that Sydney Metro fares will be set and controlled by the New South Wales Government in the same way as the rest of the public transport fares are set. Importantly, to ensure full integration with the current transport network, the Opal card ticketing system will apply to Sydney Metro.

Sydney Metro will also have an important role to play in relation to "place making" in the precincts that will be serviced by the Metro. In order to ensure transport and land use planning are truly integrated, and to enable Sydney Metro to play an effective place-making role, Sydney Metro will be empowered to assist planning and transport authorities in preparing strategic plans for the revitalisation of land in the locality of Sydney Metro. Sydney Metro will provide the catalyst for the revitalisation of vibrant and active local communities. Sydney Metro will be tasked with working across Government to lead the delivery of a world-class metro system focused on customers and great local places driving the State's economic growth well into the future.

Turning to the bill, schedule 1 amends the Transport Administration Act 1988 to establish Sydney Metro as a standalone statutory corporation, which is a New South Wales Government agency—I reiterate that it is a New South Wales Government agency. Clause 38A of the bill sets out the principal objectives of Sydney Metro being the delivery of safe and reliable metro passenger services in an efficient, effective and financially responsible manner and to facilitate and carry out the orderly and efficient revitalisation of land in the locality of metro stations, depots and stabling yards. Under clause 38B of the bill, Sydney Metro will be enabled to design, construct, develop and operate metro passenger services. It will also be expressly authorised to assist relevant planning and transport authorities in preparing strategic and other plans for the revitalisation of precincts in the locality of the metro. This will ensure truly integrated transport and land use planning at the local level.

The bill further contains provisions to assist Sydney Metro with its place-making functions. Sydney Metro will be authorised to carry out, finance, manage and otherwise participate in residential, retail, commercial, industrial, mixed-use development, community, open space and recreational facilities on land in the locality of metro stations, depots and stabling yards. This will ensure the Sydney metro system is fully integrated into, and forms part of, local communities, providing maximum opportunities for people to work, rest and play close to home, in line with the three cities concept set out in the Greater Sydney Commission's Greater Sydney Region Plan.

The bill also contains provisions to ensure Sydney Metro remains under the control of government in future. Clause 38B (3) ensures that whilst Sydney Metro can acquire, build and dispose of metro assets, the metro system itself cannot be disposed of by Sydney Metro. This is evidence of this Government's commitment to ensuring the benefits of the Sydney Metro system remain available for future generations. Sydney Metro will be subject to the requirements for closure and disposal of railway lines under section 99A of the Transport Administration Act 1988.

Where land is required in order to build Sydney Metro and its associated transport infrastructure, it may be necessary for Sydney Metro to acquire privately owned land. As with all major infrastructure projects, compulsory acquisition remains a necessary part of development. Appropriately, Sydney Metro will have the same compulsory acquisition powers as Transport for NSW in relation to the transport infrastructure component of the metro. This means that Sydney Metro may, for the purposes of exercising its curtailed Transport related functions, acquire land by compulsory process in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

I remind the House that this Government made important changes to the property acquisition process in 2016 following reviews undertaken by David Russell, QC, and the then Customer Service Commissioner Michael Pratt, AM. Our Government has implemented 17 of the 20 review recommendations, including the establishment of the Centre for Property Acquisition. The centre provides guidance, training and communications materials to ensure acquiring authorities treat residents affected by property acquisition with respect and empathy throughout the process. This means ensuring residents have access to an appropriately trained point of contact, usually a personal manager, to guide them through the acquisition process providing greater transparency by

ensuring communication is clear and provided in a timely manner, and managing all acquisition data through the whole-of-government database acquisition hub.

Sydney Metro will continue to act in accordance with the new whole-of-government acquisition standards developed by the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation and the supporting guidelines and procedures developed by the Centre for Property Acquisition. Clause 38D of the bill authorises Sydney Metro to additionally acquire land by agreement with owners in the locality of a metro station, depot or stabling yard where it is needed for the purposes of carrying out, financing, managing or otherwise participating in residential, retail, commercial, industrial, mixed use development, community, public open space or recreational purposes.

An organisation charged with end to end responsibility for the development and ongoing operation of Sydney's metro system into the future needs to have best practice governance arrangements in place. That is why clause 38F of the bill provides for the establishment of an expertise-based board to oversee Sydney Metro's functions. Clause 38G provides that the board will be specifically responsible for determining Sydney Metro's policies and ensuring that the organisation performs its functions properly and efficiently. The bill includes appropriate governance arrangements for the constitution and procedures of the Sydney Metro Board. These will be set out in schedule 2B of the Transport Administration Act 1988.

Consistent with best practice governance arrangements, board directors will be required to make pecuniary interest disclosures so that any conflicts of interest can be appropriately managed. Under clause 38I of the bill, the chief executive will be responsible for the day to day management of Sydney Metro, subject to the policies and directions of the board. Importantly, as part of its governance arrangements, Sydney Metro will be required to prepare annual corporate plans. Appropriately, clause 38L of the bill requires these plans to include specific targets and criteria for the purpose of assessing Sydney Metro's performance over time.

To ensure the community has an opportunity to have its say, draft corporate plans will be subject to public consultation. Clause 38L requires Sydney Metro to take account of any public submissions made in response to a draft before it is finalised. Once adopted, Sydney Metro will be required to exercise its functions in accordance with its corporate plan. Importantly, the Sydney Metro Board will also be able to set up advisory committees to help inform its decision-making.

Finally, schedule 2 of the bill makes consequential amendments to other Acts that are necessary to support the establishment of Sydney Metro. There are amendments to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 to ensure Sydney Metro is required to prepare financial reports in accordance with that Act and be subject to annual audit by the Auditor-General. This is one of the key accountability mechanisms applying to statutory authorities. As with any other public authority, Sydney Metro will be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998.

Let there be no doubt, Sydney Metro will be a game changer for Sydney. It will not only transform the way we travel around this great global city, it will also change the way we work, live and play by providing truly integrated, world-class transport to vibrant and active communities. It is time to look to the future and to realise Sydney Metro's true potential to help manage Sydney's growth moving forward. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

CHILD PROTECTION (WORKING WITH CHILDREN) AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2018

First Reading

Bill received from the Legislative Council, introduced and read a first time.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for a future day.

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 13 March 2018.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:34): I am proud to lead for the Labor Party in contributing to debate on the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018. As all members know, this is, in every way, a Labor policy. It was a Labor policy in 2015 when the shadow Minister for Health, the Hon. Walt Secord, moved to have the provisions the House is discussing today incorporated into the Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2015. The then Health Minister refused to accept a sensible amendment from

the Labor Party. She preferred to retain that loophole in the regulation and to allow the public to be exposed to vaping in public spaces rather than accept a well-supported proposal from a member of the Labor Party.

The same arrogance was on display from this Government when the shadow Minister Walt Secord introduced the Smoke-free Environment Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2015 in the other place. The same proposals we are considering today formed the basis of that private member's 2015 bill as well as an identical private member's bill introduced in 2017. That bill—the Smoke-free Environment Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2017—was voted down in the upper House by the colleagues of those opposite. Only weeks ago, on 8 March 2018, the Liberals and The Nationals in the upper House, by a vote of 11 to 19, voted down the same provisions they will support today. Their concern was not public safety or the impact of particulate matter and emissions from e-cigarettes. It could only have been politics. That is the only reason they opposed this idea in 2015 and just weeks ago.

Having reviewed the second reading contributions made by members in the other place, it appears they were told that the Government's bill would be a "more comprehensive approach". They appear to have been promised a suite of additional measures in the Government's bill, but all that it has come up with is an extra form for e-cigarette retailers to fill out. Well done, Minister. After three years, the only window dressing he and his department have found to distinguish today's bill from the Labor Party's bill introduced a few weeks ago is an extra form for business owners to fill out.

I have described the contents of today's bill as reflecting the Labor Party's policy. Therefore, the Opposition's support for these proposals is no surprise. Labor has always led the way on addressing the impact of the tobacco industry on public health. In 1992, it was the Keating Government that delivered the Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act, creating the first national prohibition on cigarette advertising. This regulation was strengthened by the Gillard Government through the Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Amendment Act 2010, which expanded its reach to online advertising and further regulated points of sale and taking cigarettes off display.

In New South Wales, the then Carr Government delivered the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008, which prohibited tobacco-related promotions, sponsorships, competitions, incentive promotions, loyalty schemes, and free sampling of tobacco. That legislation also introduced a limit of one point of sale per retail outlet and authorised licensed premises to have only one point of sale for cigarettes. The New South Wales legislation was the first to acknowledge that images on the package itself constituted advertising. This leading legislation restricted the use of cartoons, sporting images, holograms and other images on cigarette packets that appeal to young people.

