



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Thursday, 16 August 2018**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, 16 August 2018**

**The Speaker (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock)** took the chair at 10:00.

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

## *Bills*

### **RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT (SOCIAL HOUSING) BILL 2018**

#### **Returned**

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

*[Notices of motions given.]*

## *Budget*

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2018-2019**

**Debate resumed from Wednesday 15 August 2018.**

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (10:10):** Following on from the success of the Active Kids Rebate, which certainly was a hit in the Albury electorate, we now have Creative Kids. This will provide a \$100 rebate to school-aged children for activities such as lessons in art, music, language, coding and performance. As they say in *Star Wars*, this helps bring "balance to the force" by providing similar support to families juggling the costs of children's sport and, now, cultural activities. Of great interest in Albury—

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** I move:

That the member for Albury be not further heard.

**Question put.**

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....29  
Noes .....46  
Majority.....17

#### **AYES**

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harris, Mr D  
Hornery, Ms S  
McDermott, Dr H  
Minns, Mr C  
Tesch, Ms L (teller)  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harrison, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McKay, Ms J  
Park, Mr R  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Foley, Mr L  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D  
Scully, Mr P  
Washington, Ms K

#### **NOES**

Anderson, Mr K  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Evans, Mr A.W.  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Griffin, Mr J

Aplin, Mr G  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Dominello, Mr V  
Fraser, Mr A  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C

Ayres, Mr S  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Elliott, Mr D  
George, Mr T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Hazzard, Mr B

## NOES

Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Roberts, Mr A  
Smith, Ms T.F.  
Taylor, Mr M  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Rowell, Mr J  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Williams, Mr R

Johnsen, Mr M  
Leong, Ms J  
Parker, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mrs L

## PAIRS

Aitchison, Ms J  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Lalich, Mr N  
Mihailuk, Ms T

Berejiklian, Ms G  
Evans, Mr L.J.  
Provest, Mr G  
Upton, Ms G

**Motion negatived.**

**Mr GREG APLIN:** I am not sure whether it was mentioning Creative Kids that stirred the Opposition's juvenile performance, or whether the mention of *Star Wars* stirred the Dark Lord into action. [*Extension of time*]

Of great interest in Albury is the creation of 100,000 free apprenticeships. In this regard I note that pre-apprenticeship and pre-traineeship training is already free, and that 200,000 scholarships are available for those most in need. It is a wonderful boost to employability and to providing a trained workforce in a regional area. Service NSW centres will become one-stop shops for New South Wales Government cost-of-living support to help us to navigate 40 cost-of-living programs from 12 agencies. I intend to drop in again, possibly after March next year, to check out all my savings opportunities. While some savings might be small per person in purely dollar terms, collectively they add up and help relieve pressure on household budgets. Equally important, they mean that this Government is working hard on behalf of households, investigating every opportunity for them to save money.

The New South Wales Government is working with three councils to develop the \$20 million tourism project, The Murray River Experience. Our contribution to this project is more than \$11 million. On 20 August the Federal Special Minister of State will come to Albury to open the expanded works at Albury Airport. This Government contributed \$3.3 million towards this work in support of Albury City Council, the owner of the site. The expansion includes the addition of a second baggage carousel, enlarged lounge and café areas and a new meeting room and administration area. [*Quorum called for.*]

[*The bells having been rung and a quorum having formed, business resumed.*]

These two projects are perfect examples of the way in which this Government is working across State borders, building facilities for residents and local businesses, which can be accessed and enjoyed by those living or working in Victoria. When the council needed funding support for necessary works, once again the New South Wales Government provided 100 per cent of what was requested. It has been my experience that, if the project has a solid case, this Government supports it all the way—even where potentially half the people using the facility come from another State. However, there is one codicil to this expression of government willingness: I have been the member for Albury long enough to know when those of us living or working on the border were grateful for sharing resources with Victoria. In Albury these were known as "the Labor years" for New South Wales. Now Labor has Victoria in its grip, and regional service is not its forte.

The New South Wales Government has announced almost \$1.6 million in funding to assist regional arts, screen and culture organisations to digitise priceless collections and develop a statewide regional digitisation strategy. New South Wales Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Minister for Arts Don Harwin have announced investment in 11 projects under the Regional Cultural Fund to make it easier for museum, art and other culturally important collections to be explored and enjoyed.

Recently announced was a grant of \$68,877 to the Albury and District Historical Society. This will enable the digitisation of two sets of microfilmed local newspapers—editions of the *Albury Banner* from 1881 to 1896 and the *Border Morning Mail* from 1938 to 1942—onto the National Library of Australia's search engine Trove,

which will help fill some significant historical gaps in Albury's recorded history. We are also contributing \$1.3 million to a number of arts projects in Albury, including the development and heritage rehabilitation of the Albury waterworks Pump House as a new building for arts practitioners. Festivals, too, have found support from the New South Wales Government. In particular I would like to thank the Minister for supporting Jindera's 150th anniversary celebrations with grants to restore historic artefacts. This is timely indeed.

In closing, I join in congratulating the Treasurer and Premier on a remarkable and assured New South Wales budget for 2018-19. I thank all those who have travelled to the Albury electorate to announce new funding and to listen to local businesses and residents. I thank the Government for holding a Community Cabinet in Albury last November. I thank the Federal Special Minister of State, and the State Minister for Planning for his support over many, many years and for his planned visit to Albury next Monday to open the expanded airport facilities. The Minister for Tourism and Major Events has also been a regular visitor and supporter, as has the Deputy Premier who has worked hard to get the news out about the raft of grants programs and initiatives.

This is the sixteenth budget I have seen—and it is in all likelihood the final one I shall see—as a member of Parliament. I am grateful that, once again, it delivers both for the State and for the people and businesses of my electorate of Albury. Even local councils have been telling me of their difficulties in keeping up with the flow of grants opportunities and other State initiatives. Regional prosperity is no accident, but we must not simply wait to see what might happen once Sydney has taken its bite of available funding. Regional prosperity requires the will of the government of the day. This is a generous government with a heart for regional areas in all corners of our great State. Funding—proper funding, not just words—is flowing across New South Wales, transforming regional communities with vigorous cultural and sporting life, economic growth and environmental responsibility. Long may it continue.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (10:27):** After the New South Wales budget 2018-19, the Premier and the Treasurer wrote to each of the constituents of my electorate of Epping to say:

With the NSW Economy continuing to lead the nation and our Budget in surplus, the NSW Government is delivering for the state.

The NSW Budget maintains our record infrastructure investment in our communities by investing in health, education, roads and transport, while providing support for families and help for those who need it most.

Only strong financial management allows the NSW Government to provide cost of living relief to families across the state. **The strongest economy**—NSW continues as the Number 1 Economy in the nation, outpacing other states with the lowest unemployment in the nation and ensuring we remain the best place to do business. **Connecting the state**—investing \$51 billion on road and public transport infrastructure and fast-tracking projects across the state.

**Building world class hospitals and healthcare**—a record \$25.1 billion in 2018-19 on new hospitals, hospital upgrades, and thousand more nurses, doctors and midwives.

**Constructing better schools**—\$17.3 billion for the future of our kids, which includes funding for over 800 new teachers and spending \$6 billion over 4 years which will deliver 170 new and upgraded schools.

**Protecting our community**—delivering another 100 new police officers, building 6 new police stations and upgrading another 8 stations, and purchasing 500 new vehicles for our SES volunteers.

**Helping families**—more help for first time parents, extending support for early childhood education to three year olds, providing a click energy switch service and the Creative Kids Rebate giving parents another \$100 per school child per year.

The 2018-19 Budget builds for tomorrow and delivers for everyone in NSW, whether you live in the regions or cities.

**Ms ANNA WATSON:** I move:

That the question be now put.

**Question put.**

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....29

Noes .....46

Majority.....17

AYES

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
McDermott, Dr H

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McKay, Ms J

Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Dib, Mr J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D



## AYES

Minns, Mr C  
Tesch, Ms L (teller)  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Park, Mr R  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

Scully, Mr P  
Washington, Ms K

## NOES

Anderson, Mr K  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Hancock, Mrs S  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Rowell, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Aplin, Mr G  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A.W.  
Goward, Ms P  
Griffin, Mr J  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Piper, Mr G  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Williams, Mr R

Ayres, Mr S  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Donato, Mr P  
Fraser, Mr A  
Grant, Mr T  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Roberts, Mr A  
Speakman, Mr M  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mrs L

## PAIRS

Aitchison, Ms J  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Foley, Mr L  
Lalich, Mr N  
Mihailuk, Ms T

Barilaro, Mr J  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Davies, Mrs T  
Evans, Mr L.J.  
Upton, Ms G

**Motion negatived.**

*Visitors***VISITORS**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I welcome to the gallery Jason Yelverton, an outstanding youth community officer from the Dubbo Regional Council, guest of the member for Dubbo and Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services.

*Business of the House***SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: DIVISIONS AND QUORUMS**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (10:38):** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide that for the remainder of this sitting no divisions be conducted or quorums be called.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (10:38):** Make no mistake, the fact that the Leader of the House has had to move this motion today reflects poorly on the Government and on the way this place is being conducted not only today but also yesterday and for the past seven years. There are certain things we understand in opposition, and one of them is that we do not have the numbers. As we do not have the numbers, we know that ultimately the Government will succeed in this motion. But it is worthwhile exploring how we got to this point. Yesterday's disgusting behaviour in this House—

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I move:

That the member for Maroubra be not further heard.

**Mr Chris Minns:** You can't do that in reply to a motion to suspend standing orders.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The motion can be moved.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: The Government can move the motion and it will succeed, but it can consider that our cooperation is withdrawn, and that is on Minister Constance and Minister Hazzard.

[*Interruption*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The position of the Chair has endured what I would describe as nothing short of bullying by the Opposition.

**Mr Michael Daley:** No, ejecting members 400 to nil is bullying.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Maroubra from the Chamber under Standing Order 249. He will leave the building.

[*The member for Maroubra left the Chamber at 10:44 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.*]

[*Interruption*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Opposition members might not describe their behaviour as bullying of the Chair but I certainly do. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition said words to this effect to the Chair, "If I go we all go and you will put up with the interruptions for the rest of the day." Opposition members consider that that is not bullying but that was said to me yesterday in no uncertain terms while we were debating a motion about bullying. I take exception to the integrity of the Chair being questioned.

The question is that the member for Maroubra, who has been removed from the Chamber, be not further heard.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....42  
Noes .....35  
Majority.....7

#### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Evans, Mr A.W.  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Williams, Mr R

Aplin, Mr G  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Dominello, Mr V  
Fraser, Mr A  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Roberts, Mr A  
Speakman, Mr M  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mrs L

Ayres, Mr S  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Rowell, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

#### NOES

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McDermott, Dr H  
Minns, Mr C  
Piper, Mr G

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Dib, Mr J  
Finn, Ms J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Leong, Ms J  
McKay, Ms J  
Park, Mr R  
Scully, Mr P

Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Donato, Mr P  
Foley, Mr L  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D  
Parker, Mr J  
Smith, Ms T.F.

## NOES

Tesch, Ms L (teller)  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

Washington, Ms K

## PAIRS

Evans, Mr L.J.  
Provest, Mr G  
Toole, Mr P  
Upton, Ms G

Aitchison, Ms J  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Lalich, Mr N  
Mihailuk, Ms T

**Motion agreed to.**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion to suspend standing and sessional orders be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....45  
Noes .....33  
Majority.....12

## AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Roberts, Mr A  
Speakman, Mr M  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

Aplin, Mr G  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A.W.  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Rowell, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

Ayres, Mr S  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Donato, Mr P  
Fraser, Mr A  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Piper, Mr G  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

## NOES

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Finn, Ms J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Leong, Ms J  
McKay, Ms J  
Park, Mr R  
Smith, Ms T.F.  
Washington, Ms K

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Dib, Mr J  
Foley, Mr L  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D  
Parker, Mr J  
Tesch, Ms L (teller)  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Doyle, Ms T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McDermott, Dr H  
Minns, Mr C  
Scully, Mr P  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

## PAIRS

Berejiklian, Ms G  
Davies, Mrs T  
Notley-Smith, Mr B

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

## PAIRS

Toole, Mr P

Mihailuk, Ms T

**Motion agreed to.****SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ROUTINE OF BUSINESS****Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (10:54):** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to permit the consideration of Government business to continue until 1.30 p.m.

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (10:54):** Inevitably, the Opposition will oppose this attempt by the Government to shut down the democratic process. This Government has the weakest legislative agenda in a century. It does not have enough Government business to keep us here most nights and now it wants to take away private members' day.

[Interruption]

You blokes do not have enough Government business to keep anyone occupied and now you want to take away private members' day. Talk about the ultimate example of a dying government desperate to hang on to itself. These are the dying days of a dying government and its desperation is seen in the exercise that it is inflicting upon this House. It has no Government business and it wants to take away private members' day. It is the ultimate act of idiocy of an idiotic government that has run out of steam.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion to suspend standing and sessional orders be agreed to. All those of that opinion say "Aye"

**Government members:** Aye.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** To the contrary "No".

**Opposition members:** No.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The "Ayes" have it. I declare that there will be no division.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mr Paul Lynch:** Let that be recorded in the *Hansard*. Are you the head of the Supreme Court—section 39 of the Constitution.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will ask the Clerk whether I am right. Everyone wants to run the House. There is no capacity to have any division. I have declared that the "Ayes" have it, full stop, end of story.

**Mr Chris Minns:** Point of order: How can you determine that the Government won? Maybe we have got the numbers this time. Maybe we have the numbers.

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

**Mr Chris Minns:** He got the order wrong.

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

**Mr Chris Minns:** He should have moved the suspension second.

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

**Mr Chris Minns:** He should have moved the suspension second.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Kogarah will resume his seat. I call the member for Kogarah to order for the third time.

**Mr Chris Minns:** You are on a warning, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Clerk has given you incorrect advice.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the member for Kogarah questioning the Clerk's advice?

**Mr Chris Minns:** The motion should have been moved in reverse order.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House will note that the member for Kogarah is questioning the advice given to me by the Clerk.

**Mr Chris Minns:** The motion should have been moved in reverse order.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, end of story.

**Mr Chris Minns:** The motion for suspension should have been done second. You screwed up the second time.

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** We will have a division next Tuesday. The divisions get kicked over until next Tuesday.

**Mr Chris Minns:** No, mate. You did the wrong order. Point of order—

**Mr Luke Foley:** Why don't you move that there will be no points of order? Just throw out the entire—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your threats started yesterday and they are not going to continue today. You should probably have a look at what—

**Mr Chris Minns:** We are threatened every day based on your rationale. We get bullied every day.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Kogarah from the Chamber under Standing Order 249.

**Mr Chris Minns:** Zimbabwe will be proud. This is a disgrace.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, you are a real disgrace. You are a disgrace because of your attitude.

*[The member for Kogarah left the Chamber at 10:59 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time. It doesn't worry you?

**Ms Anna Watson:** No.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Mr Deputy Speaker, like you, some of us have observed this place in different roles for a long period of time. The sequencing of that motion was out of order. Therefore, we can have a division.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What? Could you please repeat that—the sequence of the motion was out of order?

**Mr Ryan Park:** It was incorrect in the way that it was put. It should have been done the reverse way. The Leader of the House knows that and understands that, and therefore the division could be called.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a procedure for you to meet with the Clerks. But I stick to my ruling that the "Ayes" had it. I have no concern about the way the motion was dealt with. You have the opportunity to speak to the Clerk about the matter.

**Mr David Harris:** To the point of order: Should not the vote be held over until the other suspension motion that was in place is decided? When we have asked for a division, the normal process is that the vote is left until votes can happen again. Otherwise the Government is in a position where it can move whatever it wants and—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** They are the rules this House operates under.

**Mr David Harris:** But in every other situation—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What "every other situation"?

**Mr David Harris:** When we have had suspensions from votes before, the vote is held over until the votes come back in again. Can we have a written determination about that, because that is actually shutting down the Parliament? It is actually shutting down any speech.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In terms of what has been happening today, the Government has every right—

**Mr David Harris:** That does not matter. This is a procedural motion about this particular issue.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Government has every right to try to handle what has been put in front of it by the rules of this House, and I strongly believe—

**Mr David Harris:** Within the standing orders.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** —unless proven otherwise—

**Mr David Harris:** Within the standing orders. Can we have a written determination? Is this a precedent? Can we have a written determination of how all of this transpired in order for us to understand and for the people of New South Wales to understand what is happening here today?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have the right to see the Clerk about your request.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** Further to the point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Assistant Speaker is speaking further to the point of order.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** I would suggest that those opposite read the standing orders. A motion was put to this House—

**Mr Luke Foley:** Throw them out.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** A motion was put in this House by the Leader of the House that no divisions or quorums be called for the rest of today. That motion was passed by the House. There is nothing in the standing orders to say a motion must be put in a certain order. I would remind members opposite—and you can take this how you like it—to have a look at Standing Order 251. Standing Order 251 says that a member who persistently interrupts the business of the House—it does not matter what business it is, whether it is question time or whether it is now—can be named and suspended for two days.

**Mr Luke Foley:** The Minister for Health—that would help.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pardon me, the interjections show a lack of respect.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** There are forms in this House under privilege that if members on either side of the House believe that their privilege has been interfered with they may put a motion before the House. That has not been done. The processes of the House under the standing orders have been followed this morning. I sat in this House for 16 years under Labor and Paul Whelan, who used to walk in here and cut off business straightaway—no divisions, no quorums. We had to wear it because, as the member for Maroubra said, we could count. I think you should count and read your standing orders. I can tell you now, sitting in the Speaker's chair, as I do on a regular basis—

**Mr Clayton Barr:** What is this, a lecture?

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** It is a lecture. You lot do not understand the standing orders.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Well, go on, give it to us. I don't really care—

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

**Mr Clayton Barr:** This is not right. You can't stand there and give us a lecture. You speak through the Chair.

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

**Mr Clayton Barr:** No, he can speak to you about the point of order, but he can't give me a lecture across the Chamber.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He can give everyone—

**Mr Clayton Barr:** No, he can't.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He is taking a point of order.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** To you.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** About the point raised.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Right.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Not to give me a lecture.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can take umbrage with it or you can seek a call at the end of his contribution.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Just follow the rules, Thomas; that's all we want you to do.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can throw them down. You people ought to run by the rules.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** If the member for Cessnock had been listening, I said both sides of the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is exactly right.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** Any member can take a point of privilege if they feel it is deserved. But to take a point of privilege you must earn the respect of the House, and I would suggest those opposite—

[*Interruption*]

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When the member for Coffs Harbour has finished his point of order.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** I would suggest those opposite need to respect the standing orders and they will get the respect of the House.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Keep going with the lecture. The standing orders you're after are 250 and 252, not just 251, you twit.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Keira.

**Mr Ryan Park:** No-one, not one person on this side of the House, will be lectured to by you about respect, mate. End of story.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pursuant to the resolution of the House, divisions are not to occur at this sitting and stand deferred.

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** We will deal with them next Tuesday. I said that before.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It won't be next Tuesday.

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** The following Tuesday. The sitting day.

**Mr David Harris:** Given that ruling, does that mean that private members' business is suspended or isn't until the next time that it is actually voted on? Because it hasn't been voted on.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** It has been voted on.

**Mr David Harris:** No, it hasn't.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** And it has been ruled.

**Mr David Harris:** No, it hasn't.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** On the voices.

**Mr David Harris:** No, it hasn't. We called for a division.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! In a situation where there are no divisions and no quorums, I have the right—I stand to be corrected and I will check with the Clerk—to be able to declare a motion won or lost on the voices. I did declare that.

**Mr David Harris:** Even though a division has been asked for?

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** The division has been deferred.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am telling you now, from the advice I have just received, that pursuant to the resolution of the House divisions are not to occur at this sitting and stand deferred.

**Mr David Harris:** Correct. So that means that there is not actually a suspension until the vote happens.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, you have verified what I just said.

**Mr David Harris:** I am not being frivolous; this is important.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I made the decision on the voices. The division on this situation will not occur and stands deferred until the next sitting. It being after 11.00 a.m. the period for Government business has concluded. The resumption of the debate on the budget estimates and related papers is set down as an order of the day for a future day. The House will now consider general business.

**Ms Prue Car:** But you just said it's all Government business.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Government business until 1.30 p.m.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just a minute, I have been given it to read out. The House will now consider Government business. The Clerk will read the next item of business.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Under Standing Order 49, can I seek clarification on the ruling you have just given that you have the right and the ability to rule on the voices? Can I clarify please—on a serious point, I am not trying to take the micky? At the moment, for example, we would have more voices than that side. If we were to suddenly call for a vote on the voices, you would have to award to us. Does that mean that they need to keep more people in the House than we do at any time?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I had the ability on that particular motion to rule on the voices.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** And at the moment we have more voices. So if we called a vote at the moment you would rule in our favour?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. That was my decision on the voices. There will be no more divisions or quorums. If you dissent from the ruling, you can give three days' notice if you want to pursue it.

