



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Wednesday, 16 May 2018**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Wednesday, 16 May 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 10:00.

**The Deputy Speaker** read the Prayer and acknowledgement of country.

*Documents*

## NSW OMBUDSMAN

### Reports

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I table the report of the NSW Ombudsman, entitled "Is your builder 'fit and proper': building licensing scheme in NSW", dated 16 May 2018, received this day and authorised to be printed. [*During the giving of notices of motion*]

*Notices*

## PRESENTATION

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The lack of respect being shown by members on both sides of the Chamber is not acceptable. Members will remain silent when other members are giving their notices of motions.

*Bills*

## FORESTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

### First Reading

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

### Second Reading Speech

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing) (10:15):**

I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I ask the House to consider the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Today I reaffirm the Government's commitment to the future of the native forestry industry in New South Wales. Some people in our community would have us think that forestry and environmental conservation are mutually exclusive. Today I reject that notion. The harvesting of trees in our native forests is not a zero sum game between jobs and the environment. Active forest management with sustainable harvesting can deliver benefits for the economy, for the community and for the environment. These benefits have been demonstrated over decades of forest management.

The forestry sector is critically important in many communities in New South Wales. The most recent figures show that the forestry sector, including wood product manufacturing with both hardwood and softwood, employs more than 17,500 people in New South Wales. The sector also generates many indirect jobs, particularly in regional New South Wales where an estimated 42 per cent of forestry jobs are based. This makes the forestry sector an important driver of regional economic growth. I am proud to speak in support of an industry that is delivering jobs in regional New South Wales.

In 2016, the New South Wales Government released the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap. The road map sets out an agenda for how we would drive a world-class sustainable and profitable forestry industry. The road map represented a first for forestry in New South Wales and an accountable and transparent statement from government on how it intends to support the sector and support jobs. In particular, the road map set out a sustainable business model to underpin the sector for the future.

In the road map, we committed to a series of actions under four key pillars: firstly, regulatory modernisation, which includes the renewal of New South Wales Regional Forest Agreements, the remake of the

Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval [IFOA], and the bill I introduce today in this House; secondly, balancing the supply and demand for timber in New South Wales; thirdly, improving community understanding and confidence in the forestry sector through research, development and engagement; and, fourthly, supporting industry innovation and opening new markets. I am proud to say that the New South Wales Government is achieving what it set out to do and what it committed to do in the road map. We are taking action that is going to secure the sector's future and we will continue to take necessary action.

I am proud to say that this Government will continue to stand by the industry and all of the regional communities that it supports. Among this Government's achievements for the forestry sector, we have finalised the implementation review of the New South Wales Regional Forest Agreements and we are commencing their renewal process. Also, we have reviewed the barriers to investment in new plantations and have engaged with the Commonwealth to ensure commercial plantations are eligible to participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund. Further, we have developed new legislation for the native forestry sector, which I am introducing to the House today.

The Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 will deliver a streamlined approach for native forestry legislation in New South Wales by consolidating five separate legislative frameworks into two. It balances economic benefits with community expectations. It also provides for increased regulatory certainty, enhanced transparency and greater enforceability. The bill amends the Forestry Act 2012 to prepare for the new Coastal IFOA and to establish provisions that enable the Environment Protection Authority [EPA] to enforce all of its conditions. The bill also amends the Local Land Services Act 2013 to formalise the transfer of responsibility for private native forestry advice and approvals to Local Land Services. New South Wales now has a single Act for overseeing land management activities on private land. Further, Local Land Services will be installed as the one-stop shop for landholders seeking land management advice and services, leading to improved service delivery for landholders and industry.

I turn first to the amendments related to private native forestry. Often referred to as PNF and also called farm forestry, PNF represents an enormous opportunity for New South Wales and for our 44,000 farmers. Many of our farmers have parcels of native forest on their land that could be sustainably harvested. These parcels could be more actively managed as forestry resources, allowing for important additional income to complement grazing, cropping and other operations. About two-thirds of native forests in New South Wales are on private land. The PNF sector is well placed to capitalise on the growing demand for high-quality, locally grown and sustainably harvested timber products.

The Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 marks a turning point for the management of PNF in New South Wales. The New South Wales Government announced in 2017 that responsibility for approving PNF plans—which are required before PNF operations can occur—will be moved from the EPA to Local Land Services. The transition took effect on 30 April 2018 and occurred seamlessly, ensuring continuity in service for landholders. This bill will now formalise this transition by repealing the PNF provisions in the Forestry Act and remaking and updating them in the Local Land Services Act.

Local Land Services is able to leverage its strong networks with landholders and its expertise in agricultural advice and land management to provide a better service to landholders. Importantly, this means that landholders can discuss the full suite of land management options with a single agency. Landholders will be able to work in partnership with Local Land Services to discuss pest and natural resource management issues, the requirements for PNF approvals and best practice forest management.

The bill creates a new part 5B in the Local Land Services Act 2013 for PNF. This part harmonises the definition of "forestry operations" with the definition in the Forestry Act. The bill specifies the objectives of part 5B, including authorising PNF in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management and the protection of biodiversity and water quality. Part 5B provides for the Minister for Lands and Forestry to make PNF codes of practice but only with the concurrence of the Minister of the Environment and the Minister for Primary Industries. It provides for public consultation on proposed PNF codes of practice. It specifies the process for submitting PNF plans, the conditions of such plans and the penalties for contravening a plan or code of practice.

Part 5B maintains the role of the EPA as the regulator of PNF and with responsibility to monitor PNF operations to ensure they comply with the Act. It updates the Local Land Services Act to increase the level of consistency across the regulatory framework for native vegetation. Through active and adaptive management, the productivity and environmental performance of our private native forests can be improved. Effective forest management does not require a trade-off between economic and environmental outcomes. Rather, it can deliver benefits for farmers, for the community and for the environment.

The New South Wales Government has also committed to review the codes of practice for PNF, consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel. Accordingly, the PNF code review will look to ensure that new PNF codes of practice are outcomes focused, risk responsive and easier to use and access and that they promote triple bottom line outcomes. I can confirm that public consultation on the PNF code review will commence later this year. Local Land Services and the EPA will be seeking input from the community, industry and key stakeholders to ensure all voices are heard as part of the process. The Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill is the next step towards the review as it will provide a head of power to prescribe additional matters that PNF codes may cover.

I will now turn to the amendments in the bill regarding native forestry on public land. There are more than 22 million hectares of native forests in New South Wales. Of this area, approximately 7.5 million hectares, or about one-third, are managed by the Crown. Of that area, approximately 75 per cent, or about 5.5 million hectares, is made up of nature conservation areas under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Timber harvesting is not allowed in nature conservation areas. The remaining two million hectares of native forests on public land are managed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW, or ForestCorp, as multiple use public forests.

ForestCorp is a State-owned corporation constituted under the Forestry Act 2012. Of the area managed by ForestCorp, approximately 50 per cent is not available for harvesting due to various restrictions, primarily related to environmental protection. This leaves a total of just one million hectares of public native forest available for harvesting, of which only approximately 30,000 hectares, or 3 per cent, are harvested annually. Although native forest harvesting on public land represents a relatively small area of New South Wales's forest estate, the New South Wales Government is committed to maintaining the strong environmental safeguards for harvesting.

Native forestry on public land is governed by IFOA licences issued to ForestCorp which specify how forestry operations must be conducted. As suggested by their name, IFOAs integrate the licence conditions from many pieces of legislation into a single licence. This simplifies the regulation of native forestry on public land, making it easier to understand and enforce.

The Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 amends the Forestry Act 2012 to update and streamline provisions related to IFOAs, enhance the framework for regulating native forestry, and amend the arrangements for how ForestCorp may operate. Specifically, the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 makes the following amendments related to IFOAs. It provides for public consultation for making or amending IFOAs. It enshrines the principle of ecologically sustainable forest management as an objective in the Act when making an IFOA, and the objective of conserving species, populations and ecological communities under the Fisheries Management Act 1994. It requires the relevant Ministers to consult with the Minister administering the Fisheries Management Act 1994 before approving an IFOA to ensure that important threatened species matters are considered.

It repeals provisions that make NSW forest agreements prerequisites for IFOAs. It consolidates licensing related to harming animals, plants or fish, or for polluting waters, to ensure that IFOAs no longer require separate environmental licences. It removes beekeeping and the grazing of livestock as operations that may be authorised and regulated by IFOAs, and instead creates regulation-making powers to authorise and regulate those activities. It allows for alternative enforcement tools including remediation orders and temporary stop work orders to be made in respect of forestry operations under an IFOA. And it updates the penalties for breaching the conditions of an IFOA so that they are aligned with the penalties for contravening a PNF plan or code of practice.

The amendments in this bill align with the new Coastal IFOA, a draft of which is currently out for public consultation. The draft Coastal IFOA strikes a balance between strengthening environmental standards and providing certainty for the State's forestry industry. The Coastal IFOA is a vital step forward in the New South Wales Government's forestry reform agenda. In finalising this draft we are delivering on our public commitment set out in the NSW Forest Industry Roadmap. I can also confirm that ForestCorp was consulted on the draft IFOA to ensure that the proposed rules are practical for its operations.

Other amendments in the bill, including those related to the operation of ForestCorp, include: streamlining the process for issuing permits for non-forestry uses of State forest land; allowing ForestCorp to recover debts related to permits, leases or services provided; revising provisions related to buildings on land dedicated as State forests; making ForestCorp an impounding authority under the Impounding Act 1993; and making consequential and other minor amendments to other legislation.

The Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 will improve the operation of the Forestry Act and update the sector's regulatory framework. These amendments provide the sector with regulatory certainty. The passage of this bill will ensure that the native forestry sector can continue to be economically and environmentally sustainable, and continue to deliver jobs and economic growth to regional New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

**ROAD TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DIGITAL DRIVER LICENCES AND PHOTO CARDS) BILL 2018**

**First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Victor Dominello, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (10:34):**

I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Road Transport and Other Legislation Amendment (Digital Driver Licences and Photo Cards) Bill 2018. This bill is a significant step forward in delivering on the New South Wales Government's commitment to digital transformation. It will enable the digitisation of the New South Wales driver licence and the New South Wales photo card on an opt-in basis, which will provide opportunities for improvements in service delivery, privacy and security for the citizens of our great State here in New South Wales. As at the end of 2017 there were over six million New South Wales driver licences and over 568,000 photo cards in use.

The bill delivers on the Government's 2015 election commitment to transition to digital driver licences by 2019. It also supports the Government's digital strategy, the Premier's priority to improve government services and the State priority of 70 per cent of government transactions to be conducted by digital channels by 2019. In 2015 the New South Wales Government announced its commitment to offering the people of New South Wales a range of digital licences, including a transition to digital driver licences by 2019. Since then this Government has successfully digitised the responsible service of alcohol and responsible conduct of gambling competency cards, the recreational fishing fee, boat driver licences and recreational vessel registrations.

This bill will take the next step by delivering the digital driver licence and the digital photo card. Digitising the driver licence and photo card is an opportunity to provide benefits for the community of New South Wales in three key areas. Firstly, for the citizens of New South Wales the digital driver licence and digital photo card will provide greater convenience, choice and security. Digital licences are also an opportunity for citizens to have more control and transparency over how the personal information on their licence is shown and shared with others.

The reality is that a digital driver licence or digital photo card brings a multitude of additional benefits and protections for users. One example of this is when a licence is lost. If you lose a physical driver licence or you have your wallet stolen, you have no ability to stop it being used by another person for nefarious purposes. Sure, you can report it to police and to Service NSW but once a licence is lost there is no way to cancel it in the way you would a credit card because so much checking of the licence is simply sighting it rather than it being scanned. There is a risk that it can still be used.

Then to replace a lost physical card you must attend a Service NSW centre in person and apply for a new card, which would be sent to you sometime after applying for it. This process takes time out of your busy day and is a major inconvenience. However, for a digital driver licence it is a much more secure proposition. Say you lose your phone that has your digital driver licence on it. You eventually have to go out and buy a new device but you are concerned that your digital driver licence is on there. As soon as you know your phone has been lost or stolen you can log into Service NSW and cancel your digital driver licence on that device.

You will know if it is used by someone who is not you as you will have access to an activity log, just like you have with your Opal card. By being able to cancel their card at the click of a button the citizen is empowered to take control of their identity security and privacy and ensure that their licence cannot be used or scanned by an unauthorised person, just like they can with their credit card. To replace your digital driver licence you simply take your new device, re-download the app, accept the digital driver licence on the new phone and away you go.

For businesses in New South Wales, digital licences present an opportunity to streamline manual processes for checking or recording licence details. This means that businesses may deliver a better experience for their customers and benefit from time and cost savings. Digital licences can also provide a greater level of assurance, reducing risks of fraud and loss. For government, this development will mean simpler and faster ways to communicate and interact with citizens—for example, digital notifications and licence renewals for those who prefer to deal with us in that way.

The NSW photo card is an increasingly important identity product; in 2017 alone there was a 28.38 per cent increase in its adoption. This makes it a priority for digitisation. A digital photo card is also not constrained

by the national driver licensing framework and therefore may be delivered in a more flexible form to enhance citizen privacy—for example, providing citizens with more control over the personal information they share, depending on the situation, such as to security staff at licensed venues. It will also give citizens a digital identity product that is independent of their authority to drive.

I turn now to the findings of the digital driver licence trial in Dubbo. The development of the digital driver licence and digital photo card has been supported by a public trial that began in November 2017 in Dubbo. That trial attracted more than 1,400 participants to test the digital driver licence in roadside police checks, pubs and liquor stores. Feedback from citizens, police and industry has guided the design and development of the digital driver licence to meet government, industry and customer needs. An independent research company was commissioned to conduct the trial and report on its findings. I am very pleased to report that, after an initial four months, the digital driver licence generated very high levels of satisfaction from participants in its convenience and ease of use, its likelihood of adoption and the likelihood of recommendation to others, with a net promoter score of 83 plus. The trial also tested the concept of developing a digital photo card through an "age details" function in the digital driver licence, which limits the display of personal information to that necessary for an evidence of age check—for example, to enter a pub and purchase alcohol.

The bill also addresses issues identified in testing the digital driver licence in real roadside situations. For example, when a person is required to produce their driver licence or photo card and shows their digital driver licence or digital photo card, they must also ensure that it can be read by the police or other authorised officer. That could mean increasing the brightness on their device, scrolling or tilting the screen. This trial has meant that the digital driver licence is tried and tested, with real feedback being fed back into its design, ahead of a statewide rollout.

I will now touch upon industry support that we have received to date. Nine pubs in Dubbo chose to participate in the trial of the digital driver licence for the purposes of entering licensed premises and purchasing alcohol. The feedback from this trial has been generally very positive. Trial participants said that people always have their phones on them, and that the digital driver licence would be difficult to fake. Eight liquor stores and three registered clubs have also chosen to participate to test the digital driver licence.

The Government has consulted heavily with stakeholders throughout the trial, including bars, liquor stores, pubs and licensed clubs. I thank them for their continued input and valuable contribution in developing the digital driver licence and digital photo card. I also thank the following individuals and peak organisations for their ongoing input and support of the digital driver licence to date—John Whelan, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Hotels Association; Michael Waters, Executive Director Liquor Stores Association, Juliana Payne, Chief Executive Officer Restaurant and Catering Association; and Anthony Ball, Chief Executive Officer ClubsNSW. These organisations had the following to say in light of this bill. The Australian Hotels Association:

The continued expansion of smartphone technology for cardless transactions will see the use of wallets as an option rather than a necessity, based on these feedback from our Dubbo members. The AHA NSW is supportive of the expansion of the digital driver licence statewide.

The Liquor Stores Association:

[The LSA] remains supportive of a full statewide rollout of the digital driver licence as it will give packaged liquor retailers, licensees and their staff at the point of purchase a safe and efficient digital service control age verification measure.

The Restaurant and Catering Association:

I am firmly of the view that this project will be of significant benefit to the approximately 14,200 café and restaurant businesses in New South Wales. The addition of the digital driver licence as a valid form of identification will provide patrons with a more seamless method of ordering alcohol in licensed cafes and restaurants. It is for this reason I have no hesitation in supporting a state-wide rollout of the digital driver licence.

ClubsNSW:

Proper implementation of digital drivers' licences will be a positive development in better equipping clubs for the digital future and the industry is excited for what these changes mean.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with industry as we progress to implementation of the digital driver licence and the digital photo card and thank them for their support to date. I now go through the statewide rollout of the digital driver licence and digital photo card. The trial in Dubbo will continue until the statewide rollout of the digital driver licence and digital photo card, and will continue to gather more data and feedback to refine the design of both products. Once launched, the people of New South Wales will be able to opt-in to receive a digital driver licence and digital photo card. These will essentially constitute a digital representation of a person's physical driver licence or photo card.

The digital versions will be in addition to the physical licence or card, and accessible via the MyServiceNSW app, which can be downloaded to their device, such as a smartphone. The digital driver licence

and digital photo card will provide a secure and user-friendly experience and be able to be authenticated visually, by viewing the visual security features, or electronically. Citizens who opt in for the digital driver licence will have the option of carrying or producing either their digital driver licence or their physical licence card when driving in New South Wales. Citizens will also be able to show their digital driver licence or digital photo card as evidence of their age and of their identity in the liquor and gaming industry to enter pubs and registered clubs, and in a variety of ways that the driver licence and photo card is currently used. The New South Wales Government has been working closely with industry groups to encourage and enable acceptance of the digital driver licence and digital photo card, and will continue to do so in the lead up to the statewide rollout.

I will answer some common questions and misconceptions around the digital driver licence and digital photo card. Since announcing the digital driver licence trial in Dubbo I have come across a few common questions or concerns relating to how a digital driver licence will operate in New South Wales. I take this opportunity to answer some of these key issues. The most common question I am asked is: What if a person's device, on which they have their digital driver licence, has a flat battery, cracked screen, is malfunctioning or is in a network black spot? As with the driver licence card, it will remain a driver's responsibility to ensure that they are able to produce their driver licence if requested to do so, whether it be their driver licence card or the digital driver licence on their electronic device.

Once a person chooses to have the digital driver licence through the Service NSW app, the digital driver licence is downloaded and may be accessed offline, as it is encrypted and stored securely on a person's device. A person does not need a network connection to then display their digital driver licence. If the driver's electronic device has a flat battery, a cracked screen or is in such a condition that the person checking the digital driver licence cannot read, copy or scan the digital driver licence, the driver will not have met the requirement to produce their driver licence. The driver may be penalised for failing to carry and produce their driver licence when required to do so by a police or other authorised officer.

The proposed amendments in the bill make this clear and is consistent with what happens now when a driver forgets their wallet which carries their driver licence card, loses their driver licence card or their card is so worn as to be unreadable. Another common question I have heard is: Is the New South Wales Government removing the physical driver licence card? The answer is no. The Government will continue to issue a physical driver licence card to all New South Wales driver licence holders. The digital driver licence is an optional addition to the driver licence card, which citizens can choose to use in place of their driver licence card. The digital driver licence will provide additional choice, convenience and security for citizens.

A further misconception is that people who opt in for the digital driver licence risk breaking the law by producing, displaying or accessing their digital driver licence whilst driving. I am pleased to inform the House that drivers will be allowed to use their mobile phone or other electronic device to display their digital driver licence, but only after being stopped and requested by a police officer or other authorised officer to show their driver licence. The bill will create an exception to the rule against using a mobile phone or similar electronic device, such as a tablet or laptop, whilst driving. This exception will allow a driver to use their device to display their digital driver licence, but I stress only in that limited circumstance when they have been stopped and asked by police or an authorised officer to do so. The Government is committed to making New South Wales roads the safest in the country. The launch of the digital driver licence will include strong and clear road safety messages to educate drivers on when it is lawful and safe to touch and use their device to display their digital driver licence to an authorised officer.

A further question that has been asked is: Will a police officer or other authorised officer need to handle a driver's electronic device displaying the digital driver licence in order to check the licence? The answer is no. As many in this House know, a mobile phone is so much more than just a digital driver licence. A phone is a person's personal property and may also be used to store and access personal and private information. To ensure appropriate privacy and a citizen's right to maintain control of their personal electronic device, a driver will only need to display their digital driver licence on their device to the police or authorised officer in order for their digital driver licence to be checked. I am pleased that the Privacy Commissioner has supported this approach, stating, "This will ensure the privacy rights of an individual who holds personal information on their phone beyond the digital driver licence is preserved."

Under the proposed amendments in the bill, a driver will not be required to give their device to an officer to display their licence. However, a driver may be required to assist with the reading, copying or scanning of the digital driver licence. This could include changing the brightness on the screen, angling the device so that it may be scanned, scrolling or tapping on the digital driver licence to show the full details, or refreshing the digital driver licence. Visually, the digital driver licence contains several features that can be sighted to ensure that it is not a screenshot or a fake. The digital driver licence can then be further verified by police using a "MobiPol" device,

which scans a digital driver licence to initiate a search against backend police systems without the police officer having to manually type in the licence number.

Approximately 95 per cent of road traffic infringements issued by police are issued through MobiPol devices and the digital driver licence leverages this technology. In network blackspots where MobiPol is unable to connect to backend police systems, police may still verify the digital driver licence in the same way as a physical licence: by radioing back to station or using the terminals in their vehicles. One final question, which in my view is the most important of all, is: How does the digital driver licence and digital photo card ensure security of personal information and protect against fraud? To obtain a digital driver licence and digital photo card, a person is required to register for a MyServiceNSW account and establish their identity to link their account with Roads and Maritime Services. Once verified, the person's driver licensing or photo card information and photograph is securely released to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation and Service NSW digital platforms to be processed to create the digital driver licence and digital photo card in the Service NSW app. None of the information or photographs is stored by the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation or Service NSW platforms.

The digital driver licence and digital photo card are securely stored on a person's device. On top of any device PIN code or touch identification—fingerprint—the Service NSW app is also PIN code protected to ensure that the person's personal information remains safe and secure. The digital driver licence and digital photo card include several visual security features that can be sighted to ensure that it is not a fake or a screenshot. For example, the design includes animations and a hologram. The digital driver licence and digital photo card also include a quick response code that may be scanned to verify its authenticity. Unauthorised use of a digital driver licence and digital photo card may also be detected through a device management framework and activity log, which will notify the person of logins from unrecognised devices or other unusual activity.

This would mean that if someone living in Sydney has opted in to have a digital driver licence, whenever that digital driver licence is scanned they could be notified by email instantly of when and where that was done—just like a credit card. For example, if your card was scanned in Byron Bay by someone seeking to defraud you, you could instantly deactivate the digital driver licence and inform Service NSW and/or the police of the breach. This tangible security and fraud benefit comes with the digital driver licence and simply is not available with the physical card. I am pleased that the Privacy Commissioner supports this added level of protection, stating: "The recommendation that holders of a digital driver licence are notified of transactions including third party checks is supported".

I take this opportunity to thank the Privacy Commissioner for her ongoing advice and recommendations throughout the digital driver licence trial and during the drafting of this bill. Since the commencement of this project, we have undertaken two privacy impact assessments that have been an important part of ensuring citizens' security and privacy is at the centre of the digital driver licence project. The Privacy Commissioner worked closely with the steering committee and project teams. Her input has been vital in shaping the digital driver licence as it exists today. I again thank her for her input. I pause to recognise the presence in the Chamber of the member for Cessnock who, like me, thinks very deeply about the future and the impact of technology and who is a data convert: He understands the power of data. I acknowledge that and pay him credit for that. He was present during the very critical debate that we had in this Chamber on the Data Analytics Centre.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** No-one else knows.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** No-one else knows except he and I, but we both know the power of how important that centre is. Again I pay credit to him because he acknowledges the centre and understands its immense value. The member for Cessnock also will recall how important it was that, when we debated that legislation, both sides of politics agreed that privacy was sacrosanct. I do not think there is any debate in this Chamber when it comes to putting the privacy of the citizen front and centre. Indeed, when we drafted the Data Analytics Centre legislation—the Data Sharing (Government Sector) Act 2015, as it was appropriately titled—we made sure that the Privacy Commissioner was involved from the ground up in the steering committee so that we achieved the right outcome. In preparing this legislation, we engaged the Privacy Commissioner because privacy is beyond politics. It is an absolutely enshrined right of the citizen.

I now briefly deal with amendments that will implement the digital driver licence and digital photo card. The bill will achieve two primary objectives. First, it will amend the Road Transport Act 2013 to enable the digitisation of the New South Wales driver licence, and deliver on the Government's election commitment to transition to digital driver licences by 2019. Under the Road Transport Act 2013, driver licences are implied to be physical artefacts and a digital driver licence is not currently provided for. This bill will make necessary legislative changes to establish the digital driver licence as a valid evidence of authority to drive that can be used in place of the physical driver licence card. This means citizens will have the option of carrying and producing either their digital driver licence or driver licence card when driving in New South Wales. These amendments also will enable

the digital driver licence to be treated as a driver licence for the purpose of evidencing a person's age or identity in the liquor and gaming industry, and in other circumstances specified by regulation.

Secondly, this bill will amend the Photo Card Act 2005 to enable the digitisation of the New South Wales photo card. Like the driver licence and Road Transport Act 2013, the Photo Card Act 2005 currently implies that New South Wales photo cards are physical cards. These amendments will establish the digital photo card as a valid form of the photo card, so that it can also be used in place of the physical photo card in the liquor and gaming industry, and other circumstances by regulation. The bill also will make supporting amendments to the Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007, the Liquor Act 2007 and associated regulations to make clear that the digital driver licence and digital photo card can be used as evidence of age [EOA] in the liquor and gaming industry. The amendments to the Road Transport Act 2013 and Photo Card Act 2005 will allow the Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] agency to securely release personal information and photographs from its driver licensing and photo card registers to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation and Service NSW to issue a digital driver licence and digital photo card via the Service NSW app.

Currently, the legislation does not allow the RMS to release driver licensing or photo card information and photographs for this purpose because that legislation currently does not consider digital licences. The amendments also will clarify how provisions in the current legislation, which imply a physical handling of a physical driver licence or photo card, will apply in the context of a digital driver licence or digital photo card. This includes the legal requirements to carry, produce and surrender a driver licence or photo card, and the power to seize a driver licence or photo card. The New South Wales Government understands that it is not practical or appropriate that the digital driver licence or digital photo card should mean, by virtue of being held on a citizen's electronic device, that a citizen may be made to hand over or surrender their device. That is why legislative changes are required.

The Government also is committed to making New South Wales roads the safest in Australia. The New South Wales road rules set clear restrictions on when a driver is allowed to touch their mobile phone whilst driving. The bill acknowledges that a digital driver licence is held on the Service NSW app on a driver's mobile phone or other electronic device, and therefore creates a limited exception to the road rules to allow drivers to be able to handle their mobile phone or other electronic device, but, I stress, only for the purposes of displaying their digital driver licence, and—again I stress—after being requested by an authorised officer to do so.

Establishing the digital driver licence as a driver licence and the digital photo card as a photo card for purposes prescribed by regulation will enable a staged rollout. This will limit and safeguard the use of the digital driver licence and digital photo card until they are ready to be recognised as evidence of identity in particular use cases—for example, interstate and international use of the digital driver licence for driving, and evidence of identity in pharmacies and in the financial services sector when further consultation and testing are required. The New South Wales Government is working with other State and Territory driver licensing authorities to support the interjurisdictional recognition of the digital driver licence. The amendments proposed in this bill have been informed by the trial in Dubbo. However, this Government recognises that we are breaking new ground with the digital driver licence and digital photo card. As a result, the Government will be reviewing these amendments after a period of two years from commencement to ensure that they are meeting our objectives and continue to reflect the context of rapidly developing technology.

In conclusion, the Road Transport and Other Legislation Amendment (Digital Driver Licences and Photo Cards) Bill 2018 will deliver on the Government's election commitment to transition to digital driver licences by 2019, and will make New South Wales one of the first States in Australia to offer a digital driver licence and digital photo card to its citizens. More importantly, the bill will provide New South Wales citizens with digital products and services that will improve their privacy and security, and will increase their choices and ease of doing business with government and industry. Through the bill, the digital driver licence and digital photo card will serve as critical building blocks for a more interconnected and digital New South Wales products and services.

I take this opportunity to thank the following people who worked so hard to make this project a success: Damon Rees, chief executive officer, Service NSW; Garry Clarke, project manager, Digital Driver Licences; Martin Hoffman, Secretary, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation; Jodie Varnai, Nicholas Cobb, Fiona Lam, and Jasmin Mills, all from the Central Policy Office; Alicia Salvestro, policy adviser, Minister Pavey's Office; Natalie Spiridon, departmental liaison officer, in my office; Matt Dawson, my outstanding Chief of Staff; and Tom Green, another senior policy adviser in my office. I thank them all for their hard work, their innovation, their thoughtfulness and their contribution to public service. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

**COAL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL 2018****Second Reading Speech**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (11:11):** On behalf of Mr Anthony Roberts: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. This Government takes the health and safety of workers in the mining industry very seriously. Through this bill, the Government is ensuring that all workers in the coal industry are covered by specialised workers compensation insurance. The Coal Industry Act provides for approved companies to carry out statutory functions, which include delivering workers compensation insurance, health surveillance, occupational health and rehabilitation services, the collection of statistics, monitoring of dust and other airborne contaminants, as well as supplying mines rescue emergency services and training to the New South Wales coal industry.

The companies approved to conduct these functions under the Coal Industry Act are Coal Services, Coal Mines Insurance and Mines Rescue. Together with the work health and safety legislation administered by the NSW Resources Regulator, the approved companies provide a holistic health and safety scheme for the coalmining industry in New South Wales. Coal Services, and its subsidiaries—Coal Mines Insurance and Mines Rescue—are industry-owned organisations jointly owned by the NSW Minerals Council and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union [CFMMEU].

The Coal Industry Act authorises the approved company—Coal Mines Insurance—to exercise a workers compensation insurance monopoly over employers in the coal industry. Coal Services also provides a specialist health and safety scheme for the New South Wales coal industry involving robust controls and monitoring. This enables employers who insure through the approved company to access health monitoring for their workers free of charge. In turn, monitoring assists mine operators to identify high-risk areas and activities, and helps to drive further improvements to workplace health and safety in coalmines.

The work of Coal Services, including the cost of health and dust monitoring under this specialist scheme, is met by funds generated through workers compensation premiums paid to Coal Mines Insurance, investment returns from the mines rescue levy, and commercial revenue. Coal Services does not receive funding from consolidated revenue. This scheme is unique to New South Wales.

In relation to workers compensation, currently the Coal Industry Act requires any employer in the coal industry to take out workers compensation insurance with the workers compensation company. The concept of "employer in the industry" was examined in the Supreme Court case of *Kuypers v Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited* in 2014. The court concluded:

In order for the special insurer of employers in the coal industry to be liable for an injured employee's claim, the employer must be an employer "in" the coal industry.