The Labor Party has also led the way on restricting political donations from cigarette companies. In 2010, it was the Keneally Government in this place that added tobacco companies to the list of prohibited donors in New South Wales elections. This step recognised the ongoing impact of this sector on the political process and ranked them alongside property developers and the liquor and gambling industries for their disproportionate impact on the political process. Donations from tobacco companies are still legal at the Federal level, although Federal Labor has taken a position since 2004 of not accepting donations from tobacco companies. Between 2004 when Federal Labor ceased taking these donations and 2017, the Liberal Party has accepted more than \$750,000 in donations from Philip Morris Ltd and more than \$900,000 from British American Tobacco Australia Ltd. Over that same period, The Nationals have accepted \$300,000 in donations from Philip Morris Ltd and more than \$850,000 from British American Tobacco Australia Ltd.

This included \$15,000 from Philip Morris Limited in the last financial year. Currently the largest recipient of tobacco company donations is the Liberal Democratic Party, receiving more than \$20,000 from Philip Morris Limited last year. Under former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and former Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon, the Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill was passed on 12 December 2011—another Labor initiative. Proposals for plain packaging had existed from the late 1980s, but successful lobbying efforts had stalled any serious proposal. Whether it is the direct donations from tobacco companies, or just the noise that vested interests can generate, everyone in this place knows—particularly this Government—that the Government can retreat quickly from good policy for the sake of political expediency.

Julia Gillard and Nicola Roxon should be remembered for their stance on this issue and given full credit, given that France, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland, and Hungary have now taken the same stance. These restrictions may soon extend to the entire European Union. The colour chosen for plain packaging was targeted particularly at young people, recognising that the policy was aimed at preventing new people from taking up smoking and changing the social image of smoking. Plain packaging so enraged cigarette companies that they assisted the Ukrainian and Honduras governments to launch a complaint against Australia to the World Trade Organization. It was then Federal Attorney-General Nicola Roxon, who led Australia's response. Whether it be through plain packaging or advertising, or through political donations, Labor has a long and strong history of dealing with cigarettes, and developing good public health law and policy.

The legislation we debate today builds on the legacy of these past Labor Governments to confront not just the health impacts of tobacco, but also the role of those who profit from its sale have had on the political process. The bill we debate today extends the definition of cigarettes to e-cigarettes, and restricts their use in public spaces and on public transport in the same way that traditional cigarettes are restricted. This legislation will finally bring New South Wales into line with Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory by restricting the smoking of e-cigarettes in the same way as the smoking of other cigarettes is restricted.

Users will be restricted from smoking e-cigarettes within 10 metres of children's play equipment, within four metres of an entrance to a public building, as well as at public transport stops or stations, and while riding on public transport. These are sensible restrictions, which is why Labor proposed them in 2015, and again in 2017 when a private member's bill was reintroduced and only weeks ago when that private member's bill was voted down by government members in the other place. These restrictions in no way impact on an individual's ability to use e-cigarettes in their home or any other place where traditional cigarettes are smoked. Not all in the Government are convinced about the dangers of e-cigarettes. To quote Peter Phelps, MLC, in the other place—

Mr Brad Hazzard: The honourable; he is in the upper House.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: Sorry—according to the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps, MLC, the policy included in this legislation is a bad principle and one should question "the honesty and merits of the attitude to health" of anyone who votes for it. The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps' contribution in the other place is in contrast to his colleagues, including the Health minister who sits opposite me now, who outlined in his second reading speech that the head of the National Health and Medical Research Council stated:

E-cigarettes expose both users and bystanders to particle pollution that may worsen existing illnesses or increase the risk of developing cardiovascular or respiratory disease. Vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, people with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and older people are more sensitive to the adverse health effects of particulate matter. E-cigarette vapours have been found to contain toxins, metals and chemicals. Some of these substances, like formaldehyde, are already known to cause cancer.

This builds on evidence from the United States National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which concluded that there is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use by young adults increases their risk of ever using tobacco cigarettes. Alongside the many public health authorities that are supporting this bill, Labor supports this bill. I commend it to the House. I thank its original author, shadow health Minister Walt Secord, for his commitment to public health and his hard work in this area.

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:39): It is a pleasure to speak in support of the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018, brought before the House by the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research, and the member for Wakehurst, who is at the table. Having been with the Minister a number of times at both Westmead Hospital and Blacktown Hospital—where a number of members of my community work—I have seen the Minister in action and community members have commented to me that this Minister is someone who, when he visits hospitals, speaks to the operational frontline staff, and listens to what they say about how the system is running, how it could be improved and what is working. The Minister takes that on board and gets back to those frontline people. It is those qualities that hold this Government in good stead. I commend the Minister for his work in the Health portfolio, particularly on this matter that has been brought before the House.

The bill will prohibit e-cigarettes from being used in enclosed public areas, outdoor dining areas and trains. The bill will also require businesses to notify NSW Health of their intention to retail e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories. The bill will impose appropriate measures to protect the public from potential risks of second-hand e-cigarette vapour, which contains toxins, metals and chemicals, as mentioned by the member for Port Stephens. Some of these substances, such as formaldehyde, are already known to cause cancers. E-cigarettes emit small particles that users and bystanders breathe in, which may worsen existing illnesses or increase the risk of developing diseases such as cardiovascular or respiratory disease.

Groups such as children, pregnant women, and people with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases are particularly sensitive to these health effects. Currently, it is legal to use an e-cigarette on a bus or train next to a pregnant woman or a baby. A young child's lungs that are still developing can be easily affected by these toxins. It is also legal to use an e-cigarette next to a children's playground or at a school. It is also currently legal for a number of people to vape inside a restaurant or club. In these situations bystanders are likely to be exposed to higher concentrations of pollutants and therefore worsen the health impacts that they may suffer.

This bill will help protect the community from e-cigarette vaping in public places. It will help set the norms for where it is not acceptable to use e-cigarettes. It may be a long time before we know what the long-term risks are for bystanders being exposed to e-cigarette vapour, but the bill will help to safeguard against those risks. The Government does not oppose people using e-cigarettes and the bill does not intend to ban e-cigarettes if they are not used where they can impact bystanders. To enforce the legislation it is necessary to

know where e-cigarette retailers are located. The bill will extend the notification requirements that currently apply to tobacco businesses, and to businesses that sell e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories. Laws are already in place regarding the sale of e-cigarettes in liquid nicotine. For example, it is illegal to sell or supply e-cigarettes or e-cigarette accessories to a minor. It is important that these laws are enforced to ensure that businesses are doing the right thing.

The registration requirement will mean that NSW Health knows which businesses are selling e-cigarettes, and can communicate with them about any updates to the law. It will also give NSW Health the basic business information needed to check that these businesses are following the law. I support protecting people from involuntary exposure to other people's second-hand vapour. I also support e-cigarette retailers providing NSW Health with basic business details so NSW Health knows who is selling e-cigarettes and enforces e-cigarette laws in New South Wales. I commend the work of the Minister for Health in this space and I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (16:43): I speak on the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018, which proposes to amend the Smoke-free Environment Act and Passenger Transport (General) Regulation to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed public areas and other spaces where members of the public assemble. At present, e-cigarettes do not come under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000, primarily because they do not technically emit smoke. The bill will bring e-cigarette regulation in line with that of tobacco products. It proposes a maximum penalty of \$550 or an on-the-spot fine of \$300 for people caught using an e-cigarette in a smoke-free zone. The bill will finally bring New South Wales into line with the jurisdictions of Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, all which have already included e-cigarettes in the regulation of smoke-free areas.

I bring to the attention of the House some basic facts about e-cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes, known as e-cigarettes, are battery-powered nicotine or vapour delivery systems. As the sale of nicotine liquid needed for e-cigarettes is now illegal under New South Wales poisons legislation—Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008—e-cigarettes require a vape liquid, commonly referred to as "juice", which typically contains 95 per cent propylene glycol and glycerine. E-cigarettes are often visually similar to tobacco cigarettes and also mimic the action of smoking a tobacco cigarette. The action of inhaling an e-cigarette is known as "vaping". Studies suggest that the prime users of e-cigarettes in New South Wales are between 16 and 24 years of age. United Kingdom government data provides evidence that one-third of e-cigarette users use vaping as an aid to give up smoking, and e-cigarettes are often marketed this way—particularly overseas—despite the United Kingdom's Therapeutic Goods Administration not having approved e-cigarettes as an aid to quit smoking.

It is currently lawful to smoke an e-cigarette in schools, offices, cafes, shopping centres, restaurants, swimming pools, and at sporting events and on public transport in New South Wales. There is a notable lack of regulation for e-cigarettes in New South Wales. As the Minister for Health has stated, this bill is necessary due to the increasing evidence that potential health risks are associated with inhaling e-cigarette vapours not only directly, but also second-hand. Previous speakers in this debate have mentioned this. Research from around the world has found that e-cigarettes contain toxins, metals and chemicals. Some of these substances, such as formaldehyde, are known to cause cancer.