**Ms Jodie Harrison:** The member is not questioning the ruling.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Sorry, Deputy Speaker, just to be clear: for example, at the moment if we call for a vote and there was a vote—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There are no more divisions or quorums. That is all settled. They are not going to be held. The decision was made by me on the voices. Where I sit—and, again, I stand to be corrected—there will be no more divisions in this place today.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** But we already had one after that ruling went through—on the voices.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, whether it be on the voices or otherwise, as I understand it. The Clerk can correct me if I am wrong. Is that right?

**Mr Luke Foley:** Point of order: Mr Deputy Speaker, you just advised us that not only will there not be divisions, there will not even be a decision on the voices. How on earth are you going to adjudicate and run the House? How on earth? This has become a farce. This is like the Zimbabwean parliament. It is now not convenient to the Government even to have votes in this House. This is what you have reduced the Parliament of New South Wales Parliament to: a complete and utter shambles. And it was all so unnecessary. The Minister for Health cannot sit there and allow the member for Mount Druitt to have his three minutes. It all flowed from that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call you back to the standing orders on that matter. This is where it all started, and I refer you back—

**Mr Luke Foley:** I seek your guidance.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I refer you back to the standing orders on that issue. I am going to continually keep going back over that. I have ruled on the motion that was moved by the Leader of the House on the voices. The House can decide if there are other divisions that will be ruled on the voices. However, if any divisions—

**Mr Luke Foley:** With respect, Mr Deputy Speaker, that contradicts what you said 60 seconds ago when you said nothing will be decided on the voices. I mean, which one is it?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Would you like to go home?

**Ms Anna Watson:** We can't do anything else, Thomas.

**Mr Luke Foley:** We are in your hands, Mr Deputy Speaker. We look to you to run the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I reiterate: I made my decision on the voices. If you have any further questions, as I said earlier, you are entitled to see the Clerk and the Speaker.

**Mr Luke Foley:** As to my point of order, I am seeking clarification on how, in accordance with the standing orders—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There will be no more divisions today.

**Mr Luke Foley:** I accept that. But you have also advised us—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** To see the Clerk and the Speaker.

**Mr Luke Foley:** —a couple of minutes ago that nothing will be decided on the voices. I think you changed your mind on that a minute later.



**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no capacity.

**Mr Luke Foley:** We're seeking guidance on how will you decide on questions that are before the Chair. Will you decide on the voices or not?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, I will decide on the voices.

**Mr Luke Foley:** Well, that is contrary to what you said three minutes ago.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have ruled on that and I have indicated to you that I ruled on the voices.

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (11:13):** I move:

That this House do now adjourn until 12.00 p.m. today.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Point of order—

**Mr Paul Lynch:** We are happy to do it on the voices. Come on!

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Point of order: I believe that what the member for Liverpool has attempted to move is inconsistent with the motion the House carried previously and therefore cannot be put.

**Mr Paul Lynch:** The House is the master of its own destiny.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On the motion as moved by the member for Liverpool—That the House be adjourned until 12 noon—the question is that all of that opinion say "Aye".

**Opposition members:** Aye.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have put the question.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** I raised a point of order and I do not believe you ruled on it. I did raise a point of order, which you have not ruled on.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, you cannot in the middle of a question. I cannot. I am ruling that out of order. I cannot. I had already put the question.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Prior to the question I—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I did not hear you, I am sorry. I did not hear you at that time, I am sorry, because I could not hear what everyone was saying.

**Mr Ryan Park:** They will remember you; you're a reformer.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All those against the motion say "No".

**Government members:** No.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the "Noes" have it.

**Motion negatived.**

**Mr Ryan Park:** You said "on the voices".

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is exactly right. I call the member for Epping.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (11:16):** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr Paul Lynch:** Point of order: There is no reference in the suspension—

**Mr Kevin Anderson:** Mr Deputy Speaker, they have been filming here in the Chamber. They are filming the Chamber.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If anyone has recorded any of this, I would ask that phones be referred to the Clerk for clarification.

**Mr Jamie Parker:** Why don't you run the House properly so that we can get on with Parliament, instead of this joke? This is ridiculous!

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Jamie Parker:** Come on! We have been arguing for an hour. It's ridiculous.

**Mr Paul Lynch:** I have a serious point of order.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Paul Lynch:** There was no reference in the suspension to your being able to determine matters purely on the voices without going to a division. The suspension terms said "no divisions", but it did not give you specific power to decide matters on the voices. It seems to me that we need to get some clarity about that and obtain advice as to whether that allows you to actually do what is happening.

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** That is a total rubbish proposition. It has not changed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** As I said earlier, clarification can be sought from the Clerk. I think it is three days' notice has to be given if there are any concerns about that, as a result of that. I now call the member for Epping.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I beg your pardon. What did you say?

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** "Mr Deputy Speaker".

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, he did not. He mumbled a few other words, which will be picked up on the microphone.

**Mr Ryan Park:** I said, "I'm a proud boy from Dapto." Mr Deputy Speaker, you said that you would do a ruling on the voices. I think anyone, including Hansard, who was present a moment or so ago would clearly hear that we had the strength and the numbers, as we always do.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr Ryan Park:** I ask that you rule on the voices.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I did. There is no point of order. The member for Epping has the call.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** No you did not, but that is not an excuse.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Before I was rudely interrupted, I was saying that the 2018-19 budget builds for tomorrow and delivers for everyone in New South Wales whether one lives in the regions or in the cities. The investment in schools, hospitals and public transport cements our vision for this State and will make New South Wales a stronger and fairer community for all. In a letter to my constituents, the Premier and the Treasurer summed up the strength of the New South Wales economy and the benefits that were delivered to all the citizens of New South Wales, stating that it represents a blueprint for economic management and a blueprint for why this Government should be the preferred government of this State for many years to come.

I turn now to the impact of that budget on the residents of my electorate. The Epping electorate comprises some 79,930 residents. It occupies the regions of Cherrybrook, Dural, parts of West Pennant Hills and Castle Hill, Beecroft, Cheltenham, Epping and a little bit of Eastwood. On moving through the electorate, one can make a number of striking observations about the nature of the Epping electorate. It does not have a hospital, an ambulance station or a police station, but it does have many schools. In many respects the delivery of infrastructure relates to the manner in which schools are supported in my electorate. The provision in the budget relating to air conditioning for schools is welcomed by every school in my electorate.

We are particularly proud of every school in the electorate; in fact, the demographic of Epping is such that many people come into the electorate because of their aspirations for the future of their children. Cherrybrook Technology High School has 2,020 students. Next month the Minister for Education and hopefully the Premier will attend the school to open a new state-of-the-art science block which will enhance its educational reputation. The Government's investment in Cherrybrook Technology High School represents an acknowledgement of the aspirations of those residents who send their children to the school. It is the largest high school in New South Wales and it is led by one of the best principals in the State. I pay tribute to Gary Johnson, who is an inspirational principal.

Cherrybrook Technology High School has attracted teachers including the likes of Mr Woo, who is the New South Wales Australian of the Year. We should always be on the lookout for teachers of Mr Woo's quality. His development of Wootube has, in many respects, revolutionised maths teaching across the State. On Tuesday night I had the opportunity to attend the Premier's Teacher Scholarships awards where a teacher at North Epping Public School, Keith Bartlett, received a teacher scholarship to study overseas on how to teach students financial literacy. It is a great opportunity for Mr Bartlett. At North Epping Public School he has delivered a program to

ensure that when children leave school they have financial literacy. The Treasurer often remarks that it is through financial literacy that students can increase their opportunities in life. There is often a correlation between social deprivation and lack of financial literacy, so the work being done by Mr Bartlett will benefit all students across the State.

The budget has delivered for my electorate. Often there is no specific budget item to say that Epping has received any particular infrastructure. However, my electorate has been the part beneficiary of two of the largest infrastructure projects being undertaken. The delivery of the Sydney Metro is one of the greatest achievements of this Government. When the Government was elected in 2011 it was elected on the promise to deliver the Sydney Metro, which at that time was the largest infrastructure project embraced by a government in the Southern Hemisphere. The citizens of the Epping electorate are the direct beneficiaries of that project. It is disgraceful that former governments never saw fit to deliver public transport in the way that this Government is delivering it in the form of the Sydney Metro. Starting at Rouse Hill and proceeding through to Chatswood, this infrastructure was necessary for the delivery of proper planning for this State.

We are facing unmitigated problems with congestion on the State's roads. The solution to congestion is the delivery of proper public transport. Failure to develop more suburbs without the delivery of public transport over a period of 16 years of Labor government should condemn Labor to opposition for many years until they learn the lesson of delivering proper planning for the citizens of this State. In 2011, when this project started, many were sceptical about the ability to deliver it. Next year it will be delivered. That represents a fantastic opportunity for the citizens of the Epping electorate, particularly for the people of Cherrybrook.

Franklin Road, Cherrybrook, will have a new station precinct, providing a railway line for the many residents in and around Cherrybrook. This will significantly improve their lives, enabling them to catch public transport to and from their workplace. The delivery of the Sydney Metro represents the biggest investment undertaken by this Government for the people of Epping. When I ask what did the budget deliver for my constituents and me, the answer is that we received a metro train line. Of course, that brings housing development opportunities around railway stations.

In relation to development around public transport, although demographers always say that the appropriate place to build high-density development is close to railway stations, it should be delivered in a manner that does not disturb the ambience or benefits that that suburb has enjoyed for many years. It is a significant cause of dislocation when suburbs that were formerly residential low-density suburbs have significant high-rise development. Cherrybrook is one of those areas. Some sensitivity is required with the delivery of high-density development to Cherrybrook to ensure that the amenity of that suburb is maintained and that the lifestyle of its residents is not impacted.

However, we are getting the benefit of a train line and there will be development within the vicinity of that railway station. Additional to the delivery of the Cherrybrook railway station is the opportunity of commuter car parking. There will be at least 400 commuter car parks at Cherrybrook railway station. That should relieve a significant amount of congestion associated with people who currently have to drive to their place of employment because of the lack of available public transport opportunities. The combination of a new railway station and a new car parking station at Cherrybrook is a significant delivery of infrastructure to the residents of Cherrybrook.

Beecroft is the next area of my electorate which I will speak about. In the budget of 2016-17 the Treasurer announced the scoping study for the delivery of a lift to Beecroft station. In the budget of 2017-18 the funding was made available for the delivery of that lift. If there is one piece of infrastructure for which the residents of Beecroft have been crying out for many years, it is the delivery of a lift at Beecroft station. In many respects the demographic of people who reside at Beecroft is one that has to deal with reduced mobility, but the other side of that coin is the young families with young children, who currently have to get up and down stairs at railway stations. One of the achievements of my first term as the member for Epping is to deliver for the people of Beecroft a lift at Beecroft station. I am delighted that in this budget the funding has been made available to ensure that that lift is being delivered.

In addition to the lift at Beecroft station, I make reference to the other massive piece of infrastructure being delivered through my electorate, and that is the delivery of the NorthConnex road system. The NorthConnex will remove all trucks from Pennant Hills Road except those trucks that are carrying hazardous materials. There is a requirement that trucks be removed from the busiest road in the State to ensure that that road is a lot more accessible to the people who use motor vehicles. The benefits to the people of Epping of removing trucks from Pennant Hills Road are self-evident. It is one of the great pieces of infrastructure which members get the benefit of seeing delivered.

Seeing the tunnel-boring machines delivering that project is one of the great delights of being the representative for the people of Epping. And it is getting close to being delivered. We are enormously thankful for the contribution of the State Government, the Federal Government and private enterprise for the delivery of this massive infrastructure project. These are the sorts of projects that will be the legacy of this Government. Both the NorthConnex and the Sydney Metro are the sorts of projects that those opposite have only ever dreamed about being able to deliver. The fact that we on this side are delivering them is something which marks this Government as a government of quality.

Beecroft went through an enormous period of change during the delivery of the third track between Eastwood and Thornleigh. That period of delivery of rail infrastructure to make sure that passenger services were not being interfered with by freight trains caused significant impact to the environment of Beecroft. I am enormously grateful to the residents of Beecroft for the way they handled that interruption to their lifestyle during that period. It was no doubt, in many respects, a period during which their lifestyles were significantly impacted in circumstances where a significant amount of heavy infrastructure work was being done. That project has now been completed. Freight trains now have a different mode of delivering freight to northern New South Wales. There are, however, continuing issues which future governments will need to continue to address, such as rail wheel squeal and noise attenuation which accompany the routes along which freight travels in New South Wales.

Beecroft is also a particularly privileged suburb because of its heritage nature. I use this opportunity to plead with this Government and future governments to maintain the heritage and garden-like nature of both Beecroft and Cheltenham. They are part of the history of this city and we ought to be ensuring that the heritage and garden nature of those suburbs is maintained. In that regard, the maintenance of bushland on the borders of the suburbs of Beecroft and Cheltenham is a high priority. I use this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Mayor of Hornsby, Philip Ruddock, who takes a particular interest in maintaining the tree canopy and ensuring developments do not impact on it in those suburbs. *[Extension of time]*

I left till last the impact of this budget on Epping. Recently the Government has announced the expansion of the Epping bridge. I am grateful that the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight is in the Chamber because through her the Government has had the opportunity to announce a \$50 million package for the widening of the Epping bridge. That project has been a long time in the making and is an essential component in the delivery of infrastructure for Epping. I will paint a picture. The town centre of Epping is located at the intersection of four major arterial roads: Epping Road, Beecroft Road, Carlingford Road and Blaxland Road. All of those roads converge upon the township of Epping and create a significant bottleneck at the Epping bridge.

In 2013 the Government announced the development of the activation precinct or the planned precinct for Epping. It was a planned development opportunity at Epping which was to become a transport hub with the delivery of the metro. There are a significant number of train lines which converge on Epping. In delivering the planned precinct the planners said there were a number of essential pieces of infrastructure which needed to be delivered to cope with the delivery of that new infrastructure. The identifiable pieces of infrastructure which specifically related to traffic included the widening of Epping Road, which we have done; the alteration of the intersection at Carlingford Road and Beecroft Road, which is nearing completion; and the delivery of the widening of the Epping bridge.

That last piece of infrastructure, which was necessary for traffic management in Epping, was so essential to the delivery of the planned precinct that it was envisaged it would take place at the same pace as the delivery of the urban development. The problem with the delivery of the urban development is that it has outstripped the forecasts made in relation to the delivery of those residences. It was projected that by 2025 an additional 5,500 residences would be delivered to the Epping town centre. In fact, that number of residences has already been exceeded. That is why the news about the widening of the Epping Bridge became so important to the delivery of the planned precinct for Epping. I am looking forward to its delivery with some excitement. I thank the Minister for her attention to that matter, for her delivery of it, and for coming out and joining with the residents of Epping for that announcement.

I ought to say a couple of things about the delivery of planned precincts. Demographers everywhere will say that we need planned precincts wherever there are transport hubs. That makes intuitive sense. The delivery of planned precincts should more often take place in consultation with local residents. I will give a specific example. There is a heritage cottage in Epping which the local residents wanted retained. A variety of reports were provided by the proponents of a development of a 15-storey tower on one side and a 17-storey tower on the other, which would require the demolition of the cottage. The proponent called upon heritage experts to give advice on whether it should be retained. The advice was that the cottage had no significant heritage value which would require its retention. However, heritage experts never take cognisance of community sentiment.

In delivering planned precincts where lots of high-rise buildings are being built—many people who drive through Epping are astonished by the rate of development there—it behoves governments to look at the things

that are really important for the communities around the planned precincts. Where are we putting the open spaces? Where are we delivering the community facilities? How are we protecting the heritage of the suburb? Epping is a historic suburb. Without doubt, many people who live in Epping have been disconcerted by the manner in which planning panels have made decisions. On its face, the decision of the planning panel—that the heritage value of this cottage has been diminished—may well be right. However, the community sentiment was that it is part of the historic streetscape of Epping and should be retained within the planned precinct.

In those kinds of circumstances, some consideration needs to be given to the manner in which governments treat the delivery of precincts and act in accordance with community sentiment. The pace of development in Epping has exceeded everyone's expectations. With this in mind, I encouraged the administrator of Parramatta Council to conduct the Epping Planning Review. The Epping Planning Review has reviewed traffic movements, the availability of commercial opportunities and heritage in Epping.

Epping is now a strategic centre in the Sydney Central Plan. Being a strategic centre requires local authorities to identify employment opportunities. One of the great goals of the Greater Sydney Commission is to create circumstances where planning identifies the so-called 30-minute journey. We have to work to a circumstance where people are able to get to work and home to their families each day within 30 minutes. That requires planning strategies which identify employment opportunities in Epping. We should require councils to look at local environmental plans and development control plans which deliver employment opportunities.

I use this opportunity to implore Parramatta Council to get on with the job of reviewing its local environmental plan and delivering employment opportunities for Epping. That also includes identifying where the open spaces will be in Epping. We should not be removing open space which is currently used for bowling clubs or for parkland and turning that land to developers for development use. Community land should remain for community use. I plead with the planners to identify open space opportunities in Epping when they do their planning review to ensure that Epping remains the sort of suburb where people want to live—first, because it is a great place to use public transport and, secondly, because it has a great ambiance. Epping should be a place where people can have places to meet their families and lead a lifestyle in a place which offers employment opportunities, retail opportunities, commercial opportunities and the like.

I am proud to be part of a government that has introduced budgets that have delivered for the people of my electorate. There is more work to be done. That is part of the challenge of the future. We have wonderful schools in Epping; we may need more. I finish by congratulating the Minister for Education for the delivery of more classrooms to Epping Public School and more classrooms in Carlingford and for considering other educational opportunities. I thank the Government for the budget it has delivered.

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (11:46):** I take this opportunity today to update the New South Wales Parliament and my colleagues on what the State Government is doing to support farmers and communities across regional New South Wales at this very difficult time. Some say that this is the worst drought since 1965. As this drought goes on, those who have been on the land for generations say that it is even more severe than that drought. Farmers are checking the history books about the severity.

We need to acknowledge the difficulties of farming communities that are experiencing these severe drought conditions across the State. Every part of New South Wales—even the cities—has been drought declared. So it is incumbent on everyone to show support. I know that many organisations in the city and in communities across regional New South Wales have put their shoulders to the wheel. Members of those organisations have put up their hands and asked, "How can we help?" I am talking about organisations like the local Country Women's Association, Lions, Rotary and Apex clubs, and other community organisations as well as Rural Aid and the R U Aware, We Care campaign. Another organisation has started in Gunnedah in regional New South Wales through the Chamber of Commerce to look at what it can do to support farmers who are experiencing severe drought conditions.

This drought will continue; there is no sign of it abating yet. So we need to ensure that we stay at the table and remain open to helping farmers. I congratulate those communities that are banding together. I have seen examples of fundraisers in small town halls and other places where communities meet. Farmers gather in town halls where they get the chance to share, network and talk about what is happening with their farming enterprises. These gatherings help to alleviate the farmers' sense of isolation and help them to understand that they are not alone. Recently 22 government agencies made presentations to the farming community in the Attunga town hall as part of a soft-entry approach aimed at giving farmers the opportunity to decide which agencies could assist the various areas of their business that need support. Farmers were given the opportunity to approach their chosen agencies, say g'day and get the relevant information. Similar events were held in Gunnedah and in the Tamworth electorate where they also played an integral role. There have also been fundraisers in the Gunnedah community expressing extraordinary amounts of goodwill.

I recognise the extensive Emergency Drought Relief Package of more than \$1 billion offered by the State Government. Earlier this year the funding stood at \$500 million, with a further \$584 million announced in June. The further funding is targeted at helping farmers to survive one of the driest winters on record, resulting in failing crops, drastic water shortages and diminishing supplies of fodder to sustain livestock. However, I note the resilience of our farmers despite all this hardship on the land. They are looking for opportunities to continue to stay on their properties and survive this drought. When they get up each day, they look at how to make sure that they will be on their land in the future. Part of the additional funding is the \$194 million for freight subsidies to help stock farmers seeking fodder for their livestock. During periods of drought, freight tends to be a significant component of the expense of running a farming enterprise. With the help of this additional funding, up to 50 per cent of the full cost of transporting fodder and water for stock and livestock, up to \$30,000, is available and will be backdated to 1 January.

We said we would constantly reassess drought conditions, and that is exactly what we are doing. This constant reassessment is a reflection of how serious this drought is. My New South Wales parliamentary colleagues are well aware of the significant hardship faced by many residents of rural and regional New South Wales. Just yesterday a drought fundraising event was held in the Speaker's Garden. I thank all those who contributed to this event, particularly the Speaker, who hosted it. The event included a barbecue and the highlight was the fundraising auction, with the member for Lismore, Thomas George, playing the role of auctioneer. Nearly everyone in the New South Wales Parliament attended the event to do whatever they could to support our drought-affected farmers.

We often hear from residents of regional and rural New South Wales that they are not heard and that they do not hear too much out of the city. This was not the case yesterday, with one of the attendants from this Chamber, Danny Heldal, spending \$2,500 on auction items as his contribution to the drought appeal and making sure that our country cousins know that their voices are heard. I also thank the New South Wales Parliament catering team for its donations to the barbecue. We are raising awareness of the drought appeal. Today the Parliament is talking about the issues faced by residents of rural and regional New South Wales and what residents of the city and others are doing to support their country cousins.