The fact that an entity provides services that are integral to a particular industry does not mean it is an entity "in" that industry. The question of whether an employer is "in" the coalmining industry requires an assessment of the substantive character of the industrial enterprise in which the employer is engaged and its connection with the coal industry. The decision in the *Kuypers* case means that labour hire companies or service providers to the coal industry might not be considered "an employer in the coal industry" depending on the substantive character of the business carried out by that company or service provider. Despite its workers being employed in coalmines, and being exposed to its high-risk environment, the company may not be required to insure its workers with the special insurer.

Given that the mining industry is increasingly moving towards a flexible contract workforce, it is crucial that all mine workers are afforded the same level of health and safety protection. Employers who are not using the Coal Mines Insurance scheme do not contribute funds to support the Coal Services health and safety monitoring of workers or the monitoring of dust and airborne contaminants. This puts coalmine workers at risk because of the difficulty in tracking health records and monitoring results over time.

I turn now to the amendments in the bill. Schedule 1 to the bill inserts the definition of "employer in the coal industry" into the Coal Industry Act 2001. This will make it clear that any employer whose employees work in or about a coalmine is required to be insured with the approved workers compensation company in respect of those employees and their employment in or about a coalmine. This amendment will directly address the interpretation issue raised by the court and ensure that the legislation operates as originally understood and intended.

The bill provides for a holistic and fit-for-purpose workers compensation scheme for workers in coalmines. It also will improve equity of workers by mandating coverage for all workers who engage in mining

activities in the coal industry, whether they are employed directly by the mine operator or by a labour hire firm. The health and safety of coal workers is particularly important at this time, when there has been a concerning re-emergence of coalminer pneumoconiosis, which is a potentially fatal lung disease. The work being done by Coal Services, through dust and atmospheric control and monitoring, plays a critical role in protecting workers in the New South Wales mining industry from harm in the future.

Schedule 2 to the bill makes consequential amendments to workers compensation legislation regarding the definition of employers in the coal industry. The Workers Compensation Act 1987 and the Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998 will be amended to include the definition that an employer in the coal industry has the same meaning as in the Coal Industry Act 2001.

The amendment to this bill in no way changes the functions and operations of workers compensation legislation, but rather ensures consistency of the definition of employer in the coal industry across three pieces of legislation. The bill also ensures the ongoing viability of the specialist workers compensation scheme and the additional services provided by Coal Services that are funded by the scheme. The amendment refines the existing legislation so that the original intention for the scheme continues to be delivered in the context of modern employment practices and so that the Coal Industry Act remains fit for purpose. This bill will ensure that New South Wales continues to have strong, viable and specialist health and safety scheme for the New South Wales coal industry. I am confident that in the future this State's model of prevention, detection, enforcement and education will play a critical part in protecting from harm workers in the New South Wales mining industry. I commend the bill to the House.

### Second Reading Debate

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (11:20):** On behalf of my colleague in the other place, the Hon. Adam Searle, who leads for the Opposition in this policy area, I indicate that Labor supports this important legislation, the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. For those of us in this Chamber who come from coalmining communities—I come from one of the oldest coalmining communities in the country—the safety of workers is never far from our minds. Coal Services has a large facility in my electorate. Pits and mines operate from Helensburgh in the north, down to Wongawilli and others in the south. The southern coalfields area is an important part of the State's economic and energy prosperity, but when it comes to safety it has a challenging past. Although not in our lifetime, we recall and understand the great but difficult history of suffering caused by mining disasters such as those at Mount Kembla, Appin and the South Bulli Colliery, and the unfortunate loss of lives.

This bill will provide optimal protection for the men and women who do what is still a most dangerous job—cutting the "black diamond" from the earth's deep coal deposits. This bill prescribes that the coal industry and employers in the coal industry will be required, as they should be, to obtain workers compensation insurance from an approved workers compensation scheme. My friend and colleague in the other place, the Hon. Adam Searle, has spent a great deal of time working on increased protection for workers, both in his professional life as a barrister but also since undertaking his current parliamentary role. His engagement with the industry and with those who provide compensation services within the industry has been significant. That is why, in accordance with the comments made by the Hon. Adam Searle in the other place, the Opposition supports the bill.

While the Illawarra has a chequered or difficult history when it comes to coalmining and the disasters that coal mining brings, it also has undergone significant change, particularly in improvements in workers' safety. Members whose electorates have active pits would agree that developments should be carefully monitored. I make no apologies for governments of any persuasion highly regulating the mining industry because it massively affects the lives of those who live in mining communities. My next door neighbour's husband was killed in a mining accident. Those of us who live in coalmining communities know people and families who have been affected by mining disasters or serious injuries within the pit. This bill is about making improvements to the industry. It amends the Coal Industry Act 2001 to require all employers whose employees work in or about a coalmine to obtain workers compensation insurance from an approved workers compensation insurance company.

While employers currently are required to obtain insurance, that requirement applies only to employees directly engaged in the coal industry and not to employees who are engaged in industries that provide services to the coal industry. This bill is catch-all legislation. It will ensure that men and women working in the coalmining industry will be protected—something that Labor always supports. I thank the Government for introducing the bill. As a person whose community relies heavily on coal and the associated employment that mining brings, I will always support legislation that aims to strengthen the protections for the men and women who work deep underground to mine this important resource. Because this amending bill has the ability to ensure that all of those in the industry are fairly and effectively covered, it is important legislation.

I acknowledge the work of my colleague the Hon. Adam Searle. I also acknowledge the contribution made by the men and women in the mining industry who produce a continuous supply of power to keep the lights

on and who contribute greatly to the State's economy. I say to people who take the view that coal should not have a role in the future that they should think long and hard about that. Coal is a part of our future. We can do better and we will do better. Whatever happens, we must always monitor developments and do better at making sure workers are protected. Should an accident or injury occur, workers in what is still renown, even with all the improvements and changes, as one of the most dangerous industries in which to work, must be protected.

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (11:27):** I support the Government's Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. I am pleased that the Opposition fully supports the Government's bill. This bill amends the Coal Industry Act 2001 to ensure that all workers in the coal industry are covered by the specialised workers compensation scheme operated by Coal Mines Insurance. These legislative amendments will ensure that the Coal Industry Act continues to function as it was intended. The New South Wales Government is committed to the health and safety of workers. This amending bill is a vital step in safeguarding that all employees working in or around coalmines are treated equally by mandating coverage for all workers who engage in mining activities within the coal industry, irrespective of whether they are employed directly by a mine operator or by a labour hire firm.

The health and safety of coal workers is particularly important at this time because there has been a worrying return of coal miner pneumoconiosis, which is a potentially fatal lung disease. Unfortunately there have been two reported case of pneumoconiosis in New South Wales coalmine workers—the first cases since the 1970s. A case of simple silicosis also has been confirmed. Pneumoconiosis and silicosis are preventable, if appropriate procedures are in place for dust and atmospheric control and monitoring of worker health. The work being done by Coal Services in this area and by Coal Mines Insurance plays a critical role in protecting from future harm. The amendments to the Coal Industry Act will ensure that rigorous dust and airborne contaminant monitoring continues and that workers' health is checked throughout their employment and beyond.

I bring the attention of the House to the importance of the coal industry. The member for Tamworth, who spoke previously, said, quite rightly, that coal is here to stay. It has a long-term future and it plays a vital role in ensuring that we keep the lights on. The coal industry provides tens of thousands of jobs and makes a significant economic contribution to the State of New South Wales. I suggest that the member for Tamworth ring the Labor candidate in my electorate of Upper Hunter and tell him the same thing, because that candidate is against the coal industry. I will talk a bit about the mining sector in the Hunter and give the House the benefit of some statistics from the financial year 2016-17. The total direct spend on mining in the Hunter in that financial year was \$4.5 billion. During that period the mining industry directly employed 12,604 full-time employees in the Hunter region and supported 3,070 local businesses.

The direct contribution through that financial year included \$1.7 billion in wages and salaries to the 12,604 direct employees, including contractors. Importantly, the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018 ensures that contractors receive the same protections as permanent staff who are employed directly by the mining companies. The mining industry contributed \$2.8 billion in purchases of goods and services from 3,070 local businesses, including contractors. Mining companies contributed \$2.8 million to 416 community organisations. Importantly, the \$4.5 billion in direct spending generated \$6.1 billion in additional supply-chain goods and services purchases and \$2.9 billion in wages and salaries associated with 50,293 additional jobs in the Hunter region. Those statistics go a long way to proving the importance of mining to the Hunter region and to the State of New South Wales.

The direct contribution to the State of New South Wales was \$10.4 billion for the 2016-17 financial year. We should not underestimate the importance of the economic contribution and the number of people who rely on the coal industry, whether it be through direct employment by a mining company or employment through labour hire firms. Because there are so many people employed in the industry who are making such a significant, positive contribution to our lifestyles, the Government is ensuring, through this bill, that everyone is treated equally and fairly and is given the utmost protection. The Government wants people to be able to go to work and enjoy their work, while understanding that they make a significant contribution to the State of New South Wales. Workers make an important contribution, both individually and collectively, to my electorate of Upper Hunter.

As I have said many times, the electorate of Upper Hunter is mining central in New South Wales. In fact, the local government areas of Muswellbrook and Scone collectively produce around 68 per cent of the State's coal and make royalty contributions of just under \$1 billion. The economic and lifestyle contributions made by the mining industry and its employees to local communities, the region and the State cannot be underestimated. The Government wants mine employees to be able to go to work, enjoy their work and return home safely, knowing that their health and wellbeing is protected—as it should be—now and in the future. I commend the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018 to the House.

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (11:35):** I speak in debate on the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018 on behalf of The Greens spokesperson, Mr David Shoebridge, who is a member of the Legislative Council. The Greens support the bill but I have found the shout-outs to the coal industry interesting. This legislation is about

workers and workers compensation. I will speak about that, because this is not a debate about the power of the fossil fuel industry in this State. The bill makes changes to who is considered to be an employer in the coalmining industry for the purposes of workers compensation insurance, and makes it clear that insurance covers those directly involved in mining and others working in coalmines.

Companies that have employees who work in and around coalmines must have workers compensation insurance specific to that coalmining employment. This bill is a response to the decision in *Kuypers v Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd*. In that case a very powerful insurance company was able to shirk its responsibility as a result of a loophole in the law. The Greens support this bill, noting that it clears up confusion about who is considered to be an employer in the coalmining industry for the purposes of workers compensation insurance. In the *Kuypers v Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd* case an insurance company sought to avoid liability for a claim for workers compensation. That is not, in itself, an unusual occurrence, but this claim turned on whether the employer was considered an employer in the coal industry for the purposes of workers compensation. We saw, through that case, there was an incredible disadvantage to workers in coalmines, and The Greens commend the Government for redressing that.

The legislation is also a result of the extensive use of labour hire firms in the coalmining industry, and the often opaque compensation liabilities that flow from this. In the *Kuypers versus Ashton Coal* case, the employee in question was employed by a drilling company that was used by coalmines, including Ashton Coal, to undertake operations on the site. Ultimately, it was found that because the bulk of the employer's work was not directed specifically to coalmines, but involved drilling in a variety of industries, the employer was not covered by coalmine insurance. The judgement alluded to the fact that that was a gap in the law. Parliament is in the business of making laws and the Government, to its credit, has redressed that situation. The Greens would like to see the Government go much further, but I will get to that in a moment.

Coalmine insurance exercises a monopoly over the industry under the Act, and administers a set of benefits and payments to workers injured in coalmines that are superior, in most respects, to those available to other workers, which is why it was very important to make the law clear. What is not in this bill is significant—namely, remedy and fair compensation for the many workers across New South Wales who are injured in locations other than coalmines. I have worked with many constituents who have been injured in the workplace through no fault of their own. Their treatment by insurance companies and the gaps in the law beggar belief. That Greens want to know why we have not seen similar redress of inequities for other workers across the State.

For example, nurses, teachers, builders and cleaners are injured in locations other than coalmines but they find themselves at the mercy of this gap in the law. My colleague in the other place Mr David Shoebridge has been contacted by hundreds of injured workers who do not have fair access to benefits that enable them to recover and return to work. On behalf of The Greens, I call on the Government to respond to this great need with a commitment to comprehensively fix the workers compensation scheme across the State. This benefit redresses an unfairness and a wrong for coalminers, and I foreshadow a possible amendment in the other place to expand it to all workers in New South Wales.

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (11:40):** I speak in debate on the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. The need to focus on dust diseases in our mining industry is taken seriously by this Government. Regrettably, there have been two cases of pneumoconiosis reported in New South Wales coalmine workers—the first cases since the 1970s. We have also had a confirmed case of simple silicosis. These diseases are preventable if appropriate dust control, atmospheric monitoring and worker monitoring procedures are in place. This bill amends the Coal Industry Act 2001 to ensure that all workers in the coal industry are covered by the specialised workers compensation scheme operated by Coal Mines Insurance and periodic health surveillance medical assessments provided by Coal Services.

These legislative amendments will ensure that the Coal Industry Act continues to function as it is intended. This Government is committed to the health and safety of workers, and this is a vital step in safeguarding that all employees working in or around our coalmines are treated equally by mandating coverage for all workers who engage in mining activities in the coal industry, whether they are employed directly by a mine operator or by a labour hire firm. While the incidence of dust diseases has fallen in modern times, three new cases of dust disease in New South Wales is three too many. The Government is investigating how each of these cases has happened to determine what we can learn and what we can change to reduce the chance of more cases developing. A holistic approach to managing the risks associated with airborne contaminants, such as respirable coal dust and crystalline silica, has been adopted in New South Wales.

Our work health and safety legislation for mining prescribes minimum ventilation requirements as well as exposure standards and worker monitoring regimes for airborne dust. The New South Wales regulatory regime dealing with dust diseases has never been stronger and New South Wales already has the most stringent coal dust exposure limit in place in Australia, at 2.5 milligrams per cubic metre. The Government has also amended the

Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation, which took effect on 13 April 2018. These changes will require the operator of a mine or petroleum site to notify the regulator when dust—and specifically crystalline silica—exceeds the prescribed worker exposure standards. To ensure compliance with these requirements the regulator is assessing compliance across all sectors of the New South Wales mining industry, with strict enforcement where necessary.

This includes undertaking targeted assessment programs [TAPs] on airborne contaminants in mines. A TAP is an inch-wide, mile-deep assessment of elements of a mine's safety management system, rather than a purely audit-based approach. Each TAP is conducted by a team of inspectors from a variety of disciplines, such as mining, electrical and mechanical engineering, who work together with the mine's management team. New guidance on managing the risks associated with dust and airborne contaminants is also being developed. The Resources Regulator and the Mine Safety Advisory Council are looking at what else is needed to protect workers from dust diseases. This includes reviewing the findings of the Queensland Parliament Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, which resulted from the significant re-emergence of the disease in that State.

In addition to the work health and safety laws and the regulatory functions of the Resources Regulator, Coal Services requires periodic health surveillance medical assessments for all coalmine workers to monitor for adverse health effects as a result of exposure in the workplace, including for pneumoconiosis. Under this scheme all coal workers are required to undertake a pre-placement medical assessment unless they have undertaken one in the previous 12 months. All coal workers are also required to undergo a periodic health surveillance assessment, which includes spirometry and a review of the respiratory system, every three years and a chest X-ray every five years for those with a history of possible hazardous dust exposure.

A review and update of these requirements has been undertaken to address findings from the Queensland Parliament Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee. The revised requirements will commence on 1 July 2018 and include: the establishment of an authorisation process and register to ensure medical practitioners are competent to provide health monitoring to coal workers in New South Wales; establishment of criteria and standards for radiologists conducting chest X-rays; the adoption of International Labor Organization International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconiosis; and establishment of standards for spirometry testing and interpretation by an approved medical practitioner.

Another key component of the broad approach to managing airborne contaminants in New South Wales is the Standing Committee on Dust Research and Control. This is an expert advisory body comprising representatives of coalmine operators, government agencies, Coal Services, unions and industry, medical and engineering experts. The committee monitors results of dust sampling, evaluates dust standards, researches improved dust control methods and disseminates information. I encourage any coal worker, current or retired, who has concerns about his or her health to contact their nearest Coal Services office. I am confident that the New South Wales model of prevention, detection, enforcement and education is essential to protecting workers in the New South Wales mining industry from harm in the future. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (11:48):** I make a contribution to debate on the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. I represent the electorate of Cessnock, which is essentially a collection of coalmining villages from times past. I am pleased to see the bill before the House and I say at the outset that NSW Labor will support it. It is a good bill and an eminently sensible bill that addresses gaps in the system that were created by recent Supreme Court rulings. Coalmining is an incredibly dangerous activity. It is far more dangerous than our work in Parliament, and the work undertaken by most people in industries such as retail, transport, hospitality and many others.

Every year in September I attend the coalminers memorial service at Federation House in Cessnock when we reflect on the 1,800 lives that have been lost through coalmining on the northern coalfields of New South Wales. Those 1,800 men and women lost their lives in the workplace in the pursuit of coal—often underground and, recently, at open-cut mines in crushing accidents involving the enormous trucks that are used in the industry. It is not right or reasonable that people who go onto those worksites are not covered by the appropriate insurances and safety regimes. Unfortunately, for the past decade or more, coal companies have moved away from having a permanent workforce, with its own equipment and onsite specialists. A large portion of the work that happens around a coalmine is now outsourced and left to others. The coal companies do not want to carry the load and the responsibility—or, as they may say, the burden—for what happens on their sites.

So a growing number of people working on coalmine sites, whether open-cut or underground, are employed temporarily in the industry. Some workers might be on site for just an hour or two. Other workers might be on the normal roster even though they are referred to as a "casual" or a "contract worker", and they may spend months or years on that one site contributing to coal extraction operations as a permanent member of the workforce. However, they are contract workers for an outside agency, which gives the coalmines some flexibility around scaling production up or down. The bill addresses a gap so that contract workers at a coalmine will now

be afforded the appropriate and necessary protections that are in place for those who are permanently employed in the coal industry. This is incredibly relevant and, indeed, essential.

I have dealt with a number of contract workers injured in the workplace—in this case, a coalmine—who have come to my office in Cessnock. Those contract workers were employed by a contractor to the coalmine and so did not have the full complement of options available to help them deal with their injury, restore their pre-injury health and get on with their life as best as they can. This problem continues today. As we debate this bill, constituents who were injured in a coalmine while working for a contractor do not have the protections that are offered to permanent workers on a coalmine site. So this bill is incredibly important. It is terrific legislation that will fill the gap on a number of fronts. I applaud and congratulate Coal Services and Lucy Flemming, who I know has been agitating for a number of years to get these reforms through this place. Coal Services, and in particular its subsidiary, Coal Mines Insurance, has known about this problem for some time.

We must remain ever vigilant. As the workforce becomes more casualised, we cannot forgo the important conditions and protections that have been put in place over the hundreds of years that we have been extracting coal in New South Wales. There is a reason for those measures. So many families in my electorate have lost a loved one because those protections were not in place. So many people have died because the necessary regimes were not in place to ensure that they could go to work and return home safely and, further, they did not contract a workplace disease or illness that would ultimately take their life down the track, such as black lung disease. That issue was addressed perfectly by the good member for Cootamundra in her speech a moment ago.

These are important protections. As we move to casualised workforces across all industries, not just coal, the New South Wales Labor Party is concerned that existing protections and safety measures will be lost. We cannot allow that to happen in any industry but especially in the coal industry, which this bill deals with. I commend the Minister for bringing this sensible bill to the House. I commend all involved—whether it is the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, the NSW Minerals Council or Coal Services—in lobbying for its introduction. It is an important bill. People from non-coalmining areas should understand its significance and the difference it will make to people's lives, specifically the safe working environment the bill creates for any worker on a coalmining site. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (11:55):** I speak in support of the Government's Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. This bill amends the Coal Industry Act 2001 to include a definition of "employer in the coal industry". The objective of this revision is to make sure that all workers in the coal industry are covered by the specialised workers compensation scheme that is operated by the approved workers compensation company, Coal Mines Insurance. It is a common-sense bill because, as everyone knows, we are the party of the workers. That is why this legislation is very much welcomed by all. These legislative amendments will ensure that the Coal Industry Act continues to function as was envisioned to allow Coal Mines Insurance to exercise a workers compensation monopoly over employers in the coal industry. In the context of changes to the industry and employment more broadly, an increasing number of coalminers are being employed through contractors and labour hire companies.

The need for this amendment arose from the case of a worker, Benjamin Kuypers, who was employed by Silver City Drilling and was working at a coalmine owned by Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd when he was injured in 2012. Silver City Drilling was insured for workers compensation by Employers Mutual Limited, which initially accepted liability but later advised that Coal Mines Insurance was the appropriate insurer for this gentleman's claim. Silver City Drilling sought a determination about which insurer was liable to indemnify it. The central issue before the court was whether Silver City Drilling was an "employer in the coal industry" as it appears in section 31 of the Coal Industry Act, which deals with workers compensation.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales found that, while an entity provides a service for a particular industry, it does not follow that the entity is engaged in that particular industry; for an employer to be "in" the coal industry, the character and parameters of the term "coal industry" and the relationship between the employer and the coal industry must be considered; and the entity and the coal industry must have a substantial connection to be considered "in" the coal industry, beyond being the employer of a person who works in and about a mine. It found that Silver City Drilling remained independent of the coalmining companies that retained its services and, while its services were integral to coalmining, this did not make it an employer in the coal industry. The effect of the Kuypers decision is that any employer who is not directly operating a coalmine, and is not directly employing staff within that mine—such as a labour hire firm or service provider—is not required to insure workers through Coal Mines Insurance.

This is putting at risk a successful industry-run scheme that supports workers who are injured at work and also provides critical preventative medical services, health monitoring and investigation for coalmine workers. The scheme also supports monitoring and reducing levels of inhalable and respirable dust, which is critical to the health of workers in the long term. Coal Services' proven holistic model in providing workers compensation, as

well as mine safety training and rescue, dust monitoring and health monitoring, provides a vital service to the coal industry and its workers.

Without this amendment this model, and the health and safety of workers in the coal industry are being placed at risk. The bill adds the definition of "employer in the coal industry" into the Coal Industry Act 2001 to clarify that any employer whose employees work in or about a coalmine are required to be insured with the approved workers compensation company. However, if a labour hire company, service provider or other employer has employees in the coal industry and other employees in other industries, they are only required to be insured with the approved workers compensation company for their employees who work in and about a coalmine. This is a very important amendment that will benefit all workers in coalmines.

The main purpose of the bill is to amend the Coal Industry Act 2001 to make it crystal clear that any employees who work in and about coalmines are required to be covered. This is a commonsense approach that will have very little pushback. Indeed, it was probably an oversight that the bill seeks to rectify. Section 31 of the Act requires employers in the coal industry to obtain workers compensation that is approved and relevant to those in the industry. Coal Mines Insurance and its subsidiary, Mines Rescue, have statutory functions under the Act. The bill will strengthen that further by following precedents set by court cases and making sure the law is specific so that any worker who potentially suffers injury is protected and actually covered by the Act. Our Nationals colleagues with large coal industry based organisations in their electorates would find this particularly relevant. This is commonsense legislation and I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (12:03):** I welcome to the public gallery friends from the Shoalhaven Heads Red Cross. I thank them for coming to Parliament today and look forward to joining them shortly. I commend Shoalhaven Heads Red Cross, but particularly Red Cross throughout the nation and the world for all the extraordinary work it does in picking up the pieces after debilitating and terrible events. I speak on the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. The health and safety of people who work in the New South Wales mining and petroleum industries are an absolute priority for this Government. All members would join with me in saying that all workers are entitled to expect that they will come home from work each day without injury—not just those working in dangerous industries but all industries. We all want to ensure the occupational health and safety of everyone across this great State.

Given the dangers involved in mining, special measures are required, which is one reason for the introduction of this bill. Just as importantly, workers' long-term health should not be impacted by exposure to hazards at their workplace. The bill seeks to amend the Coal Industry Act 2001 to ensure that all workers in the coal industry are covered by the specialised workers compensation scheme operated by Coal Mines Insurance, and periodic health surveillance medical assessments provided by Coal Services. Good health and safety outcomes are essential for workers, their families and the broader community. Equally, good health and safety equates to productive workplaces, which means more competitive businesses and overall benefits for the State's economy. A happy worker is a productive worker; a safe worker is one who can be confident about his or her job, work, profession and role.

When mine and petroleum site operators and their workers get health and safety right, everyone benefits. The Government's aim is to ensure that ongoing improvement in health and safety outcomes in the mining and petroleum industries across this State. We want New South Wales to be the safest place for what is often a very dangerous and tragically, at times, a deadly industry. The Government, through the NSW Resources Regulator, has implemented reforms aimed at ensuring that the work health and safety regulator is modelling best practice and deploying resources to where they are most needed. The industry's safety performance is now better than other industries such as agriculture, transport and storage, and construction. Statistically, the New South Wales mining industry is one of the safest in the world.

The industry achieved a reduction in the five-year fatal injury frequency rate, which is the rate of incidents per million hours worked, from 0.182 in 2000-01 to 0.026 to the end of the last financial year, which is a considerable improvement. Over the same period the five-year serious bodily injury frequency rate has fallen from 2.16 to 0.71. The five-year lost time injury frequency rate has fallen from 30.13 to 5.02. Notably, the two national work health and safety strategy targets—to reduce fatalities by 20 per cent and serious injuries by 40 per cent in the 10 years 2007-08 to 2015-2016—were achieved by industry. Similar 10-year targets to 2022 have been set as part of a national strategy to improve health and safety performance. It is also important to note that traditional safety statistics, such as injury rates, are lag indicators showing what happened in the past and do not give the story of actions taken to prevent catastrophic events. These are changing as a result of this legislation.

As a result of recent reforms the NSW Resources Regulator now takes a productive and proactive approach to verifying that critical controls are in place to prevent catastrophic and fatal incidents in the industry. The regulator is embedding a risk-based and outcomes-focused approach that is driven by intelligence and data that is both qualitative and quantitative. This proactive approach adopted by the regulator focuses on targeted

assessment and planned inspections. The regulator schedules targeted assessments and planned inspections on a six-month to 12-month basis, focusing on the principal mining hazards identified in the legislation and the principal control plans, verifying that catastrophic and fatal risks are controlled. The goal is to ensure that major mining incidents that cause multiple fatalities seen in other countries do not occur in New South Wales. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of other countries and other industries around the world. We want our mining sites to be the safest in the nation and the world for workers and their families.

During the past financial year, the regulator conducted 58 targeted safety assessments and interventions, 1,729 safety inspections, and assessed and provided an appropriate level of response and investigation to 1,930 mine safety incident notifications. As a result of this targeted assessment and inspection program, 1,330 safety notices were issued, including 108 prohibition notices. In addition, 11 major safety investigations were commenced into fatalities or serious injury to workers. The regulator's new causal investigation policy is also enabling early learnings to be identified and communicated to industry from mining incidents. The management of responses to incidents is coordinated through a centralised reporting function established by the regulator. This approach has improved the regulator's visibility of safety risks, and enables better awareness and understanding of emerging issues and more effective responses.

The regulator is also investing in improved data capture and analysis, including online reporting tools to provide faster turnaround in information and to provide those companies with the information needed. The regulator continues to ensure that it is actively engaging with the mining and petroleum industries to ensure that best practice is iterative and up to date. Findings from the compliance and enforcement activities are communicated back to industry to ensure improvements were made and good practice recognised. The regulator is also very active in engagement by hosting seminars and workshops on health and safety topics, as well as presenting to a range of audiences through learning and education opportunities conducted by industry.

Members would agree that education is always important to ensure mistakes are not repeated and employees have the tools needed to remain safe in these often very dangerous workplaces. Further, the regulator is implementing safety campaigns on important aspects of the work health and safety legislative framework on incident prevention including due diligence, risk management, consultation, contractor management, health control plan and small mines. Compliance priorities that set out the regulator's current priorities and focus areas, and the regulatory activities that will be undertaken to meet the identified areas of concern, are published each six months.

The regulator is also implementing a maintenance of competence scheme for individuals who hold practising certificates for statutory functions to ensure those conducting safety critical work are current in their knowledge and learning. Safety and good health are never guaranteed. That requires commitment from the mining and petroleum industries, and vigilant oversight by the regulator. The Government is committed to ensuring safety and good health, and that workers come home safely at the end of each day. I commend the Minister in the other place, the Hon. Don Harwin, for his work. I acknowledge his team of advisors. Seated in the gallery is Sam Tedeschi, a former staff member of mine, who has moved on to much better things, now in the employ of the good Minister. He has been involved in this bill too.

**Mr Mark Coure:** Yes, he has been; he is a lucky boy. That is what he says too.

**Mr GARETH WARD:** I acknowledge the interjection from the member for Oatley—that is what he says too. All of your staff say that about the member for Oatley. It is wonderful to speak to this bill. It is wonderful to support reforms that mean safer workplaces. The Government is the party of workers in this State and will always stand up for safer workplaces. The bill is more evidence of that. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:12):** I am delighted to make a brief contribution to the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018, which is ultimately designed to put frameworks and measures in place for protection. The overview of the bill notes that employers in the coal industry are required to obtain workers compensation insurance from an approved workers compensation company. Currently, that requirement applies only to employers directly engaged in the coal industry and not to employers who, with reference to their character and business, are engaged in another industry and merely provide services to the coal industry.

The object of the bill is to amend the Coal Industry Act 2001 to require all employers whose employees work in or about a coalmine to obtain workers compensation insurance from an approved workers compensation company. Schedule 1 to the bill more specifically inserts a definition of employer in the coal industry into the Coal Industry Act 2001 to make it clear that any employer whose employees work in or about a coalmine are required to be insured with an approved workers compensation company for those employees in their employ in or about the coalmine. Schedule 2 to the bill makes consequential amendments to the Workers Compensation Act 1987 and Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998.

I endorse my colleague's contribution. The member for Cessnock has a large mining community, as do my colleagues throughout the regions, to the south in the Wollondilly region and my electorate of Campbelltown. Coalmining is a vital and important part of not only the local economy but also the State and national economy. That vital role can never be overlooked. Changes should be made to provisions to strengthen that industry. A strong industry drives local economies and creates local jobs. It is not a luxury that workers seek to go to work and return home in the same state of health; it is a right. It is the obligation of this House to ensure that measures are in place to provide a framework through which workers can achieve that.

As many would know, I was a soldier for some time before I entered this place. On leaving the army I used my truck driver licence before I began my business studies. One of my jobs was to run coal out of Appin Colliery to the port and coal wash out of Jacks Gully into the night. I know firsthand the dangers that brings with it and I commend all those workers who work in a very tough environment. Speaking from experience as a manager in the private sector, the worst phone call anyone has to make is to a loved one of an employee or a colleague to give them the bad news that their loved one will not be coming home. Those conversations are not easy and they stay with us. Upon reflection, the bill is the right thing to do. I commend all involved who brought the bill together. The Opposition supports the bill.