The role of legislators is to ensure that the health risks associated with vaping do not impact on those who choose not to vape. It is therefore crucial that e-cigarettes—regardless of whether they create smoke—be included in the Smoke-free Environment Act and not be used in public places such as passenger transport vehicles and associated stops, children's playgrounds, certain outdoor public places, enclosed public places, and within four metres of a public building, as the bill suggests.

Data available in 2015, when the first attempt was made to include e-cigarettes in the Smoke-free Environment Act, showed that more than 470 brands and 7,764 unique flavours of vape fluid were available throughout the world. The same research concluded that there was an average increase of 10½ brands and 242 new flavours per month in 2014. Clearly, the e-cigarette market has shown every sign of rapid growth. E-cigarette usage currently sits at approximately 1 per cent of the population of New South Wales over the age of 16. But the popularity of e-cigarettes is growing rapidly across the world, with a significantly higher rate of e-cigarette users in the United States and Great Britain.

In fact, vaping is so popular in Britain that a 2017 study, conducted by YouGov on behalf of the Action on Smoking and Health group, revealed that an estimated 2.9 million adults in Great Britain currently use electronic cigarettes. That is a staggering 4.4 per cent of the population—more than four times the rate of usage in New South Wales. This is evidence of how rapidly the e-cigarette market has grown. According to the same study, approximately one-third of vapers in Great Britain are ex-smokers. I imagine the statistics would be similar here in New South Wales. There has been a fourfold increase in the number of vapers since 2012, when the figure was 700,000. We do not want to see that happen in New South Wales, but without increased regulation of

e-cigarettes, in less than five years time this could be the case in New South Wales. We do not want to see that happen, so I welcome this legislation.

Of course, I agree entirely that vaping regulation should be brought in line with tobacco and cigarette regulation. I supported the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2017, introduced by the Hon. Walt Secord, MLC, a bill that was remarkably similar to the bill currently before the House. Labor and The Greens have been fighting to legislate on this issue for more than three years, and now in 2018 the Liberal-Nationals Government has finally caught up. I thank The Greens member Mr Jeremy Buckingham for his input into this debate several years ago. By using an e-cigarette in the Legislative Council Chamber, Mr Buckingham demonstrated firsthand that it was indeed lawful to vape in the New South Wales Parliament. That certainly brought the issue to light and we are now debating it three years later. I note that there is one distinct difference between the bill before us today and that which was introduced in 2017, which is that this bill proposes to amend the Public Health (Tobacco) Act so that e-cigarette retailers are—

Mr Brad Hazzard: But this is a better bill.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Absolutely, yes; there are improvements. I do not know why they were not moved as amendments to the bill last year and why legislation that was before the House 12 months ago could not have been passed. We would have had legislation with exactly the same effect as the current bill has, but 12 months earlier. During that time, how many people have been unnecessarily exposed to the harmful substances in e-cigarette vapour because the Government chose to play politics? We could have nipped this in the bud a considerable time ago.

While some in this place sat on their hands, an increased number of people across New South Wales have been exposed to substances such as formaldehyde and other toxins known to cause cancer, which are found in e-cigarette vaping fluid. An estimated 30 to 50 per cent of e-cigarettes are sold online, which means that they are accessible to anyone. This bill is certainly the right step forward; but we have a long way to go in the fight against smoking and vaping. Given that there are more than 8,000 unique and enticing flavours, including whiskey, blueberry, green apple, cookies and cream and cake flavour—

Mr Brad Hazzard: How do you know so many of those?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: I have certainly done my research on this. Adults and children can be attracted to the scent of vapour—

Mr Brad Hazzard: Including chocolate cake?

Ms JODIE HARRISON: There is chocolate flavour. There are amazing flavours. Count the numbers: in 2015, there were 7,764 unique flavours. Adults and children can be very attracted to the scent of vapour that is emitted by users, and that is a concern. Some may go so far as to say that the use of e-cigarettes in public places could pose more of a threat to children than cigarette smoke, due to the enticing smell that is emitted by e-cigarette vapour. We do not want to encourage or allow children to be attracted to something that is addictive and harmful. It is common sense that legislation be put in place to restrict their exposure to e-cigarette vapour in public places.

If I were to vape in a cafe—which I will never do—next to a table with children, they would be forced to breathe in harmful, cancerous chemicals, and that is just not fair. That is why this legislation is important. We must ensure that checks and balances are in place to limit the effects of e-cigarettes on those who do not choose to use them, and I believe this bill does that. We knew that tobacco was harmful second-hand, so we restricted its use in public places. We now know that e-cigarette vapour is also harmful second-hand, so we should do the same. I therefore commend the bill to the House.

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (16:53): I support the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018, which will prohibit persons from using e-cigarettes in smoke-free areas and on public transport. It also requires that businesses give notice to NSW Health of their intention to retail e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories. I am aware that there is a longstanding debate about whether e-cigarettes should be promoted as a harm-minimisation tool for smoking. I support the use of aids to assist smokers to quit smoking. I encourage anyone thinking about quitting to reach out for the support they need, whether it is from friends or health services. There are approved smoking cessation aids such as nicotine patches and free counselling, and resources through Quitline and the iCanQuit website.

Cessation aids are therapeutic goods that must be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. At present, no e-cigarette products have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use as smoking cessation aids. There is currently not enough evidence to prove that e-cigarettes are an effective or safe way to help people quit smoking. While some of the chemicals in tobacco smoke are not in e-cigarette vapour, e-cigarette liquids or vapour may also contain harmful chemicals that are not present in tobacco smoke.

These vapours contain chemicals, toxins and metals that have the potential to cause adverse health effects. I note that some of the chemicals detected in e-cigarette vapours—for instance, formaldehyde—are carcinogenic or cancer causing.

The New South Wales Government will continue to research and monitor both the benefits and harms of e-cigarettes, including their potential as a harm-minimisation alternative to smoking. These matters will not be changed by the passage of this bill. But there are known harms of e-cigarette vapour to bystanders. E-cigarettes emit small particulate matter, which can worsen existing conditions such as asthma and heart disease. There may also be health effects that we are not currently aware of. This bill prescribes where an e-cigarette may be used, this will help bystanders to avoid being exposed to second-hand vapour in places where they can least avoid it.

It is important to get in front of this issue. This bill is not about whether people should have the free choice to vape. It does not ban e-cigarettes; it only bans using e-cigarettes where smoking is banned. Most other jurisdictions in Australia—Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory—already ban vaping in the same way as smoking is banned from smoke-free areas. It is important to regulate the use of e-cigarettes in public places now before their use becomes more common in New South Wales. Therefore, I support this bill. Regardless of whether e-cigarettes are approved as smoking cessation tools, we need to act now to protect people in the wider community who do not want to inhale these chemicals. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (16:57): I support the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018, which bans the use of electronic cigarettes in places where smoking tobacco is currently banned. E-cigarettes have emerged only in the past five to 10 years. While five years ago their use seemed to be growing rapidly, it appears that their take-up has settled, with the Minister reporting that less than 1 per cent of people in New South Wales use electronic cigarettes. Notwithstanding that, electronic cigarettes are being used in the community, and I support the Government's approach to protect people from second-hand vapour.

The World Health Organization has raised serious concerns about the potential hazardous components in vapour from electronic cigarettes—from both nicotine and nicotine-free e-cigarettes. Liquid used in e-cigarettes contains a complex mix of chemicals, including flavourants and metals. When heated, the vapour has been shown to include toxins, carcinogens and irritants, including fine and ultrafine particles, volatile organic compounds, lead, nickel, chromium and formaldehyde. Their levels vary drastically and the World Health Organization has found that in some cases, levels of lead, chromium, nickel and formaldehyde can be higher in electronic cigarette vapour than in cigarette smoke.

The impact of inhaling heated flavourants is not well studied, but there is evidence of harm. Inhaling nicotine vapour has additional health impacts, particularly in foetus development. Although liquid nicotine is illegal to sell and possess in New South Wales, people can get it online, leaving no guarantee that second-hand vapour does not include nicotine. The bill will ensure people will be able to avoid the potential toxins of second-hand electronic cigarette vapour. Like smoking, vaping will be banned in enclosed public places and commercial outdoor dining areas, at sporting matches, in public pools, around children's play equipment, at the entrance of public buildings, at bus stops and train platforms, and on public transport.

Restricting where people can use electronic cigarettes will also ensure that vaping does not become normalised in the community, which is especially important while the health impacts of vaping remain uncertain. The uptake of electronic cigarettes is growing in the United States and in Poland, including among non-smoking youth. It is important that we take action to prevent vaping becoming popular with non-smokers. Some electronic cigarette marketing is clearly aimed at young people, with advertisements reminiscent of tobacco campaigns from a bygone era aiming to invoke glamour and individuality.