The Government is providing emergency funding for farmers by waiving Local Land Services annual rates, fixed charges on water licences, registration costs for class one agricultural vehicles and interest on existing Farm Innovation Fund loans. The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, who is currently in the Chamber, has also announced the relaxation of some rules and regulations concerning the carting of hay to make it easier for hay carters to get vital fodder to the farmers who need it most. This includes relaxing the width and height restrictions that carters were bound by. We have also allowed B-triples and road trains access to areas in New England and the north-west to allow more fodder and freight into those areas. I thank the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and the Minister for Primary Industries for working hand-in-hand with the Deputy Premier and the Premier to make sure that we look at every available opportunity to help drought-affected farmers.

We are also looking at the mental health, wellbeing and resilience of our farmers. I am pleased to announce that we will partner with Centacare at AgQuip, which is holding the largest agricultural field day in the Southern Hemisphere in Gunnedah next week. This three-day event will give farmers the opportunity to talk to someone about what they are feeling. It is very difficult to do the same thing every day when facing these tough conditions. Many farmers would benefit from having the opportunity to talk to someone about what they are going through, and I will have more to say about partnering with Centacare to look at counselling and mental health services for our farming communities. This will form part of the support package from the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, where farmers can access statewide coordinators to link rural people to the help that they need. Additional counselling support is available through the National Association for Loss and Grief, a Dubbo-based non-government organisation.

We acknowledge that we need to get better at weather forecasting as part of supporting our farmers to be better prepared for drought. We know this drought will break in time—God willing it will break—and we need to know what to do to prepare for the next drought. Weather forecasting is always improving, and for some time there has been concern about accurate radar information for the residents of western New South Wales. As part of the Government's package, \$25 million has been allocated to construct and operate three new Doppler radar weather stations in the central west and far west to give farmers more accurate weather forecasting. These new radars will deliver fast, accurate and live weather updates to help our farmers to make timely business decisions about when to sow or harvest crops and when to move stock. This will boost productivity and save money. We are heartened to know that these weather stations, which have been on the books for some time, will soon be delivered. They will provide better weather coverage for an additional 30 per cent of the State at least.

The drought package also includes new management of kangaroo numbers. Kangaroos are becoming an increasing problem as the drought bites. Farmers with a water allocation who are able to irrigate are finding

increasing numbers of kangaroos ripping up their land. Mobs of kangaroos are also encroaching on our towns, villages and even cities in regional New South Wales. Feral goats are emerging from the mountains and causing havoc by destroying what farmers have planted and are a hazard on rural roads. More and more animals are being hit by vehicles, which is posing a problem for motorists.

Another part of the package is up to \$5 million for helping local councils to repair dirt roads damaged by the temporary access program for heavy vehicles carrying feed, water and livestock. We will continue to communicate with affected communities about what services are on offer. We encourage our farmers not to self-assess. On a daily basis I have been fielding calls from farmers saying, "I don't think I am eligible for that service or subsidy", "What's the deal with this?", "How do I access that?" or "I don't think I am able to get that sort of assistance." We say to farmers, "Please don't self-assess."

We want farmers to go to the DroughtHub website, which has a full list of the available assistance and support measures. To visit the website, farmers can google "DroughtHub" and a raft of assistance and support measures will come up. The website has information about the New South Wales drought package, support for primary producers, Freight Watch, emergency drought relief packages, animal welfare during the drought, management, wellbeing, skills and training, the latest New South Wales drought maps and frequently asked questions, and there are plenty of those.

We do not want farmers to self-assess; we want them to have the facts and to say, "Yes, I can get this support; I am eligible for this assistance." That support can come from Local Land Services, class 1 agricultural vehicle registration, fixed charges for water licences, the Farm Innovation Fund and drought subsidies dating back to 1 January. We need to ensure that our regional communities feel supported. I encourage people to go to DroughtHub and to have a look at what is available and what support measures are there. We need to reach out and keep communicating. People can contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 and staff will be able to guide and support farmers and offer the information that is desperately needed. Local Land Services offices across New South Wales are able to provide information about support, as well as what is available on DroughtHub.

We look forward to AgQuip in Gunnedah next week. AgQuip is the largest agricultural field day in the Southern Hemisphere. Tickets to the event are already sold out. We encourage farmers to come along and link up with their mates, network and share ideas. Who knows, they may come up with some fresh ideas after hearing what their neighbours are doing and how they are managing. It is a great opportunity to network and to say "G'day, how are you going? Are you okay?" We often do not ask those questions unless we are having a cup of tea or coffee with our mates.

The Red Cross and the Country Women's Association will be there. Many organisations will be there as well as the Rural Assistance Authority and Local Land Services. We will stay at the table; we are not done yet. We need to continue to think about what to do next as we work towards the end of this year and next year. It is getting harder to find and source feed. We need to think about where we are going to get feed from. Do we bring it in from Western Australia or from Tasmania? That is already happening; truckloads of feed are coming across the Tasman and from Western Australia.

**Mrs Melinda Pavey:** And from Kempsey.

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON:** And from Kempsey. The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight is in the Chamber and she said that truckloads of feed have been donated and are coming from the coast, which is outstanding. We need to think about how to support our landholders in the future, which will mean thinking outside the square at every opportunity. It could be through payroll tax not only from a farming perspective but also from a business perspective. Only two days ago I spoke to a livestock and bulk carrying company owner who said that because the company is carting fewer cattle it has been forced to take its trucks off the road. Those truck drivers still have payments to make and families to feed. We can see the flow-on effect in regional towns and communities.

When donating to small communities and towns, cash is always a good option because families spend cash in the towns in which they live. They buy their coffee and groceries and support the shops that have supported them throughout the years. We want that to continue. When thinking outside the square, we have to consider restocking and replanting and what will happen over the next three or four months. We want our farming communities to know that the New South Wales Parliament stands beside them. We know how desperate the situation is. Some farmers have prepared well and are holding their own, but others have not been so fortunate. We stand with them and support them. The unity that is coming from the New South Wales Parliament is heartwarming. The divide between city and country is evaporating like the water from the dams and rivers in regional New South Wales. We stand as one to support our farmers and we will continue to do so.

The voices of regional members of Parliament and those across regional New South Wales are being heard by the top tiers of government—by the Premier, the Deputy Premier; the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry; and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. They play a key role in ensuring that we are able to fund the necessary programs, supports and assistance packages, which will be needed in the coming weeks. We stand with the farming community and we thank them for their great work. I remind farmers that the Rural Assistance Authority stands ready and can be contacted on 1800 678 593. I plead with farmers not to self-assess or to ask whether they are eligible to receive support. We stand with our farmers. I thank the New South Wales Parliament for doing the same.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:06):** I was incredibly pleased with the budget that was recently released for New South Wales which delivers a record \$87 billion investment in infrastructure as well as a \$3.9 billion surplus. This budget, which is about delivering for tomorrow while delivering for today, is the result of many years of hard work by the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government and the governments that preceded it to turn New South Wales finances around. The investments that we are making in big and small infrastructure can only be achieved through strong economic management and by putting people first.

Locally, in the North Shore electorate, this budget delivers on the commitments for which I fight as the local member such as roads, rail, schools and our local environment—the infrastructure and community amenities that make a real difference to people's lives. Some of the highlights of the 2018-19 budget include the \$556 million investment to get the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project shuttle ready; the \$4.3 billion to continue delivering Australia's largest public transport project, the Sydney metro; funding to plan the delivery of an upgrade of Neutral Bay Public School; a new high school and primary school in St Leonards; and \$10.10 million for the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk and Sydney Harbour National Park. This budget also delivers for small businesses through payroll tax threshold reform and for the skills we need for the future through free apprenticeships for 100,000 apprentices.

I am proud that this budget provides for the North Shore community and for a stronger, fairer and more prosperous New South Wales. One of the biggest challenges we faced in the lower North Shore area is that historically it was believed people did not raise children in apartments. That idea is constantly changing for many reasons, including the vibrancy of our local communities, housing affordability, and some of the challenges faced by people my own age who are starting to raise families in accessing larger properties further from Sydney. I also like to think it is the best place to live. We have wonderful local schools. The demand on local schools has put a bit of pressure on them to ensure that they have the capacity to give children in our community the best start in life. That is why one of the first things I started fighting for before I was elected was an investment to upgrade local schools. The first cab off the rank—and there will be more; the education Minister is aware of my wish list—is Neutral Bay Public School.

Neutral Bay Public School provides a wonderful learning environment. It has excellent teachers and kids but, with more and more families calling the lower North Shore home, it is bursting at the seams. This year in the lead-up to the State budget we announced planning money to go towards an upgrade of Neutral Bay Public School, which is new funding in addition to the Berejiklian Government's record spending on schools across New South Wales. That progress is thanks to a long and collaborative effort by the school community even before I came on board. The funding will address population pressures in our area through delivering one of the most important pieces of infrastructure—the learning environment for our kids.

As a newly elected member of Parliament I spent quite a bit of time meeting with school communities across my electorate. It became clear to me that they needed investment. I began lobbying the Minister for Education and the Treasurer to support local schools through the provision of more classroom and playground space. Last year when the Minister joined me alongside parents and staff at Neutral Bay Public School he realised the necessity for the upgrade. Our community identified the need more than a decade ago. Since being elected I have joined in the fight, and I am thrilled that it has got across the line. It took all of us working together to achieve that result. The former member for North Shore, Minister Jillian Skinner, was a key advocate for the investment and remains a member of the school council at Neutral Bay Public School. I was happy to welcome her and other school council members to join us for the announcement. I put on record my acknowledgement of the former member's advocacy and efforts over many years.

I also acknowledge the rest of the school community. A number of skilled professionals have done a lot of work looking at different master plans and architectural options. The site is very constrained, as one would expect in a densely populated area. There are challenges as to where to build new buildings and how to increase student capacity. Former principals and, most recently, acting principal Nadia Tobia have worked hard over many years to adjust to the school's capacity issues. A number of classrooms as well as the library were split in half to create new classrooms. The school community has done everything it can within its capacity to make sure that kids can attend and get a great education. I think the school is a victim of its own success; everyone wants to send



their children to the wonderful Neutral Bay Public School. I live just down the road and should declare my potential future conflict of interest in the catchment area.

I thank school council president Kim Thompson, who worked for many years on what he viewed as overcrowding when there were about 1,000 students on the school grounds. The council worked with the school and implemented a number of imaginative solutions, including three lunchtime breaks, but the school has some significant physical limits. The school council has been working with the department for three years, including with Sharon Sands, whom I thank. We are glad to have reached this outcome and that the work is already underway. In the coming months we will hold a type of school community forum with the Minister to hear more from parents to understand exactly what they want for their children. We will also listen to the teachers and auxiliary staff because they have important expertise to share with us about the future of Neutral Bay Public School. I thank the school community, the Minister for Education and the Treasurer.

The biggest project coming to my electorate of North Shore is the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link. Throughout the by-election campaign and in this place I have spoken ceaselessly about the project because it is so necessary for our community and has been such a long time coming. We have waited about 40 years or more for the project to be delivered. Military and Spit roads are some of the slowest roads in the country due to congestion. Arterial roads including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Harbour Tunnel that access or bypass the city are heavily constrained and so are the local roads that people use for rat-running. Because our suburbs were developed so long ago the roads do not have the width or capacity to deal with the level of traffic, which creates hazards and is noisy. Many trucks and buses go past our homes, schools and retirement villages.

By investing in the tunnel and beaches link we will not only improve some of the most congested roads in Australia along the A8 and Military and Spit roads corridor but also return our local roads to our local community. I was thrilled when the roads Minister, who is in the Chamber, and the Premier announced as part of the budget that we would be investing more than \$500 million over four years for planning and pre-construction of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link. The funding that was secured in this year's budget will ensure that the project is shovel ready. Continuing work on the vital road tunnel will bust congestion and return local roads to local residents.

Shortly after that announcement we announced the achievement of another milestone in the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project—the release of the detailed design for further community consultation. I have spent a lot of time speaking with schools, businesses, residents and community organisations about the tunnel project. People are overwhelmingly in favour of it but all infrastructure projects will have impacts on the community—particularly a project of this magnitude. Over the past 12 months the Premier, the roads Minister, Roads and Maritime Services and my colleagues and I have worked closely with our communities to minimise those impacts. We have taken their feedback on board and made changes to the detailed design of the project to make sure that we get it right. Many changes have been made based on community feedback so far. I am grateful to everyone who contributed to the consultation process. We have another couple of months left for consultation on the design so that we can make sure we get this once-in-a-generation project right.

As the Premier said, since we announced the preferred route last year and released the detailed design she and the Government have listened closely to the community and made major improvements to things such as the ventilation outlets, which have been moved away from schools and will be built in the corridor of the existing Warringah Freeway. We have reduced the number of properties to be acquired from the more than 70 originally earmarked down to 37 and also sought to minimise construction impacts. Some of the construction impacts that were originally discussed in the media concerned the beautiful St Leonards Park, which was created many years ago because of encroaching development in Sydney. The history of the park is about retaining public open space and creating parkland.

Naturally, people became concerned when they heard rumours that the park could be used for construction. I am grateful that we have been able to knock those concerns on the head. We will be using a sliver of Roads and Maritime Services land along the Warringah Freeway corridor abutting St Leonards Park. There will be no permanent impact on the park and I am grateful to the project team for finding that alternative proposal. Another potential construction impact in my community is at Berrys Bay and the coal loader area of Waverton. Sadly, the Labor Government granted a lease licence to a marina developer at Berrys Bay which put a number of development proposals through the planning system. Thankfully, the planning system, in its wisdom—and with some strong, concerted and evidence-based opposition from the community—rejected those applications for what would have effectively been gross marina overdevelopments in a beautiful bay.

This beautiful bay abuts Balls Head, a reserve that has preserved significant elements of Indigenous culture and history. It is also at the end of a peninsula that has limited road access and narrow, windy streets and is more a residential area than a potential commercial marina hub. This area was neglected by the Labor Government for a long time when giving away this lease licence. During my election campaign I took the Premier

to Berrys Bay as part of my advocacy for this Government to terminate that lease licence and commit to returning the Berrys Bay facilities to our community. That could be achieved by providing public open space, boating facilities or minor retail or cafe opportunities.

The announcement of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project gave the Government the opportunity to terminate the lease licence and temporarily use some of the site for construction and then commit to returning it to the people of Waverton and the local community. I am excited by that announcement and also the guarantee by this Government that the land will stay in public use and will not be handed over the way it was by the Labor Government for what would have been a massive overdevelopment that would not complement our local community.

I particularly thank the Waverton Precinct and its chair Iain Bartholomew and Ian Gray who have worked with me closely on this issue, as well as the Federal member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman, who has long been an advocate for this change. During the construction in Berrys Bay a new wharf and platform will be erected which will have a conveyor belt to utilise barging for the removal of any spoil at that location. That will minimise truck movements and any impact on the local community and reduce noise. Personnel who need to utilise the site will also be barged in. I thank the Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] for crafting a construction site which in the long term will permanently benefit the local community and in the short term will minimise the construction impacts. Everyone knew that the major upgrade of the Warringah Interchange and freeway would be complex and disruptive; however, I thank the RMS, the Premier and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight for all the work they have done to get it right.

I encourage anyone in the community to have their say. There is still scepticism from parts of my community that this project will ever be delivered. That is probably fair enough because some people have been waiting for it longer than I have been alive. This Government is the only government that will deliver the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project. That is not an empty promise. The Leader of the Opposition stated in his budget reply speech in 2017, and again in 2018, that he would scrap this project. We have it on the record that Labor has turned its back on our communities. It is happy to take our tax dollars and contribution to the budget but it will not return that money into necessary infrastructure projects for the people of the North Shore. Early works will commence later this year as the environmental impact statement [EIS] is finalised following feedback. Subject to the planning approvals and following procurement financing, major construction is due to begin in 2020 with the tunnel expected to open to traffic in 2026. I hope that is within everybody's lifetime, because it is not that far away. [*Extension of time*]

We receive a bit of feedback about air quality. In my electorate of North Shore we have a number of large, densely utilised roads. We also have the Sydney Harbour Tunnel and, for those members who are not aware, it has its own ventilation stack—if it can be called that—coming out of the north-eastern pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We all live every day with pollution from vehicles. However, earlier this year I was pleased when the Premier announced that she would introduce strong new protections on emissions from motorway tunnels through the Environment Protection Authority. It will be given new powers to test air quality around ventilation facilities to ensure that they meet standards and that the Chief Medical Officer will have to be consulted through a public review process before any future tunnels can be approved. They will be the first tunnels under these stringent new requirements. I have a great deal of confidence that we are delivering the best air quality possible, considering that with the Warringah Freeway upgrade we will live next to a 10-lane freeway. The new roads and tunnels under construction will deliver the best air quality possible for the community.

I turn to our \$10 million investment in Middle Head and Georges Head, which is part of a \$50 million statewide funding allocation for national parks. The Sydney Harbour National Park loops around Sydney Harbour, part of which is in my community of North Shore, around Middle Head and Georges Head. It connects with some of the Federal lands of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. It is a stunning area of Sydney and has significant military fortifications and history, some dating back to the Crimean War—that is how rich the military history is. It also has a rich Indigenous history and in Mosman there are more than 100 identified sites of Indigenous heritage. I was pleased when the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage announced an unprecedented level of investment of \$10 million for the Sydney Harbour National Park, following my advocacy. She worked hard with the Treasurer to deliver this investment. It will preserve and conserve our unique and precious environment and increase opportunities for people to access and appreciate these areas.

This funding will deliver key safety and accessibility upgrades to visitor facilities, create new accommodation, venues and walking trails and enhance the visitor experience. For those members who have not visited the Sydney Harbour National Park, they are all welcome. We will make it easier for them to come and enjoy it. I hope to see members there sometime. It is a special part of Sydney and my community. This investment will support its preservation and encourage more people to visit. A key priority project within this funding is the upgrade of the Georges Head to Middle Head section of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk. The project will see

path and boardwalk upgrade works undertaken through Georges Head and integrate with some of the existing bush tracks, grassed routes and the upgrading of the walk through Middle Head.

Other elements that are now funded include: works on the fortifications and tunnels; implementing the interpretation plan in the Georges Head precinct, including signage, seating and infrastructure works within structures; designing and implementing entry markers to Middle Head Road in collaboration with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust; implementing Chowder Bay Road safety measures and new parking—if members have driven along Chowder Bay Road, perhaps to attend an event at the Sergeants Mess, they would know that that road needs attention—and establishing some short-stay accommodation in the Officers Quarters duplex, which is another increased accessibility measure. I acknowledge the work of the National Parks and Wildlife Service statewide, but in particular locally at Middle Head. The formation of the Middle and Georges Head Masterplan, which has been underway for a number of years, has set out the blueprint for the investment that we need to be made to maintain, preserve and improve our local national park. This has been an extensive journey and process with a range of community organisations and groups, including the Headland Preservation Group, the Mosman Bushland Group and a number of individuals.

Following the budget announcement I was very pleased to organise a community forum and conversations with all of these organisations. We met at the National Parks and Wildlife Service facility at Middle Head to work through the early ideas for the delivery of this proposal. The National Parks and Wildlife Service consulted with the community on the master plan and will spend some time plotting the different stages of the introduction of the various elements and how they will be delivered. It will work with local community representatives to ensure that what is delivered is in the best interests of our local community. I thank everyone for participating in that process, and I thank Minister for the Environment Gabrielle Upton. I also acknowledge one of the key local National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, Mel Tyas, who works tirelessly for the local community. She does a great deal of work with us and at North Head and Manly with the penguins. I thank her for her work and her contribution.

The budget also includes significant funding for road safety upgrades in my electorate. About \$1 million has been allocated for road safety improvements. I make particular mention of this because my electorate has a huge amount of traffic, which increases the potential for vehicle and pedestrian accidents to occur on arterial roads and local streets. Vehicles travel slowly because of the traffic density, but that does not mean significant impacts do not occur, particularly when pedestrians are involved. Given that, I very much welcome the almost \$1 million in funding that has been allocated for road safety improvements. I will mention three projects specifically. The budget allocates \$300,000 for safety improvements at the intersection of Falcon Street and West Street in Crows Nest, the point at which my electorate of North Shore connects with the electorate of Willoughby, so the Premier also benefits from this budget allocation.

Between July 2011 and June 2016, 13 people were taken to hospital after being involved in an accident at this intersection. It is crucial that we invest in road safety improvements at an intersection like this because it is the site of a number of schools, including North Sydney Boys High School and Marist College North Shore. In addition \$250,000 has been allocated to fund improvements to the Pacific Highway, Falcon Street and Shirley Road intersection at Crows Nest. Three sides of that intersection are in the electorate of North Shore and the other side is in the electorate of Willoughby. This is also the site of a number of schools, childcare centres and the Mater Hospital. North Sydney Girls High School is nearby, as is the junior campus of Cammeraygal High School. It is also at the heart of Crows Nest, which is a vibrant pedestrian hub. Between July 2011 and June 2016, 14 people involved in accidents at the intersection were taken to hospital.