I note the contributions of my colleagues on the other side. I always enjoy their jovial retort of being a friend of the worker. I would like to think that everyone is the friend of the worker. Workers are the backbone of the economy and the foundation of our nation. Everyone in this place is obliged to do whatever needs to be done to support those workers. There are many other drivers of the local economy—employees in different industries—but ultimately it is the worker that drives our economy. I note that the Industrial Relations Amendment (Contracts of Carriage) Bill 2018 comes to the House tomorrow. It is a different industry, but along the same path. Ultimately the debate will be about putting protections in place. I hope my colleagues see that bill as being about people, not politics, much like the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. The Opposition supports this bill because it is the right thing to do. I trust my colleagues will support the Industrial Relations Amendment (Contracts of Carriage) Bill 2018 tomorrow. I thank the House and commend the bill.

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (12:18):** On behalf of Mr Anthony Roberts: In reply: I thank the members for Keira, Upper Hunter, Ballina, Cootamundra, Cessnock, Drummoyne, Kiama and Campbelltown for their contributions to debate on the Coal Industry Amendment Bill 2018. I particularly thank the member for Campbelltown for his contribution about his time in the industry. This bill, which will amend the Coal Industry Act, is an important part of the Government's work to ensure the health and safety of workers, particularly workers in coalmines.

The coal industry makes a significant contribution to the State's economy and is vital for the prosperity of New South Wales. It is the backbone of our State's electricity supply and continues to meet approximately 79 per cent of the State's electricity needs. The great majority of energy users in New South Wales rely on coal in some form. It is a major export earner. As of September 2016, the coal industry employed more than 19,000 workers directly, and approximately 80,000 workers indirectly. This bill will ensure that the health and safety of those workers is protected through not only the specialised workers compensation scheme, but also the holistic suite of services, statutory obligations and regulatory activities delivered by Coal Services and funded in part through workers compensation insurance premiums.

The services include: monitoring the health of coalmine workers at commencement, throughout employment, and even after employment if the worker chooses to opt in; monitoring inhalable and respirable dust, ensuring dust levels are acceptable and taking measures to reduce workers' exposure to dust; and providing mine rescue services and facilities to deal with emergencies as well as establishing procedures, arrangements, and training for mine rescues. Through this bill, the New South Wales Government will correct a legislative deficiency to ensure that all workers in the coal industry are covered by specialised workers compensation insurance. Schedule 1 to the bill inserts the definition of "employer in the coal industry" into the Coal Industry Act 2001. This will make it clear that any employer whose employees work in or about a coalmine is required to be insured with the approved workers compensation company for those specific employees.

To be clear, this requirement applies only to employees when their employment involves activities in or about a coalmine. This means that when employers have employees in both the coal industry and other industries, they are only required to be insured with Coal Mines Insurance for those employees working in or about a coalmine. Consequential amendments to workers compensation legislation simply make the definitions of "an employer in the coal industry" consistent across all three Acts. The Coal Industry Amendment Bill ensures that the original purpose for the scheme continues to be delivered within contemporary employment practices and that the Coal Industry Act remains fit for purpose. 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.**

**Third Reading**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON:** On behalf of Mr Anthony Roberts: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Budget*

**BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2017-2018**

**Debate resumed from 12 April 2018.**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (12:23):** I will divide my contribution to the take-note debate on Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2017-2018 into three parts and look at what is happening in New South Wales, regional New South Wales and the electorate of Myall Lakes. The electorate of Myall Lakes is being transformed by this Government. Many projects are already underway and many others are about to start or are in the pipeline. In 2011, after 16 shameful years of Labor Government, New South Wales was the worst performing State in Australia by a long way. The budget deficit was \$3.7 billion and the infrastructure backlog was more than \$30 billion. Projects were announced, cancelled and announced again, and billions of dollars were wasted on false starts with nothing to show for it.

I note that the member for Terrigal is in the Chamber. Labor would usually announce infrastructure plans before an election and then cancel them after the election. Some examples of money being wasted are the Rozelle metro plan, where \$500 million was wasted, torn up and blown away without one centimetre of track being laid; and the Tillegra Dam, where \$100 million was spent without a blade of grass being turned—an absolute waste. The Federal Government gave the former Labor Government \$80 million for planning that it ultimately had to give back. Those are only three examples. Jobs growth was the slowest in Australia for a decade and was half the rate of the rest of the country. Workers compensation was a \$4.1 billion unfunded liability and was driving up workers compensation premiums, impacting businesses that employed people. Businesses and workers were hit with more than 30 new taxes. The cost of living was spiralling out of control with no relief.

Electricity rates went up by 60 per cent during the last few years of the Labor Government. Huge increases were built into the budget, which was all about the gold plating and the Australian Energy Regulator saying that the Government could spend \$19 billion on the distribution network. Housing supply had dropped to a decade low, pushing up prices and squeezing would-be first home owners. Wages for government middle managers had blown out—the member for Maroubra would know all about that. Corruption was rife and community trust in government was at an all-time low. That was the disastrous legacy of successive Labor Governments. Today New South Wales is a completely different place. The Liberal-Nationals Government has rebuilt the State budget to strong surplus, eliminated government-sector debt and taken the New South Wales economy from distant last to clear first in the nation. It is not only me saying this, but also Commonwealth Securities, State reports, and other external agencies looking at the economy.

Unbelievably, economic growth in New South Wales is faster than 27 of the 35 OECD nations. New South Wales is growing faster than other nations. Since 2011 the Government has created 480,000 new jobs. New South Wales has the lowest unemployment rate in Australia. The Government has driven the unemployment rate down to the lowest in the nation for 33 consecutive months. New South Wales has doubled housing completions and quadrupled the number of first home owners getting into the market. The Government has slashed back office costs in the public service to support 9,500 extra doctors, nurses and midwives. Last week it was my pleasure to visit to Manning Hospital for International Nurses Day, where I cooked the barbeque and took part in presenting the nursing awards. The week before, I went to the hospital to meet the midwives. New South Wales has 5,000 extra teachers and nearly 1,000 extra police who have the power they need to keep the State safe from crime and terror.

The Government has brought true customer service to government services for the first time by creating Service NSW, which is a one-stop shop for more than 1,000 different State Government transactions. Service NSW has an approval and satisfaction rating of more than 95 per cent. Perhaps most critically, the Government is transforming New South Wales with a massive infrastructure program that is the envy of the world. It has invested \$111 billion, with another \$80 billion to come over the next four years. Regional New South Wales is not missing out, with 65 per cent of the Roads budget spent in regional New South Wales. Across regional New South Wales hospitals, schools, ambulance stations, fire stations and police stations are being built. It is an unprecedented pipeline of work that is driving job growth, improving living standards, helping business to grow and setting up the State for decades to come.

Turning New South Wales around has taken determination, perseverance, know-how and a partnership between government, business and the community. There is a sense of urgency and determination because there is so much more to do. We are only just getting ahead of the game. The Government has been playing catch-up because of the Labor Government's legacy and we are now at an exciting crossroads. We are building a State in which all citizens have the equality of opportunity that comes with great jobs, great access to health care and education, and great transport links connecting our communities. That is why the strong economic leadership of the Liberal-Nationals Government is so crucial. It enables us to be hopeful and ambitious about our future. It allows us to invest in transport, roads, schools and hospitals. It allows us to improve our citizens' lives with better services and care. It represents more doctors and nurses, more police officers and more teachers.

Critical financial decisions such as asset recycling have freed up billions of dollars to spend on the vital infrastructure that communities need. I am excited that with the transfer of this State's share in Snowy Hydro to the Federal Government this Government has sealed another deal that will see \$4.2 billion invested in infrastructure in rural and regional New South Wales. This Government's strong economic leadership is also what allows it to tackle the pressures facing our households, to help those who need it most, and to make our communities as liveable and as resilient as they can be. This strong budget means that the Government can respond to the concerns of families and communities; it means it can ease cost-of-living pressures by providing relief from household bills and everyday expenses.

It also means the Government has been able to cut stamp duty up to \$25,000 to help more people to buy their first home. Those cuts have seen 20,000 more people get their foot on the housing ladder since the middle of last year. Strong economic performance also means that the Government can make a bigger difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in our society. It is that great performance that allows it to invest in mental health services, in support services for people with a disability, and in medical research to find new treatments for illness and disease. I was extremely pleased to hear about the extra \$100 million being provided for palliative care.

The opportunities and challenges facing New South Wales mean we cannot afford to sit still. This Government always wants the State to do better. It is focused on the next opportunity to create jobs and to improve lives, and it is powering ahead across the State to shape New South Wales for the next 30 years and beyond. This Government's vision is to ensure that workers can get a good job in their local area, that travel times are shorter, and that we focus on the open spaces, amenities and local character that make people feel happy and proud of their community.

Of the 700 projects launched across New South Wales since 2012—when the Government released its first infrastructure plan—more than 430 have already been delivered, 200 are under construction and almost 100 are in the planning stage. This exciting new phase does not focus only on the next generation of projects; more importantly, it focuses on how this infrastructure improves liveability and creates new opportunities. At the heart of every decision this Government makes is the ambition to improve the quality of life in every community and to help every citizen of New South Wales to reach their potential and to pursue their aspirations.

In the past, planning for the future in New South Wales was fragmented and chaotic. In contrast, today all levels of government, the private sector and the community are working together. As the Government builds for the future, it is taking new approaches that would never have been possible in the past. In an uncertain world, confidence in New South Wales is high. Australian and global businesses are backing this Government's vision of the future and helping it to achieve its target of creating one million new jobs by 2025. Business investment in New South Wales is the strongest in the nation at more than \$15 billion each quarter and consumer spending is increasing.

The Government is attracting investment in this State by the biggest and most iconic companies in the world, and it is where small businesses have the best opportunity to grow, to innovate and to employ. Of course, that is important because small business drives employment in New South Wales. There are more than 735,000 small businesses in this State generating almost \$50 billion in salaries and wages, which is 44 per cent of our economy. This situation has occurred not only because the Government has kept business taxes low and cut heavy-handed regulation—and it will continue to do both—but also because it is giving business certainty and confidence with every decision it makes.

Over the past 12 months, a raft of major companies have made new investments in New South Wales, including Microsoft, MasterCard, Costco, Campbell Arnott's, Northrop Grumman and others. Just as importantly, we are hearing about the success stories of small- and medium-sized enterprises, including advanced manufacturers supplying the military, tech start-ups creating new digital services, and steelmakers working on our infrastructure pipeline. Steber International is building two Australian Defence Force vessels in the Manning Valley. Two are in the mould and one is about to be released. Advance technology tracking devices are also being manufactured for the Department of Defence.

The ability for entrepreneurs to be rewarded and business to succeed is the lifeblood of our economy. We know that a growing economy creating more jobs in every part of our State is the key to more choices and a better quality of life for everyone in New South Wales. It is what will ensure equality of opportunity for our eight million citizens today and for successive generations. That is the vision of New South Wales that drives the Liberal-Nationals Government, and that is what is at stake when we talk about the future of our State. Despite all the progress we have made, the path ahead for New South Wales could still look very different. From opposition, the Labor Party has opposed every major investment and reform proposed by the Government since 2011. Members opposite oppose the asset recycling program that has freed up billions of dollars for infrastructure investment. They oppose our reforms to workers compensation and tax relief and they oppose our wages policy that has reined in public sector costs. Most scandalous of all, the Labor Opposition has opposed the Government's investment in infrastructure.

During the last election campaign, the Labor Party promised to dismantle Restart NSW. That agency has funded or has been the catalyst for a number of projects in the electorate of Myall Lakes, including the Manning Hospital project. Without Restart NSW, that hospital and five other regional hospitals would not have had the kickstart they needed for refurbishment works. The Labor Opposition has not supported even one major infrastructure project that would create jobs, cut congestion and improve living standards across this State. The failure of leadership that defined the Labor Party in government still defines it today. Despite saying no to every major decision about this State's future, the Labor Opposition has been too lazy to articulate any alternative vision. I will address that issue when I deal with the Labor Party branch in the electorate of Myall Lakes.

In the absence of any Labor vision, all we can do is to reflect on the party's record when it was in government. The people of New South Wales remember what the Labor Government did to this State and its corruption and incompetence in 2011. Consigning that period to history has allowed this Government to chart a new and better course for New South Wales. Wherever we go in regional areas we see cranes and work underway, including on the Pacific Highway, where 10,000 people are being employed to do upgrade work. The Princes Highway and other roads across New South Wales are being planned, are under construction or have been completed. Hospitals across the State are being planned, being constructed or have been completed.

The Government has provided more than \$400 million for work on the Lismore Base Hospital. Funding has also been provided for work on hospitals at Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Dubbo, Parkes, Forbes, Inverell and Armidale. Stage one of the redevelopment of the mighty Manning Hospital will be completed in October or November this year. Hospitals are being built or refurbished right across regional New South Wales. Regional New South Wales is receiving 65 per cent of the roads budget. Regional police stations are being upgraded and new police stations are being built. Construction on the new Taree Police Station will commence shortly. All around New South Wales ambulance stations, HealthOne clinics and multipurpose centres have been opened. So much is happening across the State, not only in metropolitan and but also in regional areas. The Liberal-Nationals Government is managing the budget so that we can spend on the infrastructure and amenities that are needed in regional New South Wales. By building the infrastructure, we are creating jobs. As I said earlier, there are 10,000 people employed on the Pacific Highway. Local people make up 85 per cent of the workers on stage one of the Manning Base Hospital. Local jobs are being created and local people are being employed.

I want to talk about the great stories coming from the Myall Lakes electorate. As I have said previously in the House, since we came to government the projects in the electorate have included stage one of Taree Hospital at a cost of \$20 million and Taree Court House at \$10 million. Taree TAFE has received \$5 million for the nurse education and training facility, the new student learning area and a number of upgrades. That makes a lie of Labor's statements that TAFE has been downgraded. The Government is upgrading TAFE. At Great Lakes Forster High campus, \$1.9 million has been spent over the summer holiday break on maintenance and other projects. *[Extension of time]*

Other projects include \$9.8 million to the Dundaloo Support Services to be spent on group homes, which will replace the outdated dormitory-style housing. The group homes at Wingham, Taree and Old Bar have all been built using local builders, tradespeople and suppliers. Not only did Dundaloo receive \$9.8 million, it received an increase of \$1.3 million per year in recurrent funding for the employment of 25 carers. That means extra jobs. The Pacific Highway and the Bulahdelah bypass received \$368 million. Old Bar Public School has received more than \$8 million for new classrooms, and Taree High School is undergoing renovations on top of other works like covered outdoor learning areas.

More than \$10 million has been spent on the new Taree Police Station and funding has been provided for the Marlee Bridge and Duffs Bridge. The Government has spent millions of dollars on environmental projects such as bank restabilisation and dredging in the electorate. We have also spent millions of dollars on wharves, jetties and pontoons to improve the amenity of the area and access to the mighty Manning River and lakes for boaters, commercial fishers and so on. The unemployment rate in the Myall Lakes electorate is under the national

average. The Government has played its part by providing the right environment for businesses to have confidence to expand and create jobs.

When we came to government, the Manning Base Hospital was on the precipice of having its hospital accreditation removed as a result of lack of services. Hunter New England Health will not say so but that is the reality. The Government created 58 extra positions, including specialists. Manning Base Hospital now has more doctors and nurses. The Government has increased the strength of Taree police numbers by 16; we have provided more teachers; and, as I said previously, we have provided for 25 extra carers at Dundaloo. Valley Industries, a disability organisation that provided day services and activities for people with disabilities, is expanding into group homes. As a result of the Government's participation in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Valley Industries has an additional 100 employees. Valley Industries has increased its client base by more than 100 and its staff by 100. Wingham Abattoirs Pty Ltd has added an extra shift, thereby requiring more employees. I have noted just some examples of the employment opportunities in the Myall Lakes electorate.

The Manning Base Hospital redevelopment stage one, which includes a new renal and a new oncology unit, has received a total of \$20 million from the budget, that is, \$9.8 million this financial year, \$5.89 million the previous year and funding in the year before that. The Manning Base Hospital redevelopment occurred as a result of Restart NSW, which provided \$50 million to kickstart projects at six regional hospitals. At the last election Labor said that it would dismantle Restart NSW—an agency that is providing funding to six regional hospitals, including the Manning Base Hospital. The Labor party candidate in Taree, Dr David Keegan, did not commit to the redevelopment of the Manning Base Hospital stage one. On his Facebook page, Dr Keegan refers to himself as a "community advocate", not as the Labor Party candidate. He is ashamed of the Labor Party and the last thing he wants is to have his name associated with the Labor Party. Labor said that the Government's redevelopment would not happen. In fact, stage one will be opened in October or November of this year and the budget includes ongoing funding for the Manning Base Hospital.

I have been talking with the Minister for Health, Hunter New England Health and Health Infrastructure NSW in relation to funding and detailed planning for stages two and three of the redevelopment. The redevelopment is a three-stage process. The clinical services plan was completed in late 2013, together with a master redevelopment plan. As this hospital provides a significant service to our community, the redevelopment was staged in order to avoid a disruption to services. I am very pleased that the clinical services plan and the master redevelopment plan are going ahead, despite Labor's statements that the redevelopment would not happen.

Earlier this year, the Labor Party's health spokesperson, Walt Secord, visited the Manning Valley. It was the usual Labor Party fly-in fly-out, say whatever it takes visit—straight out of the Graham Richardson handbook. The member referred to "the downgrading of facilities and services at the Manning Base Hospital". The Government is delivering stage one; it will be opened this year. We are upgrading the hospital's facilities and services and providing 58 extra staff. The member went on to say, "a significant reduction in services, including oncology". Before 2011, when we came to government, Manning Base Hospital had never had an oncologist. An oncologist would visit from Newcastle for 46 days a year, supposedly. In 2010 the oncologist visited 12 times. Under Labor, people from the Manning Valley and the Great Lakes died without having seen an oncologist.

Labor members say that the Government has downgraded oncology services. We are delivering an oncology unit in October or November this year. In 2013, the Government employed Dr Ted Livshin, a specialist oncologist, and earlier this year we employed another oncologist. Manning Base Hospital now has two full-time oncologists. That never happened during the years of Labor and before we came to government. Walt Secord comes to the area and lies to the people. He is scaremongering and upsetting people by saying that services are being downgraded.

What else does Walt Secord say? He says that the Government is not honouring its promises to upgrade rural and regional hospitals. I point to the hospitals in Tweed Heads, Lismore, Byron Bay, Armidale, Inverell, Tamworth, Dubbo, Parkes, Forbes, Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie and Kempsey. I do not have the list in front of me but those are the places that I can rattle off the top of my head where there are brand new hospitals or where there has been a major refurbishment of an existing hospital. I can see that the member for Upper Hunter is in the Chamber. He is very happy about what is happening to the hospitals in Muswellbrook and, I think, Singleton.

**Mr Michael Johnsen:** Stage two.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD:** The hospital at Singleton is up to stage two; that is fantastic. Right across regional New South Wales the Government is upgrading medical services and hospitals but Walt Secord has the gall to say that the Government is downgrading services in rural New South Wales. He said:

... Mr Bromhead promised \$20 million to begin the upgrade. However ... the June 2017 State Budget papers revealed that only \$9.8 million had been allocated ...

The \$20 million is not to be spent all at once. The \$20 million is in the budget but funding provided in consecutive years adds up to \$20 million. These budget papers and the budget papers for every other year mentions \$20 million. The member congratulated Dr David Keegan, the Labor Party candidate. I have mentioned the sort of rubbish that the member comes up with but I move now to other Labor Party lies about the budget. The Facebook page of Dr David Keegan, a community advocate—

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: The member for Myall Lakes has twice used unparliamentary language in this place.

**Mr Mark Coure:** He was telling the truth.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! The member for Oatley will come to order.

**Ms Kate Washington:** I ask that the member for Myall Lakes be directed not to use that language and to withdraw the use of the word in this place.

**Mr Mark Coure:** What was the word?

**Ms Kate Washington:** I think the Temporary Speaker has heard the word, as has the member opposite.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** I was distracted by the member for Bankstown, who was talking to me, so I did not hear the comment.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD:** The member for Port Stephens was outraged by the use of the word "lie". If someone does not tell the truth it is a lie. I will continue.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: The member for Myall Lakes was granted an extension of time and he is using that time to cast personal reflections on a member of the other House and to use unparliamentary language in relation to that member. I ask that the member be directed not to use unparliamentary language.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** As I said, I have not heard the member for Myall Lakes refer to a particular person in that way. I remind him of the parliamentary procedures.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD:** On his Facebook page, Dr David Keegan, community advocate—he appears to be too scared to call himself a Labor Party candidate—talks about Taree Police Station and says that he is doing a facts check. He states, "If it is not in the budget papers it is just a picture on a page—more smoke and mirrors." The budget papers show that under the line item of "NSW Police Force", Taree Police Station has been allocated \$10 million. That is a typical misleading of the community by Labor Party supporters, who will say anything. Their tactics come from the Graham Richardson playbook. Any way one looks at it, what is happening in Myall Lakes in regional New South Wales is phenomenal, and there is more to come. Government members are fighting for more funding for roads and bridges and for a new public hospital. These are the infrastructure builds we are fighting for and which we look forward to delivering.

**Debate adjourned.**

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE SERVICE AWARDS**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (12:53):** Today I recognise the justices of the peace in my electorate who have provided services for 50 years. It was a great honour to welcome Bruce Williams of Forster and George Wilson of Old Bar to Parliament House earlier this month and recognise both gentlemen for their 50 years of service as justices of the peace. Brian Booth, also of Forster, was acknowledged for his 50 years of service; however he was unable to attend the official ceremony. We are delighted and privileged to have these gentlemen in the Myall Lakes electorate and I congratulate them on the milestone of 50 years of service to the community.

#### **NEWCASTLE JETS A-LEAGUE GRAND FINALISTS**

**Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (12:54):** The Newcastle Jets gave an extraordinary performance at the A-League grand final at Newcastle's local stadium on 5 May. Although they did not quite clinch the win, they were cheered on by a proud and raucous home crowd. I salute the Jets, led by head coach Ernie Merrick, chief executive officer Lawrie McKinna, and captain Nigel Boogard, for a stellar season. I will be back in the stands next season to cheer the Jets on, as will many thousands of Wallsend residents. I also acknowledge Jets player of the year, Dimi Petratos, who was selected for the Australian train-on squad for the World Cup. What a fantastic feat for Dimi; Jets supporters are proud of him. Next season, for the Jets!

### MIDDLE HARBOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL WHIPPER SKIPPERS

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:55):** Just across from this House in Martin Place I was pleased to join the Middle Harbour Public School Whipper Skippers, who had come from my electorate of North Shore to participate in the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program. Middle Harbour Public School has a longstanding commitment to the Jump Rope for Heart program, which is a fun, school-based physical activity that also raises funds to support the Heart Foundation. The students' enthusiasm is second to none and each year they work harder and harder to raise more funds. Their practice sessions create a sea of ropes on the playgrounds in preparation for the big event.

I congratulate the principal, staff and organising teachers Mrs Julia Cahill and Ms Sarah Hedges, and especially the participating students Abby Ye, Annabel Harman, Ava Contractor, Brooke Cuttance, Freya Jane, Himari Tanaka, Hisato Adachi, Imogen Pride, Karen Kurosawa, Katie McPherson, Lewis James, Lucy Holloway, Maggie Harper, Saskia Rousel and Zoe Degenhardt for taking part in this wonderful program where they performed for two hours raising money and encouraging kids to keep fit and healthy.

### BANKSTOWN SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR MYRA ESTELLE ABBOTT

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (12:56):** I am delighted that two weeks ago I was able to announce Mrs Myra Estelle Abbott of Georges Hall as my 2018 Bankstown Senior Citizen of the Year. For 27 years Myra has worked tirelessly, virtually on a daily basis, as an active volunteer with Meals on Wheels in the Bankstown region. For decades Meals on Wheels has been instrumental in assisting local residents with meal preparation and food delivery. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend Mrs Abbott for her outstanding dedication to our community. She is a humble, genuine lady who is a long-term resident of Georges Hall. I thank her for her dedicated service to our community. It is no small feat to contribute for 27 years. Mrs Abbott is a warm, humble and caring volunteer who deserves recognition for her outstanding community service to the Bankstown region and to Meals on Wheels.

### LAURIETON HAVEN CRAFT CENTRE FUNDRAISING

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (12:57):** I recognise Laurieton Haven Craft Centre's generous donation of \$200 towards funding the installation of a much-needed rescue tube for the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club [SLSC] patrol tower on beautiful Rainbow Beach, in my electorate. Presenting the donation was volunteer Judy Molloy from the Laurieton Haven Craft Centre. She is one of the amazing members who assisted in raising funds so that the Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC could purchase a rescue tube that will greatly aid lifeguards in the event of an emergency situation. This year the Laurieton Haven Craft Centre celebrated 20 years of operation in the community. Members participate in a variety of arts and crafts that help raise money for a variety of organisations. The centre teaches its members and visitors new skills in knitting, embroidery, paper toile and card making. The Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC Director of Lifesaving, Michelle Kirkwood, was grateful to receive this generous donation to assist her members in the event of an emergency in the surf. I thank the outstanding volunteers of our surf life saving team at Rainbow Beach for their efforts to protect and serve our community in times when people are in distress at our beaches.

### POINT CLARE RAILWAY STATION EASY ACCESS

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:58):** Point Clare is a gorgeous community tucked in between the beautiful Brisbane Water and the Brisbane Water National Park. It was originally cared for by the Guringai people—and I thank them—and it then became a cattle-raising and timber area. The coming of the railway in the late 1880s led to growing interest from guesthouse operators and holiday makers. Now the area is a thriving community and has a very strong Koolewong, Point Clare and Tascott and Gosford West Progress Association which supports residents.

With fewer than 20 steps up to the Point Clare railway station platform on one side and only a few more on the other side, the community has expressed the importance of making the Point Clare station an "access for all" station. At a recent visit to the station with shadow Minister for Transport Jodi McKay, I heard the voice of Graham, a lovely elderly gentleman who uses oxygen on a trolley and who, with his wife, recently spent \$400 on a return car hire trip to Sydney as he is not able to access his local train station. I thank very much all of those who have written, called, or dropped into the office to discuss this issue. I will continue to fight for equal access and inclusion for all.

### SWIMMING CHAMPION SAMUEL GOULD

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (12:59):** I wish to congratulate Samuel Gould on his continued swimming success. Sam recently competed at the 2018 Georgina Hope Foundation Australian Age Multi Class championships in Sydney and came away with more solid results. Representing Swimming North Coast, where

he swam sixth in Australia for the 100 metres butterfly with a personal best. Samuel competes in the multi-class S14 category, won a remarkable five medals at the Pacific School Games in Adelaide in December last year, including gold in 50 metres, 100 metres and 200 metres freestyle and 50 metres backstroke, and a silver in 100 metres backstroke. I congratulate Samuel on his commitment and results.

#### **FAIRFIELD-LIVERPOOL CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (12:59):** On Wednesday 9 May, I had the great pleasure of attending the Fairfield-Liverpool Cricket Association's annual presentation evening at Cabra-Vale Diggers. As patron of the Fairfield-Liverpool Cricket Association, I congratulate both the junior and senior teams on an absolutely phenomenal season. I also commend and extend a special thankyou to all the umpires, coaches, managers and parents for their ongoing involvement and their support of the junior and senior teams throughout the season and for helping out wherever they can. They are the unsung heroes who propel the clubs and teams forward each and every season. Last but not least, I commend and congratulate the President of the Fairfield-Liverpool Cricket Association, Mr Peter Moore, and committee members for their exceptional work throughout the season and their ongoing support and assistance to the association over the years.

#### **CLARENCE VALLEY CANCER FUNDRAISER ROGER GREEN**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (13:00):** I offer my congratulations to Roger Green of Grafton, who has achieved a remarkable milestone. Last month Roger called into my office to advise me that he had now raised \$100,000 busking for cancer. For the past 13 years, Roger has travelled across Australia with his guitar to busk and raise money for Clarence Valley cancer patients. His fundraising efforts started when his wife was fighting breast cancer and was in hospital in Newcastle. All the money he raises goes back to the people on the Clarence River. If someone is in need of assistance, then he uses the money he has raised to assist them. This is a remarkable amount of money for one person to raise and I thank Roger on behalf of the House and the people of the Clarence Valley for his incredible achievement.

#### **CAMPBELLTOWN ELECTORATE SCHOOLS**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:01):** I acknowledge the teachers, parents, carers, staff and educators in my community of Campbelltown who go above and beyond in giving our local students a chance at a fantastic education. I acknowledge their tremendous work day in and day out, and how much the community values their efforts to support the children and young adults in our schools. The knowledge, skills and life lessons these people supply is an invaluable commodity in our society. The lessons we receive from teachers, parents and carers helps to give us both knowledge of the world and knowledge that we can change the world—and that is the true value of education. Finally, I thank the teachers, parents, carers, staff and educators who have supported many students from Campbelltown in reaching their goals and achieving their dream. A special thankyou to Mr Harry Boyden-Shepherd from Lomandra School, who is in the gallery, and who contributed to this community recognition statement this afternoon.

#### **BARNARDOS MOTHER OF THE YEAR NOELENE LEVER**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:02):** I pay tribute to 78-year-old Noelene Lever from Forster who has been named the national Barnardos Mother of the Year 2018. Noelene said that to be named Barnardos Mother of the Year was just beautiful. Noelene is a foster mum and proud Bundjulong woman, and she has dedicated her life to caring for children from all walks of life. As a young widow, Noelene raised five children while working two jobs. Noelene has opened her door—a door which she says never closes—to more than 50 foster children. Many of them remained with their foster mum into adulthood. David Levy from Barnardos Australia said thousands of nominations were submitted from across the country, celebrating the incredible role mothers play in guiding, nurturing and protecting children. He said:

Noelene's dedication, commitment and genuine love for all children, especially those in need is incredibly moving, and showcases the same philosophy we pride ourselves on here at Barnardos.

#### **INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:03):** On 28 April I attended the memorial service to remember workers killed in the course of their employment, and for those workers and their families suffering from the effects of workplace injury, illness and disease. International Workers' Memorial Day is a significant day internationally that highlights the fact that workers continue to be killed or injured in the course of their employment. It is a day that reminds us that workers and our communities must always remain vigilant in continuing to pursue greater protections on the job. There have already been 40 Australian workers killed at work this year with the latest death last week, when a warehouse worker was killed in a forklift accident in Sydney's south-west. I congratulate Hunter Workers for its ongoing campaign to implement the highest standards of health

and safety, for increasing the role of workplace representatives, and for providing comprehensive support for workers, and their families, who have experienced the trauma of a workplace death, injury, illness or disease.

#### **BAULKHAM ELECTORATE ART IN THE HILLS**

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (13:04):** It is with great pleasure that I inform the House of the tremendous success at Art in the Hills on 23 March this year, which raised more than \$35,000 for Oakhill College in Castle Hill. They have a good rugby side too, just quietly. For members who may be unfamiliar, Art in the Hills is the longest running art show in the Hills District. Proudly run by the Oakhill College Parents and Friends Association for the past 47 years, the show attracts an audience of approximately 3,000 people at the college each year and displays a diverse array of tantalising artwork from established and emerging Australian artists, including Indigenous paintings. This year all proceeds will be allocated to the purchase of a new coaster bus for college students. I particularly thank Brother Steve Hogan, Principal of Oakhill College, and Ms Melissa Reeves and Ms Karen Isaacs, coordinators of Art in The Hills, for their magnificent efforts in continuing this landmark tradition in the Hills.