Devices and vapour flavours can be highly stylised. Flavours range from standard menthol or tobacco, to slightly more designer flavours such as butter cookies and cinnamon apple, and idiosyncratic cocktail mixes such as good ship lollipop, which is a mix of candy and starburst, and velvet Elvis, which is the flavour of sweet and tender gummy bears, bubble gum and skittles. The regulatory approach is the right one. Although the evidence that electronic cigarettes can help people quit smoking is not strong, and is also offset by evidence that electronic cigarettes can reduce the chance of quitting, some people say that electronic cigarettes have helped them smoke less, and that outright bans are not appropriate.

But it is important that we protect the air in the public domain so that people are not forced to breathe air contaminated with chemicals and potential toxins. This bill will do that, and I support it. I thank the Minister for providing the crossbench with a detailed briefing on this bill. I encourage other Government Ministers to acknowledge the importance of providing crossbench members of this House with all the relevant information

they need before they vote and speak on bills. While this may sound obvious, it is something that is rarely practised. Briefings are often offered only after bills have been passed in this place. I support the bill.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (17:01): On behalf of The Greens I address the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018. I concur with the member for Sydney that we appreciate the Minister's efforts to have a detailed engagement with members of the crossbench. It has been very useful. I support the comments of the member for Sydney that other Ministers could use this approach. It is important that everyone has a sense of what is proposed in bills. If the Government is proud of the bills it puts forward it should communicate with all members of this House who will vote on them.

The issues covered by this bill are very interesting because there are different perspectives on them. When there was a vote on the matter in the upper House, The Greens called for an inquiry to look at the emerging evidence and the competing points of view. That was not supported, but that policy is still our position today. I understand that that may be pursued in the other place. But here, today, I will outline some of the arguments for restriction and some arguments against it. It is the view of The Greens that this legislation should be supported, but it is important to recognise that the debate on this issue is active in our community and in other jurisdictions.

The Greens do not have a specific stance on e-cigarettes in its health policy because it is an issue that is relatively new, and the evidence and data involved are still emerging. The use of e-cigarettes began relatively recently and there is little concrete evidence about the benefits—in terms of aiding people to quit smoking—and the potential long-term harm they may cause. There have been a number of inquiries into e-cigarettes in different jurisdictions in Australia. In 2015-16, South Australia held an inquiry and decided to amend its tobacco legislation to include e-cigarettes in the restrictions imposed on tobacco products.

Western Australia is currently conducting an inquiry. In its 2017 report, the inquiry stressed that it was less a report and more a discussion paper. In its paper the inquiry outlined the conflicting views about the regulation of e-cigarettes, but did not make any concrete recommendations. Last month, the Federal Government's Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport released its report on the use and marketing of e-cigarettes. I am sure the Minister's staff is familiar with the inquiry. The committee looked specifically at whether e-cigarettes could assist in reducing the number of Australians who smoke. For those people who do not support the regulation that is one of the critical issues.

The chair's foreword to the report reveals that this is still a vexed issue and notes that the committee was presented with starkly conflicting views during the inquiry. The chair authored a dissenting report, which is quite unusual. It is worth noting that each report seems to have struggled with balancing the unknown elements of e-cigarettes with the potential for them to save lives. More and more information about e-cigarettes is available as time goes on. It is The Greens view that a New South Wales inquiry would be able to build on previous reports and assist in forming the regulatory landscape for e-cigarettes.

The bill does not include a ban on e-cigarettes, but it will restrict e-cigarette smoking to certain areas and e-cigarettes will be treated like other tobacco products under the Smoke-free Environment Act. While this may seem logical, it is a move away from the status quo, which is opposed by some addiction specialists and users of e-cigarettes. For the information of members, I will take a few moments to outline the broad arguments for and against restrictions. The main argument of those who are opposed to restrictions is that e-cigarettes are a safer alternative to tobacco smoking. While the long-term effects of e-cigarettes are not well known, they have been demonstrated to be less harmful than traditional cigarettes. Those who are against restrictions see e-cigarettes as a form of tobacco harm reduction.

The World Health Organization reports that tobacco kills seven million people a year. In Australia approximately 2.4 million people smoke cigarettes daily. It is estimated that two or three of those smokers will die prematurely. Those who advocate in favour of e-cigarettes say that e-cigarettes potentially will save lives. They also say that damage caused by tobacco outweighs the potential risks posed by e-cigarettes. A strong part of their argument, which is relatively unproven, is that e-cigarettes can help people to transition away from tobacco addiction. The Greens have adopted the view that studies on this issue are split. The United Kingdom's National Health Service [NHS] embraces e-cigarettes as valuable smoking cessation aids, but other studies show that people using e-cigarettes to quit smoking often end up using both cigarettes and e-cigarettes. That is a contentious issue.

For many years smoking levels have been decreasing steadily. Mr Temporary Speaker and member for Heathcote will notice that there has been a slight stall in the reduction. It is the view of some people in this space that another tool should be available to help people quit, and e-cigarettes may be the solution. Another part of the argument against restriction is that e-cigarettes often end up being treated in the same way as tobacco products. It is argued that that is unfair because e-cigarettes do not cause exactly the same harm to users or bystanders. A submission from one of the groups opposed to restrictions likened it to regulating horses and cars with the same set of rules.

In relation to this bill, Alex Wodak—whom members will know and whom I respect greatly—and other supporters of e-cigarettes' harm reduction value argue that forcing into the same area as smokers those who have chosen to use e-cigarettes to try to quit smoking will be detrimental. They say that it will stigmatise the use of e-cigarettes. Making people smoke their e-cigarettes among tobacco smokers and exposing them to smoke will make them more likely to take up smoking again; it is a disincentive to stop smoking. It is also important to note that those who oppose restrictions do not necessarily oppose regulation. The inability to supply nicotine products in Australia legally, combined with how easily individuals can buy them online from overseas, has led to concerns that Australian may be importing dangerous products.

The Greens fall on the side that is in favour of restrictions. As we know, the bill does not constitute a ban on e-cigarettes. The Greens do not support a ban and believe that currently would be a step too far. However, the bill will restrict the use of e-cigarettes to certain areas if they are treated like other tobacco products under the Smoke-free Environment Act. As I mentioned earlier, the arguments advanced in favour of restriction are based on the long-term effects of e-cigarettes being unknown. That represents the adoption of the precautionary principle, which is a matter The Greens take very seriously. That is one reason The Greens support this legislation. Those in favour of restrictions also talk about the position taken by public health bodies, such as the Cancer Council and the Heart Foundation. I work very closely with the Cancer Council and support it. Those groups contend that the precautionary principle should be implemented.

It is important to note that, while similar public health authorities in other jurisdictions adopt a different stance on e-cigarettes and support their use as an alternative to smoking—most notably in the United Kingdom—the majority do not. A recent study by the Telethon Kids Institute, which is cited in the Western Australian report, found that e-cigarette vapours could cause quite significant lung damage in mice. It also showed that, while it is less dangerous than mainstream tobacco smoke, it is not without risks. The risk to bystanders is currently unknown, and that underpins this bill. Because e-cigarette devices are largely unregulated, different devices emit different levels of toxicants. In some of these devices, the toxicants are lower than conventional cigarettes but are also different because they do not produce smoke.

Currently, in New South Wales it is illegal to smoke an e-cigarette in a car with a child passenger. However, it is largely up to individual venues whether they allow their patrons to smoke e-cigarettes. To my mind, the main issue is renormalisation of smoking. Because e-cigarettes resemble traditional smoking methods more than other tobacco harm reduction methods—such as patches, gum or sprays—there is a legitimate concern that e-cigarettes may lead to a renormalisation of smoking, particularly among young people. There is limited data on this issue. Some international surveys show that the use of e-cigarettes is increasing rapidly among young people, but most of those users also smoke cigarettes. The e-cigarettes market increasingly is owned by the tobacco industry, which may employ similar marketing tactics to those it engages in for its tobacco products. In New South Wales it is not possible to market e-cigarettes.

It is clear to The Greens that the evidence is not settled. Even if we support the position adopted by people who oppose regulation, we need to adopt the precautionary principle. We need to say that, while much more research needs to be done, we should be cautious and implement regulations. As I mentioned earlier, the Western Australian report, the Federal report and the work of the NHS in the United Kingdom indicate that there is an opportunity for New South Wales to undertake some similar research work and similar studies. I acknowledge that the Minister referred to that in his second reading speech. However, we must strive to avail ourselves of as much evidence as possible to ensure that, if there is an opportunity to transition from tobacco smoking with e-cigarettes playing an important part, we should use whatever tools are available to make that happen.