A further \$350,000 will be spent to improve safety at the intersection of Military Road, Winnie Street and Murdoch Street at Cremorne. The intersection is close to McDonald's, so members can imagine the amount of traffic in the local area. It is also close to SCECGS Redlands, which has junior and senior campuses that straddle Military Road. Although there is an overpass, people must cross from both sides of the road to catch buses, and many pedestrians use the area. Between July 2011 and June 2016, 10 people were taken to hospital as a result of accidents at the intersection. All of these projects are scheduled to start and to be completed during the 2018-19 financial year.

These improvements are in addition to improvements being carried out at the intersection of Miller Street and Carlow Street in North Sydney. The work includes upgrading traffic lights, modifying arrow lanterns, installing underground cables and changing traffic light operations to improve safety for road users and pedestrians at the intersection of Miller Street, Carlow Street and Fig Tree Lane. It is vitally important to me that we take steps to improve these intersections to reduce the tragic toll and human impact of accidents. That is why I am so pleased to announce the allocation of funding for these critical road safety projects. I acknowledge the work of one of my constituents, Harold Scuby, who is involved in the Pedestrian Council of Australia. He is always drawing our attention to road safety issues and the need to protect pedestrian safety.

I will update the House on work being undertaken to deliver the Sydney Metro. I was excited to don a hard hat and inspect the project work at Victoria Cross station in North Sydney, which is progressing nicely to plan. The \$4.3 million allocated to the project in this year's budget ensures the continuation of that work, including the delivery of two local stations: Victoria Cross station in my electorate and Crows Nest station just across the road from North Shore, in the Premier's electorate. Significant work has been done at both sites.

This Government believes in investing in public transport, and there is no clearer evidence of that than its commitment to the Sydney Metro, which is the largest public transport project in Australia. It will transform public transport across Sydney by almost doubling the capacity of the existing heavy rail network. I encourage locals, businesses, residents and community organisations to ensure that they have their say to the Sydney Metro project team about the station development proposals, which are publicly available. I know the project team has worked tirelessly with residents and schools. Monte Sant'Angelo and Mercy colleges have achieved significant changes as a result of their feedback, as have residents of Blues Point. We want to ensure we get the project right.

I am proud of this year's budget. Who would not be proud of a budget that does so much to achieve a significant surplus and investment capacity to deliver the things that truly make a difference to people's lives? It is a budget that invests in people and the projects that make a difference for each of us. The Minister for Education is in the Chamber, and I acknowledge that the budget includes an unprecedented investment of more than \$6 billion in schools. This State and this country have never before seen total infrastructure investment of \$87 billion; it is unprecedented. This Government has much it can be proud of. The State also has no net debt and the triple-A credit rating has been protected. Labor represents the bad old days of the budget black hole. I am proud to be a member of this Liberal-Nationals Government and I am proud of this budget.

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (12:36):** I acknowledge the fantastic news that the budget has delivered again for Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, the entire Cabinet and all members on this side of the House for delivering the right conditions and economic settings to ensure that we get our fair share not only this financial year but also for decades to come. This is my last speech on the budget estimates and related papers, given that I have announced that I will not be contesting the 2019 election. I therefore take this opportunity to reflect on not only this budget but also the previous seven budgets. The people of Wollondilly, the Southern Highlands and the Macarthur and Hume regions have certainly been allocated an enormous amount of funding over that time. In fact, my staff and I were looking at the budget allocations over the years and it is clear that the region has received billions of dollars. It has never seen so much investment.

I will spend the next 30 minutes detailing some of the fantastic investments that have been made in my electorate. I am extremely proud of this Government's continuous investment in the health sector. When I was elected the member for Wollondilly in 2011, the area was serviced, and still is, by Campbelltown Hospital, and Bowral and District Hospital. For 16 years Campbelltown Hospital was starved of funding by members opposite. The problem is that the population of the Macarthur-Wollondilly region has grown significantly over those two decades. Given that, it was not surprising that one of the first things I promised was an upgrade of Campbelltown Hospital. During the 2011 election campaign I announced that a Liberal-Nationals Government would spend \$10 million upgrading the hospital. The Government did not deliver that \$40 million; it delivered \$134 million, and we are now seeing the benefits of that investment. An additional \$632 million has been allocated for works on Campbelltown Hospital, which services the Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly communities and beyond.

This is a fantastic investment in the health needs of future generations. It came at the right time, with the number of clinical, chemistry and haematology tests being performed doubling in the past four years. There is now an acute services building, with an outpatients and ambulatory care floor, as well as a 30-bed inpatient unit. In that investment we were able to secure 90 new inpatient beds, with capacity for a further 30 beds; a configured and expanded emergency department, including 11 new emergency places; a refurbished and reconfigured maternity department, including four birthing rooms, antenatal and allied health services; relocated and expanded pathology and clinical information departments; an expanded loading dock; and a large paediatric outpatients area. The list of what the Government has been able to deliver just goes on and on. The new \$632 million investment will deliver so much more, including paediatric services that were desperately needed in the region.

In 2015, following the redistribution, Bowral and District Hospital came within the boundaries of my electorate. For at least three decades no major investment had made in that old hospital, which services a growing and ageing population. After I spoke to the Premier and the Minister for Health we were able to secure a \$50 million investment, and I am pleased to announce that the work is now commencing. We have gone through the clinical services plan and worked with the community, but it was not enough. Therefore, in the past 12 months I sought additional money for the hospital and I am pleased that this budget provides an additional \$15 million

for a new emergency department, upgrades to surgical services and a new building. This will bring all 24-hour services in the emergency department into a single building. This is a fantastic investment.

I note that the Minister for Education is at the table. He knows only too well that the electorate of Wollondilly comprises only 3½ square kilometres so we do not have a central population like some of the inner electorates; we are spread out into many communities, towns and villages. The electorate is experiencing population growth, but Wollondilly shire has only one public high school, Picton High School, which is a very old school. The kids coming through were being racked, stacked and packed into that school, until the Minister for Education came out for a visit—

**Mr Rob Stokes:** I was strongly lobbied.

**Mr JAI ROWELL:** Yes, he certainly was lobbied by me, I acknowledge that. I am pleased to say that an additional investment of approximately \$100 million will provide a brand-new high school in Picton that, in its first stage, will have up to 1,500 students, with the potential for more students in the future. After speaking to people on the day, everyone is so happy because every government prior to this one had talked about it but none had actually delivered anything. Additionally, provision has been made for a new high school to be built at Wilton as the population increases. Health and education services rate highly in my electorate, including record funding to each and every primary school. That can only be achieved because of the fantastic education Minister, teachers and education community with whom I have worked closely over the years who inform us about their needs. Kids across Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands are excelling, and that is fantastic.

The electorate of Wollondilly suffers fires, flood and currently drought. The Government was able to build a new Fire and Rescue station at Picton as the old one was so tiny; it was not a fit-for-purpose building. As a result, emergency response times have improved and the Picton crew is doing a fantastic job. We are conscious of the fires burning at the moment. The Government has delivered record funding to the Wollondilly and Southern Highlands rural fire services [RFS]. It was great to see the recent launch of the Bargo RFS shed; something that has been ongoing for a long time. Whether it is funding to Pheasants Nest or across my electorate, record funding is being allocated to those communities.

The Community Building Partnership Program has been a huge success in the time that I have been the member for Wollondilly. I highlight briefly the achievements of the recent round of funding. So many wonderful community organisations fight day in, day out to help one another. We are a very resilient community that is neither country nor city; we are a mixture of both. The Buxton Community Association was given funding to restump the old Buxton community hall that was close to falling down. We have changed that and the community has done a great job. Community Links Wollondilly, which helps some of the most vulnerable, was given more than \$10,000 to enable volunteers to establish a community garden to help the fellowship of people and their mental health and to bring the community together.

Funding was allocated to the Bowral & District Art Society for solar installation. That society does a great job in promoting the arts. The community had a vision to build a botanic garden and that is coming to fruition through the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. There is more work to be done, but they have been given funding for this great asset. Your Angel Charity has been given funding for a Cookability kitchen upgrade to help with its work with kids. The Colo Vale Community Association and Hilltop Community Association—they are next-door to each other and do wonderful work in the northern villages—have been given funding to continue their outreach work. Wollondilly Support and Community Care was allocated \$50,000 to refurbish its kitchen. This organisation provides hundreds and hundreds of meals every week to elderly people who do not have carers. When I spoke to the volunteers, staff and people who use the service, they were overwhelmed that the Government was able to contribute that amount of money.

A number of scout halls were given funding for upgrades and equipment. The Picton Tennis Club, which was devastated during the last fires and storms, was given funding to replace some of its equipment and synthetic grass. The clubhouse of the Bowral United Soccer Club burned down, so the Government allocated \$45,000 towards rebuilding the club. Tangara School, which teaches kids with special needs—a subject of interest to the Minister—was allocated \$19,000 to build a disabilities playground with centre inclusions that enables children to play and grow. I visited the school for the end-of-year assembly. The school was very surprised to be presented with a cheque for that playground to be built for the kids.

The Riding for the Disabled Association, which does fantastic work looking after vulnerable children, was given funding for a new shed and machinery. The Southern Highlands Christian School and many other schools received funding, including Bowral High School, which received \$40,000, and Mittagong Public School. These schools just need a little extra help for projects that their parents and citizens associations know they need. It is great that the Government has been able to partner with them. The Government has given money to Bowral

Little Athletics and some church groups. The list goes on and on. It demonstrates that when the Government has the right economic settings in place and money in the bank, it can do worthwhile projects.

Something about which I am passionate and something I have worked for during my time as a member—it was and is a council responsibility—was the need for a new Picton bypass. The current Picton bypass is a very old one-lane, one-way bridge. Each and every year the New South Wales Government contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep the bridge open—in fact, the Labor Government planned to close it down and spoke to the community about it. The former good member, Phil Costa, ran a campaign to keep it open. But, like him, I know how much that cost, and how unresponsive and unproductive that asset is. It had no funding from the council. During the last lot of fires and particularly the floods, people could not get out of the town, especially when the town was flooded from all sides.

In this budget I secured \$3 million for the bypass. The work on planning a new multi-lane bridge started a couple of weeks ago. Unlike the current one, the new bridge will not be height restricted, which means that heavy trucks—coal or general heavy trucks—can use it. Currently, trucks go through the main street of Picton, which is dangerous for our children and our elderly. They also clog up the main street during peak-hour traffic. It should not be that way. When the new bridge is built in the near future, it will be a huge relief for the people of not only Picton but also Tahmoor, Thirlmere and Wilton, and for all those who travel that way to get onto the Hume Highway. They will have a direct link from somewhere between Wilton and Maldon, over the gorge and over to Picton and Tahmoor.

I thank former councillor Hilton Gibbs, who worked with me on the campaign, and the various community groups that led the campaign. This Government listens to the people. It will now be a State road—not a council road—because the Government will fund it. We needed to do it. Over the years we have been able to achieve so much, such as putting new treatments on Picton Road. The Government has spent more than \$40 million since I have been the local member. When I took over the electorate many fatalities and serious accidents occurred along the road from Picton to the Illawarra. I thank the current roads Minister and also Duncan Gay, the former roads Minister, for listening to my community and allocating the funds. There has been a significant reduction in car accidents. The interchange at Picton Road and the Hume Highway has been upgraded and more work is being done there. The number of fatalities and road incidences has reduced significantly. Close to \$1 million has been spent on Remembrance Drive.

Every school in my electorate now has school crossing lights. Years ago they did not exist. The construction of traffic lights on the old Hume Highway and Braemar Avenue has concluded, making roads in the Southern Highlands safer. Working with our councils, we have resurfaced many of the local roads and main roads. This includes \$20 million for Appin Road, which was desperately needed. When I called a road summit, mayors from Wollongong, Campbelltown and Wollondilly met with the then roads Minister. We were able to achieve that resurfacing. The Centre for Road Safety conducted an audit and we have implemented all of its recommendations. As the population increases we will need a dual main road. That will not happen while I am here, but we have started the campaign for it now. *[Extension of time]*

The Government has given money to the council to upgrade Silverdale Road and a number of others, such as Burragarang Road between Wineshop Road and Oakdale, and Dairy Road, The Oaks. So much has been done for roads. I will not go through each project. The Government has put a huge amount of money—\$6.76 million—into south-west community transport just in one budget, let alone the past eight. Recently, as part of this budget, the Government has upgraded rail infrastructure and many train stations, including installing lifts at Picton station and, in this budget, Mittagong station. I spoke to the commuters, including the elderly population, who had to go up a large number of steps. I cannot believe the upgrade was not done earlier—the neglect was mind-boggling. Now, elders and mums and dads with prams can get across to the other side. The Government has also upgraded Tahmoor train station and is looking at Bowral station. In that area the list goes on.

The Government announced that it will replace the fleet and have new trains in the near future. Currently a lot of the trains out our way do not even have air conditioning. The Government is rectifying that, and I thank the transport Minister for it. Our population is increasing, but our train services have not. That is not because of this Government or even the former State Labor Government; it is a result of the Federal Government's Australian Rail Track Corporation [ARTC] contract prioritising freight over passengers. I know that is important, but there must be some accommodation. I have called on the Federal Government to work with us to provide slots at least during peak hours to get a handful of direct services—even one would be welcome right now—to the city. The Government has put thousands of new services into the city. At the moment you can put all the services you like in Bowral and Picton, but they stop at Campbelltown. They cannot punch through because of the ARTC's freight priority restrictions. That must change. I am pleased to say that the Government is working through that, and I hope to have more to say on that in the future.

Over the years the Government has put a lot of money into our men's sheds at Tahmoor, Appin, Warragamba, The Oaks—and the list goes on. In the next couple of weeks I look forward to going to Appin, which will open its men's shed. Currently, it operates out of a tiny hut near a tennis court in Appin. Basically the men just hang out there because there is no room to do what men's sheds do. We spoke to them some time ago and were able to help. The Federal Government has also come on board to help that community, which has raised a lot of money. Next month we will open the men's shed. I am a former Minister for Mental Health and I know what men's sheds do. It is not just about getting on the tools and building things; it is about fellowship and looking out for your mates. On one of my visits to a men's shed—I will not name it—one gentleman said, "If it wasn't for this men's shed, I would have committed suicide. My wife had passed away and there was nothing left for me. But, with my men's shed, I was able to meet new people and they were able to look after me." Now he looks after other people. That is what men's sheds do. I am really excited about that.

My electorate did not have a Police Citizens Youth Club [PCYC], but the Southern Highlands and Wollondilly communities came together to establish one. People such as Councillor Larry Whipper helped lead that charge. With a ministerial grant, we could provide a significant funding boost to establish a PCYC. Three weeks ago I was out there to see whether, a year after it had been established, people were using it or not. The club has about 3,000 kids on its books who use it. It is looking for more money to expand, and the Government is working with the club on that. I hope to announce something good for the club very shortly.

Service NSW is a great service, and we were able to get one centre in the Southern Highlands. Whenever I get a spare minute I like to go there because the atmosphere is so friendly and the staff do a great job. We attended its opening, but they are really good people so I like to visit and say g'day whenever I can. They always make me feel welcome. The amount of money we are saving for taxpayers is astronomical, and I thank the staff go in each and every day and do that work.

We have helped with St Vincent de Paul. We have helped with community facilities. I have been able to give the councils money to upgrade a lot of our local parks—just about every park in Wollondilly, actually. Yanderra is a small town of approximately 200 people, which was overlooked for funding. It is the bigger towns that put the money in for their facilities, so that is where the money went. A few years ago I was able to visit Yanderra and hang out with the parents. I asked, "What do you guys need?", and it was pretty simple. They just needed their park to be cleaned and upgraded with a few fit-for-purpose pieces of equipment, and we were able to do that. At the time a few naysayers said, "You will never get that done. No-one ever spends money on the outskirts of an electorate. It always goes to the big, populated centres." We were able to do that. It was awesome to hang out with the families when we opened it.

We were able to put in eight new classrooms for Bowral Public School and 10 new classrooms for Wilton Public School. We were able to go out with the education Minister at the time and open the new learning centre at Wilton Public School, which has a growing community. Mater Dei, which is in the electorate of the member for Camden, looks after special needs children in both his electorate and mine. Over the years the Government has given Mater Dei a significant injection of funds. In the near future I look forward to attending a function with the member for Camden, Mr Chris Patterson, to announce some good news. I will not say any more than that at this stage. Mater Dei does a fantastic job. I think of people such as Jim Marsden and Mr Seaton who support it as well.

I refer to agriculture. Biosecurity is a huge issue across the State. My electorate is the home of the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, which tackles outbreaks as they occur. In the past we were the centre that stopped the equine flu outbreak from getting worse. We have combated myrtle rust. The Government has announced additional funding for that fantastic facility in this budget. I have visited the facility and met with the scientists and researchers. They do a great job. We do not often think about those types of organisations until there is an outbreak. They are the ones working through 24 hours a day to tackle some of our big biosecurity threats. One of the scientists told me that when these outbreaks occur they could work 36 hours without sleeping because if they do not respond there and then it is too hard to capture. It is fantastic that they have been able to do that.

I wish I had another 30 minutes in which to speak, but I will not push the boundaries today by asking for a division on that. One of the things that was important to me when I became a member of Parliament was looking after our environment. I remember saying, "When I leave this place I want to leave the environment in a better state than it was in when I arrived." The member for Camden and I have been able to establish the New South Wales seed bank at Mount Annan in the electorate of Camden. We have also been able to do research into the disappearing water levels in Thirlmere Lakes. We have been able to establish the Dharawal National Park at Appin in my electorate. That was one of the first things we did: provide a national park in our own backyard. We have been able to give Wirrimbirra wildlife sanctuary funding to continue. We have given the Wollondilly environmental resource centre an outdoor classroom as an education area to teach our kids about the environment.

We have also done important work such as buying back petroleum exploration licence No. 452 as well as the one in the Southern Highlands. My electorate is home to more than 80 per cent of Sydney's drinking water. There was a huge threat of coal seam gas activities occurring within the water catchment. We have bought back those two exploration licences so there will be no coal seam gas activities in our water catchment. That is good news for the generations to come. We have also been able to declare tens of thousands of acres as new wilderness area. My electorate is home to part of the Blue Mountains National Park, which has some awesome scenery. I encourage everyone to visit Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands to check out what we have to offer. We have been able to protect our environment there. It has been a huge concern but we have addressed it, which is fantastic.

I am glad I still have time to talk about the Wingecarribee Adult Day Care Centres, which look after our elderly in the Southern Highlands. They do their own fundraising and do not get any Federal funding assistance for their programs, as I understand it. I visited them a few years ago and they said they needed to expand with the growing need to look after elderly people, particularly if people have relocated or do not have carers. The day I visited was a really good day, with a fantastic lunch, but then they got out the old piano and we sang for 30 or 40 minutes. The Assistant Speaker is shaking his head because my voice is not one for the radio, but we sang some of the old songs and had a lot of fun. It really hit home that people need people; people need interaction. We were able to tell them they could expand their building and that we would cover the bulk of that cost. We have been able to do that recently and that work is about to occur.

I have been speaking for 29½ minutes and I have not even scratched the surface. Nothing I have been able to achieve is a result of what I have done by myself. I have been fortunate to live and work in, and represent, an electorate—both in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands and, informally, parts of Macarthur—that has the most fantastic people. Without their support none of this would have been possible. I give credit not only to the Government; I give credit also to the people in my community. They are the ones who have driven this change—and all the money for the sewerage connections that we did not have. I commend the budget to the House.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (13:06):** It is truly a privilege to speak on the 2018-19 New South Wales budget because it really is a budget that reflects well upon the Government, and not only the Treasurer and those within his office but also the hardworking, diligent public servants of New South Wales who have assisted the Government to put together that great budget. It is common when people talk about government budgets to spew out a whole lot of numbers which invariably make members of the public start to go to sleep, so I am not going to do very much of that. I want to briefly point out a few of the features of the financial budget before I go on to talk about the impact of the budget on people. It is important that at the end of the day governments are about people and do not sound as though they have just walked out of an accountants convention and only talk about numbers.

The important financial fundamentals of the 2018-19 budget are that it is a budget which continues on from the previous year in that there is no net State debt. That is very important. Very few governments in the world can say that. This State Government is one that can proudly say it has no net debt. At a human level, if a person is fortunate enough to pay off their house during their lifetime and not have any debt, they are usually extremely relieved. As citizens of New South Wales we ought to be extremely relieved that there is no government debt in New South Wales.