#### **NEWCASTLE ELECTORATE LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR MICHELLE LANCEY**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (13:05):** Today I congratulate Michelle Lancey on taking out the 2018 NSW Local Women of the Year Award for Newcastle. Michelle is the founder of the Newcastle Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays [PFLAG] and was a strong activist in the marriage equality campaign. Michelle's son came out in 2001 and this led her to focus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex [LGBTQI] equality issues. She created the Newcastle branch of PFLAG after seeing an episode of *Australian Story* featuring Shelley Argent, a prominent advocate for LGBTQI rights and the national spokesperson for PFLAG. Michelle worked tirelessly in the marriage equality "Yes" campaign where she collaborated with local support groups such as the AIDS Council of New South Wales, Rainbow Families and the Queer Collective. She helped organise events such as the YESfest picnic as a show of support for the LGBTQI community during the postal vote campaign. I was proud to present Michelle with the 2018 Local Women of the Year Award and wish her all the best for the future as she continues to be an activist for worthy progressive causes.

#### **Q STATION BUSINESS EVENT VENUE**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:06):** Today I recognise Q Station at North Head, which has been recognised as one of Sydney's most unique business event venues at the Meeting & Events Australia National Awards in Adelaide. For those who are unaware, Q Station occupies the former quarantine station site nestled in the Sydney Harbour National Park in my electorate of Manly. Steeped in history, the site has been preserved and protected for the enjoyment of tourists and locals alike. I congratulate Max Player and Suzanne Stanton, who have been strong supporters of the tourism economy in Manly and have contributed greatly to preserving Sydney's colonial history on the site. I look forward to continuing to work with Q Station in the coming months on a family and friends event to coincide with the Invictus Games, which is coming to Sydney in October this year. I commend its success to the House.

#### **KINGSGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (13:07):** It was an honour to be invited to the 100th anniversary of Kingsgrove Public School. On a cold and wet Saturday, hundreds of students, parents and ex-students came to the school to celebrate this important milestone. The school was built during the First World War—a curious detail, and one I would not have expected, as one would assume the resources of the nation would have been focused on the war effort. Since that time, the school has flourished with thousands of locals receiving a world-class education from the committed teaching group. Although wet, the day was supported by the school's Parents and Citizens' Association, its President, Zehra Gunaidi, and Kingsgrove RSL Club, members of which always seems to be there to lend local groups a hand. We were able to see cultural readings in Greek and Mandarin as well as singing and dancing demonstrations, not to mention a fantastic barbecue. I thank the staff and Principal Bev D'Astoli for their dedication to the St George community. I hope the school continues to flourish for the next 100 years.

#### **ERINA MEN'S SHED**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:08):** On Monday morning, the hardworking gentlemen from the Erina Men's Shed found their metal shed had been broken in to. Welding equipment, consumables and facemasks were all stolen. The phenomenal public response to the break-in demonstrates the strength of our Central Coast community. I especially thank a local business, BJ Howes Metal and Lisarow, for its kind offers to replace equipment. NBN News and 2GO radio stations have also been extremely supportive with their coverage of the break-in. There are also been donations from the public to support the Men's Shed in this time of need. As Secretary of the Men's Shed, Bob Miller, said, "The community is coming around us. It is times like this we find

what a great community we have around us." The Erina Men's Shed is a fantastic organisation that has helped to unite men from all walks of life in our local area for many years. I congratulate it on its resilience and its response to the break-in. To add to this, the Brisbane Water Local Area Command has caught the perpetrator and all of the goods are being returned to the Erina Men's Shed, which is a great outcome. Thanks to the Brisbane Water Local Area Command.

#### **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE BASE WILLIAMTOWN**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:09):** Port Stephens is home to the Royal Australian Air Force [RAAF] Base Williamtown. Whilst the base's relationship with the community has become complicated, the challenges have never been about the workers on the base, the men and women who have committed their lives to defending our nation. The RAAF men and women are an important part of our community, who contribute in so many ways. As we continue to work towards resolving issues faced by the residents living in and around the base, I honour the RAAF men and women.

I particularly recognise the recently appointed senior Australian Defence Force officer of RAAF Base Williamtown, Group Captain Peter Cluff. I welcome Peter back to Port Stephens and look forward to working with him to help rebuild the trust and relationship between our community and the RAAF Base Williamtown. We have some upcoming challenges that we will face together, including the introduction of the F35s, stopping contamination leaving the RAAF base and ensuring surrounding residents are provided with meaningful pathways towards a brighter future.

#### **PREMIER'S TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT NICOLA CONNON**

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing) (13:10):** I congratulate Lithgow TAFE teacher Nicola Connon on being awarded a 2018 Premier's Teacher Scholarship. She will undertake research in England on a five-week international study tour during which she will visit some of the world's best institutions and centres of learning. She will also be consulting with experts and bringing a lot of her knowledge and advice back to areas of Lithgow and the wider Central West to share some of those teachings around resilience-based education. I thank Nicola for her outstanding work as a teacher, the initiative she has shown and the dedication she shows to the community of Lithgow. She is just one example of TAFE NSW providing great teachers who are committed to making a difference to the lives of students in her area of Lithgow, in her case, and across the State, providing the best programs and strategies to help students in TAFE.

#### **WILLMOT MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA**

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (13:11):** I wish a happy belated Mother's Day to all of our wonderful mums. It would not be Mother's Day in my electorate of Londonderry without the annual Willmot Mother's Day Morning Tea. It is always a special occasion at which the dads of the community serve all the mums a beautiful morning tea, with entertainment provided by the Willmot Public School choir. I thank all of the special mothers in this community who support their families, children and each other and keep the community going. I congratulate the Willmot community group led by the fantastic president, Peta Kennedy; vice president, John Shakelton; secretary, Sonia Savoulain; and treasurer, Makeeta Stubbings. I thank them for organising this event every year—and for having me along—with support from the wonderful principal of Willmot Public School, the amazing Ann Denham.

#### **NORTH SYDNEY ROTARIAN MALCOLM NICKLIN**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:12):** I make special mention of Mosman resident Malcolm Nicklin, who recently celebrated 50 years as member of the Rotary Club of North Sydney. Malcolm joined the club in 1968. He served as secretary in 1972 and 1973 and as president in 1982. He has an incredibly interesting professional life and history. He was a coordinating civil engineer on the Sydney Opera House project between 1959 and 1967 and has given us some wonderful insights into the complexity and success of the construction process. The club celebrated the occasion with champagne and a special cake for Malcolm. The Rotary Club of North Sydney meets at NORTHS leagues club, Cammeray. The club is passionate about community service, particularly when it comes to things like the Red Shield Appeal on which I worked with it last year. I congratulate the club once again on its work this year. I thank the board and the club's members for supporting our community in their work, and I thank Malcolm for his extraordinary commitment and 50 years of contributing to Rotary.

#### **SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (13:13):** I bring to the attention of the House the work of the order of the Sisters of St Joseph in Dapto. The Sisters of St Joseph have had a continuous presence in Dapto for the past 138 years since being established on 12 May 1880. However, like everything, this had to come to an end.

In March this year the last of the sisters, Sister Kevin, left Dapto to take up residence in Sydney. The significance of this order cannot be overstated. The Sisters of St Joseph shared their lives with the people of Dapto for more than a century, established a number of local schools and convents, and provided whatever support they could to local residents. I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Sisters of St Joseph for their service to the people of Dapto and the wider community over the past 138 years.

#### **PORT MACQUARIE MARATHON CHAMPION KRISTEN MOLLOY**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:13):** I recognise the amazing accomplishment of Port Macquarie-born champion Kristen Molloy for taking out the 42-kilometre Australian Running Festival marathon held in Canberra. Kristen Molloy replicated her championship win from 2014 to clinch another title by eight minutes, which clearly demonstrates her passion and determination to rise above injury concerns to secure a well-deserved victory. After knocking off the second placed competitor 10 kilometres from the finishing line, Kristen knew she had secured victory. She stated:

At the 32-kay mark we double-backed onto ourselves and I could see I had a bit of a buffer on the girl in second.

...

To do that for 10 kays is quite easy when you've done 32 already.

It is quite that Kristen is no novice when it comes to competing in marathon events. Last year she competed in an astounding eight marathons in total, demonstrating her resolve to succeed amongst some fierce competition. To date the Australian Running Festival, through its organisers Tata Consultancy Services, has raised a staggering \$155,628 this year alone, contributing to 250 charitable organisations including the Leukaemia Foundation, the Climate Council and beyondblue to name a few.

#### **MAITLAND MEN'S SHED**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (13:15):** It was wonderful to visit the Maitland Men's Shed recently. I congratulate its members on their ongoing support of the Maitland community through their efforts in promoting men's mental and physical health and the need to keep active. The men's shed stimulates conversation around men's health issues and fills a void in the community by providing a space where society's more mature members can keep their minds and bodies active while working together on common projects. The organisation has been responsible for great community initiatives such as building a cubby house for the Aspect Hunter School at Thornton, teaching 600 Scouts the art of woodworking at the 2018 Hunter and coastal region corroboree, running computer classes for members of the community, fixing old bikes and teaching the art of leadlighting to those interested in acquiring a new skill. Members of the Maitland Men's Shed continue to support and strengthen the Maitland community through volunteering their time and resources. It is lovely to see an organisation committed to giving back to the community. I thank all the members of the Maitland Men's Shed for their efforts.

#### **PEAKHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERS**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (13:16):** I recently had the opportunity of visiting Peakhurst Public School in my electorate to present their newly elected school leaders for 2018 with certificates. The assembly was a great success. It was fantastic to see so many students eager to learn and enjoying school. However, what stood out to me most was being introduced to Sarah and Fatima, two year six students at Peakhurst Public School who have taken it upon themselves to ensure their peers feel safe, have friends and feel included. They focus on students who might be bullied, students with a disability or students going through a rough time. Their commitment to upholding the dignity of students through social inclusion, encouragement and peer support by the mentorship of younger students is a perfect example of students seeing a need and meeting it without allowing limitations such as age, holding a badge, or breadth of influence to prevent them from making a difference. I thank Sarah and Fatima of Peakhurst Public School for their compassion and kindness towards others—may they carry that heart for others forever.

#### **DI BLASI UNISEX HAIR STYLISTS MAURICE AND PAULA DI BLASI**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (13:17):** I ask the House to recognise Maurice and Paula Di Blasi of Di Blasi Unisex Hair, small business owners in my electorate. I recently had the pleasure of visiting Maurice at his shop at Eastlakes Shopping Centre, where he and his wife, Paula, have practised as hairdressers every day since 1965, when the Eastlakes Shopping Centre first opened. That is 53 years of service. Maurice and Paula are a fixture of the Eastlakes community and are well known to its diverse and vibrant community. As one person remarked on social media, Maurice is a "legend of Eastlakes". Maurice turns 75 this month. I take this opportunity to wish him a happy birthday and to commend Paula and Maurice for their long contribution to small business and the Eastlakes community.

**SAN FRANCISCO WORLD SPIRITS COMPETITION MEDAL WINNERS HUSK DISTILLERS**

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (13:18):** I inform the House of the significant event that will touch the hearts of most people in the House. I wish to congratulate Tumbulghum-based Husk Distillers on winning gold at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition. The latest spiced rum creation took out the gold medal at one of the world's most prestigious spirits competitions. The Spiced Bam Rum is specially infused with vanilla bean, cinnamon, wattle seed, native ginger and sea salt. I am led to believe the Pure Cane Rum produced in the Tweed is a favourite amongst the locals and many of the tourists who visit. I congratulate Husk Distillers co-founder Harriet Messenger and the team.

**BANGALOW KOALAS AND BEYOND**

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (13:19):** I recognise the success of Bangalow Koalas, a volunteer organisation that has outgrown itself. What was once a group protecting the koala population around the heritage town has expanded to become an ecological force, helping to create wildlife corridors heading west towards Lismore. The organisation now calls itself Bangalow Koalas and Beyond. The work of the group in creating habitat for koalas is exemplary. It recently rallied more than 70 members of the community to help plant 1,400 habitat and food source trees across two adjoining properties. I was proud to donate to the project. The group now has 25 landholders—two-thirds of them farmers—interested in joining the corridor in the Byron and Lismore council areas. The group is holding workshops at several local primary schools. The goal is to create a corridor from Broken Head on the coast to Repentance Creek. I congratulate Bangalow Koalas and President Linda Sparrow in particular.

**GLENMORE PARK FOOTBALLERS JULIA, JAVIER AND ALICIA MORALES**

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:20):** I recognise the extraordinary sporting achievements of the Morales siblings Julia, Javier and Alicia. The Glenmore Park family members have achieved great success in football. Julia Morales currently plays for Marconi in the under-17 NSW Premier League 2 competition and recently played for the Raiders Futsal Club in the under-15 NPL2 futsal competition. Julia also represents her school, Mamre Anglican School, in indoor and outdoor football teams. This year, younger brother Javier Morales successfully trialled for Parramatta Football Club and was selected in the under-12 boys Skills Acquisition Program [SAP] team. Javier also represents Mamre Anglican School in football. Youngest sibling Alicia Morales currently plays for Marconi in the under-10 girls SAP team after a successful trial earlier this year. I thank Julia, Javier and Alicia's parents, Lorena and Charly, for supporting their children's sporting pursuits. I congratulate the children on their wonderful achievements and wish them all the best in their future sporting endeavours.

**GREYSTANES PUBLIC SCHOOL ANZAC DAY CEREMONY**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (13:21):** I acknowledge the recent 100th anniversary Anzac Day ceremony held by Greystanes Public School and, in particular, the excellent musical performance by the Greystanes Public School choir. The school put together a specially written song in recognition of Anzac Day and what it means to Australians. I congratulate Julie-Rose Faucett-Bailey, Wendie-Rose Neill and Margaret Smith on composing the song and the Greystanes Public School choir on taking the important ceremony seriously. The veterans of Merrylands RSL and I commend and thank them. Lest we forget.

**WOOMBAH FIRE BRIGADE LIFE MEMBER FRED RYAN**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (13:21):** I congratulate Woombah resident Fred Ryan, who after nearly 70 years of service in the Rural Fire Service [RFS] was recently recognised with the first ever life membership of the Woombah RFS. Fred began his firefighting days in the Harwood Rural Fire Service brigade and then transferred to the Woombah brigade, where he has been a member for 52 years. Fred has been a dedicated RFS and community volunteer all his life and is an inspiration to others. I trust that Fred's health will allow him to be back at meetings in the near future. His wife Bev has got him back for a while. I congratulate Fred.

**ILLAWARRA RURAL FIRE SERVICE AWARDS**

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (13:22):** In a presentation on 9 May the Illawarra thanked and honoured volunteers from our Rural Fire Service brigades. More than 740 years of service to the community was shared between 33 recipients. Will Lee was recognised for 48 years of service, receiving the National Medal 3rd Clasp. Will has served as group captain and group officer, spending more hours than he can remember supporting the Austinmer brigade. John Oakley was also among the recipients. He has dedicated 41 years to the Farmborough Heights brigade, joining it only when the former owner of the house he had just purchased said that there were overalls his size left in the cupboard upstairs and that he would see him on Saturday. More than 2,100 Saturdays later, John is still involved. We thank the men and women of the Illawarra brigade of the Rural

Fire Service for dedicating nearly 21,000 hours between them in front of bushfires this season—and in front of barbecue fires to raise funds. Despite the season seeming longer, their dedication and commitment to keeping person, property, animals and assets safe is always at the highest level.

#### **MERIT TOUCH FOOTBALLER ETHAN FERGUSON**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:22):** I congratulate Ethan Ferguson, who has been selected in the New South Wales under-14 merit touch football side. At the recent New South Wales Junior Regional Championships at Penrith, Ethan was a member of the Northern Eagles 14s team that was beaten in the semi-final by eventual winners, the Hunter Hornets. While he is pleased to make the State touch football team, it is not his first choice of sport. Ethan is a rugby league player who has already been identified by the Newcastle Knights and is in the Knights' development system. Rugby union is also a consideration as Ethan is in the NSW Waratahs junior program. In touch football, Ethan, who plays link, was selected in the Eagles squad after impressing selectors at the Northern Eagles championships in Taree last January and then the Junior State Cup in Port Macquarie in February. Taree won the 14s at the Eagles championships and then performed credibly at Port Macquarie. Ethan has been playing league with Taree Panthers since he was old enough to lace up a boot, although he did have a short flirtation with soccer. I wish him well.

#### **HIDDEN TREASURES HONOUR ROLL VOLUNTEER ANN MURRAY**

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (13:24):** I recently had the pleasure of recognising and celebrating the significant contribution of Mrs Ann Murray of Manildra to her community when her name was inscribed upon the 2017 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll. Manildra born and bred, Ann is valued by her community for her loyalty and commitment through her extensive involvement in a number of organisations over many years. Ann's involvement has included being Vice President and Secretary of the Manildra Preschool Parents and Citizens Association, fundraiser for Manildra Public School, Treasurer of Manildra Swimming Pool, and Secretary Treasurer of Manildra Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee and Manildra Neighbourhood Watch.

Ann is the Treasurer of the Manildra and District Improvement Association, and she helps to organise Australia Day celebrations, the Anzac Day service, Manildra's annual Christmas party and fireworks, choir and fundraising events. Ann is a steward for the Manildra Show and vice president and publicity officer for the Manildra Women's Bowling Club. For the past 13 years Ann has compiled, co-edited and printed the local paper *Manildra Matters*. Manildra is most fortunate to have this rare gem.

#### **WESTERN REGION OUTSTANDING YOUNG EMPLOYEE DANIEL SUTTON**

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing) (13:25):** I acknowledge the work of Daniel Sutton who last week was recognised as the western region's outstanding young employee at a ceremony at Rydges Mount Panorama as part of the Western NSW Business Awards. Daniel Sutton is a partner of Bathurst-based Morse Group Accountants and Advisors. He leads a team of five people and provides services to clients not only in the Bathurst area but also across the Central West. He leads an internal team, organises opportunities for training and also runs employee inductions. Daniel has shown professionalism, support and dedication as part of a very strong team. It is people like Daniel who are providing outstanding opportunities in communities such as Bathurst. He is a young man who strives in the industry and is recognised by his peers.

#### **NEWCASTLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (13:26):** I recognise the crucial work of the Newcastle Domestic Violence Committee, which connects those suffering domestic violence with life-saving support services. Last month, I had the honour of launching its new resource card—a simple fold-out card that fits in someone's pocket and provides contact details for resource and support services in the Hunter region. Each week one Australian woman loses her life due to domestic violence, and many lose their lives at the hands of intimate partners. I do not doubt that this simple and discreet card will save lives. As member for Maitland, and shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, I receive calls every week from desperate women who feel they have nowhere to turn and no escape from their abusers. While the facilities provided to those women are often underfunded and overloaded, the fact that so many women are unaware of their existence demonstrates how much harder we must work to protect victims of domestic violence. I thank everyone involved in the effort and all the services who work hard to keep women and children safe in our community.

#### **NORTHERN SUBURBS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:27):** The Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club is an integral part of the sporting community in the electorate of North Shore. Formed in 1900 as a result of the merger of the Pirates and Wallaroos clubs, the Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club has produced 42 Wallabies. Its home is the historic North Sydney Oval. Last week, it was my privilege to present a grant of \$4,500 to the club

for the purchase of uniforms at its partners lunch. The grant was used to provide uniforms to the women's sevens team that is playing this season.

The Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club is ably overseen by its board, which is led by President Grahame O'Donnell, Rugby Director Chris Hall and directors Anthony Crawford, Bradley Leahy, Michael Callanan, Justin Tamsett, Peter Stewart, Cameron Shepherd, Samantha Shepherd and Patrick Nakkan. The Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club is supported by a number of sponsors that enable the ongoing contribution of rugby to keeping our citizens healthy. It also enables the Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club's commitment to supporting women in rugby, including the introduction of a women's rugby sevens team and its initiatives to introduce a high-quality player development program for those women under the stewardship of Caitlin Aquilina.

#### **NORTHERN RIVERS AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS FINALISTS**

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (13:28):** I congratulate three Northern Rivers businesses on their outstanding leadership and innovative approach to small business. Chosen as finalists in the 2018 Australian Small Business Champion Awards were Aussie House Sitters of Lismore, in the Pet Services category; Plant Extracts of Byron Bay, in the Manufacturing category; and deserving special praise is Collins Hume of Ballina, the winner of the Accounting Services category. I give a special shout-out to Collins Hume, whom I have been a client of for many years. It is an incredibly philanthropic and globally focused local business. I particularly mention Peter Fowler and all of the accountants at Collins Hume of Ballina. Each of those who received awards is making invaluable contributions to the local community. The award nominations are an admirable way of giving recognition to that contribution.

#### **CANCER COUNCIL AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:29):** I recognise two hardworking Port Macquarie locals in my electorate, Karren Holstein and Olive Poulter, who will again host Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event, now for an astounding 21 years. Each year Karren and Olive host a morning tea at the Sea Scout Hall in Port Macquarie to raise some much-needed funding for cancer research. The duo hopes to again attract up to 40 people to their event and has set a target of \$500 for the morning's proceeds. Regrettably, one Australian is diagnosed with cancer every five minutes—the average length of a tea break. In every step, the Cancer Council is there to assist everyday Australians to tackle the ongoing challenges often faced with a loved one's diagnosis. This year the Cancer Council will celebrate 25 years of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, raising funds that go from the point of diagnosis to prevention and support. I again congratulate Karren and Olive on their outstanding community service and support and for hosting yet another Biggest Morning Tea in Port Macquarie.

#### **HORNSBY FAMILY PRACTICE DR RICHARD MASON**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (13:30):** Today I especially mention Dr Richard Mason, who, as a dedicated doctor, has been serving the people of Hornsby for half a century. He first started at the Hornsby Family Practice after graduating in 1956. It did not take him long to become a well-loved member of that practice by both patients and staff. In 1970 he bought into the practice and has stayed there ever since. Staff and patients alike have praised Dr Mason for his dedication to the clinic. He is also passionate about other areas of life, having served as the President of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia.

Despite coming from a long line of teachers and wanting to be an architect when he was younger, he was glad he became a doctor. He says his patients have made him a better person. At the age of 86, and having seen thousands of patients, Dr Mason's retirement is truly deserved. He is a very humble and giving man. I wish him all the best in his retirement, although I know he will not slow down. He is the heart and soul of the Hornsby Conservation Society and does so much to protect what is best about our area, the bushland shire.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** 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 the students and teachers from the Caroline Chisolm College, the Cecil Hills High School, the Emmaus Catholic College, the Erskine Park High School, the Glenmore Park High School, the Mamre Anglican School, the Penrith Anglican College, the St Clair High School, the St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, the Thomas Hassall Anglican College, all of whom are taking part in the Mulgoa Senior School Captains Leadership Forum, and who are guests of the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, Minister for Ageing, and member for Mulgoa.

I also welcome to the Chamber a delegation from the Shoalhaven Heads Red Cross, whom I met earlier. They are guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for Education and the Illawarra and South Coast, and the member for Kiama. I welcome back to the gallery the students and teachers from the Abbotsleigh School, who are guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for Finance, Services and Property, and member for Ku-ring-gai. I acknowledge in the gallery Leo Ninness and Rose Ninness, who are guests of the member for Miranda.

I welcome Harry Boyden-Shepherd from the Lomandra School, who is currently interning in the Campbelltown electorate office, and who is the guest of the member for Campbelltown. I acknowledge Dr Annemarie Christie, the Labor candidate for Riverstone, who is the guest of the member for Maroubra. I extend a very warm welcome to Austin Curtin, who is The Nationals candidate for Lismore, and Andrew Chier, who is The Nationals candidate for Barwon—both of whom are guests of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, Minister for Small Business, and member for Monaro. I extend a very warm welcome to all in the gallery and I hope you enjoy question time today.

*Announcements*

**TRIBUTE TO NORMA CARAPIET**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is with regret that I announce the passing of Norma Carapiet. Norma served with distinction as an employee in the Willoughby electorate office for the past 11 years. Her funeral service is being conducted today at 2.00 p.m. On behalf of all members, I convey our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

*Bills*

**MODERN SLAVERY BILL 2018**

**First Reading**

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I advise the House that I have received a written authority from the Hon. Paul Green, MLC, advising that the member for Willoughby will have carriage of the bill in the Legislative Assembly. I set down the second reading of the bill as an order of the day for tomorrow.

*Members*

**REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** On behalf of Mr John Barilaro: I inform the House that today the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business will be answering questions in the absence of the Premier.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members heard my earlier statement and should show respect.

**Ms Tamara Smith:** The comment was in regard to the Deputy Premier, certainly not in regard to the Premier.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It was not conveyed that way.

*Question Time*

**LIDDELL POWER STATION**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:28):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. In the light of the Deputy Premier's recent call for the Government to acquire the Liddell Power Station and given that the Government sold it for effectively zero, how many hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money is he prepared to spend to buy it back from the company that he gave it away to?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! A question was asked by the Leader of the Opposition. Members will listen to the answer in silence.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:29):** I thank the member for Auburn for the question. I have been sitting on the bench today hoping there will be a question about regional New South Wales. I have been waiting a very long time. The Leader of the Opposition had a chance to talk about regional projects, the schools and hospitals, the roads and rail that we are building.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I am happy to answer the question but when it comes to energy we know what happened pre-2011 when Labor under the gentrader deal shut down Parliament. Labor appointed all its mates to the boards to flog off the generators of this State—remember that?

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I ask that the Deputy Premier return to the question, which is directly about Liddell, energy supply and what he will do to buy it back.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The member for Port Stephens will resume her seat. I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Before I can answer the question about Liddell I have to provide the background, which is the gentrader mess that Labor left us, the remnants that were left behind, and the mop and bucket that we had to use to clean up the mess Labor left in relation to Liddell. I am more than happy to answer for the comments that I made on Sky

**Ms Kate Washington:** You are going to sell an asset for nothing.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I know the comments on Sky to which the member for Port Stephens refers. I am happy to say in this House that AGL showed contempt for the people of New South Wales when it said it would close down Liddell in 2022. That would leave a gap of approximately 850 megawatts in the system at a time when we know that generation is the key to applying downward pressure on electricity prices. Labor does not support Liddell remaining and the extension of its operation beyond 2022.

**Mr Jihad Dib:** Point of Order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. The Minister is being relevant. The member for Lakemba will resume his seat.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I am talking about Liddell. I am talking about electricity. I am talking about the hundreds and millions of dollars of exposure that Labor left behind in the State of New South Wales.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** This Government had to mop up the mess left by Labor. If Labor members are so confident with what happened through the gentrader process, why did they shut down Parliament? Why did they stop debate and appoint their mates to the boards?

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** It was because Labor needed to flog off the assets and because Labor members come to this House to play politics. Each and every one of them is a hypocrite in relation to energy in this State whereas the Coalition took its policy to an election. Non-Labor members had conviction and courage to take our policy to an election in relation to poles and wires because we wanted to see downward pressure on the cost of electricity. What is Labor's policy when it comes to energy? Labor members have become quiet because they have no policy when it comes to energy. They are happy to see the end of Liddell. With the end of Liddell and less generation, guess what happens to prices? Because of the effect of supply and demand, prices will increase. Labor's plan is high prices, the destruction of manufacturing, the destruction of business—irrespective of the impact of all that on the family budget.

**Mr Jihad Dib:** Point of order: The question was: How much is the Deputy Premier willing to pay? He said he would answer it, so answer it. How much is the Deputy Premier willing to pay of taxpayers' dollars?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Absolutely—I am happy to answer.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Lakemba will resume his seat.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I go back to my comments when I was asked the question: What should happen if AGL is not happy to play in the Liddell space and act in the best interests of Australia, New South Wales, the people, and the industries that this Government supports? I replied that the Federal Government should consider forcing AGL to play. They have mixed up acquiring with the Federal Government using its powers.

**Mr Chris Minns:** Why did you sell it?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I answered the question of why we got rid of it. It was because we were mopping up your bloody mess.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** It was to clean up the mess left by Labor—a mess that included leaving the taxpayers of New South Wales exposed to increased prices. Labor members are hypocrites who think the young people in the gallery do not remember Labor's form prior to 2011. That was when people of this State were burdened with skyrocketing electricity prices and when Labor engaged in manipulation to stop debate in this Parliament.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Rockdale will refrain from making hand gestures.

#### INLAND RAIL

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (14:34):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. How is the New South Wales Government helping to boost regional economies through improved freight for regional markets?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:35):** I thank the member for Barwon for this sensible question. The member is part of the Liberal-Nationals Government that is delivering for regional communities, growing the economy, creating jobs, building infrastructure, delivering services and making sure that regional New South Wales embraces the period of prosperity that we, as a government, put in place—making sure that it does not happen only here in Sydney or in the metro cities but that regional communities have every chance of not only surviving but also thriving.

[Interruption]

Members opposite are not interested in the answer. They absolutely hate it when I talk about regional New South Wales. I do not understand why the member for Cessnock does not stand up for the people of his electorate; they live in regional New South Wales. Members opposite hate the good news that is happening in regional New South Wales. If one goes back to 2011, one will see that over the forward estimates more than \$40 billion has been going to regional New South Wales, and there is more to come. Some of the Labor seats in regional New South Wales—there are not many—are also benefiting from the Liberals and The Nationals building the infrastructure that those opposite promised but never delivered. It is the same story here in Sydney.

The question was about how we help regional economies improve freight for regional markets. A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit Parkes—a great part of the Central West—along with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Michael McCormack, where both the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government signed the intergovernmental agreement for inland rail—which, in the words of Barnaby Joyce, will be the corridor of commerce. It will be the spine through regional New South Wales that will not only unlock opportunity for farmers but also be the way we move freight in the future. This spine through regional New South Wales is a multibillion-dollar investment. No doubt places like Parkes will become inland ports and change the way we move freight.

Why are we choosing to back inland rail? It is a fantastic investment by the Federal Government—something spoken about for decades that is now to be delivered by a Federal Liberal-Nationals Government, in partnership with the States. It was great that Victoria signed up and now New South Wales has signed up also. Where are the opportunities for us? First, there is public safety. We want to see more freight put onto rail. In the next decade or two the agriculture sector will grow to a point where the movement of freight—agriculture, produce and fibre—on our roads will cause concern. Putting more freight onto rail is the smartest move. It will also provide an opportunity for farmers and landholders—those who grow our produce—to get their products to market quicker, which is important.

Also, when trucks are taken off the road the burden on councils—which spend something like 50 per cent of their maintenance budget on roads—will be removed and it will also have a safety impact by minimising the number of accidents on regional roads. The road toll is always too high; one accident is too many. Removing freight movements from regional roads and putting them onto rail is a fantastic outcome for the broader community. We know that rail is an efficient form of transport for farmers that reduces the cost of freight to about \$10 a tonne. That means farmers can invest in their businesses, people, communities and jobs. That is another benefit of this project.