The Greens have done a lot of work looking at the evidence, studying all the issues and listening to all the advocates in this space. The Greens believe that, while we support an inquiry, on balance we should support this legislation for the reasons I have stated.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research)
(17:11): In reply: I thank all members who participated in debate on the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018. I appreciate the contributions to the debate made by the member for Port Stephens, the member for Seven Hills, the member for Charlestown, the member for Cootamundra, the member for Sydney and the member for Balmain. As noted by a number of members who participated in the debate, evidence is emerging that there are potential health risks from substances in e-cigarette vapours, even though there is no nicotine in the e-liquid. It is recognised quite broadly that the use of e-cigarettes is a challenging issue: Indeed, it is challenging health authorities right across the world. E-cigarettes pose a challenge to regulators to ensure that responses are balanced and proportionate to their potential risks and benefits.

Many health organisations, including the Australian Medical Association (NSW), support a prohibition on vaping in areas where smoking tobacco is prohibited. I particularly thank the President of the Australian Medical Association (NSW), Brad Frankum, for the association's contribution to developing that perspective.

Support for that prohibition also comes from the Heart Foundation, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Cancer Council—organisations that are particularly concerned about the potential risks to those in our society who are most vulnerable to secondary vapour, such as babies, children, elderly people and indeed anybody who has cardiovascular health issues or respiratory issues or a range of other medical conditions that could be affected adversely by those products. The Heart Foundation and perhaps other health organisations would like to go further with prohibitions, but the Government is attempting to strike a balance. As I stated in my second reading speech, the legislation is all about striking a balance while effectively operating on the precautionary principle to ensure that third parties are not damaged.

The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government shares the concerns of each of those organisations and many others in the community. The Smoke-free Environment Amendment Bill 2018 will amend the Smoke-free Environment Act and the Passenger Transport (General) Regulation to ensure that where it is currently unlawful to smoke it will also be unlawful to use e-cigarettes. This change will better protect bystanders from the harmful effects of e-cigarette vapour. I emphasise that the Government is not outlawing vaping. If individuals wish to vape, that is a matter for them. However, the Government and those who understand the potential effects of vaping certainly would not encourage it. Nevertheless, smokers of e-cigarettes can vape and take the risks, but they cannot expose third parties to risks and to adverse health impacts.

The bill will also amend the Public Health (Tobacco) Act to ensure that e-cigarette retailers are notified to the health secretary in the same way that tobacco retailers are required to notify their premises to the health secretary. Notification will ensure that NSW Health is aware of where e-cigarette retailers are notified and can undertake compliance activities. The Government recognises that the changes will have a particular impact on e-cigarette only retailers, as the changes in the bill could limit the ability of existing practices whereby customers sample flavours and retailers demonstrate the use of particular devices in the shop. As such, the bill will allow the secretary to exempt existing e-cigarette retail only stores from the no-vaping rules.

As a result of discussions with the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps, MLC, I foreshadow that the Government will move an amendment to the bill to allow the secretary to exempt e-cigarette retail only shops that may come into existence in the future from the no-vaping rules. The secretary will have the power to grant exemptions from the no-vaping rules. In summary, it will apply to existing vaping stores—of which I think there are 11 or 12—and to any future shops that focus only on the marketing of e-cigarettes and their products. It has nothing to do with tobacco retailers or those who also sell tobacco. Any exemptions that are granted will be subject to conditions imposed by the secretary. It is expected that such conditions would include matters such as no minors being permitted. That is a sensible exemption, which will only apply to e-cigarette only retailers.

Before I conclude, I thank the existing e-cigarette retailers for their generally very responsible approach to the sale of their particular products. They understand the limitations that the Government and community think should appropriately be placed upon them. Certainly from what I have seen, those retailers are trying to comply. I thank them for that and encourage them to continue to comply. On balance, the bill is a sensible approach to the regulation of e-cigarettes. It will better protect public health and will bring us into line with three other Australian States and one Territory. It makes sense. I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mr Brad Hazzard.

Consideration in Detail

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): By leave: I will deal with the bill in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 and 2 be agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research) (17:18): I move Government amendment No. 1 on sheet C2018-024:

No. 1 **Exemption for e-cigarette retailers**

Page 3, Schedule 1 [3], lines 14-36. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead:

[3] Section 19A

Insert before section 20:

19A Exemption relating to premises of e-cigarette retailers

- (1) This section applies to the premises of e-cigarette retailers who notify the Secretary under section 39 of the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008* (as

substituted by *the Smoke-free Environment Amendment Act 2018*) of an intention to engage in e-cigarette retailing.

- (2) The Secretary may, by order in writing, exempt persons from sections 7 and 8 in relation to the smoking of e-cigarettes on the premises of an e-cigarette retailer.
- (3) An exemption may be subject to such conditions, including requiring the display of the order, as may be specified in the order.
- (4) An exemption does not apply unless the person complies with all applicable conditions of the exemption.
- (5) In this section, *e-cigarette retailer* means a person who engages in e-cigarette retailing, but does not engage in tobacco retailing, within the meaning of those terms in Part 5 of the *Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008*.

As I forecast during my reply to the second reading debate, the Government has listened to the concerns of those who believe there should be some provision in the legislation for future retailers of e-cigarettes. The amendment will broaden the exemption powers provided in the bill for vaping in e-cigarette retail premises to include both existing and new e-cigarette only retailers. Under the Smoke-free Environment Act, shops are generally "enclosed public spaces" and smoking is therefore banned. The bill will ban the use of e-cigarettes in these areas as well. The original version of the bill allowed for the health secretary to exempt retailers that only sell e-cigarettes for the prohibition and use of e-cigarettes in their shop.

NSW Health consulted with industry and advised me that banning the use of e-cigarettes in specialist shops would severely impact existing retailers. Many e-cigarette only retailers allow customers to sample flavours and demonstrate the use of particular devices in the shop. Retailers that sell only e-cigarettes see themselves as having an important role in educating their customers about the use of these emerging products. Initially, the bill limited this exemption power to existing e-cigarette only retailers. Any e-cigarette retailers that commenced their business after the bill's enactment would not have been eligible. However, as I indicated in my second reading reply speech, as a result of discussions with the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps, MLC, the Government has recognised the concerns he expressed.

We also recognise—as a result of broader discussions—that limiting the provisions to the existing 11 or 12 shops may stifle competition within the industry. That is not our intention. In the interests of maintaining a level playing field for existing and new operators, the Government is moving this amendment to allow new retailers that only sell e-cigarettes the same exemptions. I stress that the power of exemption applies only for retailers who stick to the sale of e-cigarettes; no other types of cigarettes. It is important that the exemption powers should be limited to shops that sell only e-cigarettes—these are destination shops and they do not sell any products other than e-cigarettes. Because e-cigarettes and their accessories can only be sold to adults, only adults go to these shops and then only if they have decided that they want to try e-cigarettes. In contrast, tobacco retailers—including supermarkets, convenience stores, newsagents and service stations—sell a variety of products, some of which may be sold to children.

It is important that Parliament and the community protect our children and people who are buying other products from exposure to e-cigarettes. The exemptions will not be available to hospitality venues that sell e-cigarette products, including pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants. Any exemptions will be made with conditions to ensure that vulnerable persons will not be exposed to second-hand e-cigarette vapour. The Government, NSW Health and the health secretary are completely committed—and I believe most people in this place are committed—to ensuring that vulnerable people are not exposed to second-hand e-cigarette vapour. This amendment and the legislation in its entirety ensure that this is the outcome that Parliament seeks and is delivering. I commend the amendment and the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that Government amendment No. 1 on sheet C2018-024 be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that schedule 1, as amended, be agreed to.

Schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that schedules 2 and 3 be agreed to.

Schedules 2 and 3 agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Private Members' Statements

NEWCASTLE LIGHT RAIL

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (17:24): Today I speak of the businesses in Newcastle that are suffering and closing due to the light rail project being built in the main thoroughfare of Hunter Street. All the professional advice, including that contained in Cabinet document 71 that was found in my office, said that the light rail should not go down Hunter Street, and now the proverbial chickens have come home to roost. Businesses were assured that the project would not affect them due to the block-by-block approach taken by Revitalising Newcastle in the construction—until it was not taking that approach any more and cut off access for customers who do support those businesses. The Premier assured businesses that they would be supported when she said, "If there's demonstrated loss, we're always considering rental assistance. That's what we've done for other projects in other parts of New South Wales, so, of course, we'll look at those issues." But almost five months later no rental assistance has been announced, and business owners in Newcastle continue to suffer and struggle.

Those business owners even had the NSW Small Business Commissioner in Newcastle, but to date there has been no consideration given by this Government. Many businesses have been affected so far, either by having to relocate their premises or by closing for good. These businesses were longstanding operations that had been run successfully for years—some for generations. I name a few that have closed: Vinyl Cafe, These Days Cafe and Pacific Dreams surf shop. Those that have moved or are under threat include: Fusion Cafe, Newcastle Coin Shop, Newy Burger Co, Frontline Hobbies, Newcastle Skate Shop, Newcastle Diggers and Press Cafe. Press Cafe proprietor Murray spoke to me just an hour ago to tell me that today he had to lay off the remainder of his staff.