Sometimes surpluses can be achieved by racking up a whole lot of debt. But not only does New South Wales have no net debt, it also has a projected surplus this financial year and projected surpluses for as far as the forward estimates go over the next four years. The combination of those two things—no net debt and budget surpluses for four years—is truly an outstanding achievement by the Government and one which all citizens of New South Wales should be very thankful for. There is another important statistic from the budget which we ought to have regard to, and that is the position of the total assets of the New South Wales Government. In 2011, when the Coalition came into government, the value of the assets in New South Wales owned by the State Government was approximately \$160 billion. In the last seven years, through the prudent management of the Coalition Government, the assets of the New South Wales Government now exceed \$260 billion. In a seven-year period, the wealth of New South Wales has increased by more than \$100,000 million.

That is quite a staggering figure to appreciate. We would be hard pressed to find any corporation, enterprise or other government in the world that can say that they have no debt, a surplus budget and projected surplus budgets as far as the forward estimates can go and that they have increased the wealth of that entity by more than \$100 billion in the preceding seven years. It is quite an extraordinary achievement. What is important about that achievement is that it completely refutes the false narrative of the Labor Opposition, which is that this Government achieved its financial performance by selling off the crown jewels. It is a deception on the people of New South Wales to say that. It is totally contrary to the Treasury-produced figures, which show a \$100 billion



increase in the State's wealth over the last seven years. One must appreciate that that wealth has increased at the same time as the Government has gone from having debt to having no debt.

What it reveals about the dishonest narrative of Opposition members is that they misrepresent the nature of the Government's asset recycling policy. The Government went transparently to the 2015 State elections saying that it would lease 49 per cent of the New South Wales' poles and wires. That asset recycling policy involves the privatisation of some assets, but not using the proceeds to rob future generations of the value of those assets. The proceeds of those privatisations are invested into more productive assets. As an example, the assets of the poles and wires were what economists would call lazy assets. They were not economically productive assets. The Government has been able to convert those lazy assets into far more valuable and productive State-owned assets. Not one cent of any asset that is recycled by this Government goes into anything other than new public assets. It does not go into operational expenditure. It is not wasted in any way. It only goes into new and better productive assets.

That is the way in which this Government is providing more than \$80 billion in infrastructure assets over the next four years. It is an extraordinary number. We all might remember the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd Government crowing about the Building Education Revolution program. That was \$1 billion spread across the whole of Australia. In the next four years this Government is spending \$6 billion just in New South Wales on our public schools. It is quite extraordinary. The Government is building infrastructure projects such as the Sydney Metro and light rail, and road projects such as the NorthConnex and the WestConnex. The Government is able to build these assets and infrastructure that will facilitate the future of New South Wales and enhance the lives of the residents of New South Wales because of its asset recycling program, which is frequently misrepresented by the Labor Opposition.

I now turn to some of the highlights, particularly from the Ku-ring-gai electorate point of view, of the 2018 budget. These sorts of things can be provided for the community only if there is a disciplined management of government budget. Some of the headline education features of the budget are that there will be 2,000 extra classrooms built throughout the State. New air conditioning will be provided in 1,000 public schools throughout our State. In Ku-ring-gai we can see how that \$6 billion education investment is operating. Only last week I was fortunate enough to be at Killara Public School for its education day. I heard a great concert by several different music groups in the school. Killara Public School has eight new state-of-the-art teaching spaces, which allow group and collaborative technology-based learning to set up our children to function in the modern world. This involves artificial intelligence and the use of technology being utilised in a group environment. These children are very fortunate.

In Ku-ring-gai we are in the advanced preparation stages with regard to virtually an entire rebuild of Waitara Public School, which is facilitated through the budget. Waitara Public School will receive approximately 42 new learning spaces, together with a new hall. When I ran for the seat of Ku-ring-gai in 2015, I was contacted by parents of children who attended Waitara Public School asking what the Government was going to do about all the demountable classrooms in the school. They asked, "How is the Government going to help our school manage the population growth, particularly in Waitara?" It is a matter of great pride for me to say in this House that the Government is investing millions of dollars into entirely rebuilding the school. It is facilitating a much better use of the playground space by constructing multi-level classroom buildings. Another school to benefit in my electorate is Ku-ring-gai High School, which will have its binishell replaced. In addition, there will be classroom upgrades and other improvements. That is what is happening at a school infrastructure level.

The budget also contains an important pro-family initiative: the introduction of a new \$100 rebate for schoolchildren that can be used towards lessons in music, drama, coding or language. The \$100 Smart Kids rebate is in addition to the Active Kids rebate of \$100, which was introduced in the last budget. A family with three schoolchildren, which is not unusual in the electorate of Ku-ring-gai, can get \$100 per child for sporting and active recreation activities—such as soccer, rugby, cricket, basketball and ballet—and another \$100 per child for lessons in music, drama, coding or languages. Importantly, those two budget initiatives give a direct benefit of \$600 to such families. Those rebates are important to families in the Ku-ring-gai electorate. This Government is the first in Australia to introduce funding for three-year-olds to attend preschool education. The funding will save families up to \$800 per year per child.

On top of that, the budget is providing for an additional 900 mathematics and science teachers in our schools. Any parent with children at school knows that science, technology, engineering and mathematics, known as STEM, are an important part of modern education. Funding for 900 more mathematics and science teachers is incredibly important to ensure that we stay at the edge of technological development, that our children get logical, analytical skills from science and mathematics, and that that will prepare them for the future technology-driven world that they are likely to live in their whole lives.

I refer to another pro-family initiative: New mothers will be given a \$150 essentials kit to support them with their newborn baby. Those of us who are parents remember when our first child was born. We know that babies do not come with a manual, and parents learn a lot with their first child. We will give mothers a kit of essential items valued at \$150 to give them a great start and ensure that children are well cared for and looked after. In relation to the cycle from birth to death, the budget provides 950 new nurses and midwives, 300 new doctors, 120 allied professionals and 260 mental health workers, all in addition to the current budgeted amount. [*Extension of time*]

In addition, 750 new paramedics and ambulance staff will be hired, which will better manage health emergencies. The Government has made an important commitment of an additional \$1 billion to assist homeless people. Transport is an important issue in the electorate of Ku-ring-gai. I am happy to inform the House that, of the \$133 million lift upgrade program in the budget, the North Shore will receive two new lifts—one in my electorate at Wahroonga and the other further down the line in Roseville. My area will receive two of the 11 railway station upgrades that are included in the budget. These upgrades are incredibly important. A large number of seniors live in the electorate of Ku-ring-gai, and nothing is more important for living a happy life at an advanced age than independence and mobility. Many seniors, for various reasons, cannot drive at night or otherwise need to rely on public transport. It is important for them to be able to easily access the outstanding train services on the North Shore.

I am happy to inform the House that, within the budget, \$880 million has been allocated to improve the train capacity of the North Shore railway line. This increase in capacity involves signalling and other augmentations that will allow the number of trains per hour on the North Shore line to increase. It is important for the North Shore line to have greater capacity as the Rouse Hill to Chatswood Metro line will come online and be operational next year. This is great news for my electorate because, when the Chatswood to Epping line was introduced, many of the North Shore services between North Sydney and Hornsby were diverted from Chatswood to Epping. That will no longer take place because the Metro line will no longer carry the rail carriages which are on the North Shore line.

Therefore, the Metro will stop at Chatswood, and trains will no longer be diverted from Chatswood to Epping but will continue up the North Shore line, increasing the services to the Ku-ring-gai electorate. That is an important development for the electorate, and one for which we should be grateful. Within the projected infrastructure program, by 2024 the Metro line will extend from Chatswood down to the lower North Shore, under the harbour and through to Bankstown. Two train services will operate in parallel from Chatswood to the lower North Shore—the Metro and the existing North Shore line. This increase in capacity is great news for the Ku-ring-gai electorate. It means that there will be an increase in train service and train choice, which is important to our community. Antisocial behaviour and law and order are issues that frequently come up in the surveys I conduct of my electorate. I am happy to inform the House that within the budget, to keep our community safe, an extra \$220 million will be spent on policing, including 100 new police officers and more roadside drug testing.

One of the other interesting innovations within the budget is the new advisory service that will be provided by Service NSW. Service NSW is one of the great achievements of this Government. When I first got my driver licence in the early 1980s, anyone who wanted to go to the Roads and Traffic Authority basically had to bring a cut lunch because they were going to spend at least half a day there waiting to be served. In comparison, Service NSW has a concierge who meets people at the door and efficiently and quickly directs them to the excellent service. One of the new services that will be provided, which is particularly valuable for seniors, is an advisory service that will help people negotiate the myriad of government benefits and subsidies they are entitled to, including the complex environment with regard to electricity and gas offers. This will ensure that people get the best offer possible on their electricity and other utilities.

**Business interrupted.**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

*Visitors*

**VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome our guests in the gallery this afternoon. I hope you enjoy this question time—the last question time for four weeks. First, I extend a very warm welcome to South Coast student leaders and their teachers from Nowra Christian School, Nowra High School, St Johns High School and Ulladulla High School. They are from my electorate, and I apologise to them for the quite disruptive morning. They are guests of mine and I hope they enjoy the day.

I welcome Jon Krause, MP, the member for Scenic Rim in Queensland, guest of the Deputy Speaker, the member for Lismore. I welcome the members of the North Shore SEC, guests of the member for North Shore. I also acknowledge members of the Burwood Ashfield Justices Association, guests of the member for Strathfield.

I welcome Uncle John Oates, Geoff Eager and Greg Marde, members of the Gunn Thakun Cultural Association, guests of the member for Gosford. I also welcome Kath and Greg Baratta, Reverend Denis Minns and John and Cara Minns, the parents of the member for Kogarah. They are guests of the member for Rockdale. I acknowledge Maree Cairns and Mark Evans, guests of the member for Blue Mountains.

I welcome the delegation of political leaders from the Diet, Japan, hosted by the Australian Political Exchange Council. I also acknowledge the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law students here today. We welcome them to the Chamber as well.

#### *Announcements*

#### **MEMBERS FOR MIRANDA AND STRATHFIELD**

**The SPEAKER:** Two members are having a birthday today—the member for Miranda and the member for Strathfield. Happy birthday to both of them. Neither of them looks a day over 21!

#### *Members*

#### **MEMBERS DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

**The SPEAKER:** Most members would be aware of the disruptions in the Chamber yesterday afternoon and this morning. Members would be aware that the Deputy Speaker asked the member for Maroubra to leave the Chamber under Standing Order 249. The member for Maroubra has been readmitted under an agreement with the Deputy Speaker and me. There have been ongoing discussions about what occurred this morning. The Leader of the Opposition has indicated to me that no personal offence was intended to the Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition have discussed the matter. The Leader of the Opposition and I have also had discussions about ongoing issues such as the raising of points of order during motions sought to be accorded priority and reorder motions. We will continue to have those discussions with a view to achieving ongoing peace in our time.

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** Will he apologise?

**The SPEAKER:** I think that is a matter for discussion between him and the Deputy Speaker. They have had that discussion and I am satisfied that it was a good one. Obviously, we all want to see this House become a stable place where people can debate matters while being shown respect by other members in the Chamber. I have shown respect; I do not think that occurred this morning and consequently members were removed from the Chamber. If that kind of behaviour continues I will eject members—it will not matter one bit who they are—one after the other. Members can do what they like—they can hold press conferences—but I will continue to control this House the best way that I can. If members think that is unfair that is their problem, not mine. I welcome everybody and hope you enjoy the afternoon. We will see how those discussions go. I ask the member for Keira not to pull faces at me. I advise him that I might call members to order for doing just that.

#### **REPRESENTATION OF MINISTER ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian: What a glorious day it is! I advise the House that the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research will continue to answer questions in the absence of the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing. God save the Queen!

#### *Question Time*

#### **ROAD SAFETY**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:22):** My question is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Peter Frazer's daughter was killed on the side of the road. For six years he has been campaigning for slow-down, move-over laws that cover incident first responders including NRMA and tow truck drivers. But this morning this Government scrapped a parliamentary debate on this matter. What does the Minister say to Peter Frazer?

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (14:22):** Only last week I had an extended phone conversation with Peter Frazer. He is an incredibly decent man who has given over his life—as has his wife, Judy, and their daughter, Jessica—to fight, with all the strength they have in their bones, for their daughter, Sarah. The Government has done everything it can to listen to them. The former Minister Duncan Gay did great work in relation to the Australian standards for the width of roads and making sure that they apply to all future roads. Where we can, we are looking to fix existing roads so that we can keep them to an

Australian standard with respect to width. Peter Frazer and his family have done an enormous amount of work across Australia—in Western Australia and everywhere else—to draw public attention nationally to the issue of emergency service lights. As I said to him, road safety is at the forefront of everything that the Government does.

This is why the Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services and I, along with the working party, looked at the proposal to reduce the speed limit around emergency vehicles flashing lights to 40 kilometres per hour in the slowdown zone. Because we have road safety at the heart of everything we do, and understanding the calls of Peter Frazer and the NRMA to extend from the start the slowdown zone to vehicles with orange lights flashing, our experts from the Centre for Road Safety, police, the fire brigade, the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service, working together with NRMA, said that would be too big a change first up. As a result, we have brought in laws for the first year to ensure that motorists slow down for emergency vehicles flashing blue and red lights. We needed to make this change to be in alignment with Victoria, a neighbouring State.

As I recently explained to Peter Frazer, Western Australia has adopted the model for which he is advocating. We will not rule out going down this track in the future, but we have to take one step at a time. It is a big change. I respect the view of Peter Frazer. We have turned the Sydney Harbour Bridge yellow because of his passion and his work for Sarah. No family should have to go through what he and his family have gone through. He wants to make sure that no family suffers as his family has suffered. Although we are not making the amendments he has requested to extend the slowdown zone for vehicles flashing orange lights, we have amended the legislation in the interests of the safety of all motorists in this State. We will continue to listen to the experts and the campaigners.

Peter Frazer is a good man, and I am sure he would not want politics brought into the debate about slowdown zones around emergency vehicles. I respect Peter Frazer and his family, as I respect every victim of road traffic accidents. Hundreds of families are living through the effects of road safety trauma, and I respect every one of them. They do not want any other families to live through their pain, which we respect. That is why we will continue to act, listen and do the right thing by our citizens.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:26):** I ask a supplementary question, and I thank the Minister for her answer. Given what the Minister has said about listening to Peter Frazer, why does the Government not at least trial protections for drivers of tow trucks and NRMA vehicles?

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (14:27):** As I have said on numerous occasions, including to Mr Frazer and in my reply to concerns raised by the shadow Minister, for the first year we want to limit the slowdown zones to around vehicles flashing blue and red lights, because we believe that is the safest way forward. We will listen to the evidence from this first year to see whether it is appropriate to extend the slowdown zones to include vehicles flashing orange lights. We are aligning our legislation with the legislation in Victoria. We believe we need to have similar laws to those of Victoria, a neighbouring State. Queensland is set to make a decision on introducing slowdown zones.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** We are not ruling out completely extending the slowdown zones to include vehicles flashing orange lights. However, we will take an evidence-based approach after the first year of having slowdown zones. That is what I explained to Mr Frazer.

#### MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

**Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH (Coogee) (14:28):** My question is addressed to the Premier. How is the New South Wales Government protecting the State's iconic marine environment?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:28):** I note the member for Coogee still cannot wipe the smile from his face, because this morning he and I, with the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for the Environment, announced that we will be creating a marine park all the way from Wollongong to Newcastle, at 25 different sites. Much to the delight of the member for Coogee, this marine park will include marine areas between Bondi and Coogee. This morning at Clovelly we made this important announcement. This policy is unique to New South Wales because it is born of science and research. We appreciate that not every part of our coastline is the same and therefore not every part of our coastline should be treated the same. We can do some activities in parts of the coastline that are not permitted in other parts. That is why this comprehensive, science-based approach is being taken by this Government.

I am very pleased with this approach. All of us want our waterways and our oceans to be protected for future generations. All of us want our marine life to be protected, but at the same time we want to enjoy parts of the coastline as we and past generations have done over many years. I know those opposite do not like to listen to this Government's positive initiatives in relation to the environment, because former Leader of the Opposition

John Robertson and current Leader of the Opposition Luke Foley made an election commitment to create a marine park between Pittwater and Port Hacking in Sydney Harbour. That was the extent of their commitment.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The marine park the Government announced today goes from Wollongong to Newcastle and includes 25 different sites. It is science based and designed to make sure that we treat each unique environment with the delicacy it deserves.

**The SPEAKER:** If the member for Port Stephens disagrees with the Premier, she can have a discussion with the Premier later.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We know the member for Port Stephens is already worried, although she should thank this Government for the koala hospital we are funding in her community. This is a good opportunity to tell the people of New South Wales about this wonderful announcement. I will outline the three specific zones to be part of the 25 proposed sites. Some of the sites will be sanctuary zones, which will allow snorkelling, diving and boating to continue while limiting fishing. Conservation zones will allow some fishing, such as lobster and abalone fishing. Special purpose zones will have tailored measures to protect specific species. As I said, our approach is based on science and research as well as our compassion and our passion for preserving the environment for future generations. It is also about acknowledging that certain activity can continue where appropriate. This balanced approach is a first for New South Wales and, I believe, will inspire successive generations to play their part in protecting our marine environment.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I am not sure why the member for Port Stephens has an issue with the marine parks. Would she like to tell the House what her problem is?

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the member for Port Stephens that the Premier's question was rhetorical, not one that needed to be answered.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I can assure the member for Port Stephens I will be in her community to tell community members about our marine park and how we are protecting the environment.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order and members will cease interjecting, in particular the member for Bankstown.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We were also pleased to unveil the first stage of our 10-year marine management strategy. We are backing up the strategy not just with science but also with an initial contribution of more than \$45 million to make sure that we contribute both the resources and the science needed to get this right. Nothing much changes—those opposite are still lazy. When they promised a marine park they did so by drawing a few lines on a map. They never did the science. They spoke a lot about the environment, but did not deliver anything. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn members that if interjections continue I will stop the clock. The House will come to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Those opposite continue to have no policies, but we on this side of the House do things not only in a balanced way but also make sure that we get the evidence to back what we are doing.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Today we committed \$45.7 million to the first stage of our 10-year marine estate management strategy, because we know this work has to be ongoing. We need to be vigilant and ensure that the people of New South Wales have good information about what activities they can conduct in different parts of the marine park. I also stress that we are providing a six-week consultation process, which is very important. We have put forward the proposal and we would like members of the community to tell us whether or not they agree with what we have put forward. We want members of the community to give us feedback on the specific sites that may impact their specific locations and communities.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Gosford will cease interjecting.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I do not know what problem those opposite have with protecting the environment. I know they have a lot of problems on that side of the House but surely protecting the environment should not be one of them. We know the member for Maroubra has been walking around with a spring in his step the past few days. We do not know where the member for Kogarah is today, but he is missing in action.

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

**Mr Jihad Dib:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question was about the environment, not about members on this side of the House.

**The SPEAKER:** The member will resume his seat.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** On that point, I am pleased to say that, when it comes to matters of the environment and protecting our marine communities, the Liberal-Nationals Government is streets ahead of those opposite. They are lazy. They never did it while they were in government and they will never do it. [*Time expired.*]

#### **DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (14:35):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. How can people in metropolitan areas assist businesses in regional communities affected by droughts?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:36):** I thank the member for Tamworth for his question. He has been at the forefront of the Government's response to the impact of drought on not only farmers but also regional communities and families—the real people behind the drought. We all know that as the drought continues to bite, the long-term forecast shows very little rain on the way. Even if it rains tomorrow, the impact will still be felt for months if not years ahead. It is important that governments continue to respond and the New South Wales Government is responding with a package worth almost \$1.1 billion to back in our farmers. Of course, as the Premier has said consistently, we are not walking away and we will continue to do whatever we can as the drought continues. We are praying for rain and if it rains the New South Wales Government will back in our farmers to get them back on their feet quickly to start doing what they do best, which is being part of primary industries, agriculture and, more importantly, regional New South Wales.

My call-out today is this: "Get out for the drought." My call to the people in Sydney and metropolitan cities across our borders is that, even though we are in drought, our cafes are still brewing coffee, our boutique shops are still stocking their shelves and we are still in business. Some of the most beautiful and iconic experiences are there and ready for people to enjoy today. People should support our businesses by getting out and spending some money in our regions. When people spend money at a café, the money goes around the community. That ensures that the jobs remain. Yes, we are doing it tough on the land, but our servos would love for people to drive in, our cafes would love for people to stop and have breakfast with some locals, and our accommodation providers and hotels would love to have people stay. People will get that country hospitality every day of the year.

I acknowledge the response of the community to the drought and that of the donations and the charities that are supporting governments and regional communities. Tomorrow the member for Barwon and I will be out in Condobolin and we will welcome 23 B-doubles of hay that have come across from Western Australia, sponsored by the Rapid Relief Team, to make sure farmers continue to get feed for their cattle. The Rapid Relief Team is also putting in place vouchers at the local supermarkets to support approximately 130 families, who will get a \$100 voucher each week for the next 13 weeks to make sure that food remains on the table. Already, we are seeing communities, charities, individuals, businesses and corporates all putting up their hand to play a role to support regional New South Wales. We can all do that by making the effort this weekend to pop out to a regional city, centre or village. We have fantastic places.