Inland rail was spoken about and will be delivered by the Federal Liberal-Nationals Government, partnered by the New South Wales Government. Another benefit of this deal and the agreement on the Australian Rail Track Corporation lease is the duplication of Port Botany. Part of the deal from the Federal Government, which was announced in the Federal budget, is that it will spend \$300 million to \$400 million on the duplication of Port Botany. That will help freight movements not only in regional New South Wales but also in Sydney—as the Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services said, the last mile where we often seem to have problems.

In years to come, inland rail will be looked upon as infrastructure for the nation that is probably on par with projects such as the Snowy Hydro scheme—thought about in advance for the next generation and changing the way we do business in regional New South Wales. This is the Federal, New South Wales and Victorian governments' way—hopefully the Queensland Government will sign up shortly—of ensuring that we invest in the people who produce the food and fibre we all take for granted. There will be some significant opportunities for New South Wales once the rail line is built. It will be a spine through regional New South Wales that places like Parkes, Narromine and Narrabri will have the opportunity to tap into. [*Extension of time*]

I am absolutely focused on this opportunity for all those communities. Possibly using future funds from Snowy Hydro, we should consider what transformational infrastructure we can build, tapping into inland rail in years to come so that we grow our regions and build great centres. Part of that will be logistics and transport and a strong agriculture sector. We know that in the decades to come agribusiness will improve. I have an important statistic. One typical train travelling on inland rail has the same capacity as 108 B-double trucks. Imagine taking 108 B-double trucks off the road by putting freight onto rail. Those trucks have a huge impact on our roads and on the environment through carbon emissions. The impact from trucks is much higher than from rail. The New South Wales Government is committed to partnering with our Federal colleagues, and I congratulate the Federal Government—especially the Federal Nationals, who have led on inland rail.

This is our project; we claim it. It was led by Barnaby and his Federal colleagues, and is now being delivered by Michael McCormack as the new Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Federal Nationals. We are getting on with the job of delivering infrastructure and policy that will make a difference to people in regional New South Wales and regional Australia. That is the key. Everything we do and everything I stand for as Leader of The Nationals, along with my colleagues, is about building prosperity in regional communities. I am sick and tired of hearing terms like the "bush change"; it is not a bush change. Anyone who visits Orange, Dubbo or Tamworth will see that it is a city change—they are fantastic, cosmopolitan, modern cities that offer all the benefits of metropolitan Sydney but also country living. We are proud of that; we will campaign on it, we will provide for it and we will match it with investment in industry.

*Visitors*

#### VISITORS

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I acknowledge in the public gallery a good friend of mine and of many members, Reg Kidd, Mayor of Orange. Welcome to the Parliament.

*Question Time*

#### NUCLEAR ENERGY

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (14:42):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Given his speech last month when he declared nuclear power to be inevitable and said there has never been a better moment to include nuclear energy in Australia's future, will the Deputy Premier host a nuclear power plant in his electorate?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:43):** I have been waiting for this moment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will come to order. An Opposition member asked the question. The Minister will be heard in silence.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** There is a simple answer to the question. I rule out any nuclear plant in any electorate. Why? It is because there is a Federal ban. It has nothing to do with the State. I can rule out a nuclear reactor being built anywhere in the State of New South Wales. I can also rule it out in Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

**Mr Troy Grant:** What about the ACT?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** And the ACT—the socialist republic of the ACT. In the 1990s there was a Federal ban on nuclear energy. That is the answer to the question. But let us have the conversation. There are a lot of young people in the public gallery today who do not have the same issue around nuclear energy being part of the energy mix of the future. The confusion arises in that I have never talked about building a reactor. Opposition members should be honest, but it is not typical of Labor to be honest about the facts. Labor members say whatever they like and play politics in the Chamber, misleading and cherry-picking conversations. I have had the opportunity to look into nuclear energy and the technology on the horizon. Over the next five to 10 years there will be technological breakthroughs in small modular reactors [SMRs].

**Mr Clayton Barr:** You will not be here.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** The member is right; I will not be here. The truth is the people of Australia will make the final decision on what the energy mix for Australia looks like. No politician in this Chamber will do that. But, as leaders, we should lead the conversation. I do not fear having the conversation, especially now with the Federal Government's National Energy Guarantee—a framework that is technology neutral so no more tech bias, allowing the market to dictate the future. We can have conversations about new technology such as SMRs built in a factory or on site. They no longer have to be built anywhere near water; they could be built in central Australia, connected to the grid and air cooled or gas cooled—not even water cooled. No alternating current or direct current power is required.

The conversation that I am starting is one that I trust the Australian people will be informed about when it comes to talking about the issues that are facing Australia today. Why is there no better time to talk about the energy mix for Australia? It is because Australia is facing high energy prices that could end manufacturing and industry and destroy businesses and jobs. A lot of that manufacturing is happening in regional New South Wales. More importantly, what about the household budget? Opposition members must know when conducting polling and focus groups—maybe they do not know because Sussex Street is not sharing the information with the Leader of the Opposition—that most families today are concerned about the cost of living, with energy being front and centre.

The Opposition's view is to close down Liddell, not talk about any other options and somehow the electricity and energy unicorn will appear. We do not hear those opposite talk about the gas problem in this nation. I have spoken about energy and gas. The Opposition wants to be political about the nuclear debate. Nuclear energy is a conversation piece. Neither I nor any other member of this House will be able to make a decision that will change the position on nuclear energy in this country because there is a Federal ban. I am not shy about having a conversation about this, but I am surprised about the letters and emails of support that I have received saying, "Thank you for having the guts to at least have the conversation."

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I am prepared, as a leader, to tackle the big issues. I am not going to hide like those opposite, who will do nothing and say nothing. They do not stand for stadiums, they do not stand for the Powerhouse Museum, they do not stand for reform, they do not stand for the Government's asset recycling program, they do not stand for keeping expense growth down, they do not stand for investing for the future, they do not stand for a hospital in Tweed—they do not stand for anything. They are playing small targets. They stand for nothing, and history will show that.

#### **INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FUNDING**

**Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH (Coogee) (14:48):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the New South Wales Government ensuring that the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] is fully funded and committed to fighting corruption, and are there any alternative approaches to dealing with corruption?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. I am sure they want to hear this answer.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:49):** I thank the member for Coogee for his great support of his local electorate, particularly in the budget last year when \$720 million was secured for the Prince of Wales Hospital—a significant outcome and a great tribute to the work and advocacy of the member for Coogee. Over the past couple of years base funding for ICAC has been maintained at around \$24 million per year. Today the Premier announced that the Government is providing increased funding to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The ICAC will receive \$27 million over the next year, which is part of a \$106 million package of funding over the next four years.

The Berejiklian-Barilaro Government's commitment to ICAC ensures that it will be fully funded to investigate, expose and prevent corruption. The funding complements the recent reforms to modernise and strengthen ICAC. In November 2016 the Parliament passed legislation implementing three bipartisan recommendations of the parliamentary committee on the ICAC. These reforms strengthened ICAC's structure, governance, decision-making and oversight. Importantly, the reforms expanded ICAC's jurisdiction so that it can now investigate any alleged breaches of the electoral laws. These powers now complement the new electoral laws that will be introduced by the Special Minister of State—a good member. I also thank the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which is chaired by the member for Epping, and members on both sides. As the Deputy Speaker knows well, on this side of the House there is zero tolerance for corruption in public office. But we know it is a very different story on the other side of the House.

**Mr Michael Daley:** That is why we are going to ask Chris Hartcher the next question.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The member for Maroubra knows very well that the people of New South Wales will never forget the acts of incompetence and corruption inflicted on this State by the last Labor Government. Instead of serving the people of New South Wales, Labor members chose to enrich themselves at the expense of the people of this great State.

**Ms Jodie Harrison:** Liberals were like ICAC dominoes in the Hunter.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Labor members get a bit testy because a number of them sat around the Cabinet table with three former Ministers who are now in jail. Two other former Ministers are facing prosecution. Nowhere in the history of this country—in the history of the Free World—has a cabinet had five Ministers potentially in jail. The Labor Party is taking the term "conviction politician" to a whole new level. There were former Labor Ministers—

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: My point of order is in relation to Standing Order 73. Penfold Barry would be deeply offended by the Treasurer's implication—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time.

**Mr Greg Warren:** —along with all his other ministerial mates who are not in this place anymore.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** A bottle of wine compared with ripping off the taxpayers of this State by hundreds of millions of dollars, and now three former Labor members are sitting behind bars. You should sit down and listen in silence, because with every point of order you are running a protection racket for the jailed former members and the two members who are currently being prosecuted.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. The question was about ICAC and I think all members would like to hear what the Minister has to say. I ask also that he direct his comments through the Chair.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order. The Treasurer will direct his comments through the Chair.

*[Extension of time]*

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The member for Maroubra wept with joy in his maiden speech over the support that he was given by Eddie Obeid to get into this Parliament. The night that Eddie Obeid installed Kristina Keneally as Premier of New South Wales he held a party in his parliamentary office. and who was the guest of honour? It was none other than Bill Shorten.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: Is that the same Kristina Keneally who turned up and gave evidence against these characters, along with Nathan Rees? He turned up and gave evidence against them as well.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** It is the same person that the member for Maroubra thanked for his preselection to get into this place.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: I refer again to Standing Order 129. The question was about ICAC. We are all keen to hear about that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have heard the member's point of order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Labor members try to distance themselves from Eddie Obeid, but I was sent a petition on Change.org that says, "Free Eddie Obeid from prison".

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** First, the Treasurer is using a prop. Secondly, I refer again to Standing Order 129. The question was about ICAC.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Treasurer is reading from some material.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I will read from it. The petition says that Eddie has changed the course of many people's lives—and he has. He got those opposite into Parliament and then he got them out of government. What is most important here is we know that nothing has changed, because when it comes to the \$260,000 in

blood money, what do those opposite do? They do not know what to do because the very heart of the party is rotten to the core.

**Mr Luke Foley:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will resume his seat.

**Mr Luke Foley:** The Treasurer should tell us that Chris Hartcher sponsored him into Parliament and that his brother was Chris Hartcher's chief of staff.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Hartcher is not in jail, mate. A quarter of Labor members who sat around the Cabinet table are now in jail. The Labor Party remains rotten to the core.

**Mr Luke Foley:** You shouldn't pre-empt the charges against Kevin Humphries either.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I place the Leader of the Opposition on three calls to order.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** Point of order: Deputy Speaker, I ask you to request the member for Auburn to withdraw that comment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot force any member to withdraw.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** I request that you ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the comment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Cessnock on three calls to order. The Minister will resume his seat. Members' behaviour this afternoon has been disgraceful. I will not tolerate members making statements without stating the relevant point of order. All members who have been called to order are deemed to be on three calls to order. The member with the call will be heard in silence. The Leader of the Opposition has been asked to withdraw his comment.

**Mr Luke Foley:** I am happy to, Mr Deputy Speaker. If the Minister is offended, I am happy to withdraw.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Drummoyne to order for the first time. I direct the member for Campbelltown to remove himself from the Chamber for a period of two hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Campbelltown left the Chamber at 14:59.]*

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

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Keira left the Chamber at 14:59.]*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ruled that all members who had been called to order were deemed to be on three calls to order. The member for Kogarah will come to order. The behaviour of members is a disgrace. There are school students in the public gallery.

### COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (15:00):** I finally get a question and I have no voice.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Whoever gave the member for Rockdale this question should be questioned themselves.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I would not let go of it. My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier has called for the Government to use the proceeds from the privatisation of Land and Property Information [LPI] to build a new coal-fired power station. Has the Government agreed to this, or is this just another energy thought bubble—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! In fairness to the member for Rockdale, why was he given a question to ask when he does not have a voice? Did the Minister hear the question?

**Mr John Barilaro:** I ask the member to repeat the question.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! On behalf of the House, I apologise to visitors in the public gallery. The Opposition Whip will ask the question on behalf of the member for Rockdale. I do not know why he was given the question in the first place.

**Ms Anna Watson:** Because on this side of the House we have a sense of humour.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. Members with the call will be heard in silence. I ask the Opposition Whip to read the question for the member for Rockdale because he has lost his voice.

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:02):** On behalf of the member for Rockdale, the question is directed to the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier has called for the Government to use the proceeds from the privatisation of Land and Property Information to build a new coal-fired power station. Has the Government agreed to this, or is this just another of the Deputy Premier's energy thought bubbles that will never be delivered?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (15:03):** Listening to the member for Rockdale was like watching the last scene of *Goodfellas* or *The Godfather*. I think Labor got him to ask the question in view of my Italian heritage. Even after a second attempt at asking the question, I think those opposite have got it wrong. I do not recall ever saying that the proceeds of LPI should go towards building a coal-fired power station. But the reality is that my job as the Minister for Regional New South Wales and Leader of The Nationals is to make sure that we fight for every cent to be spent in regional New South Wales. We were able to get 30 per cent of the LPI proceeds—which were at a record high; let us not hide from that—and that money has gone into the infrastructure that we proudly talk about when we talk about regional New South Wales. It went into the Restart NSW Fund, along with 30 per cent of the poles and wires leasing—approximately \$6 billion. All up, there is approximately \$9 billion in the Restart NSW fund for regional New South Wales.

If members opposite want me to apologise for fighting for the people of regional New South Wales to get our fair share, I will not. Most importantly, every cent of the proceeds of the Snowy Hydro transaction—close to \$4.2 billion—will go to regional New South Wales. I again make the commitment that every cent will be spent on the infrastructure that this Government has been building over the past seven years that grows the economy, creates jobs, and builds business confidence and resilient communities. We are backing in our communities and Government members representing regional communities do so passionately. Why? We want to see regional New South Wales grow. I do not want to see regional communities simply survive; I want to see them thrive.

That is why the Government's last budget provided \$1.3 billion of regional growth funding to deliver local infrastructure that will make a difference. I was lucky today to hear councillors representing the Far West talking about what they are achieving because of the funds that this Government has provided. I will never apologise for fighting for every dollar we can get our hands on; I am prepared to have a fight with the Treasurer to ensure that regional New South Wales gets the money it deserves.

Members opposite hate good news. They hated last year's budget announcement of \$534 million for the Tweed Hospital. Unlike members opposite, members on this side of the House back that project. The Hon. Walt Secord went on the attack and refused to back the project because he simply does not want it built. Worse than that, the State Labor Party in Sussex Street is dictating to Labor councillors about what they should support. There are questions about who is being asked to oppose the project. The member for Tweed is working with his community to deliver \$534 million in health care. This Government recognises that the Tweed is not simply surviving; in fact, it is thriving. In 15 years it will have a catchment of 125,000 people, and this Government will continue to invest in the infrastructure that will make a difference to them. I want to see that investment across the board, in transport, roads, hospitals and schools.

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The Deputy Premier is not addressing the question.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** The member for Rockdale asked me about the proceeds of the sale of Land and Property Information. I am telling the House where the Government is spending that money. It is being invested in hospitals and schools in the electorate of Dubbo. One of the largest investments is being made in my electorate in education, with the Government refurbishing or building new schools. A project near to my heart is the School for Special Purpose being built at Queanbeyan. It is a multimillion dollar investment to support kids who deserve a great start in life through education. I am proud that the proceeds—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order also relates to Standing Order 129. The question specifically related to the proceeds of the sale of Land and Property Information being used to build a new coal-fired power station. I refer to an article in the *Australian* reporting that the Deputy Premier asked for that to occur, but he said that did not happen. Is the Deputy Premier denying he said that?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier is a bit like me; he is confused. The question was delivered in so many ways that I did not understand its full context. I ask the Deputy Premier to resume his answer. There is no point of order.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Has the *Australian* got it wrong?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** No. The article shows that the Government wants to ensure that this State's 30 per cent of the proceeds goes to regional New South Wales to fund a range of infrastructure. We still want to see investment in the energy sector.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: Is that article wrong?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I do not know.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Strathfield will resume her seat.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I will always advocate for investment in infrastructure that makes a real difference to the families— [*Time expired.*]

### FIREARMS OWNERSHIP

**Mr AUSTIN EVANS (Murray) (15:08):** I address my question to the Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services. How is the New South Wales Government ensuring that its approach to firearms empowers police to crack down on criminals while respecting the rights of law-abiding firearm owners?

**Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (15:08):** I thank the member for Murray for his question. He represents many licensed firearm owners. I know this issue is of significant interest to his constituents and the constituents of many other members. This morning I had the opportunity to join Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy, APM, and Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys, APM, in announcing that the New South Wales Government will have a State-based firearms amnesty starting on 1 July and running until 30 September 2018. This follows on from the highly successful national amnesty held last year that saw the removal of more than 57,000 firearms from communities across the country.

Those firearms were unknown to police or regulatory bodies—that is, they were unregistered or illegal—or were no longer required for legal use by their owners. Because this has been an issue across New South Wales, the Government has initiated an amnesty to remove unwanted firearms without penalty. This will give firearm owners, including those in my electorate who have a keen interest in this issue, another chance to dispose of their firearms. The amnesty will also provide an opportunity to those who come into possession of firearms to dispose of them. A family member might pass away and bequeath an antique or heirloom firearm to a person who is not licensed. This process will give those people the opportunity to hold the firearm until they obtain the appropriate licence, which will be issued if they are a suitable person. Of course, they must then properly secure that firearm.

I make it clear that this amnesty is not about law-abiding firearm owners. Less than 2 per cent of firearm crime in New South Wales involves a registered firearm or a licensed firearm owner. Of that very small percentage, the crimes involve a victim of theft who owns a firearm but who has not adequately secured it. As a result, that person is charged with the offence of not keeping a firearm safe. They go from being the victim to the offender such is the difference between registered and licensed firearm owners and the gun crime that challenges our communities and the police. It is unregistered, illegal firearms on the grey market that are predominantly imported across our borders that pose a risk. Like many other members, I have a category A licence, a category B licence and a clay target licence. Deputy Commissioner Loy summed up the situation very well this morning at the press conference when he said, "Only a very small proportion of gun-related crime is committed by licensed firearm owners." That is his experience and my observation, and that is the reality of any firearms debate that occurs in this State.

A staggering number of firearms were surrendered in New South Wales during the national amnesty. Of course, we have the largest population in the country and this State also has the highest level of gun ownership, so it was no surprise that the largest number of firearms would be surrendered here. Almost 25,000 firearms were brought to the attention of the police by more than 7,000 individuals. Of them, 15,000 firearms were able to be registered during the amnesty, so they are recorded, we now know where they are, and they will be subjected to inspection to ensure they are properly secured. About 8,000 of those firearms have been or are in the process of being destroyed, and about 2,100 were unsold in accordance with requirements. I sincerely thank the firearms dealers across New South Wales, who play a pivotal role in any amnesty and in storing firearms while the registration process is completed or until they are destroyed. I also thank anyone and everyone who came forward to register or to surrender their firearms because they want to do the right thing. [*Extension of time*]

The deputy commissioners summed up the situation this morning and the message is clear: If anyone has a firearm at home, they should consider the risk it could pose to the community. If it is superfluous, it should be surrendered. That is the essence of the amnesty. Every firearm that is captured in the amnesty and then registered is one that we previously knew nothing about and it gives us every opportunity to keep the community of New South Wales safe, which is always our guarantee, to keep everyone as safe and secure as possible.

## SYDNEY STADIUMS

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (15:14):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. I refer to the Deputy Premier's 630-word text message sent to colleagues in support of the \$2.5 billion Sydney stadium splurge. Does the Deputy Premier stand by this text message or, like the message of loyalty and support sent to the member for Dubbo, is it not worth anything at all?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (15:15):** Once again, I make no apologies for fighting for our fair share of funding for regional New South Wales. Each and every member of The Nationals and the Liberal Party—the Coalition on this side of the House—has made the tough decisions over the seven years in government—

**Mr Clayton Barr:** What, selling everything?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Our net worth is 25 per cent higher because of the recycling of assets program that allows us to invest in new infrastructure that grows the economy. The jobs growth in New South Wales has been more than 450,000 since the Coalition came to power, and that is a good story. Those opposite do not like that story, but it is a good story for the people of New South Wales. We have often heard the Treasurer say, "We are the party of the workers." We are creating the jobs. I will never apologise for advocating every single cent of any transaction, be it 30 per cent as part of the general Restart NSW Fund or all the proceeds of the Snowy Hydro and our fair share of Land and Property Information New South Wales. We have always fought for our share, which builds the infrastructure that is so important.

I am very surprised that those opposite have chosen question time to ask a series of questions that clearly paints a picture that the Labor Party has something against regional New South Wales. They do not want to see the infrastructure spend. They do not want the Government to manage energy costs. They do not want to see the service delivery. They do not want to see the hospitals or the schools built. But this Government is building sporting infrastructure in New South Wales with the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund and the Stronger Country Community Fund. Hundreds of millions of dollars are going into regional sports infrastructure.

I have had the privilege of visiting the electorates of members on this side of the House that have had significant government funding announcements supporting grassroots sport, and we know in regional New South Wales that sport is what brings communities together. Often the identity of a community is characterised by what happens on the footie field or the netball court. We know the teams—the Queanbeyan Blues and the Kangaroos—and we are the ones who have that cross-town rivalry. People know the Blues and the Roos in Queanbeyan because we take on the teams and the clubs across the border in the Australian Capital Territory and we punch well above our weight. The Queanbeyan Whites, the rugby club, which is an amateur club, takes on the big guys in Canberra. Why? Because we build the infrastructure and we give regional communities the opportunity to build infrastructure that makes a difference.

We know the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight continually sees investment in the roads that are so important through our region. We are sealing country roads, building the highways and connecting communities. This Government is all about connectivity. We have seen funds going into the Mobile Black Spot Program. Members opposite did nothing in that space. They would say that telecommunications is a Federal issue. What did this Government do? It stumped up \$50 million and leveraged another \$125 million of investments from the Federal Government and the telcos. We are seeing 188 towers and 14,000 square kilometres of black spot being cut from regional New South Wales, which gives our communities the opportunity of connectivity. It is not just about getting on your device and staying connected—which is so important for parents—it is also about our emergency services that have time to call the front line to deal with disasters and keep our community safe. That is why this Government is investing in telecommunications.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Point of order—

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** This all comes from a strong voice for regional New South Wales and that is The Nationals.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier has completed his answer.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT STRATEGY

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:19):** My question is addressed to the Attorney General. What is the New South Wales Government doing to ensure our sexual assault consent laws are effective?

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (15:19):** I thank the member for Holsworthy for her interest in this subject and for her strong advocacy on sexual assault matters generally. I do not think anyone in this Chamber who saw *Four Corners* nine days ago could be other than incredibly moved by the extraordinary courage of Saxon Mullins, a young woman who gave up her anonymity to tell the nation about her humiliating experience in 2013 in a dingy laneway next to a nightclub in Kings Cross. She was the complainant in the long-running prosecution of Luke Lazarus for sexual assault.

In the first trial Mr Lazarus was convicted of sexual assault. He appealed and the appeal was successful in the Court of Criminal Appeal. The court found that the judge had misdirected herself and it went back for a second trial—a third court case before a judge alone. Mr Lazarus was subsequently acquitted and the Crown appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeal—a fourth court hearing. The appeal was dismissed, notwithstanding that the court found that the second judge had misdirected herself. After a widely publicised almost five-year criminal legal battle there is no finality for anyone. After two trials and two appeals there never will be a certain outcome. Saxon said:

The reality is, this doesn't get to be over for me. I don't get to know who I'd be today had this not happened to me. And I mourn for that person. I lost something that night, all those years ago, and I've been searching for it ever since.

The question for all of us is: If, after four court cases and two trials, judges cannot get it right, what hope does the general public have of understanding this complex area of the law? There are three elements to the offence of sexual assault: that sexual intercourse occurred, it was without the consent of the complainant, and that lack of consent was to the knowledge of the accused. In 2008 the law was refined and His Honour Judge Hatzistergos, the Attorney General as he then was, introduced legislation that extended the concept of knowledge so that it was not just actual knowledge or recklessness that might constitute knowledge but also holding a belief without reasonable grounds.

The Lazarus cases raises the question of whether there is sufficient clarity in this law or whether we need to look at further reform in the interests of both the accused and the complainants. Fairness to the accused is a very important part of this. Those who are falsely accused have their livelihoods, their reputations and their liberty at stake. But it is clear that we need to do whatever more we can to help victims. In consultation with the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault I asked the Law Reform Commission to review and report on consent and knowledge of consent in sexual assault offences. It is clear this area of the law is problematic; there is systemic under-reporting and under-conviction of sexual assault matters. There is a very low rate of reporting—perhaps as low as 10 per cent—whereas the general conviction rate hovers around 85 to 90 per cent each. When sexual assault matters get to trial the conviction rate is approximately 55 per cent.

It takes extraordinary courage for someone who has been the victim of sexual assault, who has been traumatised once to be re-traumatised in our court process. We cannot legislate for respect, but we can examine whether the consent provisions and knowledge of consent provisions in the Crimes Act can be simplified and modernised. I have asked the NSW Law Reform Commission to look at the law in every State and Territory around the country and internationally so that the Government can pick up what might be the best practice and the best law from other places. One possibility is to look at what happens in Victoria and Tasmania. In Tasmania the law appears to be a bit clearer about the need for some act or words from the complainant to constitute consent, and that is something that I want the review to look at. It is extremely important that this review takes into account the stories of survivors. This is not just a clinical, technical, legal exercise; it is about real people who have been traumatised and who are then re-traumatised in our criminal justice system. I want experts to opine on that. *[Extension of time]*

As I have said, this is a difficult area of the law. There is under-reporting and under-conviction, notwithstanding the efforts of successive governments to make it easier for complainants to give evidence in court. We have closed courts in prescribed sexual offence matters; general inadmissibility of previous sexual experience; warnings to the jury about the lack of any probative value of an absence of complaint or of a delay in complaining; prohibitions on cross-examination by self-represented accused; alternative ways that complainants can give evidence—by CCTV in a remote witness room; a sexual assault communications privilege, where, subject to a court order to the contrary, counselling communications are a protected confidence; and, where there is a new trial following appeal or discontinuance of the trial, there is an ability to give evidence in the form of a video recording of the evidence previously given rather than forcing the complainant to go through the traumatising of giving all that evidence again.

I am very much looking forward to the results of the Law Reform Commission's inquiry. I believe that other States and Territories—and probably overseas jurisdictions as well—will be looking at this very closely. I want to get the balance right. I want to make sure that our law protects victims but is certainly fair to the accused as well. I will be watching with interest the results of this NSW Law Reform Commission inquiry.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank all members for giving that answer the respect it deserved.

### INNER-CITY PUBLIC HOUSING STRATEGY

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:26):** My question is directed to the Attorney General. Given the concerning precedent set by the new inner-city public housing allocation strategy that extends punishment beyond the judicial system, did the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing consult with the Attorney General or seek advice from the Attorney General before this strategy was implemented?

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (15:27):** The subject matter of this question concerns the portfolio of the Minister for Family and Community Services. Notwithstanding that, I am happy to answer the question. Ministers in the New South Wales Government consult all the time. The Minister has an office down the hallway from me on level 15 of 52 Martin Place. Her room in Parliament House is a couple of doors down from me. We have discussions about various matters of common interest all the time.

I am told that the matter to which the member for Newtown referred is about the new local allocation strategy, which allows the Department of Family and Community Services [FACS] for the first time to collect information on the criminal histories of drug supply and manufacture of social housing applicants as part of the application. In turn, this means that FACS will know who the applicants are and where they are allocated to public housing, and can facilitate links to the drug and alcohol support a tenant needs so they do not reoffend. Under this strategy, FACS and the NSW Police Force will conduct a screening check for applicants who request housing in the inner city.

Everything I am saying, including in this answer today, has been passed on to me by the Minister, and the Minister's office has informed me that should the screening check show that an applicant has a conviction of drug supply or drug manufacture in the past five years, or if they refuse to agree to the screening check, they will be unable to be housed in the suburbs of Redfern, Waterloo, Glebe and Surry Hills. These applicants are instead allocated to properties elsewhere—not out at Wagga Wagga or in the Murray electorate—in the inner city. I am advised that these suburbs I have mentioned were identified—in consultations with the NSW Police Force—as high-risk areas for drug dealing. I am also advised that discretion can be applied in certain situations where a person may have a valid reason to live in the area.

**Ms Jenny Leong:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. I asked the Attorney General if the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing consulted him before implementation of the strategy. I asked him to clarify if he was consulted; not where his office was located in relation to the other Minister.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I have heard the member's point of order. She has asked a question. I thought the Attorney General had answered it. I cannot direct him how to answer it.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I do not want to hear a spurious point of order from the member for Newtown; I would like to hear her agreement that it is a great result for FACS to provide better services and safer communities for our tenants. That is what our tenants believe. One would think that, with the interest that the member for Newtown takes in the safety of social housing tenants in her community, she would welcome this Government's response to reduce antisocial behaviour in public housing. One would think she would be delighted that a new antisocial behaviour management policy that allows—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! All the noise is coming from Government members. I can assure them that the Attorney General does not need any help. He is very capable. I am sure he will answer the question.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** One would think that the member for Newtown would be delighted that this Government is working to ensure that FACS is linking tenants to appropriate support services to address the common underlying causes of their antisocial behaviour. She should be condemning Opposition members who, for 16 years, did nothing to stop the scourge of drugs in public housing. Why will the member for Newtown not stand up for her community, for the vulnerable and marginalised in public housing, and support the Government's focus on safer public housing? Why does she not have in mind the interests of the vast majority of public housing tenants. The Government makes no apology for taking a tough approach on antisocial behaviour. The Government makes no apology for providing social tenants with the best chance to re-establish their lives. The Government makes no apology for delivering social policy reform that makes the lives of our tenants safer and better.

### COFFS HARBOUR BYPASS

**Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (15:32):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Roads and Ports. How is the New South Wales Government delivering the Coffs Harbour bypass? Are there any other related matters?

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (15:32):** I acknowledge publicly in this Chamber that the member for Coffs Harbour's advocacy for the Coffs Harbour bypass during his time as the local member has been beyond compare. There was a very big moment of change when the bypass became more than just talk. It was in 2015.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call Government members to order.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** Those opposite have no idea what this project means to Mid North Coast communities. This Coffs Harbour bypass is something that the community and the member for Coffs Harbour have been fighting for for decades. The Government was able to get that commitment of almost \$1 billion in the Federal budget because of the commitment Andrew Fraser secured at the 2015 election of \$200 million that would be set aside—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Are you planning on stabbing him in the back?