As a case study, I will speak of a shop that has been in business for almost 35 years: Newcastle Coin Shop. Owner Shane McCulloch took over the shop 13 years ago, when the business was struggling, and he has worked hard to build the business into a strong and thriving operation. However, when I spoke to him recently he was devastated. I can only describe the business today as desperately trying to stay afloat. This can be directly attributed to the construction of the light rail. Since the start of construction in October 2017, foot traffic has decreased and the all-important Christmas trading period was the slowest in years. Then when Revitalising Newcastle reversed its decision to take a block-by-block approach earlier this year and shut off Hunter Street, foot traffic decreased dramatically.

Shane believes his is not the only business that is experiencing the drop-off in foot traffic, with businesses in Honeysuckle and Derby streets also reporting a decrease in patronage. Two stores on either side of him are now moving due to their decline in business, which will also affect his business, and now he is considering the closure of his shop. Another concern is that Shane has a mortgage on the building that he works in, so he cannot afford the additional rent and fit-out of another shop whilst paying a mortgage on his current one. This means he is not eligible for the so-called rent assistance that the Premier is promoting. Shane is now looking for a job—when he should be self-employed in his shop—and he knows that a large portion of his wage will go to paying the mortgage on the shop premises, which will leave his family short of money. He simply cannot sell the shop in the current environment without discounting the premises by up to \$150,000, which would cripple him financially.

I ask the Premier to honour her commitment to support the businesses of Newcastle. I also have concerns about the flow-on effects that will soon be felt in the Honeysuckle eating district. With the majority of Hunter Street closed off and parking spaces eradicated, commuters have taken to parking in the Lee Wharf car park. This central parking area was convenient for workers in the daytime and for those who visit bars and restaurants after work and on weekends. However, on Tuesday last week this popular car park was closed. Apparently other existing car parks in the area are promised for the university's expansion plans—this being the university that listed only two car parks in its development application for its recently completed Hunter Street building and that now allegedly leases two levels of an existing multi-level car park station to house staff cars. I have concerns about how the city's commuters will deal with parking when that construction takes place.

In the midst of this, the Government is rolling out the standard lines that Newcastle workers need to use the public transport system. But with the light rail still under construction and Newcastle buses being privatised and in a state of chaos, more people than ever are getting back into their cars and exacerbating an already disastrous mix. I now fear that, with Hunter Street businesses closing and the Honeysuckle businesses under threat, Newcastle is losing its central business district [CBD] altogether. The Premier needs to come back to Newcastle, take the time to talk to the affected businesses and make an offer before it is too late and there is no CBD left to revitalise.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND EVENTS

Ms PRU GOWARD (Goulburn—Minister for Family and Community Services, Minister for Social Housing, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (17:29): I bring to the attention of the House the tremendous investment that the New South Wales Government has made in vital local infrastructure projects in the Goulburn electorate that make the lives of the people I serve so much better. I begin with a massive thank you to the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government on behalf of the electorate of Goulburn for the unprecedented amount of funding that is now available. I am pleased and proud to be part of a government that invests heavily in regional New South Wales. A total of \$24 billion will be invested across our regions over the next four years.

Round one of the Stronger Country Communities Fund resulted in millions of dollars being invested in projects within the Goulburn electorate. The successful projects include an upgrade to the Crookwell Showground worth \$275,141, an upgrade of Victoria Park in Goulburn worth \$896,000 and an upgrade to amenities in the Yass Valley region worth a staggering \$1.6 million. These councils have not seen such a generous investment in their regions for many years. I believe these projects will provide opportunities to create local jobs as well as greater liveability for the region of Goulburn. I understand that applications for projects under round two of the Stronger Country Communities Fund are now under way, and I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Let me assure members that it is not just the big-ticket items that are making a real difference to the lives of regional communities in Goulburn. Recently I was able to announce \$80,000 for local school programs, including \$20,000 for the Windellama Public School, which is not a large school, for sports court fencing; \$50,000 for Moss Vale High School for basketball court resurfacing; and \$10,000 for Breadalbane Public School for sandpit area shading. This funding does not sound much, but to these communities it represents wonderful news and will improve the quality of education programs and support that the schools can offer. My constituents and I eagerly await the outcome of other New South Wales grant applications through the Regional Growth Fund, including the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund, the Regional Cultural Fund, the Growing Local Economies fund and the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

As recently as yesterday I had the pleasure of announcing funding for several sporting clubs in my electorate. Goulburn City Swans Incorporated, with the help of New South Wales Government investment of \$18,350, will install a sprinkler system at Goodhew Park to soften its hard surface with grass. Furthermore, the Crookwell Amateur Lifesaving and Swimming Club will benefit from a \$15,000 grant to install rollers and thermal blankets at the Crookwell Pool—and, boy, was there excitement when I told the club yesterday. Goulburn Mulwaree Athletics will construct a new long and triple jump pit, including synthetic grass and a rubber run-up, at Hudson Park with \$8,000. My electorate is thriving in part thanks to the New South Wales Government and strong investments in this region plus, undoubtedly, strong business confidence throughout this State.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Bundanoon Highland Gathering Inc. on its efforts this past weekend in hosting the Bundanoon is Brigadoon event. Brigadoon is a not-for-profit charity that injects thousands into the local economy through the celebration of Scottish heritage and its cultural significance. This annual event began on 21 October 1978 and has grown substantially each year since then. This year was my twelfth opportunity to be involved in such a wonderful occasion, and I wore a kilt made by my son-in-law Michael Ayling—thank you, Michael. Entertainment on the day included pipe bands, many clan information stalls, traditional heavyweight championships, Scottish country dancing and lots more, including the stirring sound of the pipes resounding throughout the day. *Flower of Scotland* was sung to great effect at the beginning of the event.

All of this is a great celebration of this ancient culture and its place in the story of Australia. I congratulate this year's chieftain, Warren Glase, who has been a long-time supporter and official of this event. I congratulate also long-time organiser Alistair Saunders and the Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire, Councillor Ken Halstead, both of whom worked tirelessly behind the scenes with their teams to make this day a success for the people of South Wales, for the people of Bundanoon, and particularly for the local charities that will benefit from it.

TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (17:34): This evening I pay tribute to the Taronga Western Plains Zoo and offer my congratulations on the opening of its latest exhibit, the Taronga Western Plains Lion Pride Lands, a new interactive exhibit featuring five African lions. The exhibit offers visitors to the zoo the unique experience of getting up close and personal with the lions via a glass viewing area and other viewing points where they can witness the natural behaviours of a pride of lions. Visitors will be able to have an experience that was common way back when at Warragamba of driving among a pride of lions.

This exhibit is another example of the wonderful investments that are being made in partnership with the New South Wales Government and those generous, philanthropic supporters of the Taronga Foundation which continue to enhance and significantly improve the experiences on offer at the Taronga Western Plains Zoo. In the past couple of years, the investment in new exhibits and accommodation inside the zoo has been nothing short of amazing. The Taronga Western Plains Zoo has won the Australian Tourism Award for best unique accommodation for the past three years as well as a series of State tourism awards. The zoo is a real standout because of its excellence not only in tourism but also in the zoo experience.

The zoo would not be as successful as it is without the wonderful volunteers that support the zoo's operations. At the opening of the exhibit, I presented Premier's Volunteer Recognition Awards to Kate Charlton for her work as a volunteer at the zoo; Greg O'Mally, who is responsible for the volunteer rosters and is vice-chairperson of the volunteer committee for Taronga Western Plains Zoo; Michael O'Leary, who volunteers by helping out with early morning walks and coach tours; Sue Ryan, who also volunteers by helping out with the walks, is a member of the education committee and trains and mentors other volunteers; Susie Hill, who is chairperson of the education committee, a member of the volunteer committee and a guide at the zoo and, as my local Cancer Council contact in Dubbo, is an outstanding person in relation to cancer research; and Alison Noble, who also is a volunteer and member of the education committee. Lauren Nott was recognised with a Premier's Volunteer Recognition Award for her role in the morning zoo walks and for her service on the education committee.

I also presented an award to Mr John Swain for more than 25 years of volunteer service both locally in the Dubbo community and originally in Freshwater at the local surf lifesaving club. Despite living in Dubbo, he returns to the club a couple of times a year to provide wonderful volunteer work. I am enormously proud of the volunteering efforts of everybody in the Dubbo electorate. The latest census data indicates that Dubbo has one of the highest rates of volunteering in New South Wales. I am immensely proud of that. The volunteers contribute to many sporting, service and charity organisations. Their efforts have made Dubbo what it is and continue to enhance to the services offered in Dubbo.