[*Interruption*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! On this subject, that interjection is just silly.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** It is also offensive because Wagga Wagga is a fantastic cosmopolitan city that has great health services, great education services, great businesses and industry and great cafés. It is wrong to play politics with this issue. All I am trying to do is encourage people to visit regional centres. Wagga Wagga should be one of them and Albury should be another. I am not going to play politics. For example, there is a great whisky bar in Orange called Washington & Co. People should go to Orange for the weekend.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Orange has a hatted restaurant and great cafes. People will be shocked: It is a cosmopolitan city. One of the things I hate is when people say, "Let's have a bush change." It is not a bush or tree change; it is a city change. People should go to regional New South Wales and enjoy and experience what it has on offer. I acknowledge the Minister for Tourism and Major Events because through Destination NSW—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Niall Blair's friend.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Can we play politics at the next question? Right now, let us talk about what is important to regional New South Wales. Because if members are not aware, right now there are farmers out there who are probably looking at their gun cabinet and thinking about driving down to the back paddock and shooting themselves. There are kids who are watching their parents struggle and who are dealing with those issues at school.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order and members will cease interjecting.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: I ask that the Speaker direct the Minister to direct his comments through the Chair.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order is upheld. I ask the Minister to direct his comments through the Chair.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I came here today to talk about getting people into the regions; those opposite want to play politics with the drought. The reality is—it has to be said—I am embarrassed to be part of this Parliament. This place used to be a contest of ideas; today, it is an attack on personalities and individuals. [*Extension of time*]

There are families, people and communities struggling. Today, all I have tried to do is start a conversation to encourage people to go to the regions, but those opposite want to play politics and want to interject. The pain that we are seeing on the ground—real people and real pain—is not a headline. This is about regional New South Wales—something we care about. These are real people and real communities. The drought is a headline, but it affects individuals. That is why part of our drought package was \$14 million for mental health and wellbeing to get counsellors on the ground. I have seen it firsthand.

We have to stop this. No wonder the public has no respect for politicians. I am sorry, but I am going to say it: The public has no respect for politicians because we come in here and play games while people are suffering in the regions. They have no respect for us anymore and we deserve it. Every one of us deserves what we get from the public because of the games we play. While we have people struggling in regions, instead of talking up the positive we are playing games. Like I said, this place used to be a contest of ideas; today, it is a place of personal attacks on individuals. Let us draw the line in the sand and change the way we represent the people of New South Wales in this place. *Hansard* records everything we say. The words we speak are written and recorded in the archives of this place for generations to come.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will come to order. The member for Rockdale will cease interjecting or he will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** When generations to come read about this period, when we are going through one of the toughest droughts we have ever seen, they are going to see this Chamber playing politics and engaging in the antics we have seen today.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I am embarrassed. We should be honoured and humbled to have a chance to sit in these chairs. We only do it for a short part of our political and life journey, so while we are here we should do something positive and constructive. I will talk about the issue at a later stage because it is important. [*Time expired.*]

#### *Announcements*

### **DROUGHT RELIEF APPEAL**

**The SPEAKER:** I thank everyone involved in yesterday's drought appeal. I went back to my electorate because of the bushfires, which were and still are serious. I thank those who participated and donated. There are still bottles of wine for sale for \$25, which goes to a bale of hay. The money is going to great causes. I thank the member for North Shore, who put on an apron in my absence. As I was travelling she was cooking. From The Nationals I thank the member for Myall Lakes, the member for Port Macquarie and the member for Tamworth. I thank Jane from my staff; we just walked out and left her holding the fort. It was a great day. As yet I cannot give an estimate of how much we raised, but so many of you were very generous. It shows what we can do when we work together in a bipartisan way.

#### *Question Time*

### **CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (14:44):** My question is directed to the Minister for Corrections. Under the Minister's administration inmates can have sex with officers, inmates can bash and assault inmates, inmates

can get anything they want on the prison black market, and inmates can post on Facebook and other social media platforms. Will the Minister—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Fairfield is setting out a statement of facts rather than asking a question and the statement of facts is inappropriate. The question is out of order in its current form. The member for Fairfield will resume his seat. He may reword the question and I will come back to him.

### STATE ECONOMY

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (14:45):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on the strength of the New South Wales economy, including contributions from foreign trading partners, and are there any alternative approaches?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:46):** Why the long faces opposite? How did your emergency meeting go? Was it good?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will answer the question.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Maybe today is the day that members opposite have worked out that they are going to be in opposition for 12 years. Whilst they are focused on chaos in this place, the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government is fighting for a better future for the people of New South Wales. We are working to drive down the cost of living, improve employment opportunities and create conditions for businesses to thrive. We know that when the economy is strong our communities are strong and—importantly—our families are strong as well. There is plenty of good news about the New South Wales economy. Our gross State product growth is at 2.9 per cent and continues to be above trend. The unemployment rate came out today. We again have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation and have had for three years running. That is a record.

Employment growth is the strongest in the country. New South Wales business confidence has been positive for 60 consecutive months and retail spending remains strong. We have delivered \$4.2 billion in tax cuts in the past three budgets while Labor ran on increasing taxes for business at the last election. Our regional areas are flourishing and are well positioned for the growth of the Asian middle class. We have recently recorded the largest increase in international visitors to New South Wales. Dwelling approvals have been above 70,000 for 32 months, while completions remain close to historic highs. Conditions are so good that we have driven the member for Keira out of business—he has not released an economic update since April.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Keira on three calls to order. If he does not respond to my directions he will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** He has given up. Our good news for New South Wales is bad news for Labor. Whilst the State is the strongest it has ever been, all members opposite want to do is talk it down. We should be on a unity ticket when it comes to economic prosperity but, as the Deputy Premier pointed out, members opposite always play politics. Not only is the economy strong; the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government is also helping out with the cost of living. The quarterly Reserve Bank of Australia Statement on Monetary Policy says that the RBA has revised down forecasts for headline and underlying inflation. For the benefit of the member for Keira, that is a serious report. The RBA says the following about the reason it has done that:

This is due to the declines in prices ... like car registration fees in New South Wales ... reforms to state-based third-party insurance schemes and the NSW Government's Active Kids voucher program ...

No other State is mentioned in the quarterly report. The central bank is backing in the efforts of the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government. I also acknowledge our trading partners who are a significant part of our success and have contributed to our prosperity in New South Wales.

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** Say China. Say it.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Yes, they are countries like China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and importantly the well-led United States. I single out the State of Israel—a world leader in innovation, an important trading partner for New South Wales and the only liberal democracy in the Middle East. I learned this morning that today is Flag Day at my six-year-old daughter Amelia's school. Amelia has to present her favourite flag at school, and guess what flag she chose? The flag of Israel—a strong flag for a strong country. Clearly, she has been raised well. There is an alternative to Amelia's approach of standing up for the great State of Israel. That is the Labor Party's approach, which lets boycott Israel group members such as Peter Manning address its State conference.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Point of order: The good Treasurer was asked about the financial plight of this State, not about international relations or flags.

**The SPEAKER:** Did you listen to the question?



**Mr Clayton Barr:** I did listen to the question.

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

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Under Standing Order 74, I suggest that this House is about to fall into disarray if you allow these quarrelsome comments to continue.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I am just dealing in facts. [*Extension of time*]

The Labor Party conference handbook mentions the economy 45 times and condemns Israel 104 times. The Labor approach is when you have a member of the upper House with a long history of anti-Israel statements block a Jewish community leader from entering a multicultural function.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition called Vic Alhadeff to apologise.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Rockdale will resume his seat. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the third time.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** What a hollow apology when at the same time Shaoquett was on Twitter saying that Vic concocted this fake victimisation designed to incite controversy from the bottom dwellers in News Corp. Although Luke Foley is apologising, an apology without action is no apology at all.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order—

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

**Mr Ryan Park:** My point of order is under Standing Order 129. With the fair and reasonable way you rule this House, I think you would agree that the Treasurer is straying from the question he was asked.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The Treasurer has the call.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I am just using their words against them. The late Barry Cohen, a Minister in the Hawke Government back when Labor had values, said:

I'm sick of Labor leaders ... making all the right noises to Jewish audiences while. ... Labor backbenchers launch diatribes at Israel.

That is what they were doing then and it is what they continue to do now. Members on this side of the House will always stand up for Israel.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order—

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Even though Shaoquett Moselmane is not a member of our party, on behalf of the New South Wales Parliament I apologise to the Jewish community for the constant attacks on it by the Labor Party and Shaoquett Moselmane.

**The SPEAKER:** Has the Treasurer completed his answer?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** No.

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

**Mr Michael Daley:** First, the Treasurer is straying massively from the question. Secondly, under Standing Order 73 this is not the way to do this.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The second part of the question related to foreign trading partners and any alternative approaches, which is fairly wideranging. There is no point of order. The Treasurer has the call.

**Mr David Harris:** To the point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I have ruled on the point of order. The member will resume his seat. Do you have a different point of order?

**Mr David Harris:** No, it is further to that.

**The SPEAKER:** To my ruling? You are questioning my ruling?

**Mr David Harris:** No, I am inviting your perspective on your ruling.

**The SPEAKER:** You are asking me a question?

**Mr David Harris:** Yes.

**The SPEAKER:** It is not permitted to ask a question of the Speaker during question time. If the member has a question he can see me in my office later. The member will resume his seat.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** An apology is no apology at all and the Leader of the Opposition should show some leadership or the member for Maroubra should show some leadership and ask the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane to resign or apologise. He should immediately apologise—

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Rockdale that he is on three calls to order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** —to the Jewish community and to News Corp for calling them bottom feeders when all they are doing is accurately representing the anti-Semitic views they have on that side of the House.

### **CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (14:55):** My question is directed to the Minister for Corrections. Can the Minister confirm that under his administration inmates can have sex with officers, bash other inmates, get anything they want on the prison black market and post on Facebook? Will the Minister now admit that he has lost control of New South Wales prisons?

**The SPEAKER:** That is marginally better but it is acceptable.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (14:55):** That question gives me great confidence in the Labor Party. It gives me confidence that when members discuss their question time tactics in the elevator they are on the money. I had all day to prepare for this question, thanks to those on the other side talking, talking, talking out loud, telling us what their question time tactics are. I reluctantly stand here without any notes, but I can tell the member for Fairfield that he should have confidence that I am investigating these matters. If he has any evidence of those allegations, there are a number of inquiries that are going on.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Londonderry to order for the first time.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** There are a number of inquiries going on.

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the Clerk to stop the clock. I said at the outset that the kinds of tactics and games this morning will not be repeated or members will be put out of the Chamber. Any member who has been on one or two calls to order is now on three calls to order. Any member who continues to call out in the manner that members have been in the last 10 seconds will be out anyway using my own discretion.

**Mr Edmond Atalla:** We are just helping the Minister.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mount Druitt should not speak while I am speaking. The Minister has the call and will be heard in silence.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** In relation to the inappropriate relationship between inmates and officers, I have former assistant commissioner Mark Murdoch investigating that through Taskforce Themis. I suspect that the member for Fairfield was asking questions as he has his own information about that because of his relationship with Eddie Obeid and Ian Macdonald.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the Clerk to stop the clock.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** I have two points of order. The first one is Standing Order 129, the relevance of those former members; the second one is Standing Order 73. If the Minister wants to impugn my reputation and character he should do so by way of substantive motion.

**The SPEAKER:** I uphold the point of order. The Minister will refrain from making personal comments about the member for Fairfield.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** My Taskforce Themis investigation is independent, unlike the investigation into his preselection, which was done by John Whelan, a member of the Labor Party.

**The SPEAKER:** I caution the Minister.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I am very confident—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister will resume his seat. I caution the Minister to return to the question. I caution the Minister about personal reflections. I direct the member for Londonderry to remove herself from the Chamber for two hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Londonderry left the Chamber at 14:58.]*

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** We have made no secret of the fact that the prisons in New South Wales are at capacity. Whose fault is that? That is the fault of a very good Minister for Police because he is doing a sensational job of locking up bad guys. Unfortunately, I would have five extra beds if it were not for the parliamentary Labor Party dishing up five of its members to New South Wales prisons. The fact that Labor members want to stand up and question the way we are running prisons in New South Wales is quite ironic. I add that the false declaration that the member for Fairfield has been accused of signing could find him—

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the Clerk to stop the clock.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: Is it any wonder that this place descends into chaos?

**The SPEAKER:** Do you have a point of order?

**Mr Michael Daley:** Yes, Standing Order 73. The Minister has made a comment about an improper relationship between a shadow Minister, a sitting member, and convicted criminals. That is outrageous.

**The SPEAKER:** And I upheld that point of order.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Yes, and he is completely ignoring you. He continues with his attack.

**The SPEAKER:** I have cautioned the Minister and if necessary I will ask him to resume his seat. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. I upheld the previous point of order and I am cautioning the Minister on making imputations.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I accepted the point of order and I took your ruling, that is why I have not raised it again. The fact of the matter is, it is all on the public record. What I have raised today is all a matter of public record. In relation to the question of inappropriate relationships, we have Taskforce Themis if the Labor Party, or anybody else, has any information relating to inappropriate relationships—I might add that there is no evidence at all that there was sexual activity; we are waiting for that investigation. If the member for Fairfield wants to pre-empt investigations that is proof positive he is not fit to be a member of this Parliament and he is certainly not fit to be a member of the executive.

In relation to the matter that has been in the public domain over the past 24 hours, I was horrified, like all members of this House should be, that people who have non-association clauses have been put in the same cell together. I am horrified, but remember in this State we are at capacity. I have asked for an immediate explanation from the Commissioner of Corrective Services to find out exactly how that happened and an assurance that it will not happen again. I can assure members that, unlike the John Whelan review into the member for Fairfield, disciplinary action—

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order: My point of order is Standing Order 129, relevance. The question is about corrections in New South Wales, the Minister losing control and the prison system in complete crisis.

**The SPEAKER:** That is an inflammatory comment to make.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I expect the highest standards today from Corrective Services in New South Wales. If somebody did the incorrect thing or was incompetent over the course of the past 24 hours in relation to the matter to which the shadow Minister referred, I will insist on disciplinary action. That is in stark contrast to the way that the Labor Party investigated the member for Fairfield. That is my point and it is a fair point.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order: My point of order is Standing Order 73.

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the Clerk to stop the clock. I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Keira from the Chamber under Standing Order 249.

*[The member for Keira left the Chamber at 15:04 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

**Mr Guy Zangari:** The Minister for Corrections is flouting your ruling on Standing Order 73.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not believe he has been.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** This is now for the fifth time. Standing Order 129, relevance—it is about prisons.

**The SPEAKER:** The member is out of order and will resume his seat. The Minister has the call.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Question time is about discussing matters in the public domain. I will table in the House an article about the member for Fairfield which said that his preselection is in doubt.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not think that is relevant to the question.

### **CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:03):** I direct my question to the Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs. An inmate was bashed after being placed in the same cell as the alleged murderer he was to testify against. Why, even after this, were the two inmates then transported in the same prison truck?

**The SPEAKER:** I again caution the member about presenting an alleged statement of fact that cannot be tested. Members should always ask questions, not make statements of fact that cannot be tested by me at this stage. Does the Minister accept the question?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (15:04):** It is important that I highlight the fact that if it were not for the *Daily Telegraph* the Labor Party would not have any tactics. Clearly, members opposite have not done their own research. I said in my previous answer that these matters are under investigation because they have not been proven. I have no evidence that the matters to which the member for Shellharbour is referring have been proven. I have asked for an inquiry and an immediate explanation from the commissioner. If these allegations are true, I want to know how these events occurred and how we can ensure they do not occur again. For the member for Shellharbour to make these statements as statements of fact not only is inappropriate but also demonstrates that she has no understanding of due process. I have demanded an explanation, and when I have it the matter will be put in the public domain.

### **SYDNEY BUS SERVICES**

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (15:05):** I address my question to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. How is the New South Wales Government improving bus services across Sydney, and is the Minister aware of alternative proposals?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:06):** I thank the member for Drummoyne for his question, and it is most appropriate that he asked it. Members opposite fought the Government over the franchising of region 6 for a long time. The service has now been operating for six weeks and it is worth reflecting on how well the franchise has performed. It has gone well. Members opposite will not like hearing that under the public operator, an average of 130 trips were cancelled each day. I invite members to guess the average now. It is not 100, not 70, not 60, not 40, and not 20; it is 18. That is the key point.

My dear friend from Strathfield told me that there would not be enough bus drivers to provide this service. There are now more bus drivers to cover the requirements of region 6 than there were under the public operator. Complaints also fell by 3.75 per cent in July, and that is despite a 6.6 per cent increase in services. The most important difference is that on-time running has improved by 3 per cent. That represents a significant saving of about \$140 million over the life of the contract. Coupled with that, almost five million bus kilometres will be delivered as part of the contract. Of course, that wonderful initiative called "on-demand transport"—which the Labor Party hates—is also being delivered in region 6.

I thank the member for Vacluse and the member for Coogee for joining me earlier in the week for the launch of the new Bondi link service. The 333 bus route will now offer a turn-up-and-go service with buses running every three minutes during the morning peak, every six minutes through the day, every 10 minutes at night, every 10 minutes in the evening on weekends, and every six minutes during the day on weekends. This will be a popular, high-frequency and reliable service, which is what passengers want. The Government is building capacity, and about 29,000 additional passengers will be able to use the service.

Of course, this all follows the wonderful B-Line initiative. The B-Line buses are phenomenal. They have delivered 16,800 trips on average every weekday and there has been a 4.6 per cent increase in the number of bus trips along the B-Line corridor between Wynyard and Mona Vale compared with this time last year. B-Line buses make up 10 per cent of services on the northern beaches and carry more than 26 per cent of customers. Very pleasingly, trips in the middle of the day have increased by 9 per cent.

As members whose electorates border that corridor know, the frequency of services is great in the evenings and during intra-peak periods. It is also pleasing to see a 6 per cent mode shift from cars to buses along Military Road and Spit Road in the morning peak period. That has resulted in a 2 per cent decrease in travel times for general traffic. That is public transport at work under this Liberal-Nationals Government. We are seeing some fantastic outcomes. I was asked about alternative proposals. I have not heard any from members of the Opposition,

and I am not expecting to any time soon. All we hear from the party of protest is ongoing complaints. What we have seen in question time this week has been deplorable.

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

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Members opposite are not prepared to come into this place to ask questions about things that matter to the people of New South Wales; they are interested only in the politics of—

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

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** My favourite tweet of the week reads: "Lame question time attack by NSW Opposition on Gabby Upton ... @lukefoley badly needs to lift his game." That was written by Andrew Clennell; it is a comment from the press gallery. The bottom line is that members opposite have had a hopeless week. The Government will get on with delivering for the people of New South Wales.

### **DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (15:11):** I direct my question to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Having regard to Roads and Maritime Services' Primary Producer Concession Options Paper, dated February 2018, when did the Minister intend to tell our battling drought-affected farmers, many of whom have been struggling to put food on the table and to keep their starving stock alive, that they have been fleeced of more than \$130 million of their hard-earned money by Roads and Maritime Services? It has knowingly, and contrary to legislation, ripped it from them in farm vehicle registration for the past 20 years. When will the Government give them a refund?

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (15:12):** It is important to acknowledge that the Government is working alongside our farmers. As I said earlier, on Sunday I was in Gundy with the member for Upper Hunter. We understand the challenges our farmers are facing because of the drought. We have been strong in our message to heavy vehicle inspectors and to the agency that they should listen to what the transporters and farmers have to say. That is why we have changed the arrangements with regard to the cartage of hay on low-rise trucks; they are now allowed to load three bales high and two wide.

We have also told councils that we will support them if they allow heavier vehicles on their roads that may cause damage. The Government is offering them \$15 million in maintenance funding so that transport will be more efficient. This is a terrible time for all communities in regional New South Wales, and this Government will stand beside them. Importantly, as part of the drought measures, we have said that operators of class A1 farm machinery will not be required to pay registration fees during the drought. The Government will work with farmers and continue to support them, as it always does.

**Mr Philip Donato:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I have listened patiently to the Minister for the past minute and a half. The question was about the primary producer concession.

**The SPEAKER:** I think the Minister understood the question perfectly well and she is being relevant. I nearly ruled the question out of order because of the inflammatory comments the member made by way of a statement. I remind members that they should ask questions. Members should not be groaning. They would not know their right from their left. I did allow the question and the Minister is being relevant. I will continue to listen to what she has to say. I heard the question and so did she; she is not silly. Does the member for Orange have anything further to say?

**Mr Philip Donato:** I seek leave to table a copy of a draft Roads and Maritime Services document entitled "Primary Producer (PP) Concession Options paper, Compliance & Regulatory Services", dated February 2018.

**Leave granted.**

**Document tabled.**

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister has the call.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** This is not the time for politics and little stunts across the Chamber. This is the time for communities to work together to support farmers during a difficult time. We should remember that it is this Government that has doubled the Roads budget in New South Wales. We are improving the State's roads, supporting local councils and it is a shame that the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party continues to play politics over policy.