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** That member should be talking to Luke Foley about stabbing people in the back, not me! From the moment that commitment of \$200 million was made at the 2015 election, that money—which was to come from the leasing of the poles and wires—was secured and put aside in Restart NSW. The Government was then able to do its homework. We undertook the logistics and the geotechnical work and last December presented a strategic business case to the Federal Government. We were able to do that because of the \$200 million that Andrew Fraser secured from our Government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members will be referred to by their electorates.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** The \$200 million that the member for Coffs Harbour secured ensured that we were able to present a strategic business case to the Commonwealth. On top of that, the Federal member lobbied—

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** What about the Woy Woy underpass?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Gosford may not have heard that the question is about Coffs Harbour.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** The funding that was secured in 2015 and put aside in Restart NSW enabled the Government to present a strategic business case to secure the billions of dollars of funding from the Commonwealth. The Labor members might laugh, but what has Labor done on the Coffs Harbour bypass?

**Mr Jihad Dib:** We haven't been in government.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** Labor had an opportunity. I will compare and contrast the Government's commitments—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: I ask that the Minister direct her remarks through the Chair.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** I was doing that, you fool.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** That is very dignified.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** Your interjections are not dignified. They are rude.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I direct the Clerk to stop the clock.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** I have two points of order.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Shellharbour will remain silent.

**Ms Anna Watson:** I am talking to the member for Drummoyne.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Shellharbour will not speak across the Chamber.

**Ms Anna Watson:** Tell him.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** My first point of order is taken under Standing Order 73 and the other point of order relates to comments through the Chair. I ask that the Minister withdraw the comments that were directed to the member for Strathfield. They were unparliamentary and were made across the table.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do you ask for the comments to be withdrawn under Standing Order 73?

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Yes.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister has been asked to withdraw her comments. It is a matter for the Minister.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** As I was saying, the Government has secured the funding from the Commonwealth. It is an example of what can be done when two good governments work together on behalf of the interests of the people of New South Wales, whether they are in Sydney or in regional New South Wales. We were able to achieve the funding because we do our work, we put the business cases together and we liberate the assets. We have liberated the assets to ensure that we can invest in infrastructure such as the bypass at Coffs Harbour, which will relieve the community of the burden of 35,000 vehicles a day travelling through the main street. That is as a result of the work of this Government. Work on the Pacific Highway motorway is 80 per cent completed. That project has changed infrastructure and investment across the whole region. We will finish the Coffs Harbour bypass and provide that community with the relief it deserves and needs. What was Labor's plan? Federal Labor had the opportunity to show its support and commit to the people of the Mid North Coast. [*Extension of time*]

Labor had an opportunity to show its commitment to our region and it failed. Four or five weeks ago at the Pier Hotel—one of the good pubs in Coffs Harbour—the local Federal Labor candidate invited Anthony Albanese to a function to talk about the Coffs Harbour bypass. The function was attended by about 100 people who were genuinely concerned about and interested in the future of the town and the community.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. I am sure that the subcontractors who have not been paid would prefer that the Minister talk about their plight rather than her time at the pub.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** Labor had an opportunity to tell the community about its plans. The people walked out of that Pollies in the Pub with Albo function gutted and disappointed. Labor had an opportunity to commit to the Coffs Harbour bypass but it dogged it. This Government will support good investment and good infrastructure across the State.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the Clerk to stop the clock. The House will come to order.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** I contrast what this Government is doing in regional New South Wales and in New South Wales as a whole with what Labor does. It does nothing; it has no plans and no strategies. It talks down regional New South Wales, it talks down our communities and it is not committed to projects like the Coffs Harbour bypass.

#### *Petitions*

#### **PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

#### **Pet Shops**

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

#### **Short-term Holiday Letting**

Petition calling on the Government to ban the conversion of entire homes into short-term holiday lets and to introduce appropriate controls including a short-term letting registration system, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

#### **Miranda Electorate Short-term Holiday Letting**

Petition requesting the Government to direct the Sutherland Shire Council to prosecute owners of illegal short-term holiday lets in Miranda, received from **Ms Eleni Petinos**.

#### **Brisbane Water Channel**

Petition requesting the funding of a long-term dredging solution for Brisbane Water Channel, received from **Ms Liesl Tesch**.

#### **Sydney Football Stadium**

Petition requesting that the Government upgrade rather than rebuild the Sydney Football Stadium and invest the money saved into health, education and community sports facilities, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following petition signed by more than 500 persons has been lodged for presentation:

**Jannali East Public School Assembly Hall**

Petition calling on the Government to support the construction of an assembly hall at Jannali East Public School, received from **Ms Eleni Petinos**.

**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

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

The Hon. Stuart Ayres—Sydney Football Stadium—lodged 11 April 2018 (Mr Alex Greenwich)

*Business of the House*

**BUSINESS LAPSED**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 (3):

- (1) General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) Nos 2599 to 2615 and 2617 have lapsed.
- (2) General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) Nos 2618 to 2637 will lapse tomorrow.

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**Reordering**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:44):** I move:

That the General Business Notice of Motion (General Notice) given by me this day [Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month] have precedence on Thursday 17 May 2018.

May marks a month of remembrance for victims of domestic and family violence. During the last sitting week, outside Parliament House there was a beautiful and moving event where roses were placed on the Parliament's fence in honour of victims: red roses for women, white roses for children and yellow roses for men. The Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Attorney General and the Minister for Women joined together to lay roses in tribute to these victims.

The New South Wales Government's record in tackling this grave social issue speaks for itself. Our investment of more than \$350 million over four years is supporting victim survivors to rebuild their lives and to hold perpetrators to account. This investment is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars that the Government spends each year to combat domestic and family violence through mainstream services in justice, police, health, child protection, social housing and homelessness services. The Government will continue to be tough on perpetrators and we will continue to invest a record amount of money to support victims and to help them. We know these efforts are already starting to produce results. The December 2017 quarter of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research [BOCSAR] review noted that for the first time in almost a decade recorded incidents of domestic violence-related assaults have fallen in New South Wales.

Let us look at the Government's initiatives. Start Safely supports people escaping violence to move into stable housing in the private rental market. We have introduced behaviour change interventions for high-risk offenders. The Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund invests in innovative prevention, early intervention and crisis response. Safer Pathway is a tailored, multi-agency response to high-risk domestic violence victims. That scheme is now operating in 43 sites and will be statewide by September. Recently the Government has undertaken an online workplace safety program to identify policies and practices across a range of industries and companies in New South Wales.

The Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services supports victims through the criminal justice system. The Staying Home Leaving Violence program supports women and their children to remain safely at home while the perpetrator is removed. The NSW Police Force High Risk Offender Teams has two new teams being rolled out later this year. Under this Government, we have non-government organisation—led community-based perpetrator interventions; the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services Program, which is a coordinated multi-agency initiative to prevent the escalation of domestic and family violence; and new global positioning system [GPS] trackers that will improve victim safety. We are getting tough on the criminals who perpetrate domestic and family violence. May is the month to promote these initiatives. This House must continue to recognise this important month and work towards providing solutions to this significant community issue.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:47):** My motion deserves to be debated tomorrow because there can scarcely be a more important issue than the strategic growth of Australia's most important and populous city, particularly in the context of the announcement this morning by the Minister. Although it will be welcomed at first by the people of Ryde and possibly Canterbury-Bankstown, it was done without any objective evidence and it was just for politics. It was lamentable that the Greater Sydney Commission was politicised today, hoodwinked and cajoled into joining the chorus of politicisation which attended this announcement today.

Recently the Greater Sydney Commission announced a housing target for Ryde in the district plans from 2016 to 2021 of 7,600 dwellings. For the commission to say today that that was not appropriate means that it has been cajoled by the Minister for Planning, or someone in the Government. That is not cricket. This is more evidence that this Government is not a good government and that it does not have its act together in any way, shape or form. Let us keep in mind WestConnex, the light rail, forced council amalgamations, greyhounds, the Fire and Emergency Services Levy and stadiums. It is now bringing that malaise into the area of strategic planning. The ink is still not dry on this plan for the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code.

The code was launched in October and does not take effect until 1 July and already it has been suspended by the Premier and the Minister today. Two instruments have been suspended today: the code and planning proposals or gateways in Ryde. What do they have in common? They are both government plans, not council plans; they are both conceived to accelerate development; and they both override local councils and local communities, not just in Ryde and Canterbury-Bankstown but all over Sydney. Plans have not been suspended all over Sydney, only in Ryde. Why? The Mayor of Ryde, Jerome Laxale, has belled the cat. He has called it sweet over the last couple of years that he has been the mayor. In the past seven years we have had a Liberal government, a Liberal member for Ryde and a local environment plan in Ryde signed off by Mr Brad Hazzard when he was the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure which have resulted in overdevelopment.

Jerome Laxale has been calling for a moratorium for ages. He has said enough is enough. Now that secret polling by the Liberal Party is showing that Minister Dominello's seat is under threat, it has come up with this little gimmick, this little crumb for the people of Ryde. It is like taking a rock out of their pocket and putting a brick in their backpack and saying, "Look, I have relieved your load." If the Government really wanted to help the people of Ryde, it would get rid of the priority precincts: 6,500 in Herring Road, 5,300 in North Ryde, 3,000 in Epping. It is a gimmick and it will not save you, mate. *[Time expired.]*

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion of the member for Holsworthy have precedence on Thursday 17 May 2018. Is the Opposition dividing or not?

**Mr Michael Daley:** Yes, we are. The bells are ringing, aren't they, dopey?

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Maroubra on three calls to order. The member for Maroubra has complained about language in the Chamber, yet reacts in that way. The member for Maroubra and other Opposition members told me that a division was not required. The bells will not be rung.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Motions Accorded Priority*

## REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

### Consideration

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (15:52):** I welcome the Mayor of Orange to the House today. A number of councillors from western New South Wales have been here today. They are clearly happy and supportive of the ongoing infrastructure spend that the New South Wales Liberal-National Government is making in regional New South Wales. The Opposition does not understand the recycling of assets, but if one public asset is recycled into other public assets based on community need that is a win-win. I can guarantee that it will mean more people will be sitting on this side of the House after March 2019.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the Clerk to stop the clock. Opposition members should understand that if I direct that they leave the Chamber it will be for the remainder of the day. If members continue to interject they will be placed on three calls to order immediately. Any member who is already on three calls to order will be removed from the House for the rest of the day under Standing Order 249. It is customary that members who are seeking to have their motion accorded priority will be heard in silence and other members will not take points of order. The member for Barwon has the call.

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES:** The momentum that this Government has built in New South Wales has been shared by our Federal Liberal-Nationals counterparts. On 4 May a bilateral agreement was signed and billions of dollars have been unlocked to design, consolidate, implement and build the inland rail. This is nation-building,

intergenerational infrastructure that will move this country forward and hold our State in good stead. Most importantly, it will provide additional opportunities for businesses to relocate to regional areas and for existing business to grow.

The seven electorates of Albury, Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Orange, Dubbo, Barwon and the Northern Tablelands will be significant beneficiaries of over a thousand kilometres of new rail infrastructure. It is starting to happen; we are starting to roll it out. New South Wales is in a good position to offer support with intermodal funding of \$700 million. I thank the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight for the achievements to date and for the projects that will occur in the future.

Off the back of that funding, companies like GrainCorp have been co-investing with New South Wales to upgrade our rail and handling facilities, particularly up country, to enable more grain to be moved more quickly at a cheaper cost. This means more money in the pockets of farmers and even more money for the Hunter in some cases. The members representing Hunter electorates should celebrate this achievement. It takes pressure off other freight routes, particularly those into the Hunter, thereby helping to grow the Port of Newcastle. Importantly, it alleviates much of the congestion into the city, as moving freight north, south and west of the Great Divide alleviates pressure on the freight path into Sydney and Port Botany. This is a win-win for all members. I urge all members to support my motion on this intergenerational, nation-building infrastructure.

### NEWCASTLE CONTAINER TERMINAL

#### Consideration

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (15:56):** I ask the House to accord priority to my motion, which states:

That this House:

- (1) Welcomes the decision of the ACCC to investigate the Government's port rort that prevents Newcastle from developing a container terminal.
- (2) Notes with concern the high transport costs that are being imposed on every business across the Hunter and northern New South Wales because of the Government's secret anti-Newcastle ports deal.
- (3) Notes that the Government is so ashamed of this rort that it tried to deny that the deal was in place.
- (4) Condemns the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight for her conspicuous silence on this issue.

I am not the only one to welcome that decision of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC]. The front page of today's *Newcastle Herald* states that local companies Weathertex and Tomago Aluminium would benefit greatly from the construction of a container terminal at Newcastle. About 500,000 tonnes of aluminium travel down the freeway to Port Botany every year from Tomago Aluminium alone, at a huge cost to the company: \$1,500 per container and \$68 in tolls. For an aluminium manufacturing company that is struggling with increased power costs because of this Government, such an impost is significant. Why is this happening? It is because of the secret, dodgy deal that this Government did to penalise the Port of Newcastle if it builds a container terminal. The deal slugs any ship that comes into Newcastle with a \$1 million levy, which goes to Port Botany and Port Kembla, for any significant volume through the port.

This Government was so ashamed of this rort that it tried to deny that the deal was ever done. I have asked over 80 questions in this Parliament and a total of 160 questions have been asked in this Parliament and ignored. That is, of course, until this strictly confidential port commitment document was leaked to the media. Then the port rort was out. After having written to the ACCC many times, the ACCC has now agreed to investigate the port rort deal. I look forward to meeting with Rod Sims next week to discuss this issue further. Have we heard from the Minister on the issue? No, we have heard nothing. We condemn the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight for her conspicuous silence on this issue. Minister Pavey has to explain why her Government is imposing high transport costs on businesses that import and export from northern New South Wales.

The Liberals and Nationals have imposed these high costs on businesses in the north of the State for nearly 100 years to come. The member for Oxley is the Minister responsible. She has tried to be invisible as this dreadful rort has been uncovered. She needs to justify the Liberals and The Nationals' actions to all of northern New South Wales and the businesses in her own electorate. The development of a container terminal would provide Newcastle and the Hunter with a massive economic boost and create a new distribution hub that would use existing rail freight network for the regions of northern New South Wales and the Hunter. The Government has stopped all of this by applying a huge handbrake with its anti-competitive decision and port rorts. All Government members are a disgrace.

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

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....47  
 Noes .....33  
 Majority..... 14

**AYES**

Anderson, Mr K  
 Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
 Cooke, Ms S  
 Davies, Mrs T  
 Elliott, Mr D  
 George, Mr T  
 Grant, Mr T  
 Hazzard, Mr B  
 Kean, Mr M  
 Marshall, Mr A  
 Patterson, Mr C  
 Provest, Mr G  
 Sidoti, Mr J  
 Taylor, Mr M  
 Upton, Ms G  
 Williams, Mrs L

Aplin, Mr G  
 Brookes, Mr G  
 Coure, Mr M  
 Dominello, Mr V  
 Evans, Mr A  
 Gibbons, Ms M (teller)  
 Griffin, Mr J  
 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  
 Wilson, Ms F

Ayres, Mr S  
 Conolly, Mr K  
 Crouch, Mr A  
 Donato, Mr P  
 Evans, Mr L  
 Goward, Ms P  
 Gulaptis, Mr C  
 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

**NOES**

Atalla, Mr E  
 Car, Ms P  
 Crakanthorp, Mr T  
 Doyle, Ms T  
 Greenwich, Mr A  
 Hoenig, Mr R  
 Leong, Ms J  
 McKay, Ms J  
 Minns, Mr C  
 Scully, Mr P  
 Washington, Ms K

Bali, Mr S  
 Catley, Ms Y  
 Daley, Mr M  
 Finn, Ms J  
 Harris, Mr D  
 Hornery, Ms S  
 Lynch, Mr P  
 Mehan, Mr D  
 Parker, Mr J  
 Smith, Ms T F  
 Watson, Ms A (teller)

Barr, Mr C  
 Chanthivong, Mr A  
 Dib, Mr J  
 Foley, Mr L  
 Harrison, Ms J  
 Kamper, Mr S  
 McDermott, Dr H  
 Mihailuk, Ms T  
 Piper, Mr G  
 Tesch, Ms L (teller)  
 Zangari, Mr G

**PAIRS**

Barilaro, Mr J  
 Berejiklian, Ms G  
 Constance, Mr A  
 Pavey, Mrs M

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

**Motion agreed to.****FREIGHT RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE****Priority**

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (16:06):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Supports the New South Wales Government's bilateral agreement with the Federal Government to construct the largest ever freight rail infrastructure in the nation.
- (2) Welcomes the thousands of jobs that the Inland Rail will create for people in regional New South Wales.
- (3) Notes the benefits of the project to farmers significantly reducing the cost of moving product from paddock to port.
- (4) Acknowledges that the Liberals and The Nationals are the only parties able to deliver for regional New South Wales.

I acknowledge the alternative motion moved by the member for Newcastle and that Newcastle has been slugged in the past. The greatest slug that was ever inflicted on Newcastle was Joe Tripodi. That was on the *Pasha Bulker* when it was beached at Newcastle. Joe Tripodi never left the hotel and spent thousands of dollars on his food and alcohol consumption. Newcastle has suffered some slugs in the past but that largely was associated with Labor politicians. As somebody who did ship grain, cotton, cottonseed and product from the north-west of New South Wales, I will correct the member for Newcastle. There is containerisation of grain that goes on in Newcastle and that is a valuable service. Under this Government, the capacity of Newcastle port has increased. The Government will continue to support that growth.

However, I digress. The Inland Rail has benefits for everybody. It is no mean feat that the bilateral agreement has been signed with the Federal Government. The agreement covers more than 1,050 kilometres of rail infrastructure in New South Wales from border to border. The Victorians and Queenslanders are excited because the Inland Rail not only will support New South Wales ports and infrastructure and provide opportunities along its route, but also will ameliorate congestion and freight inefficiencies in Brisbane, in Gladstone to some extent over time, and in the Port of Melbourne.

When I was first elected it cost approximately \$55 a tonne to ship wheat from Moree to Newcastle. Efficiencies have been made in the last six years since the Liberal-National Government has been in power to bring that cost down to approximately \$40 per tonne or a little bit less, depending on demand. Inland Rail not only will provide an option for bulk freight but for containerised freight, and will continue to drive down the costs of doing business, which is fundamentally what is wanted. When doing business and transport costs are 20 to 30 per cent, those costs are far too high. The last major improvement and efficiency that can be made, particularly for the rural economy, is bringing down transport costs. Hence the significant investment in rail and road infrastructure.

This multibillion-dollar investment in rail in New South Wales alone will create 5,300 jobs at its peak. It will increase Australia's gross domestic product by \$16 billion a year during its construction and in the first 50 years of its operation. For every local member of Parliament, local government supporter, anyone wanting to grow their business, expand their business or encourage people up country, that will be an absolute boon. The Mayor of Orange visited Parliament today. The Mayor of Parkes has a significant good news story. Parkes is at the intersection of the east-west rail corridor between Sydney and Perth and will be at the intersection of the Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail line. That is a significant opportunity for Parkes, which is taking advantage of it not only to upgrade rail and road but also to upgrade air services. Everyone knows that these pieces of chunky infrastructure will drive change and growth for regional economies.

Further up the line is the small community of Gilgandra, which is north of Dubbo. The Gilgandra Shire Council is meeting with the Government as I speak to discuss how to make its local workforce ready to take up the opportunities that the construction of the Inland Rail will provide. The council perceives this as an opportunity. It wants people to move into the area. It wants real jobs. It wants to support its own subcontractors in its own area and its own council workforce. I encourage the council to stay with that proposal. It is something that the Government will support. In my own backyard of Narrabri is at the intersection of the east coast's largest gas project and an intersection of the western line to Walgett and Narrabri. The Narrabri Shire Council and the community are working on an industrial park that will create an intersection of cheaper energy and cheaper transport costs off the back of the Inland Rail.

Businesses and particularly processors are being squeezed in large metropolitan areas. They will move up country off the back of improved infrastructure. That is why the Inland Rail is a significant game changer, not only for the people of regional New South Wales but also for the people of Australia. Almost half of the thousand kilometre rail link will be built in the Barwon electorate. That is something that the Coalition Government and I can be proud of. It will be one piece of infrastructure that everybody will benefit from.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (16:11):** Labor wholeheartedly supports the Inland Rail. I will discuss that in greater detail later. I move:

That the motion be amended by leaving out paragraph (4) with a view to inserting instead:

- "(4) Acknowledges that this House is supportive of Inland Rail as a transformative project for regional New South Wales.
- (5) Calls on the Federal Government to properly consult property owners, particularly in areas such as Narrabri and Narromine, before deciding on a final route."

As I said earlier, Labor supports this motion. When Anthony Albanese was the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the first \$900 million was committed to the Inland Rail project. The Federal Labor Government was the first government to put money on the table for the Inland Rail project. Part of that funding was for the purchase of land and some studies that needed to be done. It should be recognised that it was Labor that led the way at a Federal level on this project.

When I was first appointed as the shadow Minister for Regional Development, I went to Wagga Wagga on 12 April 2016. The member for Wagga Wagga would recollect that at the time the Government was toing and froing on whether funds would be allocated to the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics [RIFL] hub. I met the mayor and Regional Development Australia who told me of their concern over the possibility of Inland Rail proceeding and being unable to obtain a commitment to funding from the Government. I am pleased to say the member for Wagga Wagga stepped in and organised a delegation after my visit. I hope that my intervention through the media might have assisted. It was pleasing that the Government committed funds. Recently some of those roadworks have been completed. But, as the mayor said at the time, before that he was having great difficulty in engendering any interest in the Government regarding the intermodal.

On Monday 7 November 2016, I put out a press release stating that an inland rail project was vital for the Central West. The then candidate for Orange, Bernard Fitzsimon, and I attended meetings with the Mayor of Orange and the Mayor of Parkes and discussed the interactions those mayors were having with the New South Wales Government regarding inland rail. Unfortunately, the answer at the time was zero, zilch—none. We raised the issue then. The Mayor of Parkes was particularly concerned about how those two local government areas were not getting any support. He said that it was interesting that the Port of Melbourne had sent a representative to Parkes and was talking to them, but nobody from the New South Wales Government had not.

Later the then Minister for Regional Development, who is now the Deputy Premier, stood in Parliament and held up a photo. He ridiculed me and said that I was standing in the middle of nowhere. I have the photographs and will show them to members. What the Deputy Premier did not say was that I was standing on the side of the Parkes intermodal. Labor was there two years before the Government brought its first motion to this House on Inland Rail. In 2016 Labor was advocating for Inland Rail. The Government took another two years to get on board. I ask the member for Barwon to tell us in his reply how many dollars the New South Wales Government is putting into the Inland Rail project. So far it is zilch—nothing.

There is a lot of concern in regional New South Wales, as Anthony Albanese has said, because even though this project is transformative and will do wonderful things for the area, the New South Wales Government has been caught sleeping. Federal Labor committed the first funding to the project. While Labor members were engendering encouragement for Inland Rail, all that the Deputy Premier could do was ridicule us for visiting regional New South Wales and talking to communities. The member for Barwon is a good guy. I acknowledge that the Inland Rail project is important in his region, but two years after Labor started he has had to fight to get the Government to commit anything to this project at all.

**Mr DARYL MAGUIRE (Wagga Wagga) (16:16):** I commend the member for Barwon for moving this motion. However, for many years the Labor Opposition missed its opportunity to do so. There is an old saying: Success has many fathers. Failure is an orphan. That sums up the diatribe we heard from the member for Wyong. He claimed to have encouraged people and turned up at sites—basically embarrassing people—but that is false. The member should know the process leading to construction of an enormous piece of infrastructure that will bring benefits to inland New South Wales. This project has been discussed at length by the Coalition. Now that the Coalition is in government, we are delivering. I commend the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Premier for signing the agreement that will enable the project to proceed. All across regional and rural New South Wales, communities are excited about the opportunities that Inland Rail will deliver.

The Federal Government and the Wagga Wagga council have a partnership agreement to build an intermodal terminal. The work that has been done on the project includes in-depth studies that prosecute the case. It has not been done on the back of an envelope like Julia Gillard and others would do. We have done the work. We did a business case to deliver projects that will achieve outcomes. I was at the official opening of the terminal. The member for Wyong was not invited because, like always, Opposition members turn up for a media opportunity and, like seagulls, leave their mess behind. The electorate of Cootamundra will benefit from this. The rail line will pass through the areas that are great grain producers and will help to reduce the cost of getting freight to port. That will in turn help to remove the major impediment of having trucks on our roadways.

We all know that it is more efficient and economical to use trains. There is much more to be done by the communities along the line to embrace this project. Parkes will benefit, Albury will benefit, Wagga Wagga will benefit and places such as Lockhart will benefit. If we can lift the mass load from 19 tonnes per axle load to 25 tonnes per axle load, which is the standard, we will be able to move a further 600,000 tonnes of grain onto the mainline and through to the ports. This is nation building. It has taken some time to get there, but full credit goes to the State and Federal Liberal-Nationals governments. Indeed, the member for Barwon, the Deputy Premier, the Premier, the Treasurer and others have made this project possible by paying off the debt that Labor left us. The mess that Labor left us is the reason that Labor could not invest in this great project. This Government is getting on with it.

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (16:20):** I thank the member for Wyong, as I think that most of regional New South Wales would. I say that because every time he turns up and advocates for an intermodal terminal or rail link, he gets one. He is not in government but he gets it done. He is two for two. Soon I will invite the member for Wyong to visit Wollongong because there is a rail link down there that we should be talking about. Port Kembla is one of the biggest grain terminals in the country. The member for Barwon talked a lot about intersections, and there is an intersection in Port Kembla too: It is called the intersection of doing nothing and getting nothing down. The Coalition parties have spent 30 years dealing with the Maldon to Dombarton rail link. Once again, Labor has had to lead. Labor led when it came to Inland Rail—Anthony Albanese put the money in first—and so far it has led on the Maldon to Dombarton rail link.

The link that not only would have got Port Kembla going but also would have cut the cost of getting freight and grain out of western New South Wales, onto ships and into our export market is Port Kembla. But in a few weeks time we will celebrate 30 years since the then Liberal Government stopped the project, despite having gone to an election promising that it would be completed. In this year's budget, Government members will have an opportunity to match Labor's commitment to the Illawarra Jobs Action Plan. Labor has made a \$50 million commitment to have it built. The Government cancelled an expression of interest [EOI] process a couple of years ago in the middle of the night via a press release without explanation. That is the Government's commitment to freight rail and that is the extent to which this Government will commit to freight rail. In contrast to that, Labor once again is leading the way and showing this Government how it is done.

The Maldon to Dombarton rail link stacks up. It has a benefit-cost ratio of greater than one. It will get trucks off roads and freight onto rail—all of the things that Government members talk about. I welcome the fact that the member for Wyong has amended the motion to delete the last point because the 30 per cent that the Nationals claim will go to regional New South Wales infrastructure simply is not materialising. We can do the maths. The Nationals have been cheated out of money the whole way through—14 per cent in 2016-17, 10 per cent in 2015-16 and 25 per cent in 2014-15. In 2016, The Nationals were cheated out of half a billion dollars that should have been allocated to regional New South Wales. They also have been cheated out of a share of the \$2.8 billion that is going to the Sydney stadium splurge and a \$1 billion share that was sidelined in the Land and Property Information privatisation. The Nationals should not pretend they are getting their fair share of funds. The Nationals have failed regional New South Wales miserably. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (16:23):** In reply: The Government will not support the amendment to remove the final point from the motion because Labor does not build anything anyway. As the member for Wagga Wagga said, success has many fathers and failure has too few. It is great to talk about things and put out little statements and brochures, but the reality is that the Government is getting on and doing things.

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** Yes, you are doing a lot—heaps!

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Bankstown on three calls to order.

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES:** Any form of advocacy is fine. We will support it. The Government has a \$420 million water pipeline that is being built from Wentworth to Broken Hill. Most of the steel is coming out of Wollongong, which the member for Wollongong does not support.

**Mr Paul Scully:** That they don't want.

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES:** No, they do want it. The member for Wollongong has got it wrong. It is nation building infrastructure and Labor got it wrong because they believe its own disbelievers. Labor does not get out there and take a punt, have a go and work with the community. Labor members deserve everything they get. I will be visiting the steelworks in Wollongong. The workers there want to thank the Government for what it has done out west, thereby supporting people who live in the Wollongong electorate. What they need is some deep and meaningful advocacy from Labor. Maybe another Opposition team would sharpen up some of Labor's policies. Labor is heading for election disaster.

As the Coalition was supporting rural people, the member for Wollongong's electorate was blockading the trucks when four years ago the Government was trying to get grain trains in there. There is all talk but no leadership coming out of the Illawarra. Labor members should not pretend they know anything about what goes on in rural communities. It is a joke. As for access agreements, this week the NSW Farmers Association endorsed our land access agreements. Our negotiation with farmers and local government is continuing. This Government will continue to build those relationships because it is moving our communities forward. This Government is providing the jobs and the momentum.

We have put \$10 billion into regional infrastructure so far under Restart NSW and recycling programs when Labor members did nothing—absolutely nothing. This motion that has been accorded priority will be agreed to today. Inland Rail has enormous momentum. Several years ago it had enormous momentum from both sides of

politics at the Federal level. The Coalition parties have maintained that momentum. People such as Warren Truss, Barnaby Joyce and now Michael McCormack should be acknowledged and supported.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Wollongong on three calls to order.

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES:** I am happy to take the member for Wollongong and the member for Wyong on a nice wine tour just to show them things this Government already has done that have been funded. We are already laying track along the south of Narromine route as part of the Inland Rail. Parts of the rail route already have been constructed. What is the New South Wales Government's commitment? The Government has been looking after the road and rail interface. This Government will be looking after our communities, and indirectly we will be looking after Labor communities as well. I suggest that Labor members get on board with the project.

**Mr Christopher Gulaptis:** Just say thank you.

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES:** Just say thank you, as the member for Clarence said. The Government will not be support the amendments. Get behind and support us.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! For the information of members who did not hear me before this debate started, all Opposition members in the Chamber already are on three calls to order. Further interjection will result in members being removed from the Chamber for the remainder of the day. The original question was that the motion moved by the member for Barwon be agreed to upon which the member for Wyong moved that the motion be amended by leaving out the words, "Acknowledges that the Liberals and The Nationals are the only parties able to deliver for regional New South Wales" and inserting instead:

- (4) Acknowledges that this House is supportive of Inland Rail as a transformative project for regional New South Wales.
- (5) Calls on the Federal Government to properly consult property owners, particularly in areas such as Narrabri and Narromine, before deciding on a final route.

The question is that the words stand.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....46  
Noes .....31  
Majority.....15

#### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Donato, Mr P  
Evans, Mr L  
Griffin, Mr J  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Piper, Mr G  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Aplin, Mr G  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Davies, Mrs T  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Provest, Mr G  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

Ayres, Mr S  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A  
Goward, Ms P  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Roberts, Mr A  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

#### NOES

Aitchison, Ms J  
Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Leong, Ms J  
Mehan, Mr D

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harris, Mr D  
Hornery, Ms S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mihailuk, Ms T

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harrison, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C

## NOES

Parker, Mr J  
Tesch, Ms L (teller)  
Zangari, Mr G

Scully, Mr P  
Washington, Ms K

Smith, Ms T F  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

## PAIRS

Barilaro, Mr J  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
George, Mr T  
Hancock, Mrs S

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

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills***TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (SYDNEY METRO) BILL 2018****Returned**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the abovementioned bill without amendment.