I acknowledge the personnel of the Taronga Western Plains Zoo and their efforts in tourism. Their conservation work is simply outstanding, as the Attorney General would recognise from when he was Minister for the Environment. The zoo's staff are world leaders in rhino breeding and now their work with a pride of lions is helping with the conservation of that species. Their education of the broader public will make a significant difference to the conservation of the lion species. I thank the Attorney General for his work in his former role which was instrumental in making this investment happen. I thank the current Minister for the Environment, Ms Gabrielle Upton, for her attendance at and opening of this wonderful new exhibit for the community of Australia.

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE RESEARCHER JUSTIN YERBURY

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (17:39): It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a brave and inspiring resident of our region, Dr Justin Yerbury. For those who watch that great Australian Broadcasting Corporation [ABC] television show *Australian Story*, sometimes we wonder why some people are featured on it, including some B-grade politicians, but this was not one of those stories. Dr Yerbury's inspirational story is about a man who is beyond selfless and giving. He is an absolute champion and hero of our community. Dr Yerbury's story is tragic but inspiring. He suffers from the genetic strain of motor neurone disease [MND]. Those of us who have come across this disease know how cruel and incurable it is. The disease is ravaging his body, as it has ravaged the bodies of several members of his family.

Many years ago, Dr Yerbury committed himself to finding a cure for this disease. He abandoned a professional basketball career and embarked on tertiary education which subsequently led to a career in medical research that has established him as a world-leading molecular biologist. Dr Yerbury is now a senior research fellow with the University of Wollongong at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute. He leads research efforts aimed at unravelling the molecular origins of motor neurone disease, with the ultimate objective of finding a cure. Despite his advancing illness, which has now left him permanently connected to a ventilator and without speech, and despite requiring round-the-clock care, he has refused to give up on his quest to find a cure for motor neurone disease. Now completely confined to a bed, he communicates and continues his work with the assistance of specialist computer technology that responds to his gaze. He continues to work and correspond with colleagues and he continues to make a contribution.

At the beginning of this episode of *Australian Story*, there was a message from the world-renowned scientist Dr Stephen Hawking, someone who many in this place have admired and who also suffered MND. He reminded us of the daily battle faced by sufferers and of the great work that Dr Yerbury is doing. Despite the many barriers they face in their daily existence, both of these individuals have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of science and to benefit the wider society. Dr Yerbury is a humble man but he inspires the entire community and

the entire country. I am fortunate to represent him in this place on behalf of the electorate of Kiera and the entire Illawarra region. I offer my sincere gratitude to Dr Yerbury and his team at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, an institute that was established by the previous Labor Government which is doing incredibly important work searching for treatments and cures that for so long have been out of reach.

I am grateful to Dr Yerbury and his family for continuing to try to find a cure for one of the worst diseases anyone could be inflicted with. Dr Yerbury is a true hero. I acknowledge the ABC *Australian Story* for recognising the sort of people that we should be paying tribute to, that is, true heroes, true role models and true champions who inspire our community, such as Dr Justin Yerbury. I wish Dr Yerbury well in his professional and personal endeavours. I pay tribute to the contribution he and his team have made to ensuring that one day a cure is found for this terrible disease.

BALLINA ELECTORATE CYCLONE DISASTER RECOVERY

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (17:44): I pay tribute to the people of the Ballina electorate who were affected just over 12 months ago when Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit our region. The Northern Rivers March-April 2017 floods were one of the most significant events to impact the Northern Rivers region in the past 40 years. Our hearts went out and continue to go out to those affected across the Northern Rivers region. But today I speak particularly about the people in my community. During March, Mullumbimby, on the Brunswick River, received a staggering 925 millimetres of rainfall—over half the annual average in a single month—which led to major flooding. By the afternoon of Friday 31 March 2017, Mullumbimby and Billinudgel were flooded. The roads in and out were cut after the Brunswick River and Marshalls Creek reached their flood peaks of 2.8 metres and 2.4 metres respectively. There was also flooding in low-lying areas of Ocean Shores and South Golden Beach.

In the Ballina shire, an estimated 100 residents were evacuated from Cabbage Tree Island by the State Emergency Service [SES] as a precaution due to concerns about water supply and sewerage. About 1,000 families in the Byron shire experienced flooded homes. They had to replace carpets, refrigerators, washing machines, sofas, beds and other household items. However, they were not deemed eligible for the Disaster Recovery Payment or for the Disaster Recovery Allowance, despite the Lismore and Tweed electorates being ruled eligible within a few days. Lismore and Tweed residents were eligible to apply for both of these payments from 6 April 2017 but Byron shire residents had to wait until 19 July before they could submit applications to Centrelink for these payments.

I am informed by Byron Shire Council that staff from the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services were not dispatched to the Byron shire until two weeks after the natural disaster occurred. The acting general manager told me that, "Councillors and staff had to lobby hard for affected parts of the Byron shire to be included on the list of declared local government areas eligible for the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and Disaster Recovery Allowance." At the time I was given the royal run-around between the State and Federal governments. The bottom line was that the council had to do the heavy lifting to provide information. It took nearly four months for members of my community to be eligible for that very modest amount of support.

The council estimates that the floods affected just over 1,000 properties in the Byron shire, which equates to one-fifth of the community. The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner survey of Byron shire businesses found that 74 businesses reported that the flood had an impact on their operations. In the absence of an official disaster recovery centre being established, the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre set up a pop-up centre of its own. The centre, which provides a meal service, reported that the demand for meals went from 50 a day to 100 a day following Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The amazing manager, Julie Williams, said the centre assisted residents from Mullumbimby, Main Arm, Billinudgel, Crabbes Creek, Burringbar, New Brighton, Ocean Shores, Goonengerry, Federal, Wilsons Creek and South Golden Beach in the days and weeks after the floods. Residents in The Pocket and Brunswick Heads also reported flood damage.

The Red Cross visited approximately 280 homes in Billinudgel, Mullumbimby, New Brighton, Ocean Shores, South Golden Beach, Main Arm and Middle Pocket to check on the welfare of people. Overall, the SES received in excess of 3,400 requests for assistance and more than 1,500 emergency service personnel were deployed to the Northern Rivers region during the event. I commend the SES personnel for their flood rescue response. I could not be more proud of the NSW Rural Fire Service and SES volunteers as well as all of our first responder rescue service men and women. Byron Shire Council has been working in partnership with Tweed Shire Council to understand the impact of the natural disaster and to reflect on the strengths and areas for improvement in the future. A formal recovery plan is being developed and local councils are working with the Office of Emergency Management to formalise it.

The way that my community responded to the floods a year ago is a testament to their character and resilience and their willingness to lend a hand to others. We did not just look after ourselves, we reached out to

our neighbours who suffered. It is still a shock to me and a matter of disgrace that this attitude was not extended by both State and Federal governments when it came to disaster relief. People are still recovering and there is still much work to do. With a warming planet, we need to be ready in the future and governments of the day must respond with generosity from day one.

ANZAC MEMORIAL CENTENARY PROJECT

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (17:50): Recently I arranged for a soil sample to be taken in Normanhurst as part of the Anzac Memorial Centenary Project. After the First World War, a large memorial to commemorate the courage, endurance and sacrifice of Australians from New South Wales during the Great War was erected in Hyde Park. A new Hall of Service will be created at the Hyde Park cenotaph, which will have wall plaques, each signifying one of the 1,300 different towns, suburbs and localities around New South Wales that enlistees for the First World War gave as their place of address. A sample of soil will be collected from every one of those places and will be displayed alongside the relevant plaque.

Normanhurst is one of the areas that World War I enlistees came from, and part of Normanhurst is in the electorate of Ku-ring-gai. The collection ceremony was held at the Hornsby Shire Historical Society Museum because it contains an honour board of World War I enlistees from South Hornsby Methodist. I assume that is a church. Joining me during the ceremony were Mr Terry James, AICM, JP, who is a Vietnam veteran and the President of the Hornsby RSL; Mr David Cooper and Mr Owen Thomas from the National Servicemen's Association; and Councillor Nathan Tilbury representing the Mayor of Hornsby, as well as councillors Janelle McIntosh, Joe Nicita, Mick Marr and Warren Waddell. Mr Joseph Cosentino, surveyor, oversaw the taking of the sample.

Also present were Graham and Ann Brown, who are the parents of a recent local war hero, Trooper Jason Brown of the Australian Special Forces, who tragically fell in active service in Afghanistan in 2010. Graham is a former member of the Armed Forces. In attendance also were representatives from Hornsby Girls High School, Barker College, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Knox Grammar School and the Hornsby Shire Historical Society. After the names of the enlistees who appeared on the honour board were read, I shared with those assembled some of the stories of the men as they were related in the celebrated local publication titled, "Rallying the Troops", which was researched, written and published by the members of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

Three men on the honour board were brothers. Frederick Lipscomb was born in Hornsby, Eric Lipscomb was born in Wahroonga and Neville Lipscomb was born in Mount Colah. Their parents, William and Jessie Lipscomb, had seven sons and one daughter. The three brothers on the honour board attended Warrawee Public School and Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Their father was a butcher with a business on Coonanbarra Road, Wahroonga, between the railway line and the Pacific Highway—where the Wahroonga shopping village is today. Of the three brothers, only Frederick Lipscomb survived the battlefields of Europe. Frederick was 23 when he enlisted. He saw action at Gallipoli before fighting on the Western Front at Pozieres, where he was wounded for the first time.