### **WAGGA WAGGA HEALTH SERVICES**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (15:15):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research. Will the Minister explain to the House how each and every resident of Wagga

Wagga is experiencing better health treatment? Will he advise how these improvements will be under threat if ever Labor were in a position of power?

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: My point of order relates to the question. Standing Order 128 dictates that the question is argumentative and incites debate.

**The SPEAKER:** Don't they all?

**Mr Greg Warren:** I ask that you call on the member to reword it.

**The SPEAKER:** I rule the question in order. I listened carefully to the question. It is not out of order.

**Mr Greg Warren:** With respect, that question is ultimately—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is not out of order. I have ruled. The Minister has the call.

**Mr Greg Warren:** It is ultimately designed to incite debate, the very thing we have seen this House get dragged into the gutter by those opposite.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I know the member for Campbelltown wants to go home early; that is why I am not going to eject him from the Chamber. The Minister has the call. The member for Blue Mountains is cautioned and warned about interjections. Members will leave the Chamber one after the other if they continue to interject. The House will come to order.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research) (15:17):** I thank the member for Kiama for all the work that he has done in his community up and down the Illawarra, on the coast and around that area to deliver better health outcomes and to guarantee that each and every resident has better health outcomes in the future. He has worked hard, as have you, Madam Speaker, on hospitals in that region—at Shellharbour, Shoalhaven and Bulli. A lot of money is being spent in that area. The community of Wagga Wagga has also had delivered to it world-class regional hospital facilities by the Liberal-Nationals Government in New South Wales. The delivery of \$282 million for stages one and two of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital has meant that every mother, father, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, grandmother and grandfather in the Wagga Wagga area has safeguards for their health that did not exist and would not have existed if we had a Labor government. Labor had 16 years in which to deliver.

**Mr Gareth Ward:** Sixteen years.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Sixteen very long years. Labor delivered nothing but empty promises—not a single brick.

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

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** None of the amazing doctors and nurses in Wagga Wagga were given the tools to help the community of Wagga Wagga in their endeavours to improve their health. Indeed, during the entire time of the Labor Government not one brick, one speck of mortar or one workman's footprint could be found on that site. One would have thought that Labor might have woken up but it did not because the last Labor health document entitled "New Approach to Health" was just the same. Wagga Wagga was not mentioned.

It appears that the runs are on the board for the Liberal-Nationals Government. If Liberal member Julia Ham is elected, we will make sure we work with her to deliver the \$170 million stage three that we promised. That comes on the back of the \$282 million that has already been spent on stage one and stage two. What Labor did in the past is an indicator of what it will do in the future. Quite simply, we need to elect Julia Ham to be part of the team in New South Wales. We need to make sure that Labor members never gets their hands on the levers of power because if they do—

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 130. As the member for Campbelltown anticipated, the Minister is debating the issue. I ask you to call him to order.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister is not debating the issue; he is answering the question he was asked.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Let us be clear: If Labor members got their hands on the levers of power in any manner, shape or form and if we do not back that Liberal candidate in Wagga Wagga, stage three of the hospital simply will not go ahead. Labor does not have it in its policy documents and one cannot trust Mr Foley or his shadow Minister, the Hon. Walt Secord.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will come to order.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** One cannot trust this lot one bit when it comes to health. One certainly cannot trust Mr Foley or his shadow Minister, Mr Secord. The issue of trust goes to the very essence of what people are

voting for. In the past few weeks—in fact, over the past few years—we have seen a number of examples. Let us go back to the front page of the *Daily Advertiser* in 2009, which noted that all the health Ministers said, "Trust Us", when not one brick was laid by Labor. The *Daily Advertiser* recognised that they could not be trusted.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Point of order: Madam Speaker, I draw your attention to the prop being used by the Minister.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** That is not a prop; I read it.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister is using it as a resource, but he should not wave it around and use it as a prop. The Minister is within his rights to quote from the newspaper.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Trust, of course, is crucial; voters need to put their trust in governments. *[Extension of time]*

Last year Brad Frankum, former President of the Australian Medical Association [AMA], was talking about whether it was appropriate to trust Mr Secord, the Labor shadow Minister. He was talking about the naming of a boy at Hornsby hospital and said—

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. Opposition members are simply trying to use up the Minister's time.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 75. The Minister should be referring to other members by their title or their electorate.

**The SPEAKER:** The member is correct; I was not aware that the Minister had not because I was distracted momentarily.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** I was quoting Brad Frankum, President of the AMA, who stated:

It is for this reason that I was again disappointed by the actions of Opposition Health Spokesperson Walt Secord for sensationalising the grief of the five-year-old's family.

While the media decided not to identify the boy and the family's identity without their permission, Mr Secord held up a photograph, identifying the boy and his parents by their first names during a hearing on State Health Budget estimates as he told Health Minister Brad Hazzard that a fundraising page had been set up ...

He goes on to say: This is not the first time we have seen such reckless behaviour. My members were equally distressed by heartless references to the tragic gas mix-up at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital ... One cannot trust the shadow Minister for Health. Recently he put out a press release that said there were two cases of diphtheria on the North Coast. The local health district put out a notice that said it was not true.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Is there a problem with that? What is the problem with that? The Clerk will stop the clock. What does the member for Strathfield want to say?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Stop the clock.

**The SPEAKER:** I did.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** It is still going; it is going down.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Please do not be rude to the Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** That is reserved for the member for Strathfield. What is the member's point of order?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question related to health in Wagga Wagga; it did not relate to diphtheria—even though we thank the Hon. Walt Secord for letting people know, because the health Minister did not.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The member for Strathfield will resume her seat. The Minister has the call.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** The health department said that the North Coast Public Health unit had confirmed that only one case of diphtheria had been reported in an adult patient in northern New South Wales. That is a straight-out lie. When it came to snakebites—

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order—

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

**Ms Kate Washington:** The Minister should be asked to—

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

**Ms Kate Washington:** The Minister has used unparliamentary language again in this place. I understand that the word "lie" is no longer able to be used in this place. He has used it again.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Port Stephens will resume her seat. I uphold the point of order. Calling someone a "liar"—through precedent and practice in this House—is indeed unparliamentary language. The Minister will not refer to other members as liars.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** Look at this photo of snakes. One has to ask, "Which one is the bigger snake?" The Hon. Walt Secord put out a press release in which he said that there was not enough anti-venom. The local health district put out a statement that said there was no shortage of snakebite anti-venom in New South Wales. He lies, and he lies, and he lies, and Mr Foley backs him.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The time for questions has expired.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: The Minister might have finished his answer—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The time for questions has expired.

**Ms Kate Washington:** He is completely unaccountable for using words that are unparliamentary.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Port Stephens will resume her seat. She is out of order.

#### *Personal Explanation*

#### **TREASURER COMMENTS**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (15:26):** By leave: During question time the Treasurer accused the Labor Party of being anti-Semitic.

**The SPEAKER:** This has to be a personal explanation about a matter that is directed at you and to which you have taken offence—not the Labor Party.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** I am the only Jewish member of the Labor Party. Most of my family was exterminated in the final solution. I take exception at the suggestion that I would join an anti-Semitic party in any circumstance. Whilst it is clear that people within my party take a different view in relation to Middle East politics and Israel, which is diametrically opposed to mine, that does not make them anti-Semitic. Neither I nor the Jewish community regard the Labor Party as anti-Semitic and I find the Treasurer's comments to be deeply offensive.

#### *Members*

#### **PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES**

##### **Appointment**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian: I inform the House that on 14 August this year Mark Owen Taylor was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for the Centenary of Anzac, Counter Terrorism, Corrections and Veterans.

#### *Committees*

#### **COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

##### **Reports**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled, "Support for Start-ups in Regional New South Wales", Report No. 4/56, dated August 2018.

I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**



**STAYSAFE (JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY)****Inquiry**

**Mr GREG APLIN:** As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety has resolved to conduct a review of road safety issues for future inquiry, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS****Reference**

**Mr JAI ROWELL:** On behalf of the Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has received a referral from the Premier to conduct an inquiry into the impacts of expenditure caps for local government elections, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Reports**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** As Chair: I table the report of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "Review of the 2016-17 Annual Report of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the functions of the Children's Guardian", Report No. 4/56, dated August 2018.

I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

*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**.

**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:

**Central Coast Railway Stations**

Petition calling on the Government to reconsider priority funding for Central Coast railway stations under the Transport Access Program, received from **Mr David Mehan**.

*Committees***LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 59/56**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The question is that the House take note of the report.

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:33):** I thank members for the opportunity to speak about the Legislation Review Committee's digest. Today I will speak about the fifty-ninth digest for this Parliament. In this week's digest, tabled on 14 August 2018, the committee examined three bills introduced in the last sitting week. The committee identified issues in all three bills. I will now draw the Parliament's attention to some of the key issues raised in the digest.

The Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Penalties and Other Sanctions) Bill 2018 amends the road transport legislation to be in line with the New South Wales Government's Road Safety Plan 2021. The amendments include introducing licence suspensions and penalty notices for low-level prescribed concentration

of alcohol [PCA] offences and drug presence first offences; expanding the mandatory alcohol interlock program to include more offences; including provisions requiring drink- and drug-driving offenders to complete an education course; and creating an offence related to actions that cause damage, disruption or obstruct vehicles and pedestrians on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

In her second reading speech the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight stated that the reforms regarding issuing penalty notices for low-range PCA offences were consistent with several other jurisdictions. The Minister also indicated that the issuing of penalty notices coupled with roadside licence suspension for first offence low-range PCA and drug presence offences would allow penalties to be applied swiftly and also take dangerous drivers off our roads. The committee identified that the bill's introduction of penalty notices for low-range drink-driving and drug offences could lead to many first offences being dealt with by penalty notice instead of by a court. This would likely result in fewer offenders having their driving matters determined by the courts, which are usually better placed to consider all the relevant circumstances of the offence. However, the committee noted that a person can still elect to take the penalty notice to court and that the proposed amendment may reduce the administrative burden on the courts generally.

The committee also highlighted that the bill broadens the definition of "drug" in the Road Transport Act 2013 to include any substance that when taken by an ordinary person may deprive that person of or impair his or her normal or physical faculties. The committee is concerned that the broad definition may lead to inconsistency in its application and confusion as to what the law is at any given time. However, the committee acknowledged the difficulties in prosecuting offences where emerging drugs that are not currently prohibited for the purpose of the Act are impairing drivers. The committee considered that a broad definition would assist in prosecuting offences in these circumstances and aid as a deterrent. As such, the committee made no further comment on this issue.

The Fair Trading Legislation Amendment (Consumer Guarantee Directions) Bill 2018 grants powers to the Commissioner for Fair Trading to resolve disputes involving low-cost goods. In her second reading speech, the Minister stated that a large proportion of consumer disputes are experienced in the low-value goods range. The committee identified that schedule 1 to the bill defers several matters dealing with consumer guarantee directions to the regulations, including the reasons that permit the secretary to decline to accept an application for a consumer guarantee direction. Given that matters are deferred to the regulations, the committee considers that substantive matters are more appropriately addressed in the principal legislation and subject to parliamentary scrutiny. The committee referred this issue to the attention of the Parliament.

The Paintball Bill 2018 introduced a new regulatory framework for paintball markers and activities in order to support the safety and security of players and reduce red tape for businesses. The bill introduced a number of strict liability clauses in relation to offences concerning the use, possession or purchase of a paintball marker. The committee generally comments where strict liability offences occur because the prosecution is not required to prove intent on the part of the accused. While the committee acknowledged that there is a period of imprisonment attached to these offences, it considered that the strict liability offences are designed to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework and the safe and appropriate use of the paintball markers. As such, the committee made no further comment. That concludes my remarks on the fifty-ninth digest of the Parliament. I encourage everyone to read the full digest, which is available on the Parliament's website. I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions. I commend the digest to the House.

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (15:37):** On behalf of the Opposition, I make a contribution to debate on the Legislation Review Committee's fifty-ninth digest dated 14 August 2018. The committee considered three bills and commented on all of them. I want to highlight some comments about the fair trading bill. The committee noted that the bill refers several matters to the regulations, including reasons that permit the secretary to decline to accept an application for a consumer guarantee direction as well as a number of matters relating to how and why a consumer guarantee direction can be made.

The committee noted that the bill defers several matters dealing with consumer guarantee directions to the regulations and that the committee generally prefers that substantive matters are dealt with in the principal legislation. Consequently the committee referred the issue to the attention of the Parliament. The committee will generally refer to the attention of the Parliament substantive matters that are deferred to regulations or, as I recall from last week in relation to the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Social Housing) Bill 2018, matters are not deferred to regulation relating to rental bond guidelines but to the sensibilities of the Minister.

The Minister indicated that the safeguard to the people of New South Wales was her well-developed sense of Western Liberal tradition. It is not surprising under those circumstances, where there are no guidelines before the House for the Parliament to scrutinise and consider, that the committee will direct the attention of members to the bill in the hope that they give attention to those matters and consider whether the bill is framed appropriately. I commend the digest to my colleagues. I thank the members of the secretariat who support the

committee—they do a fantastic job—and I thank my committee colleagues. We are serious about making sure that bills are scrutinised in accordance with the Act. I commend the digest to the House.

**Report noted.**

*Matter of Public Importance*

**BATTLE OF LONG TAN COMMEMORATION**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (15:40):** I draw to the attention of members a matter of public importance: Vietnam Veterans Day and the commemoration of the Battle of Long Tan. The Battle of Long Tan is commemorated on 18 August every year. This date was chosen to commemorate the men of D Company of the 6th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment who fought in the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966 during the Vietnam War. The Battle of Long Tan is Australia's most infamous battle, when 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought a long battle against more than 2,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops.

Australian troops of the 6th Battalion faced numerous challenges throughout the battle. The company was splintered into separate groups, which faced torrential rain and significantly reduced visibility. At the conclusion of the battle, sadly, 18 Australians had lost their lives and 24 more were wounded. Although that number exceeded any other single day's loss in the Vietnam War, it has always been considered, given the disparity between the numbers, that Australians were formidable that day. After the battle the bodies of 245 enemy soldiers were found and there was evidence that more bodies were carried away, which shows how incredible those Australians were in the way in which they handled this horrific battle. How difficult it must have been to be up against such large numbers. The Australian Army website has a wonderful quote on it, which says:

Long Tan is now remembered as an exemplar of Australian soldiers channelling the same attributes of bravery, teamwork and endurance that their forebears displayed in earlier conflicts.

On the third anniversary of the battle, on 18 August 1969, surviving members of the 6th Battalion raised a cross at the site of Long Tan and veterans of the battle gathered to commemorate the fallen. At that time the day became known as Long Tan Day. Following the end of the Vietnam War, a welcome home parade was held in Sydney. More than 25,000 veterans marched on that day. Later, then Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that 18 August would be known as Vietnam Veterans Day—a day that would encourage the entire community to honour and commemorate the sacrifice and service of the 60,000 men and women who served in the Vietnam War. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith expressed: Long Tan has become so significant and is feted as the icon of the war for all Vietnam veterans to commemorate those lost or maimed between 1962 and 1972. I have the opportunity this Saturday, and I am delighted that every year I am invited by the New South Wales branch of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association of Australia, to attend their service. The service will be held at Bankstown Sports Club. I acknowledge President Frank Cole and Secretary Ron O'Connor, who always send me a kind invitation. I will be there this Saturday to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day and mark the fiftieth anniversary of Battles at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. I acknowledge that the guest speaker this Saturday will be retired Wing Commander Paul Hughes.

I am also delighted to advise the House that all the veterans and members of the RSL from across New South Wales who attend on the day will be entertained by the William Brothers. Each year the Bankstown Sports Club and Bankstown RSL Sub-Branch are delighted to support this commemorative service. Over the years, many guests have come along. As always, I will be delighted to participate. I thank the association for its efforts in ensuring that the lives that were lost on that fateful day, 18 August, are forever remembered. As a society, we must continue to thank them for their efforts and acknowledge the many men and women who have fought in wars and conflicts to support democracy in Australia and in other nations.

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (15:45):** It is with pleasure that I speak on this matter of public importance to recognise Vietnam Veterans Day and the Battle of Long Tan. I thank the member for Bankstown for bringing this matter to the House. I will attend a commemorative service in Muswellbrook on Saturday. I have attended such services for quite a number of years. Anyone who drives through Muswellbrook will see the memorials. Over many years, the local veterans of Muswellbrook, with the support of the inmates of St Heliers Correctional Centre in Muswellbrook, have built and maintained an extraordinary series of memorials for different theatres of war, but in particular the Vietnam War. I used to attend the commemorative service as mayor representing Upper Hunter Shire Council, but since 2015 I have been attending as the local member.

Earlier today I looked at the Commonwealth Government's Anzac website, which has some extraordinary information. It brings home the importance of mateship and the extraordinary levels of courage that individuals display when they go into theatres of war or any form of battle. In May 1966 the first soldiers within the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment—6RAR—arrived in Vietnam and the remainder of the regiment arrived in June. In August—soon after their arrival—major battles occurred. On 18 August 1966 the Battle of Long Tan

took place. The casualties were horrific, as has been mentioned. Australian soldiers, assisted by New Zealand and American soldiers, faced extraordinarily tough situations. They really did not know what they were getting into. They did not know what sort of firepower to expect from the Vietcong, their enemy. In some respects, they were going in blind. As the battle took place individual soldiers and the regiment collectively showed a great deal of courage. They were put under heavy fire, resulting in a lot of casualties and a lot of deaths.

The helicopter pilots flew at tree height to deliver ammunition to our soldiers during the battle. It is hard to imagine what it would feel like to be a soldier on the ground or to be a helicopter pilot flying at tree height to deliver essential equipment, such as ammunition and blankets for the wounded. It must have been a hellishly scary situation to be in. The courage of the Australian soldier has been proven through many theatres of war. That battle in that theatre of war cemented in the minds of Australians and people across the world the notion that the Australian soldier is someone to be feared, revered and respected. On behalf of all Australians, I thank those soldiers for their commitment—some making the ultimate sacrifice. I know a lot of Vietnam veterans in my community and I respect them enormously. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts on our behalf.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:50):** I support all speakers, particularly the member for Bankstown, who have spoken on this matter of public importance. On 18 August every year we acknowledge the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans Day. This year marks the fifty-second anniversary of that battle, which is etched into the annals of our history. The day was originally known as Long Tan Day. It was selected to commemorate the valiant efforts of D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment—6RAR—which fought in the battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966. Commemorations are held right across the country to honour the 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers who dug in deep, pitched in and fought against more than 2,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops in a rubber plantation not far from the tiny village of Long Tan.

For many years we have commended the Vietnam veterans for what they did, and rightly so. It was very sad that, and it is well documented in our history, that upon their return to this country many of those brave soldiers were not met with open arms, love and compassion by those who remained in Australia. They put their lives on the line for us. It does not matter where people go to fight for our country, they deserve to be looked after by us and acknowledged for their gallant and valiant efforts. For many years the Vietnam veterans fought for recognition.

It is important for Australians to recognise their bravery, particularly as we keep talking about the Anzac spirit, which is in every single one of us—no matter who we are—but especially those who put their lives on the line for the freedoms that we enjoy today. A few of the veterans in my electorate—from RSL sub-branches in Fairfield and in Smithfield—went back to the Long Tan cross for the fiftieth anniversary ceremonies. It was very moving for them. It was the first time back for many of them. When I heard the stories about their return, it brought a tear to my eye. It brought tears to the eyes of anyone listening to their stories. Once again, I thank the member for Bankstown for introducing this matter of public importance acknowledging the fifty-second anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam Veterans Day.

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (15:53):** In reply: I thank the member for Upper Hunter and the member for Fairfield for their contributions to the discussion on this matter of public importance. The members spoke of their different experiences of what the Battle of Long Tan means to members of the community. The battle is commemorated annually and means something different to all of us, both parliamentarians and wider members of our society. I recall speaking to a number of veterans who travelled to Vietnam two years ago for the fiftieth commemoration of the battle. There is no question that this was a difficult experience for these former soldiers. The member for Fairfield reminded us that when these soldiers returned from the Vietnam War Australians did not embrace them as they do today. There is no doubt that for many veterans their homecoming was very difficult. Many suffer lifelong trauma as result of being part of such a difficult war when they experienced many atrocities.

Their experience is why it is important for us to commemorate the sacrifice of these soldiers. I acknowledge that the member for Upper Hunter will attend a commemorative service in Muswellbrook and that a number of services will be held throughout New South Wales. I encourage young people, including school students and community members in general, to appreciate the sacrifices of our Vietnam War veterans and the need to commemorate the lives lost in this war. We must do all we can to ensure that Australia does not participate in other conflicts around the world. One blessing from the Vietnam War is that society was enriched by the arrival of thousands of refugees from Vietnam. I know many Australian Vietnamese living in south-western Sydney, particularly, who have enriched our lives. They are grateful to Australia for welcoming them and to our veterans for fighting for their freedom. On behalf of the New South Wales Parliament, we commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day and we pay tribute to all the men and women who fought for Australia in the Vietnam War. Lest we forget.