*Matter of Public Importance***NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:36):** I draw the attention of the House to National Walk Safely to School Day. Traffic safety and investment in roads and public transport are significant issues in my electorate of North Shore. In fact, they are some of the biggest issues because we have slow-moving traffic and it has a major impact on pedestrians, who are our most vulnerable road users. This Friday, 18 May, is National Walk Safely to School Day, which is an initiative of the Pedestrian Council of Australia. The council is represented in my electorate by Mosman resident Harold Scruby.

The Government is proud to support National Walk to School Safely Day, which is now in its nineteenth year. The aim is to encourage all primary school children to walk to school safely. The objectives of the day also include encouraging parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and to reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour; promoting the health benefits of walking and helping to create regular walking habits at an early age; ensuring that children up to 10 years of age hold an adult's hand when crossing the road; and helping children to develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.

A number of North Shore schools will be taking part in National Walk Safely to School Day, including Mosman Public School, Mosman High School and Beauty Point Public School, which have conducted awareness programs in the lead-up to this Friday. Cammeraygal High School, which already enjoys a high participation rate of students walking to school, and Mosman Preparatory School are calling on all students to try walking to school this Friday. The Anzac Park Public School breakfast event will involve parents and will encourage them to walk their kids to school. I am looking forward to attending the Middle Harbour Public School Parents and Citizens Association breakfast event that the IGA Cremorne is kindly sponsoring. The North Sydney Demonstration School will be handing out drink bottles donated by North Sydney Council and the Student Representative Committee will be greeting students as they arrive to encourage them to walk to school.

The Government is proud to support National Walk Safely to School Day because it is invested in protecting the most vulnerable road users in our communities—our children. Significantly, there have been no child pedestrian fatalities in school zones in New South Wales since 2013. This Government's commitment was that every school in this State would have at least one set of school zone flashing lights, and that was achieved in January 2016. By June 2017, the Government also delivered on a \$5 million election commitment to roll out additional flashing lights at more than 500 schools. The Government also maintains a package of measures designed to enhance school zone visibility for motorists, including fluorescent signs, dragon's teeth line markings, and 40 kilometres an hour speed limit pavement patches at the entrance to all school zones. More than 6,000 school zone flashing lights are now in place across the State.

Transport for NSW's Centre for Road Safety is also working with Roads and Maritime Services, local councils and schools to implement the Government's \$5 million program of pedestrian safety infrastructure around

schools. In total, 135 projects have been identified, with works funded through the Community Road Safety Fund and expected to be completed mid-year. These projects include raised crossings, kerb extensions, pedestrian refuges, new fencing, footpath improvements, new signs, and splitter islands at roundabouts. New South Wales is the only State in Australia with a dedicated team of road safety education specialists available to support teachers in imparting knowledge about road safety.

The Government funds the Road Safety Education Program in schools with an annual budget of \$5.9 million from the Community Road Safety Fund to support our school and early childhood education programs. The programs provide road safety education support to more than 3,000 primary and secondary schools, and more than 3,500 early childhood services across the State. Road safety is one of this Government's key priorities. It is spending a record \$282 million on road safety in 2017-18, including on public education and awareness campaigns, road upgrades and improvements through the Safer Roads Program as well as high-visibility enforcement. I congratulate the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and the Minister for Education on their commitment to safety at our schools, to pedestrian safety for our children, and to National Walk Safely to School Day.

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (16:40):** Now in its nineteenth year, National Walk Safely to School Day is an annual event during which all primary school children are encouraged to walk and to commute safely to school. The day promotes road safety, health, public transport and the environment. Each of these elements is worth reflecting upon, and I will add a few others. When I thought about the significance of this day, my mind went first to the health aspects and the worrying trend of increasing obesity not only in adults but also in teenagers and even younger children. According to [www.healthdirect.gov.au](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au)—the healthdirect website, which is supported by governments—an estimated 20 per cent to 25 per cent of children and adolescents in Australia are overweight, and one-quarter of that group is obese.

In terms of a healthy lifestyle, all of us could do better. However, as adults we have a special duty to encourage kids to be as engaged in healthy lives as they can be. Apart from the impact being overweight can have on a kid's self-esteem, confidence at playing sport and a general feeling of wellbeing, it is also clear that being overweight or obese as a child increases the chance of developing a range of medical conditions such as type 2 diabetes. Apart from a healthy diet, the Federal Department of Health recommends that all of us, including kids, get at least 30 minutes of exercise a day. All members should note that. Walking to school may not take 30 minutes, but it is a great start—especially at the beginning of the day. Walking to school, like walking anywhere or catching public transport, is a great way to connect with local people and local places.

Like me, I am sure that other members have had the experience of walking kids to school and bumping into other kids, other parents and neighbours along the way. Sometimes the neighbour will be an elderly resident who waters the garden in the morning or who walks their dog. The neighbour may be a young parent with a three- or four-year-old who is getting excited about going to big school. When we drive our kids to school we whizz right past those people and their lives, and therefore miss an opportunity to engage in our community. As a parent and a resident of Sydney, with its roads getting more and more congested, I understand parents' hesitation in allowing their children to walk to school by themselves. I was fearful when my children wanted to start walking to school by themselves. I was a helicopter parent and I drove beside them as long as I could.

A large amount of research and literature indicates that children under 10 years of age do not have the skill or judgment to be safe solo pedestrians. Even with school zones, supervised pedestrian crossings and stringent parking restrictions, kids are still kids and the risks remain. Kids get distracted, they misjudge the speed of cars, and they often copy the bad habits of others without realising it. We have all seen children running straight out into the traffic or riding their scooter over the kerb without looking. Little kids need to be accompanied and closely supervised by a parent or adult carer to keep them safe. Of course, little kids become bigger kids. At some stage they must develop the skills to be safe and independent pedestrians, and hopefully be able to walk to a local school. Many young kids are driven to school, but they would benefit enormously from walking.

I worry that as a society we are losing our connections with one another. It is easy to jump into the car and to drive from place to place. Many people in the city live in units and once they close their front door they stop interacting with their neighbours and the wider community. That connection can be re-established by walking. Schools are often asked to take responsibility for a wide range of things. When it comes to learning how to get to school safely, I believe parents and caregivers have a vital role to play—in fact, they play the primary role. Making walking to school a regular event, and even an adventure, provides a great opportunity for adults to build awareness and understanding of the risks and the skills required to navigate our roads safely. We know those risks: the street where drivers speed, the pedestrian crossing on a very busy road or the area where parked cars obscure vision. When we walk to school with kids we are able to point out those risks, explain them and show kids a safe way to mitigate them.

Anyone who has been to a school zone recently as school is about to start will see the sometimes absolute chaos around the school gate, where parents are quickly dropping off their children. It is meant to be the "kiss and ride" zone but sometimes people stay a little longer. Ten minutes before school ends, everyone starts to line up and I worry about the children's safety. There have been some tragedies, and we need to ensure they do not happen again. There is a popular theory that says it takes approximately 21 days for new good habits to start forming and to stick in your life. On 18 May—this Friday—I hope that a great many parents, carers, friends, relatives and others will take the opportunity to walk their kids or their friends to school and take the time literally to smell the roses and to chat about life along the way. There is so much more we can learn when we open up our minds to each other. When we start having a talk we engage better as a community, and I believe the community is all the better for that.

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (16:45):** Friday 18 May is National Walk Safely to School Day, which is an initiative of the Pedestrian Council of Australia. The Government is very proud to support National Walk Safely to School Day, which is now in its nineteenth year. The day aims to encourage parents and carers to walk to school with their children in order to reinforce safe behaviours. It is also about encouraging healthy habits so that our kids grow into healthy adults. Our children need 60 minutes of exercise a day, and a 10-minute walk to school is a great way to get moving in the morning. As someone who started exercising very young in life and has continued that habit through to this day, I encourage parents and children to get out and take advantage of rising early in the morning.

Friday is a wonderful opportunity to remind children and their families of the health and environmental benefits of walking to school safely, and it reinforces the hard work of the Government in putting pedestrians first. The Government is invested in protecting the most vulnerable road users in our communities—our children. As the member for Cootamundra—an electorate with more than 60 primary schools—I am proud of our track record in protecting these most precious young constituents. I am so pleased that there have been no child pedestrian fatalities in New South Wales since 2013. That is an amazing outcome and one that I, with so many rural schools in my electorate, could not be more pleased about.

The Government's commitment to having at least one set of school zone flashing lights at every school was met in 2016. That is a wonderful outcome and testament to the Government's commitment to deliver projects that ensure the safety of our children. Earlier this year I was fortunate to attend St Michael's Primary School in Coolamon and saw more school zone visibility measures in place. On Friday I will walk to school safely with students from Temora West Public School, which is a great little school in my electorate and hometown. I did not design it that way; it just fits in with my schedule. I hope that other members of this House will get behind this important event.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (16:48):** By leave: As the Parliamentary Secretary for Education and the Illawarra and South Coast, I commend my friend and colleague the member for North Shore for introducing this matter of public importance on National Walk Safely to School Day. It is an important day for a variety of reasons. It gives people the opportunity to reinforce to children some of the dos and don'ts about crossings and road safety. I am sure all members will agree that those messages are worth reinforcing not just this Friday, on National Walk Safely to School Day—which is in its nineteenth year—but every single day, when children are walking to and from school. It also gives us the opportunity to reinforce to children the issues around stranger danger and whom they engage with and talk to, and making sure they get to school safely.

There has been mention in this discussion of the Government's flashing school zone signs initiative, and there is no doubt that those signs have made a real difference by reminding motorists who are driving in those school zones at key times. We also heard a good discussion in the House today about nutrition. When I visit schools in my role as Parliamentary Secretary, I enjoy seeing what kids are eating at lunchtime. It is a great opportunity to remind the department, principals and teachers about the need to promote programs such as Crunch&Sip and to encourage healthy eating by making children eat real food. Too often, lunchboxes contain Tiny Teddy biscuits and chips, which deliver a sugar hit that lasts for a short time but then tapers off throughout the day so that children's learning is not as enhanced as it could be.

I remember meeting with Susan Hillier, former principal of Cambewarra Public School. Susan engaged in a holistic program that encouraged children to live healthy lives through promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy eating. I know that the Assistant Speaker has lived by that doctrine his entire life. I am happy to support and promote this initiative. I know the member for North Shore is particularly committed to this program, and I acknowledge Harold Scruby from the Pedestrian Council—a resident of the member's electorate—who is a passionate advocate for road and pedestrian safety.

I recently visited some schools in the electorate of the member for North Shore, and I know she holds the principals and teachers of those schools in high regard. That is probably one of the reasons the member took the opportunity to bring this matter of public importance on National Walk Safely to School Day to the House

today. I hope all members take the opportunity to attend one of their local schools and to join a walking bus or their children, nieces, nephews and other family members to ensure children in all electorates get safely to school on Friday. I also urge members not to let this be just one day or moment in time; let National Walk Safely to School Day be observed every single day of the school year.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:51):** In reply: I thank all the members who contributed to the discussion on this important matter, National Walk Safely to School Day. The member for Lakemba talked about healthy lifestyles and the childhood obesity challenge we are trying to tackle. It was interesting to hear about his "helicopter parenting" tactics. The member talked about the importance of ensuring that parents feel confident about the safety of their children and being involved through National Walk Safely to School Day in teaching their children good habits. Such habits will keep their children safe and well into the future when they become adult pedestrians.

I also thank the member for Cootamundra, who spoke about her own healthy living and fitness journey. I was interested to hear about the more than 60 primary schools across her electorate. I can only imagine the significant challenges that many different communities in the Cootamundra electorate face in making schools accessible and, where possible, walkable. The member for Cootamundra also spoke about the Government's commitment to safety projects, and I know that she is participating in the National Walk Safely to School Day on Friday. I thank the member for Kiama, and Parliamentary Secretary for Education and the Illawarra and South Coast who spoke about the Government's commitment to school zones and flashing lights. He also referred to healthy eating.

National Walk Safely to School Day delivers a package of important benefits. We must be concerned about pedestrian safety and keeping our children safe. Parents need to feel they are coming on that journey but we must also consider the long-term benefits for our children in having healthy and active lifestyles. The Parliamentary Secretary also spoke about stranger danger—and we all learned something from him today. I am excited about Friday morning. Not only will I get to walk to school with the students and parents from Middle Harbour Public School—a wonderful school in the Mosman area—but also I will get to join them for a breakfast, when we will talk broadly about pedestrian safety, the challenges that students face in walking to school on a daily basis and the fears that parents have.

The member for Lakemba spoke of concerns about increasing traffic congestion and the safety risks from having so many cars on our roads. That is a significant issue for my community, particularly in the morning peak when there is a lot of rat-running and main roads and back roads are heavily congested. The Government is making investments to make sure that schools in my electorate and across New South Wales are safe zones for students, particularly as they are walking to and from school. I thank all the members who contributed to this discussion and I thank the House for acknowledging this matter of public importance today. I encourage everybody to participate in National Walk Safely to School Day on Friday morning.

*Private Members' Statements*

**CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (16:54):** Today marks just over two years since Bankstown council was forcibly merged with Canterbury council to form the City of Canterbury Bankstown council. On 12 May 2016, the then Premier and the Minister for Local Government promised that the amalgamated council would bring great advantages to people in the Bankstown electorate. Two years down the track, we are finding instead that a number of projects are no longer proceeding. The council is embarking upon an attempt to sell council assets in order to cope with the expenses that it now faces. In general, the amalgamation has not been as harmonious as others thought it would be; instead, Canterbury and Bankstown are very separate communities that are trying to cope with an amalgamated council.

At the time, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal made it very clear that the Bankstown council was financially capable of standing alone and that it met all the criteria required to remain a standalone council. The decision to merge the Bankstown and Canterbury councils forcibly was very disappointing. Since then, new Premier Gladys Berejiklian has made decisions not to proceed with a number of amalgamations—mainly in the northern parts of Sydney. I have raised my concerns about the amalgamations since 2016. I was always concerned that the people of my electorate would be short-changed, particularly when it comes to capital works and general day-to-day improvements that are expected from a council.

I am particularly concerned about the Bankstown central business district renewal strategy, which suggests that council should consider redeveloping parts of the CBD and selling public assets, such as some of the car parks. I will have more to say about that in the future, but I have already raised my concerns. A number of councillors on the newly elected council have also raised concerns that embarking on a rapid council asset sell-off

will short-change the community, particularly future generations because people will rely increasingly on the availability of public transport and car parks. Community members also rely on important infrastructure assets such as senior citizens centres and other community assets. People rely on such assets to ensure that the community is harmonious.

I also raise a recent issue that was highlighted in the local *Canterbury-Bankstown Torch*. It arises from a request from Tony Mullins of the Donington Gardens retirement village in Georges Hall. On behalf of 60 residents, Tony wrote to the City of Canterbury-Bankstown council seeking a bus shelter for a bus stop that is directly in front of their village. Village residents rely upon the buses to enjoy independent living. They catch buses to medical appointments, to the shops and to make other visits around Bankstown and other parts of Sydney. The residents were hoping that, rather than having a concrete pad with a seat, the local council would consider erecting a bus shelter to protect them from the wind, the rain and the sun.

**Dr Geoff Lee:** And the snow.

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK:** The member for Parramatta thinks it is comical. He talks about snow. These residents rely upon access to public transport and it is important that there is appropriate shelter. A number of residents have raised concerns. They received a letter from the council rejecting their suggestion. It has deeply upset Tony Mullins and other local residents who rely upon the bus stop. They were very distressed. A number of residents have raised their concerns with me, privately and publicly. They told me that they are deeply disappointed with the council's decision. I ask the City of Canterbury-Bankstown to review this decision and to install a bus shelter.

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (16:59):** I would like to reassure the member for Bankstown that I take all issues with respect to commuters and public transport very seriously, especially bus shelters. It is great that this Government has provided an increased number of transport services and that people can more readily catch local buses and other forms of transport using their Opal cards. I suggest that the member for Bankstown work with her local council and perhaps use Community Building Partnership grants to deliver vital bus shelters. The Government—and, most definitely, the Opposition—has to think about more creative ways of delivering infrastructure. I am more than happy to offer any advice that the member for Bankstown requires to deliver the infrastructure that her community deserves, because all our communities deserve the best infrastructure that we can deliver.

#### MULGOA ELECTORATE SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (17:00):** The 2018 NSW Seniors Festival is a wonderful celebration of the outstanding service and contribution of seniors across our communities. Each year the events, hosted by local councils and organisations, grow larger and more diverse, offering seniors a chance to experience things they may not have experienced before. It is also an opportunity for members of Parliament to highlight and celebrate local seniors who have played a significant role within our communities. As part of the celebrations, I had the pleasure of awarding three seniors from the Mulgoa community with the 2018 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award for their outstanding service and dedication to the community. June Roots, Linsey Hall and Ted Fish have all made significant contributions to the Mulgoa community through their generous volunteering efforts across many organisations and groups.

I spoke briefly in this place just yesterday about June Roots but now I can expand on her extraordinary contribution to the local community. June Roots was honoured for her 60 years of service to the Luddenham Show. However, the applause was not so loud 60 years ago when she initially faced great opposition due to the underpinning sexism against women that existed within general society at that time. Despite this, June and her friends formed the Ladies Auxiliary, which aimed to bring women together to better the local community. The Ladies Auxiliary raised funds by selling tea and homemade sandwiches, which enabled them to improve and upgrade the amenities at the showground, providing a brick toilet block with flushing toilets, concrete and lighting in the pavilion.

Due to the efforts of June and the Ladies Auxiliary, the Luddenham Show Society ultimately merged with the auxiliary. June continues to volunteer at the annual Luddenham Show, making lunches for the workers, stewarding in the pavilions and welcoming visitors to the show. This year June celebrated 60 years of volunteering at the show. In addition to her service at the Luddenham Show, June has been actively involved in the Luddenham Public School community, teaching art classes at the school and as past president of the parents and citizens association. For the past 10 years, June has also helped run a cancer fundraising stall within the Luddenham community.

Glenmore Park grandmother Linsey Hall was celebrated for her outstanding contributions to local schools in Mulgoa. The \$17 million Fernhill School in Glenmore Park was built by the Liberal-Nationals Government and officially opened its doors in term one of 2017. Linsey, who lives close by, came to the school's office and asked, "How can I help?" Since then, Linsey has volunteered every Tuesday at the school, which supports children with moderate to severe physical and intellectual disabilities. Linsey, along with some of her art class friends, covered and barcoded more than \$23,000 worth of books for the new school's library. Linsey's efforts assisting with the library set-up were an extraordinary help to the staff and school as a whole. Their weekly support of the school continues and is deeply appreciated by the Fernhill School staff and families.

Linsey also runs the uniform shop at Glenmore Park Public School. She has done so for the past six years. Every Monday, Linsey operates the uniform shop, sorting through donated school uniforms, making running repairs and selling second-hand uniforms and school items to students in need. She single-handedly sorts through the donated items, whilst organising and running the shop. Linsey is also a participant and weekly activity organiser for the ladies' group Taste of Everything, which encourages seniors to engage in a variety of activities and events, including tenpin bowling and nature excursions. Through Taste of Everything, Linsey has helped older women throughout Mulgoa remain socially connected within their community and with other women.

Finally, Ted Fish was recognised for his long and continued service to other veterans and their families. As a veteran, Ted has dedicated himself to improving the lives of other veterans. He is actively involved in the St Marys RSL Sub-Branch, holding a number of positions over many years, including honorary treasurer, secretary and vice president. Ted assists with many fundraising activities at the sub-branch and the organisation of various remembrance services throughout the year. He volunteers at the Governor King Day Club, and for the past five years he has volunteered as a bus driver for veterans and their families. Ted transports widows to and from various locations. He also engages with Penrith City Council to create and implement programs and weekly group activities for local seniors. Earlier this year, Ted was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to Australia.

I am pleased the generous spirits of June Roots, Linsey Hall and Ted Fish have been celebrated and honoured as part of the 2018 NSW Seniors Festival. The contributions of these individuals have no doubt enriched my local community. I thank each of them for dedicating themselves to the people of Mulgoa through their volunteering efforts. I once again congratulate and thank June, Linsey and Ted on receiving NSW Seniors Local Achievement Awards through the NSW Seniors Festival. In my role as Minister for Ageing I extend my thanks and appreciation to all seniors who work hard serving and supporting their communities in this State. I ask them to particularly pay attention as we say we thank you; we appreciate you and we value you.

#### **LISMORE ELECTORATE PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

**Mr THOMAS GEORGE (Lismore) (17:05):** I note that the member for Tweed is in the chair, which is pleasing because the projects I am about to speak about are in Murwillumbah and the Tweed Shire Council area, which the member for Tweed and I are very proud and humbled to represent. The member for Tweed and I work very hard with the three levels of government—local, State and Federal. We worked very well together to secure funding for the rail trail to be established in the Tweed shire. Stage 1 is the development of the Tweed Valley Rail Trail, which will redevelop 24 kilometres of disused rail corridor from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek, creating a shared use trail that will cover areas that both the member for Tweed and I represent. The trail will connect the regional centre of Murwillumbah with the villages of Stokers Siding, Burringbar, Mooball and Crabbes Creek. Late last year Minister Marshall, together with the member for Tweed and I, announced that the State Government had reserved \$6.5 million for the first stage of this project.

The member for Tweed and I were approached by members of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Association, who put together a petition calling for matching funding from the Federal Government to meet the commitment of the State. Together we launched a petition, which was circulated and supported by all major bicycle stores in the electorate, to ensure this project received that funding. The rail trail volunteers worked tirelessly to gain as many signatures as possible. In October last year we were able to send the petition to the Federal Government. The member for Tweed and I, together with my Federal colleague Kevin Hogan, and the Minister for Regional Development, John McVeigh—who visited Murwillumbah—announced that the Federal Government would match the funding. The Federal funding of \$6.5 million and the State funding pushed the total to \$13 million. The Northern Rivers Rail Trail Association is proud to be involved in this project and is working very hard with the Tweed Shire Council to ensure it comes to fruition. The member for Tweed and I will continue to work with the three levels of government to ensure this project is completed.

Recently in Murwillumbah Bert Hayes and his family celebrated a hundred years of operation of their family automotive business. Bert's grandfather, Albert George Hayes, purchased a blacksmith wheel shop in 1917 before starting up his horse and cart business in February 1918. In 1975 the business became a Toyota franchise, which saw a boom in vehicle sales. Now in its hundredth year, Hayes Toyota in South Murwillumbah has been

the first stop for anybody in the Northern Rivers buying a car. I have had many associations with Bert and his family, and this milestone marking their hard work and dedication to our local community certainly deserves recognition.

Sadly, Bert was not well at the time of the anniversary and was in hospital. He has now recovered and is as strong as ever. This Friday evening I will launch the Murwillumbah Art Trail. Earlier this year the organisers were awarded \$20,000 from the Flagship Event Fund. I thank the Minister for supporting this wonderful event. "Moving On" is a fitting theme, as it encourages participants to reflect on the aftermath of the 2017 flood and the resilience of that community. I look forward to attending this great event and celebrating Murwillumbah's rich cultural history.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Geoff Provest):** I concur with the comments of the member for Lismore about the rail trail. I look forward to the day that he and I can stroll that 24 kilometres. I know what a physically fit person he is and how keen he is to get out in the local environment. I look forward to completing those 24 kilometres with the member for Lismore.

**Ms Kate Washington:** There are electric bikes now; it is okay.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Geoff Provest):** It might be electric bikes.

### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE RELAY FOR LIFE**

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (17:11):** Recently I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the seventeenth annual Sutherland Shire Relay for Life event held on Saturday 5 May through to the morning of Sunday 6 May at the Don Lucas Reserve at Cronulla. Cancer is the leading cause of death in Australia and according to the Australian Government agency Cancer Australia, it is estimated that in 2018 more than 138,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed and more than 48,000 deaths will occur due to cancer. The Relay for Life is a community event held to raise awareness and funds for Cancer Council NSW in the fight against cancer.

The 24-hour event is team oriented with participants camping on site overnight. Team members challenge themselves to keep their baton moving while walking or running around the reserve. The Sutherland shire community came out in great numbers to support a worthy cause, with participants travelling from near and far. The turnout on the day was incredible. The 127 teams and 1,948 participants in the event collectively raised valuable funds. The relay commenced with the opening lap of celebration of the cancer survivors and their carers, which holds special significance for them. With cancer touching many of us and impacting on our friends and family, the day is a moving and emotional one, a time to reflect on those who have lost their battle, those who are living with cancer and those who are survivors of cancer.

One needs to experience it to truly understand the potency and emotion of this day. The weekend was also jam-packed full of fun activities. There was live entertainment at the Shire Relay Youth Stage supported by local schools, Cronulla High School and Endeavour Sports High School, and dance academies, Jazz It Up Dance, Engadine Dance Academy, AP Performers, and Ettingshausens Dance & Theatre. Participants also had the opportunity to participate in a morning yoga session to get their joints warmed up for the relay and of joining Zumba classes.

Some other activities included a silent disco, late night trivia, Miss Relay Pageant, a silent auction and Symbio Wildlife Park displaying creatures. Each year the Hope Ceremony is held. It is a special moment for the Relay for Life as it enables participants to support those living with cancer and to reflect and remember those who have lost their battle to this insidious disease. During the candlelight ceremony a remembrance lap takes place, survivors tell stories and songs are sung. Over the past 16 years Sutherland Shire Relay for Life has raised more than \$5.5 million for Cancer Council research, prevention and support programs. This year Relay for Life raised almost \$360,000 for Cancer Council research, prevention, information and support services. The support of the community was outstanding and I thank them for their attendance, participation and contribution to fundraising.

I thank the following sponsors of the event for their generous contributions and support: Tradies, Sutherland Shire Council, Dancetime Hire, Pauls Productions, CWE Audiovisual Pty Ltd, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation [ANSTO], Highland Property Agents, GenesisCare, Enware, Shimano, Gough Recruitment, the Rotary clubs of the Sutherland shire, Engadine, Caringbah and Cronulla, and Coates Hire. I thank the organisers involved in putting together this event each year.

I know what a huge effort it is to organise an event of this magnitude and I know that without their contribution this event would not be possible. Each of the participants, sponsors and organisers played an important role in raising these vital funds, and contributed to the success of the event and the wonderful atmosphere on the day. I am proud to support Relay for Life and I look forward to the success of the event in the

coming years. A member of my Rotary club, Emil Weber, appeared with Elvis in *Blue Hawaii*. He can be seen in the movie, which was played on loop at the event. Emil, who is now in his late 80s, was wearing his duck egg blue safari suit, enjoying the evening and trying to dance.

### CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE LANDMARK BUILDING

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (17:16):** The Landmark building is a multistorey commercial and residential apartment building in my electorate, located at 215 Pacific Highway, Charlestown. It is the home of dozens of financially and emotionally distressed home owners. It is one of only a few multistorey apartment buildings in the centre of Charlestown, built at a cost of \$24 million. It won a New South Wales Master Builders Association Excellence in Construction Award in 2009. But now, less than 10 years later, it is obvious that it was constructed in a manner that in no way can be described as "excellent".

Aiden Ellis is one of the resident owners in that building. Aiden sold a beautiful home on the waterfront of Lake Macquarie to buy his home on the ninth floor of the Landmark, which he thought at the time was well built, convenient to the commercial and shopping district of Charlestown, and well serviced by public transport particularly to get to local health facilities. Aiden thought that living in the Landmark building would suit his and his wife's needs and their lifestyle. Aiden and his wife are typical of the resident owners in the Landmark building—most are retired and many are on fixed income pensions. I have met with Aiden on a number of occasions. He regularly updates me with the horrors being experienced by the property owners and residents in the building.

Since moving in more than four years ago, he is constantly reminded of the inferior building products used in the construction of his building, particularly during severe weather events. During wet weather his apartment is inundated with rainwater. He has sent me videos showing the rain teeming in through faulty window seals. The building shakes during wind events due to inferior building materials used on the top level of the building. The stress and angst that he, his wife and neighbours on level 9 of the building have endured have impacted on their health and the retirement lifestyle they believed they were going to enjoy in that apartment block. The inferior building products have also had an immense financial impact on them, with many thousands of dollars spent trying to rectify the faults. The assistance of builders, plumbers and structural engineers has imposed significant costs on the residents of level 9, to no avail.

According to Aiden, the owners' corporation has spent thousands upon thousands of dollars on expert engineers' reports and legal advice. Crippling special levies have been raised by the owners corporation to pay for rectification works and some owners are facing having their homes or investments sold from under them so the owners corporation can collect the levies. Not one cent for repairs has been retrieved from the developer. Why not? Because following legal action by the body corporate on behalf of the nearly 60 unit owners, the developer wound up the two companies behind the project. This has meant that the body corporate, that is, the owners of the apartments, is left with the repair bill for significant defects—a bill costed at between \$730,000 and \$2 million.

The strata committee is not an unusual strata committee in that it is made up of many people, with different backgrounds, different understandings of strata laws, and different financial knowledge and capabilities. From what I am led to believe, the executive may well be doing its best to fulfil its duties on behalf of all of the owners, but the issues surrounding the Landmark building are, as it turns out, very complicated and messy and no doubt difficult for the layperson, which the majority of owners in the Landmark building would be, to understand and address.

Lake Macquarie City Council, the local council, has issued a notice of intention to serve an order under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. That notice of intention refers to defects in the structural resistance of materials used in the construction of the building, safety barriers on balconies, stormwater drainage, waterproofing of roofs and external walls, energy rating reporting compliance, and provisions for fire safety and fire safety awareness. In fact, the notice states that an inspection revealed that the "building is so dilapidated as to be prejudicial to its occupants or to persons or property in the neighbourhood". This is a 10-year-old building.

I know that Aiden has raised the plight of the owners with the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation and he has met with the shadow Minister—me—as well. I plead with the Minister to provide all possible assistance to Aiden and the other Landmark owners. There is something very wrong with a system that allows such a nightmare as that being experienced by Aiden, and the other owners and residents of the Landmark. I have immense sympathy for Aiden and his neighbours. There are myriad aspects to the collective nightmare of Aiden and his neighbours that need to change to prevent others going through the same thing. But, fundamentally, builders must build what they are supposed to build, with quality building materials and to proper standards.

### QUEANBEYAN RODEO

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (17:21):** I acknowledge the organisers of the Queanbeyan Rodeo. Regional communities look forward to these events as they bring communities together, and this year it was no different. It was a beautiful night in regional New South Wales—indeed, probably the best weather for the rodeo over the past three or four years—resulting in a fantastic turnout. The rodeo is more than just an entertainment event; a large proportion of the proceeds raised go towards a number of charities and organisations in the Queanbeyan region.