After Pozieres, he was commissioned and promoted to second lieutenant. After being hospitalised again he was promoted to lieutenant in 1917. In early 1918 the German Army launched its offensive on the Somme. Lieutenant Lipscomb was on the front line about 1.5 miles south of Villers-Bretonneux. His battalion was tasked with assaulting Hangard Wood and capturing German positions on the far side. The planned supporting artillery either never came or was ineffective and the Anzac battalions charged the German lines without it. Enemy machine guns took their toll on Lieutenant Lipscomb's men as they plunged towards and into the wood. Lipscomb was left with just six men. He and his men joined with another small group of five led by Lieutenant Percy Storkey.

The 12 Anzacs made their way eastwards, hooking from the north to emerge from the wood almost behind the entrenched enemy machine gun post that had mowed their men down. There were nearly 100 Germans, both riflemen and machine gun crews, with their backs to the 12 Anzacs and the Germans were still firing on the Australian assault company still struggling across the open battlefield. Storkey and Lipscomb got in quickly with bombs, bayonets and revolvers, catching the enemy from behind by surprise. Storkey's confident and aggressive manner made the Germans think more attackers were following and many surrendered. In all, three German officers and about 50 men were taken prisoners while 30 others were killed. Lipscomb personally accounted for eight Germans. For his conspicuous gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross.

Storkey was given an even higher award, the Victoria Cross, for his leadership and bravery. The next day, Lipscomb was wounded again, this time so badly that ultimately he was repatriated to Australia. However, that was not before he found some happiness by marrying an English nurse he met at the Wandsworth Military Hospital. On his return to Australia, he discovered that his war wounds prevented him from continuing as a farmer. He became an RSL representative for soldier settlement and a Federal land valuer for the Government. He again

served in the Second World War, as a captain, from 1942 to 1945 in the Volunteer Defence Corps. He ultimately died at the age of 60 in 1952. These are stories of just a few of the men and women of Ku-ring-gai who served in the Great War, displaying courage, sacrifice and endurance. It is important that we remember them. Lest we forget.

SCHOOL ZONE TRAFFIC PENALTY NOTICES

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (17:55): Recently one of my constituents received a response from the office of the Minister for Finances, Services and Property that I find completely unreasonable and, to be honest, is blatant revenue raising by this Government. My constituent Mark was issued a penalty notice when his vehicle was detected travelling 51 kilometres an hour in a 40-kilometre-an-hour school zone at 2.46 p.m. on 19 December 2017. Mark requested a review of the penalty notice on the basis that the fourth school term for 2017 ended on 15 December 2017—that is, four days prior to the date on which the fine was issued. Mark provided a printed screenshot from the Department of Education website that supported his claim. I have it with me and I can confirm for the House that it clearly states that the term did indeed finish on 15 December 2017.

Mark then received a response from the Parliamentary Secretary for Finance, Services and Property, on behalf of the Minister, stating that Revenue NSW was unable to offer leniency on the basis that school holidays had not yet commenced on 19 December and therefore school zones were still in effect. The Parliamentary Secretary claimed the school term dates publicly notified by the Department of Education—presumably the dates advertised in the *Government Gazette*—state that the school term finished on 19 December. This includes professional development days when children are not present at the school. It is unreasonable to expect motorists to know the gazetted dates for the school term when the Department of Education website clearly states a different date for the end of term.

To rub salt in the wound, the Parliamentary Secretary claimed that Revenue NSW was unable to comment on the information obtained from the Department of Education website because the information was no longer available. That completely ignored the fact that a printed screenshot was provided in the correspondence to the Minister. The Parliamentary Secretary, on behalf of the Minister, suggested that he, a member of the New South Wales Government, was unable to access information that was published by the Government. However, I found various online tools that allowed me to view archived pages from websites. If I was able to find the page on an archived website, surely the Minister's staff can too. The Parliamentary Secretary also suggested that it is Mark's responsibility to take up the matter with the Department of Education. When we so often hear about whole-of-government approaches, I find this difficult to understand. By the time a response would be received from the Department of Education, Mark would already have had to have paid his fine.

This highlights the inability for two Ministers and their officers to communicate, and the blatant and shameless revenue raising undertaken by this Government. How many drivers across this State have been wrongly penalised because government departments are unable to communicate with each other, or because the wrong information is being published? How many times has the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary claimed not to be able to access content published on a government website, whether it is current or historical? I, along with my constituent, do not understand why the credible evidence provided was ignored. It is certainly contrary to the Government's fine review process. Why do we have school zones? We have them to ensure the safety of children. Were there children at school on 19 December 2017? No, there were not. Did the Department of Education advertise that school holidays had commenced by then? Yes, it did. Is there proof of this? Yes, there is. Therefore, how can the Government penalise this man?

CRONULLA SUTHERLAND JUNIOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:59): I acknowledge the Cronulla Sutherland Junior Baseball Association, which is the regional sports administrator for baseball and tee-ball in the Sutherland shire and surrounds for children between the ages of five and 16 years. Every year, the association does an incredible job organising a fun competition for children that develops their skills, sportsmanship and team spirit, and encourages an active and healthy lifestyle. The Miranda electorate is home to five of the 13 clubs that form the Cronulla Sutherland Junior Baseball Association. They are: the Bonnet Bay Beavers Baseball Club, the Comets Baseball Club, the Cronulla Sharks Baseball Club, the Giants Baseball Club, and the Illawong Marlins Baseball Club. I take this opportunity also to acknowledge the committee members, who are instrumental to the success of the association. They are: president Peter Barrington, vice-president Darren Cummings, vice-president Mark Burns, secretary Melissa Green and treasurer Jason Chai.

The association's grand finals were held on Saturday 10 March 2018 at Tom Evans Field in Bonnet Bay. I had the pleasure of throwing the ceremonial first pitch of the Little League Division 1 Grand Final between the Giants Baseball Club and the Cronulla Sharks Baseball Club. It was a hard-fought match, with both the Giants Baseball Club and the Cronulla Sharks Baseball Club putting up an impressive fight for victory. Ultimately, only one could prevail, and I congratulate the Giants Baseball Club on its victory, winning with a total of six runs

to three. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to both the Giants Baseball Club and the Cronulla Sharks Baseball Club for all their hard work and dedication over the past season.

The Giants Baseball Club has instilled a love of baseball in children since 1915, and enters multiple junior league teams in the association's competition. The Giants pride themselves on being a family-oriented club, actively encouraging family participation and high levels of sportsmanship. I acknowledge president Mark Burns; vice-president Matthew Carter; vice-president Jarrod Martin; secretary Michelle Grant; and treasurer Elliot Levick. I thank them for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the club.

I also congratulate the victorious Little League Division 1 team from the Giants. Well done to Patrick Faulds; Brayden Goss; Liam Grant; Oscar Hill; Christian Lenertz; Sam Levick; Jacob Palmer; Troy Reid; Matthew Traynor; Damien Wilson; coach Matt Grant; assistant coaches Darren Fullerton and Elliot Levick; and manager Jasmine Hill. The Cronulla Sharks Baseball Club also had a great season. It has a proud history of developing junior and senior baseball players in the Sutherland shire since 1977. The Sharks also enter several teams into the association's competition. I thank the executive members for their dedication as volunteers and commitment to sport in our local community. I particularly acknowledge president Jason Choat, secretary Linda Lewis, and treasurer Kate Wiseman.

I also congratulate the players from the Sharks who participated in the Little League Division 1 Final on both putting on an entertaining final and having a fabulous season this year. Well done to Blake Cleary; Brendan Regan; Cooper Shobbrook; Ethan Reid; Finn Ramanauskas; Harrison Errington; Harrison Ford; Reko Mason; Mason Kospetas; Tom Wiseman; and their coach, Douglas Regan. I also thank the umpires, Karen Catt and Henry Towdell, for their professionalism in umpiring the grand final game. Finally, I acknowledge Liam Brandt from the Giants Baseball Club, who won the Most Valuable Player award. The Cronulla Junior Baseball Association, its teams, players and hardworking individuals behind the scenes are truly a testament to both our shire's love of sport and community spirit. I extend my congratulations to all involved for their participation and commitment throughout the year and extend my best wishes for future seasons.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:04
until Wednesday 11 April 2018 at 10:00.**