This year I was lucky enough to attend the presentation night when \$25,500 was donated to a range of charities including Palliative Care, Queanbeyan Rural Fire Service, Girl Guides, Rise Above, which is a local cancer support group, Meals on Wheels, Queanbeyan Pony Club, Bywong Community Association, R U OK? Weston Creek Molonglo Cricket Club, Geary's Gap Pony Club, Burrumbuttock Hay Runners and Queanbeyan Children's Special Needs Group. These are all worthy organisations in Queanbeyan and surrounds that support the community during times of crisis such as the Rural Fire Service, or organisations in the health and cancer space supporting families in times of need. Other organisations were in the sporting arena. It is always great to see money flow back to grassroots sports in regional New South Wales.

The rodeo event was made possible through corporate sponsorship. We are lucky in regional New South Wales to have many small businesses that feel that their businesses can benefit from being a part of the community and therefore they support many local events. Major sponsors of the Queanbeyan Rodeo for 2018 were Patches Asphalt, Monaro Mix, Queanbeyan Pre-Mix Concrete, Coates Hire, Barter card, Rent-a-Fence, Skyview Windows and Waco Scaffolding.

Approximately 40 other local businesses support the rodeo. These events take a lot of labour, manpower and passion. The people are dedicated not only to putting on the rodeo, but also to supporting their community. I acknowledge the Queanbeyan Rodeo Committee, which has been involved with the rodeo for many years and continues to turn up each and every year, to not only give its time but also to ensure a fantastic event is planned for this year and years to come. I acknowledge Mark Mills, Darcy Gray, Sue Gray, George Harriden, Ron Hill, Kathleen Mills, Craig Cartwright, Christine Corkhill, Kerry Cox, Christine McMahon, Normal McMahon and Sabina Pantos. I also acknowledge the Queanbeyan Rural Fire Service, which runs the gate on the night. Because it runs the gate, it is one of the groups that receives a donation from the rodeo.

With this type of an event, there is a tent area for the major sponsors, which was manned by Girl Guides Australia who served them dinner that night. The Queanbeyan Rodeo, like many events in regional New South Wales, is an important event on the calendar of events in the regions. These fantastic events bring communities, businesses and families together. Some people look at rodeos and think of animal cruelty, but knowing the people that host these events, that is not the case. Just outside of Queanbeyan, around Yass, is where the bulls call home. They are looked after better than people look after their own in their own way.

**Dr Geoff Lee:** Their own children.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Their own children, possibly. I do not know what happens in Parramatta, but not in Queanbeyan. We have to dispel the myths around animal cruelty when it comes to circuses and rodeos. The great social republic of the Australian Capital Territory [ACT] has banned rodeos, circuses and greyhounds. The ACT has even moved Oktoberfest over the border into Queanbeyan. These types of events are put on with animal welfare front and centre, but at the same time they are a big part of the community. Queanbeyan Rodeo does a wonderful job in putting not only on a great event but also supporting community organisations to the tune of \$25,500 this year.

### KOALA MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:26):** I welcome the release last week of the NSW Koala Strategy by the Premier and the Minister for the Environment. The NSW Koala Strategy is a major step forward for koala conservation in the Tweed and across New South Wales. It will support a range of conservation actions over the next three years to stabilise the koala numbers across the State. The Government is investing serious support in this iconic species, which holds a special place in the hearts of the Tweed community. Funding of \$20 million through the NSW Koala Strategy will enable the purchase of priority koala habitat, which is the biggest commitment by any State Government towards securing the much-loved marsupial in the wild. The Tweed has already seen investment in the protection and support for koalas recently. I have been a strong advocate for the protection and preservation of koalas.

In 2015, \$200,000 was secured and invested in the Cudgen Nature Reserve. Some 15,000 food trees were planted, building on the 7,500 koala feed trees that have been planted by Tweed Byron Koala Connections and

WetlandCare Australia. In 2017, with the help of the Minister for the Environment, \$900,000 was secured to purchase 100 hectares of koala habitat in Pottsville, a strategically important location between existing council land and the Cudgen Nature Reserve to help secure that population. The NSW Koala Strategy will see more work in koala conservation and habitat restoration, with \$20,000 allocated to plant an additional 1,200 trees at three sites including Duranbah and Round Mountain in late May to early June.

An application for \$270,000 has been made to build a koala holding facility for the rehabilitation and release of injured koalas, including isolation pens for koalas infected with chlamydia. This is a joint project with Dr Michael Payne, the head veterinarian at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, which treats approximately 240 koalas from northern New South Wales each year. Approximately 60 per cent of koalas on the North Coast are infected with chlamydia. I note the NSW Koala Strategy allocates \$500,000 towards the treatment of chlamydia in koalas. Pens are being built to trial the vaccination. Unfortunately, chlamydia in koalas is rampant. During a breeding season, koalas will have four or five sexual partners in a 24-hour period. Therefore, chlamydia is spread through the colony.

This is more than habitat and research. With the backing of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, which is the leader in this field in the country, the holding facility will enable the vaccination of wild koalas over a three-month period and their release them back into the environment. The Government is working in conjunction with conservationists and scientists who specialise in the field. There are no theatrics. It is all about science. It is all about the preservation of koalas. This strategy is leading Australia in the preservation of our iconic species. The koala is loved by all. Australians want to see the koalas survive and prosper. The koala retrovirus is another disease affecting koalas.

An enormous amount of scientific knowledge has been gained over a number of years; but it is about creating vaccines and using proper science to preserve this iconic species in the area. I thank Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, the Minister for the Environment and the Premier for recognising this strategy and, more importantly, applying the resources. I note that Taronga Zoo is involved in this strategy, which is a winner for koalas. Future generations will enjoy the fruit of this work to protect this iconic species. Not only am I 100 per cent for the Tweed, I am 100 per cent for the koalas of the Tweed. I also acknowledge Team Koala, which is an organisation that is doing its damndest to ensure the protection of these koalas. I commend the koalas to the House.

#### **EAST HILLS ELECTORATE DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr GLENN BROOKES (East Hills) (17:32):** I stand here today as the proud member for East Hills but also as a proud East Hills local. The East Hills electorate is a great place to live; it has always attracted and will continue to attract people and families from all over to lay down their roots and call our beautiful area home. From Padstow to Milperra, Picnic Point to East Hills, Panania, and Revesby to Condell Park, across all corners of the East Hills electorate more and more people and families are moving to the area to enjoy everything it has to offer—national parks, shopping villages, the Georges River, hospital, parks, schools, TAFE and the airport just to name a few. I have lived in East Hills all my life, and over that time I have seen our area transformed from semi-rural villages and dirt roads to modern day suburbs. Despite being a welcoming community and always opening its arms to people moving into the area, we cannot allow for overdevelopment across our suburban streets.

Appropriate planning controls must be in place to ensure appropriate development in our local area. I do not want to be misrepresented: I am not speaking against progress and growth, as without development no-one in East Hills would live in a home. Instead, I am lobbying for appropriate development—not overdevelopment. I repeat: appropriate development not overdevelopment. We must also ensure there is appropriate and sufficient infrastructure to support this growth. That is why I am working hard to fix all the things that Labor neglected, like the widening of Henry Lawson Drive and the urgent need for a full upgrade of Bankstown Hospital. Labor's plan is to upgrade the emergency department. Locals know that that is a bandaid solution.

I have asked and continue to ask council to work with me and our local residents for the sake of our local area to ensure that all future developments are appropriate. I call on Canterbury-Bankstown Council to review its R2 zoning. It will try to pass the buck and blame the Medium Density Housing Code. The ball is in the council's court. The code only allows medium density housing where the council's local environmental plan [LEP] allows. I have previously said that the council needs to remove multi-dwelling housing from R2 zones. This would not allow manor homes and other multi-dwelling developments to be built in our suburban streets.\

I have raised this issue many times with the Minister for Planning, and now the Government has delayed the introduction of this code in Canterbury Bankstown. The council has a great opportunity to review its R2 zoning. The State Government and the Minister recently announced \$2.5 million for the council to support the council in reviewing the LEP. With this support, the council has the opportunity to redraw the LEP to make sure development is sustainable and suitable for our local area.

### ETTALONG CHANNEL DREDGING

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:35):** Today I put on record in Parliament my thanks to all the people of the Central Coast who last Thursday night went to Ettalong Diggers to make their voices heard loud and clear about the need for dredging of the Ettalong Channel. I thank the Chief Executive Officer of Ettalong Diggers, Bill Jackson, and the board for providing the club as a meeting place. I take this opportunity to again thank the thousands of people who have signed my petition to the New South Wales Parliament calling for a solution to our dredging concerns. I say to the ferry services, businesses, commuters, students, tourists, sailors, fishers, boaters, community members, concerned residents and families from both sides of the waterways: thank you for believing in me, knowing that I will rock the boat and I will fight for the people of the peninsula and the people of the Central Coast on the issues that matter. I have been thrown out of Parliament for standing up for the people and I would happily be chucked out again.

Keeping the Ettalong Channel open is our number one priority. We desperately need the emergency funding to ensure this occurs. I call on the State Government to take immediate action. It has the equipment and the resources to do it. After the recent decision made by Central Coast Council to apply for funding from the Rescuing our Waterways program and to call for emergency dredging, I contacted the office of the Minister for Lands and Forestry to discuss these urgent matters. I am still waiting for a response. Based on previous Rescuing our Waterways funding, it is clear that the funding will not be available for several months after the application is made and the money provided will not cover even 50 per cent of the cost of dredging Ettalong Channel. We are in dire straits.

During low tides, Ettalong Beach becomes Ettalong beaches. The community jokes that they will soon be able to walk from the Gosford electorate to the Terrigal electorate. There is a very real risk of injury or even death if the channel remains in its present state. Last Thursday night, the people of the coast made it very clear that they know the New South Wales Government is passing the buck on dredging our waterway and is forcing ratepayers to pay for the dredging because they have no other option. Every day the people of the peninsula tell me that they are still waiting for kerbs and guttering in their streets. There are still massive drainage issues on the peninsula. Now our council is being forced by the New South Wales Government to spend public works funding on dredging a navigable waterway. It is a State Government responsibility. Meanwhile, the State Government is more than happy to draw an income—even though it would not tell me how much—from boat licences and moorings on our waterways.

I have heard the member for Terrigal tow his party line regarding responsibility. I wonder how the member's constituents feel about shouldering the cost of the dredging in their rates, especially when north of our community the State Government delivered 100 per cent of the \$666,000 for dredging the mouth of Lake Macquarie in 2016. We are all very aware that the Brisbane Water channel is Crown land. It is a navigable channel and public transport on the channel is used to get to and from work and school and to visit family and friends and for tourists to access our community. The dredging of the channel is economically important to communities on both sides of the channel. We know that the Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] of New South Wales earns the income and is wholly responsible for safety in our channel. I do not pity the RMS for that responsibility.

The motion on dredging which was moved by Councillor Richard Mehrtens and agreed to in the Central Coast Council chamber on Monday night has the potential to cost our council more than it currently has in its Gosford West capital works budget for 2018-19. It will be taken from ratepayers across the coast as north versus south communities fight for funding from our newly forced merger, the Central Coast Council. It is simple: taxpayer dollars should be used for State solutions up and down the coast of New South Wales and ratepayer dollars should be used for fixing our roads, footpaths and drainage. I make it very clear in this House that we need a long-term solution from this State Government, not cost shifting once again onto local ratepayers. The Government has the money to spend on stadiums. Let us apply pressure for this funding, according to the legislation.

### ULMARRA VILLAGE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (17:40):** I acknowledge and congratulate the Ulmarra community on their successful bid to making their village a safer place to live. Ulmarra is a small village on the Pacific Highway just north of Grafton. Like all villages on the highway, it is at the mercy of the travelling public. Over the past few years, there have been numerous accidents in and around the outskirts of the village caused by motorists driving too fast through the village, in particular, the northbound traffic entering the village from the south.

In the lead-up to and just after last Christmas, there was a spate of accidents and near misses. The residents decided enough was enough and took matters into their own hands. They invested in a speed gun and undertook a traffic survey and submitted their results to the Roads and Maritime Services [RMS]. Earlier this

year, I arranged for an onsite meeting with one of the residents, Ryan Brown, and the Regional Manager of the RMS, John Alexander. Mr Alexander was swayed by the evidence put to him by the community and the growing community concern about the speed of the traffic through Ulmarra. He committed to immediately installing a flashing speed sign to warn northbound traffic and to encourage them to slow down. He also committed to undertake a traffic count which would record the number of vehicles and their speed and the type of vehicles. The RMS would then review this information and come up with a safety strategy.

I am pleased to say that just last week the RMS agreed with the community that the speed zones into Ulmarra needed to be reduced. We met with residents to announce the speed reductions. It was resolved that the 80 kilometres per hour speed limit on the southern end of the village would be extended a further 750 metres south, the 50 kilometres per hour speed limit on the southern approach would be extended a further 370 metres south and the 50 kilometres per hour speed limit on the northern approach would be extended a further 300 metres to the north. This would extend the 50 kilometres per hour speed zone in the village by 670 metres. This would help to reduce the traffic through the village, make it a safer place for pedestrians and reduce the risk of a B-double driving through someone's bedroom. It was suggested that the 50 kilometres per hour speed signs were too close to the village and did not give vehicles enough time to slow down. It was obvious when we were onsite last week that this was the case.

We must remember that the Pacific Highway upgrade, which has been gathering momentum, is contributing to the increased amount of traffic and the number of speeding drivers. When the village was originally established, the Pacific Highway was only a goat track. There was no need for concern about the speed of traffic through the village because it was intermittent and not as regular as it is today. The village of Ulmarra will be bypassed when the Pacific Highway is upgraded and this will significantly reduce traffic through the village. I understand that the heavy truck movements will reduce from 10,000 per day to 400 per day. This will no doubt be a blessing for residents, but the interim measures adopted by the RMS are vital to protect them until the bypass is open.

The speed signs are due to be erected within a month and the RMS will continue to monitor the traffic through Ulmarra to ensure they are working effectively. I congratulate the residents, Ryan Brown, John Leask and many others on taking the initiative to make their village safe. They care about their village. That is the benefit of living in a country town. I congratulate also the local newspaper, the *Daily Examiner*, on taking up a worthy community campaign and showing the value of being a community-focused newspaper. Congratulations should go also to Roads and Maritime Services, particularly the regional manager, John Alexander, for recognising the community concerns and acting appropriately.

#### AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE MEMORIALS

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (17:44):** This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of First World War and the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, which is now the location of the Australian National Memorial on the Western Front. This year I was able to attend the dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux and had the incredible privilege to be part of a special moment for many Australians. Sitting at the dawn service with 8,000 Australians behind me was a very moving experience. The scale of sacrifice across the Western Front is something that many people in today's modern society will struggle to ever understand. However, the French residents of the town of Villers-Bretonneux and many other towns littered across the Western Front will never forget the contribution made by Australians. In fact, a rebuilt school in Villers-Bretonneux has a sign that reminds students to never forget the Australian soldiers.

On Anzac Day I was also able to attend a number of other services and visit a number of locations across the region. The Second Australian Division Memorial at Mont St Quentin represents the significant courage of Australians. A museum in Péronne, which is housed in what we would describe as a castle, has a room dedicated to Australian soldiers. I was there also for the opening of the Sir John Monash Centre. Many Australians would have seen on television the exceptional speeches made by the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, and the Prime Minister of France, Édouard Philippe, who both spoke about the contribution of our two countries to ensuring that we live in a free society today. I was able to attend another service at Bullecourt, a small village on the Western Front. The Bullecourt Digger is located just outside the town, where the town residents march to conduct two services. Just outside Bullecourt there is a small memorial called "Le petite Croix", which means "little cross".

The memorial sits where the Hindenburg Line once was. To stand next to the cross and look out across the fields—an area not much wider than Martin Place—and imagine that 10,000 Australians either died or suffered injuries there was a very emotional experience. During the two battles of Bullecourt, 3,000 Australians died or were injured on one day and 7,000 died or were injured on another. In Villers-Bretonneux, where the Australian National Memorial stands is a tall tower from which the Last Post is often played. Sitting under the tower—not

necessarily visible to everyone watching on television—are panels of sandstone that contain nearly 11,000 names. They are the 11,000 names of Australian soldiers who have no known grave.

In Sydney there is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which represents the people who made the ultimate sacrifice. The names of 22 Penrith men are carved on the wall: Francis Abbott, Sidney Bewley, William Byrnes, William LeSeure, George Clissold, John Collum, James Cook, William Doolan, Frederick Earp, Clarence Haynes, William Garner, Reginald McLean, Charles Miller, William Mullen, Robert Paxton, Horace Piggott, Leslie Purdon, George Rook, Walter Skelton, Colin Thomson, Noel Tingcombe, John Whincup, and Geoffrey Woodriff. Each of the men gave their lives to ensure that the Penrith community they grew up in was a free society. In the lead up to Anzac Day every year, students from Penrith schools gather to conduct their own service. The local RSLs lay a coffin in front of the students. It is a moving and fitting tribute, and a recognition that we should never glorify war. It is a recognition of the supreme sacrifice.

### RIVERSTONE ELECTORATE SUBURB NAMES

**Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (17:49):** The area of Riverstone encompasses a large section of the north-west growth area, which also coincides with much of the Blacktown City Council area. There is a need for new suburb names because the area is growing so quickly that the existing suburbs, which cover very large physical areas, will have huge populations if there is not some rearrangement now. There is some controversy in the community about the proposed names of some of the suburbs. The first name I will discuss is the proposed suburb of "Kwigan", which covers the north-eastern part of Riverstone. The name "Grantham Farm" has popular support from residents of the area, and I believe that this name should be considered first. The name "Grantham Farm" is not a creation of a developer, but has long historical links to the locality. If the Geographical Names Board determines that Grantham Farm is not acceptable, then the council should conduct a new public consultation. The name "Kwigan" has no support of which I am aware and is opposed by many.

The next area that has difficulty is the proposed suburb of "Lynch", which encompasses parts of Quakers Hill and Schofields, where the Nirimba Education Precinct is. The name was not exhibited by council in the area for which it is now proposed and did not receive support in the area of Marsden Park, where it was exhibited. The proposed name not only lacks popular support but is actively opposed. Given that the name "Nirimba" is itself not permissible due to the name existing in Western Australia, I believe that a derivative such as "Nirimba Fields" would have significant popular support.

In my view, the western area of Schofields lying between Eastern Creek and Bells Creek is the part of the suburb most appropriate to be renamed, given that the creeks provide strong boundaries and there is a relatively small population in the area. The existing community focal points bearing the name "Schofields", such as the schools, park, railway station, community centre, and Rural Fire Service shed would remain in Schofields under this arrangement. I therefore propose that the new boundaries of Schofields be Eastern Creek, Kensington Park Road, First Ponds Creek, Boundary Road, Schofields Road, Hambledon Road, Burdekin Road and its future extension to Eastern Creek. Blacktown City Council should consult the community about a new name for the area lying between Bells Creek and Eastern Creek.

I move to the proposed suburb of "Wran" and the existing suburb of "Rouse Hill". The proposal of council to include a part of Riverstone in Rouse Hill—a part that will carry a large future population—is inconsistent with the rationale of naming new suburbs so that existing suburbs do not become too large. Further, the proposed boundaries of Wran are geographically illogical and do not represent any community interest. The proposed boundaries should be rejected. However, I support the council's proposal to include the future extension of Rouse Hill Regional Park within the suburb of Rouse Hill. This would also require that the small number of properties on Guntawong Road between the existing Rouse Hill and the park extension land be included within Rouse Hill.

A far more coherent locality can be identified and named if the part of Rouse Hill where Tallawong railway station is located is combined with parts of Schofields east of Boundary Road and Riverstone, lying to the east of First Ponds Creek and to the south of Garfield Road. The name "Tallawong", the name of the new railway station, should be given to this new locality. There is a strong historic and Indigenous basis for the name "Tallawong", as was recognised in the process of naming the station. Popular opinion in the locality supports a name with a historic connection to the Rouse Hill estate. Tallawong satisfies this aspiration. I note that the proposed name "Wran" not only lacks popular support but is actively opposed by many residents.

It has no historic or other connection to this locality. It appears that the only basis for proposing the name "Wran" is the political favouritism of the council. This is a totally inappropriate basis on which to name a suburb. I oppose this proposed name. I support in principle the proposed suburb names of "Richards" and "Angus" in the northern and north-western parts of Riverstone, but they cannot proceed until the re-naming of the part of Riverstone lying within the Hawkesbury local government area between South Creek and Eastern Creek is addressed by Hawkesbury City Council, and this has not yet occurred. Until it does, it will not be permissible to

proceed with the names "Richards" and "Angus" because the outcome would be two discrete areas both named "Riverstone". As I said, that is not permitted under the Act.

The part of Riverstone that lies within the Riverstone local government area should not be called "Vineyard", as proposed by the Blacktown City Council, because the area is not accessible by road from Vineyard and using that name may cause confusion for emergency services called to the area. It could be called "Vineyard Lowlands" or "Angus". In all of these considerations, genuine attention should be paid to the opinions and concerns of local residents. While I acknowledge that it will not be possible to please everyone or to give every person who makes a submission what they want, simply ignoring community feedback to impose names of a partisan-political nature is not acceptable.

### WESTCONNEX

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:54):** This Legislature is granted the power to make laws for the good government of New South Wales. WestConnex, which has a dramatic impact on my electorate, fails many tests, but perhaps most fundamentally it is a failure of governance. Approval was given last month for stage 3 of the project with no final design for the Rozelle Interchange and no private sector contractor willing to build it. The more I learn about WestConnex, the more I learn about the standard of governance in New South Wales under this Coalition government. WestConnex is an appallingly incompetent project that could be approved only by a most appalling and incompetent government.

This government seems functionally unable to deliver a project for much less than twice its original price tag. A fine example is the Premier's pet project, the CBD and South East Light Rail, which runs through my electorate. The line will not be able to carry the number of people it needs to, it reduces transport capacity along the corridor, and its price tag continues to climb to almost triple its original estimate. Who could forget Barry's Bridge over Anzac Parade? WestConnex was an expensive project to begin with, requiring \$10 billion to extend the M5 to the port and the airport, to extend the M4 to the central business district, and to link the two with a tunnel underneath the Inner West. We will be lucky if it costs taxpayers less than \$20 billion, despite the fact that it no longer goes to the airport or to Port Botany. It is meant to move freight to and from the port. It does not, it will not, and it cannot.

The Sydney Gateway, referenced 45 times in the Government's WestConnex Strategic Business case, and ostensibly the justification for the entire project, has now vanished. It is almost Orwellian. The Sydney Gateway is now an "un-tunnel" and the \$800 million price tag is now an "allocation". Last year, the National Audit Office report into \$1.5 billion in grant funding and \$2 billion in concessional loans at mates' rates from the Federal Liberal Government to the New South Wales Liberal Government stated:

The WestConnex project had not proceeded fully through the established processes to assess the merits of nationally significant infrastructure investments prior to Australian Government funding being committed.

That is the Auditor-General engaging in what I would call polite understatement. At no point has WestConnex proceeded properly through processes that one would expect a project costing nearly \$17 billion to follow. How could it? I will examine the figures. The M4-M5 Link Environmental Impact Statement claims that the project, at a cost of more than \$7 billion, has a benefit-to-cost ratio of 2.94:1. In simple terms, every dollar spent by the Government has an economic return of \$2.94. However, the M4-M5 Link is the most expensive portion of the whole project, which on current figures stands at \$16.8 billion. According to the environmental impact statement, WestConnex as a whole, including the now abandoned Sydney Gateway, has a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.88:1 when all broader economic benefits are realised. Therefore, the final stage of the project is responsible for the bulk of the benefits, which means that, at best, stage 1 and stage 2 have benefit-to-cost ratios of 1:1 or worse.

Clearly, these projects never should have been approved. But it gets worse. The benefit-to-cost ratio of stage 3 is predicated on the construction of the Sydney Gateway, which the Government now appears to be rapidly scurrying away from. Without the Sydney Gateway, stages 1 to 3 suffer from the same fatal flaw—the tunnel now extends to another traffic jam. The benefits cannot be realised and the experiment has failed. We are left with a project that will deliver far higher costs and much lower benefits. The question is no longer whether building the project is worthwhile; even a return on investment of 1:1 means the money could and should be spent elsewhere, on more beneficial initiatives.

The fact is that WestConnex is a line on a map drawn to satisfy the political needs of marginal Liberal seats in Sydney's outer western suburbs. WestConnex is borne of the attitude that one need not necessarily do something; one needs only to be seen to be doing something. When the people of New South Wales ask what they got for their \$20 billion, members opposite will scurry away to the darkened corners of the private sector, and they will be utterly shameless about it. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (17:59):** That was a very disappointing speech from the member for Heffron. It demonstrated the ongoing attitude of members opposite to infrastructure in this State. I read on the front page of today's *Sydney Morning Herald* that the Labor Party intends to discount the rate as it applies to infrastructure projects and benefit-to-cost ratios. I thank members opposite for saying that because it is another demonstration of their ignorance about what it means to build infrastructure. The member for Heffron does not want to support the construction of a motorway that will alleviate congestion on Parramatta Road at Strathfield, in that great marginal Labor seat, and the Labor Party wants to keep trucks on the road rather than divert traffic away from the central business district. The M4-M5 Link is designed to improve access and the flow of traffic into the Sydney Gateway. If that is the Opposition's position, I am happy to fight every day until the election to prove that the Labor Party has yet again misunderstood infrastructure and the needs of the people of metropolitan Sydney.

#### **FAR SOUTH COAST REGION ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (18:01):** I thank the House for the opportunity to raise an important issue for the communities of the far South Coast. I refer to festivals, and arts and cultural events that enrich our communities. Every event typically involves hundreds of volunteers and committee members who spearhead activities that will attract visitors to the region who want to enjoy these wonderful events. Events play an important role in reflecting the unique character of our region. I am delighted that many of our local organisations have been successful in securing funding from the Government to assist them to make our region come to life, and not only in the summer months when thousands of tourists visit the area.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the amazing Narooma Oyster Festival, which has secured \$27,500 in triennial funding, and the Batemans Bay Paddle Challenge held in April, which benefited from a second round of incubator funding of \$20,000 from Destination NSW. The fantastic River of Art festival, which opens tonight, has events across the Eurobodalla. The festival showcases amazing talents across our region, including photography, sculpture, busking, textiles and weaving, and film and visual art. The chair, Robin Scott-Charlton, has packed in an amazing array of exhibitions for the festival.

Events such as the Cobargo Folk Festival, the Giiyong Festival at Eden, the Wild Wombat MTB Challenge in Batemans Bay, Sculpture on Clyde, and the Eden Caravan Muster have also been recipients of \$20,000 grants. It is tremendous to see many thousands of people smiling from ear to ear while they enjoy the fantastic offerings at these events. I am proud to be a member of a Government that is willing to support not only major festivals but also individuals. One of the brightest Bega music talents is 25-year-old Corey Legge. Corey has received funds through a Create NSW Young Regional Artist Scholarship to assist in his career.

The funding Corey receives will assist his professional development under the expert guidance of world renowned producer Ben Edwards. This talented young guitarist and singer-songwriter will record a solo extended play [EP] at Sitting Room studios in New Zealand with a core session band of musicians based in regional New South Wales. Growing up in Bega and returning to the area last year after graduating from Southern Cross University in Lismore with a combined Bachelor of Contemporary Music, Bachelor of Arts (Secondary Education) degree means Cory is able to take his career forward in an incredible way. In 2017 Corey taught music as a casual teacher at Narooma, Eden Marine and Bega High School where he was once a student. At the beginning of 2018 Corey moved to Wollongong to pursue his burgeoning music career.

Corey has done great work throughout the community with other young people and he is an inspiration to many young artists from regional New South Wales who wish to establish themselves and who want to develop professionally. It is only fitting that the Government's Young Regional Artist Scholarship will assist Corey to achieve his aspirations, meet his goals and be a beacon of hope for many other young artists who seek achievement as they follow their life pathways. There no doubt that our regional arts and festivals are producing world-class events and world-class talent. Opportunities through organisations such as Destination NSW and the work that many volunteers undertake to support these events make our community life so much more special on the Far South Coast.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** I thank the member for Bega, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. I commend him for raising points that are so valuable to young artists in the regions, including those from my regions who have been successful and have opened up their careers.

#### **WALCHA WATER SUPPLY**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (18:06):** This afternoon I had the pleasure of hosting members of the Walcha Shire Council in the Parliament for a meeting with Niall Blair, the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, regarding the provision of a safer and more secure water supply for Walcha. The

council recently adopted the fourth and final stage of the Apsley River feasibility study, which was a concluding document that summarised the findings of the first three stages of the provision of a safe and secure water supply. Walcha sits in and around the Apsley River catchment and some of the proposed solutions in the feasibility study utilised supplementary water from the Macdonald River to achieve an appropriate and secure yield. It is the intent of the Macdonald River feasibility study to ascertain the possibility of solely utilising the Macdonald River catchment to meet the council's water supply targets

The township of Walcha requires 287 megalitres to secure the town's water supply. That does not include additional water for economic development such as intensive agriculture or increased age care facilities. Currently the Walcha Council has a licence cap of 379 megalitres, which is sourced from the current pump station on the Macdonald River. While there are still many unknowns surrounding the most appropriate dam site, the total pumped volume from the raw water source is expected to exceed this value. Further investigations that will be addressed in the Macdonald River feasibility study will determine the total volume required to be pumped from the Macdonald River per annum to both ensure that the proposed dam site is kept at an adequate level and that the township of Walcha is supplied with sufficient water.

What the region needs is funding. The council wants to build upon the momentum that has been created to search for a secure water site. The council is confident that with a timely allocation of \$131,250—which is the funding the council was seeking today when they met with the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, the Hon. Niall Blair—it will successfully finalise the preferred dam site option, determine the required volume of water from the Macdonald River and provide a cost estimate for the construction of the preferred dam. Following their expression of interest to the Safe and Secure Water Program, council hopes to have the funds to undertake a feasibility study into the utilisation of the Macdonald River catchment to secure water for Walcha. The current situation relating to the occurrence and duration of water restrictions in Walcha is considered unacceptable. A timely solution to provide Walcha with water is crucial.

Walcha desperately needs a safe and secure water supply. It has been on water restrictions for some time and, given the current drought conditions, there is increasing pressure on the town's water supply. We hope the Minister for Regional Water will look favourably upon the expression of interest to the Safe and Secure Water Program and the council's request for funding of \$131,250. That funding will enable the council to undertake the feasibility study and finalise the preferred dam site option. I fully support the request for funding of the Walcha Shire Council and hope it is successful in its application. I thank the members of the council—Mayor Eric Noakes, Deputy Mayor Clint Lyon, the Director of Engineering Services, Dylan Reeves and the General Manager, Jack O'Hara, for assisting in the presentation to the Minister.

*Bills*

**NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE  
(COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL 2018**

**Returned**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** I report a message from the Legislative Council returning the abovementioned bill without amendment.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:12 until  
Thursday 17 May 2018 at 10:00.**