*Community Recognition Statements***LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:57):** I congratulate Lake Macquarie City Council on implementing a Hunter first recycling initiative that will result in thousands of tonnes of crushed glass being reused locally. This innovative solution will see glass collected from household recycling bins and sorted and processed at a local materials recovery facility before being sent to a custom-built manufacturing plant on the Central Coast. Crushed recycled glass has properties equivalent to virgin sand, and the material is suitable for use in various civil works projects, including as bedding material in drainage projects and an aggregate in road base. This sustainable solution will stem the flow of recycled glass being sent interstate and stockpiled, ensuring this resource is reused locally, helping to address a growing national waste problem. I encourage all other Hunter councils to follow Lake Macquarie City Council's lead and implement the use of crushed recycled glass in civil infrastructure projects.

**TINONEE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:58):** I inform the House of the recent success of Tinonee Public School with its performance at the Taree Eisteddfod. The school's infants choir was awarded a highly commended certificate as well as the Bass and Blues Encouragement Award after a rendition of *You are my Sunshine* along with *The World is a Rainbow*, while the school's years 3 and 4 choir performed *Count on Me* and *Three Little Birds*, and was also awarded a highly commended certificate. Not to be outdone, the school's years 5 and 6 students were also awarded a highly commended certificate along with the Bass and Blues Encouragement Award. The choirs were indeed lucky to have the accompaniment of guitarist Mr Hogan during their performance. I am pleased to inform the House that we have a wonderful school community in Tinonee, with delightful choirs from infants through to year 6 who have received highly commended awards at the Taree Eisteddfod.

**CENTRAL COAST PENINSULA PETROL PRICES**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (15:59):** I love the peninsula—Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong. It is where I live, work, play and shop. It is home to approximately 35,000 of us and has the highest population of people aged more than 80 in Australia. It is the model for the future Australian population as we age—except we are ripped off on our petrol. We are surrounded by water on three sides, connected by a bridge to Gosford and a bridge to Hardys Bay, and bordered by a trek through the National Park to Kariong. The five petrol stations on the peninsula are often known to charge us 30¢ a litre more than surrounding businesses, knowing full well that many of our pensioners have restricted licences and cannot drive off the peninsula—a situation made even worse when the Government shut our local Roads and Maritime Services centre. According to the Government app, we now regularly pay some of the highest prices for petrol in New South Wales. I commend and support the local community for the decision to shop off the peninsula for their fuel. We are planning to hold a public meeting to discuss this as a united community, and we hope our petrol stations will listen to the voice of the people and reduce their extremely high prices.

**RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE TEAMS**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (16:00):** I make a timely acknowledgement of our local treasures. I am speaking, of course, about members of our Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue teams. Not only do they help our local community during fire or flood events, car accidents and the like, but they help in incidents across the State and, indeed, the world. I am proud to be associated with these fine young and not so young men and women, who are great people. Some of them are currently helping fight the fires on the South Coast. Some have travelled to America to contribute their expertise to fighting fires in California. Our firefighters are world leaders and I thank them for their service.

**CENTRAL COAST PADDLERS**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:00):** The Central Coast Canoe Club was established in 1962 following a meeting in the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club of 20 interested paddlers. The races were initially held on the Brisbane Water at Gosford but were later moved to a more suitable waterway on the Wyong River, with handicapped races for seniors and juniors. In 2017 the club changed its name to Central Coast Paddlers [CCP] to better represent the members and the diversity of craft that are used in paddle sports today. Races are held on the Wyong River and races are based on handicaps to ensure competitive racing for all levels of paddlers. The members of CCP have extensive experience in all aspects of kayaking and are always willing to share their knowledge of craft, equipment and paddling technique with newcomers to the sport.

The following members have been awarded life membership in recognition of their long service and participation as members of the club: Helen Jacobsohn, Brian Southall, Dave McPherson, Nick Naughton and his wife, Margaret Naughton. The club welcomes members from other clubs as well as non-members who are interested in trying the sport of kayak racing. While most of the members paddle kayaks and skis, they welcome paddlers of other paddle craft.

#### **SHOALHAVEN DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (16:01):** The tireless work of those in our public health system often goes unnoticed, as they go to any length to ensure that those entrusted in their care are well looked after. Earlier this year, local resident Merryn Joske was critically ill. She was placed in an induced coma and airlifted to Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital. Her family was told that she was very ill and that she might not survive. However, the Intensive Care Unit [ICU] in the Shoalhaven did not give up on Miss Joske and now she is slowly recovering. Merryn wrote to me to share her story and express her gratitude for the outstanding work that the Shoalhaven ICU has done for her, and the support given to her and the wider community. On Miss Joske's behalf and our community, I acknowledge all the staff of the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in particular and the entire hospital staff for their excellent attention to patient care and wellbeing. They are tireless servants of our community. They are passionate about health care and the Shoalhaven. They make our hospital a well-respected hospital.

#### **SERBIAN FOLKLORIC FESTIVAL**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:02):** I recognise the thirty-second annual Serbian Folkloric Festival, which was held over three days from Friday 10 August to Sunday 12 August at the Bonnyrigg Sports Club. The festival, which I have been able to attend on quite a few occasions, is a three-day celebration of Serbian culture. Its expressed vision is "to celebrate and preserve our Serbian folkloric heritage and culture in Australia". The festival features presentations, performances and videos displaying the culture and history of Serbia and all its regions. It is reputed to be the single largest Serbian event in Australia. Some 8,000 people usually visit and enjoy the festival each year. I was delighted to be able to attend the official opening of the festival. I acknowledge the presence there of His Grace Bishop Siluan, Bishop of Australia New Zealand; Branko Radosevic, Consul General of the Republic of Serbia; and John Pavasovic, who has many roles within the Serbian community. It was a pleasure to attend this good example of the vibrant multiculturalism of our area.

#### **OATLEY ELECTORATE SCHOOLS**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (16:03):** I acknowledge the outstanding schools in my electorate and throughout the St George region. I recently had the opportunity to visit Mortdale Public School with the Minister for Education. I recognise the school's principal, Olivera Mateski. Since taking on the position of principal about a year ago, Ms Mateski has done an outstanding job of taking the school to new heights. In the last school term, Mortdale Public School had an Anzac Day service, National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy tests, school carnivals, University of New South Wales competitions, debating events, Tournament of the Minds, a Mother's Day stall, grade excursions, dance events, choir events, Primary Schools Sports Association events, Students' Representative Council fundraisers, Mortdale assemblies, spelling bee competitions and much more.

I thank the students and staff at Mortdale Public School for their continued efforts in producing quality work in the classrooms and supporting each other to achieve the best educational outcomes. With Education Week just past, it is appropriate to congratulate and recognise all staff in the teaching profession across New South Wales who have contributed so much to equipping our younger generations with knowledge and resources in the field of education.

#### **NEWCASTLE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (16:04):** I am pleased to report to the House that Newcastle East Public School is now a "cool school" with the installation of air conditioning, thanks to the strong support of the Newcastle East community. I acknowledge the hard work of the school council, including president Lisa Piefke, council member Simonne Pengelly and the rest of the terrific council. Kids at Newcastle East have been sweltering in summer and freezing in winter for too long. Students and staff can now look forward to modern, comfortable learning spaces all year round.

#### **BENTLEY ART PRIZE**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (16:05):** I congratulate Helen Trustum and her team, who have held another extremely successful Bentley Art Prize, a very prestigious art prize, at the Bentley Hall in one of the most beautiful rural areas of the Northern Rivers. I was delighted that the Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin, was on hand to open the event. This year, more than 700 paintings and photographs were entered in

the prominent event. Helen registered every entry in a large red book. Helen has been running the art prize for 12 of its 34 years and is as enthusiastic about it as ever. The quality of the artworks continues to improve, with artists from all over the Northern Rivers and South-East Queensland exhibiting. We are all extremely proud of the Bentley Art Prize and everyone associated with making it happen.

#### **FIRE SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT WAYNE YOUNG**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:06):** I acknowledge Wayne Young, who has been recognised with the highest honour a firefighter can receive: the Australian Fire Service Medal. Wayne is the Fire and Rescue Central Coast station Commander and received the award for outstanding efforts in serving the community and supporting other firefighters. As the Fire and Rescue Zone Commander Jeremy Stubbs said, Wayne's commitment to colleagues and their welfare is simply extraordinary. He has been an active member of the critical incident peer support team for more than 20 years, giving up countless hours to assist firefighters who have witnessed distressing incidents in the course of their duties.

Wayne's caring nature extends to community volunteer groups, including the fantastic Wamberal Surf Life Saving Club. He is a very worthy recipient of this honour. Throughout his firefighting career, Wayne has been involved in a range of emergencies, including the Thredbo landslide in 1997, the Central Coast storms in 2007 and many others. He has also served at several stations, including at Gladesville, Gosford, Bateau Bay, Castle Hill, Hornsby, Kincumber and Berkeley Vale. On behalf of the community, I thank Wayne.

#### **MOUNT KEMBLA MINE DISASTER 116TH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (16:07):** On the evening of 31 July residents of the villages of Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights, along with descendants of families of those villages, gathered in Windy Gully Cemetery to mark the 116th anniversary of the Mount Kembla mine disaster. The 1902 mine disaster killed 96 men and boys—the youngest was only 14 years old and the oldest was 69. The explosion left 33 women widowed and 120 children fatherless. Fathers and sons died together, and in one home four brothers lost their lives. It remains the largest workplace accident in Australia's history. It left a mark on Mount Kembla that has lasted well beyond the life of the last person who remembered the day. The 96 candles commemoration ceremony held each year is a time for people to stop to remember the loss of life in the mine explosion and acts as a reminder that we can never be complacent about workplace safety. We never want to see it happen again. I congratulate Kavanagh Reddan, Bryan O'Keefe, Chris Jacobsen, John Kirkwood, and Jenny and Jessie Van Linden on their organisation of this year's ceremony.

#### **LIFELINE AMBASSADOR LEE-ANN FOORD**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:08):** I acknowledge an amazing ambassador for Lifeline Mid Coast, Mrs Lee-Ann Foord from Port Macquarie, who has worked for 20 years in our region as a Life Matters coordinator. Lee-Ann commenced her remarkable career with Lifeline in 1990 as a telephone crisis support volunteer, providing guidance and advice to people recovering from a traumatic experience in their life. After five years as a volunteer, Lifeline decided to promote Lee-Ann to an in-shift supervisor, where she worked for the next 19 years. Lifeline was first established in 1988 as a not-for-profit organisation that offers a wide range of support options and counselling methods for people facing difficult challenges in life.

Each year Lifeline volunteers answer an astounding 16,000 calls from people in crisis. Many of the situations a Lifeline volunteer will encounter include suicide prevention, domestic violence cases, mental health and bereavement by suicide. In her role as a Life Matters coordinator, Lee-Ann has passionately provided teaching and training in suicide prevention via LivingWorks Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and safeTALK programs. Lee-Ann believes that intervention is the key to helping someone at risk. Lee-Ann's colleagues commend her as a mentor, valued worker and sincere friend. Her leadership and guidance will be sorely missed at Lifeline Mid Coast.

#### **ZEN TEA LOUNGE**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:09):** On 13 August I had the pleasure of visiting the Zen Tea Lounge, a great social enterprise in Smithfield. Tucked away in an industrial area, Zen Tea Lounge looks like a normal café that does great Asian teas and Vietnamese food. On weekends, it holds retreats with mindfulness practitioners such as calligraphers, yoga teachers and artists. But what people do not know is that every one of the workers is a recent migrant to Australia who is being trained in hospitality and business skills. Zen Tea Lounge partners with qualified local training centres to provide practical training and skills to members of our community. These opportunities mean more than a new job for the migrant workers—who are mostly women who may not speak English—they can also provide independence and freedom. The women come from diverse backgrounds and may have struggled with domestic violence, poverty and a lack of education. With the help that Zen Tea

Lounge provides, they are women who can stand on their own feet. I congratulate Amy Nguyen and her dedicated team on their amazing work in our community.

#### **WESTMEAD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BENEFACTORS**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:10):** I acknowledge two great organisations in my electorate of Seven Hills that are contributing to make a positive difference in children's health at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. The Seven Hills RSL has been a partner of the hospital since 1994 and has donated approximately half a million dollars in funds since then. The club's incredible contributions have led to the purchasing of state-of-the-art medical equipment for the neurology department and smart monitors that help kids at risk of sudden infant death syndrome. This year, the RSL pledged a further \$96,000 to purchase six high-tech defibrillators. The Rotary Club of The Hills-Kellyville, with the Australian and international arm of Rotary, recently helped fund a state-of-the-art mobile diagnostic imaging platform to the tune of \$148,000. Both organisations not only fundraise for the children's hospital tirelessly but also help every day within the Seven Hills community to ensure everyone lives the best life possible. I congratulate every member of these two great organisations in my electorate of Seven Hills.

#### **HOLROYD HIGH SCHOOL FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:11):** Last Saturday I joined hundreds of current and former students and teachers from Holroyd High School to celebrate the school's fiftieth anniversary. In 1968, Holroyd High School began as a school with a capacity for 1,000 students. It has always been a multicultural school, and that continues today, with many refugees, asylum seekers and recent arrivals attending the intensive English centre before going on to complete high school at Holroyd. It was a great day and a great opportunity to hear the proud history of the school, with many success stories of former students. We heard stories from everyone, from the earliest students through to the recently retired principal of 23 years, Dorothy Hoddinott, who reflected on more recent changes and challenges. We were entertained by students' musical compositions and fantastic cultural dance performances. I also congratulate Holroyd High School on its nomination in the Australian Education Awards under the category of Secondary School of the Year—Government. Holroyd is one of seven schools chosen as finalists in this category. It is a great honour for a great school.

#### **TURRAMURRA FRESH PRODUCE AND GOURMET MARKET**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (16:12):** The Turramurra Fresh Produce and Gourmet Market, which commenced in Karuah Park, Turramurra, in October 2017, is the latest venture for Jacqui and Peter Landis, who have been operating the 60-stall Lindfield lifestyle market out of the East Lindfield Community Hall since April 2015. Every Wednesday visitors to the Turramurra market can stock up on fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, seafood, cheese, gourmet and sweet treats, with coffee, breakfast and lunch options available, all while enjoying the pleasures of the park. Jacqui and Peter believe in the greatness of small business and the power of the small business owner, so they have set up a market for what they term the "passionate stallholder". They are doing it with their eyes firmly on sustainability.

Jacqui and Peter offer free fabric shopping bags, encourage the use of bamboo and corn starch food trays and arrange coffee discounts for visitors who bring their own reusable coffee cups. Because the market is close to Turramurra station, shoppers can leave their cars at home. So successful has the market been that recently it won both its category and the overall award at the Better Business Partnership awards, which are organised by the Ku-ring-gai, Willoughby and North Sydney councils. I commend Peter and Jacqui for bringing quality products and award-winning sustainability initiatives to Ku-ring-gai.

#### **PORT MACQUARIE ELECTORATE LOVE SEA FOOD FESTIVAL**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:13):** A special event on the Port Stephens calendar is the Love Sea Food festival. The month-long festival is a celebration of Port Stephens' local fresh seafood, which is caught by our hardworking farmers of the sea. I was delighted to attend the 2018 Love Sea Food gala dinner at Broughtons at the Bay. Guests were treated to dishes from chefs Mitchell Turner from the soon-to-open Rick Stein Restaurant at Bannisters Hotels, Ben Way from the Little Beach Boathouse, Michael Jenkins from the Anchorage, Ludovic Poyer from the Poyer's and Mat Key from the Little Nel. No-one could forget Mark Hunter's plump oysters. International food celebrity the gregarious Lyndey Milan was a terrific master of ceremonies. I congratulate Eileen Gilliland and the team at Destination Port Stephens on a unique and special evening. To see local chefs collaborating on amazing dishes as they did was impressive, as was the quality of the local produce on our plates. I extend an invitation to everyone to come to Port Stephens to enjoy the best seafood in the country and the finest coastal cuisine.



### TRIBUTE TO CATHY CARLSSON

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (16:14):** I pay tribute to Cathy Carlsson, a much-loved teacher at Avalon Public School and a stalwart of the Avalon Beach community. Cathy passed away suddenly earlier this month and is being remembered today by her family, friends and local community. Cathy was a great champion for students with learning difficulties, particularly those struggling with literacy skills. She worked tirelessly with students in one-on-one sessions to improve their reading. In more than a decade of service to her school, Cathy helped to deliver outstanding improvements among her young charges.

There are few greater gifts we can give a child than the ability to read, and Cathy's work has had an indelible impact on hundreds of students. Cathy helped to train a crack team of local citizens as reading tutors, who will now carry the torch of her legacy into the future for the benefit of many more students. Cathy also ran the Avalon Public School chess club as an extracurricular activity. The great passion, dedication, warmth and humour Cathy brought to our community will be sadly missed. I extend my deepest condolences to Cathy's husband, David, and sons Tom and Alex. She will be sorely missed.

### TRIBUTE TO GIUSEPPE FIN, OAM

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:15):** It is with much sadness that I inform the House of the passing of Commendatore Giuseppe "Joe" Fin, OAM, a stalwart of the Italian community. Joe gave so much to the emerging Italian community of New South Wales in the 1950s and 1960s. He was an integral part of Co.As.It and spent much of his time developing and progressing that organisation. Joe is survived by his wife, Patricia, his children Rita, Loreta, Anna, Isabella, Silvana, Daniela, Alessandro and Mario, their respective families, 18 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Vale, Giuseppe Fin, OAM.

### PREMIER'S TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT MICHAEL STREET

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (16:16):** I commend Covenant Christian School in Belrose history teacher Mr Michael Street, who this week was awarded a 2019 Premier's Teacher Scholarship. The 20 recipients will each receive between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for a five-week study tour. Along with Michael's wife, Richelle, and school principal Bill Rusin, I was pleased to attend the presentation of the awards in the Mint Building on Macquarie Street. The award was presented by Premier Gladys Berejiklian, together with Minister for Education Rob Stokes. It reflects Michael's commitment to quality teaching and his future potential and will allow him to travel to the United States to study matters relating to the historic witches of Salem. I congratulate Michael and thank all involved in organising and sponsoring this initiative. It encourages some of our finest teachers in New South Wales, who in turn inspire and educate our younger generation in preparation for their futures in a time of rapid social, economic and technological change.

### BIRRONG SPORTS FOOTBALL CLUB JAPANESE SOCCER EVENT

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (16:17):** Over the weekend the area of Bankstown hosted a Japanese gala soccer weekend at Birrong Sports Football Club. I acknowledge club president Tyrone Wait, vice-president John Webbey, Michelle Davis, Stephen Howell and Andrew Baker for their fantastic efforts in hosting the wonderful weekend. I also acknowledge all of the kids who came out to play against the amazing and formidable teams from the Japanese academy in Suita. They were difficult to compete against but the young kids did really well. I acknowledge all of the volunteers from Birrong Sports Football Club as well Councillor Alex Kuskoff, who represented me at the event, and Richard Phillips from Bankstown Sports Club. I also acknowledge my two wonderful sons, Matthew and Daniel, who played against teams and did their best.

### BLUE HILLS VILLAGE CRAFT GROUP

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:18):** I thank and congratulate the ladies of Blue Hills Village in Prestons craft group, who have taken up the challenge of making yellow and black poppies for the Invictus Games later this year. Each of the poppies will be given to relatives of the athletes as a memento of the 2018 games. The group is working in response to the NSW Central Council of RSL Auxiliaries, which asked for 1,290 poppies to be made. The group has already produced close to 700 poppies on its own. That is a phenomenal effort and must be recognised in our Parliament. I congratulate craft group organiser Pamela Lee and all of the ladies who have contributed. I wish everyone involved in the Invictus Games all the best.

### FIX NSW TRANSPORT COALITION

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:19):** I draw the attention of Parliament to the Fix NSW Transport Coalition and the impressive lantern march it organised in Sydney last week to highlight the public's widespread concern and dissatisfaction with the Liberal Party and The Nationals when it comes to public transport in New South Wales. Some 30 campaign groups throughout Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the Central Coast

supported the rally, with 11 local councils and the Rail Tram and Bus Industry Union, the National Tertiary Education Union and the Public Service Association also showing their support.

The groups included Hunter Urban Planning Alliance, No M4 Toll, Penrith Valley Community Unions, NoWestConnex: Public Transport, Newtown Residents Against WestCONnex, Rozelle Against WestCONnex, Leichhardt Against WestCONnex, Camperdown Residents Against WestCONnex, NoW Annandale, Ecotransit NSW, Restore Inner West Line, WestCONnex Action Group, Friends of Erskineville, STOP Western Harbour and Beaches Motorways, the Northern Residents Tunnels Action Group or NORTAG, Action for Public Transport NSW, Sydenham to Bankstown Alliance, F6 Action and many more that I have run out of time to mention.

#### **AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (16:20):** I congratulate the New South Wales Government on bidding to host the Federal Government's newly announced Australian Space Agency. As Special Advisor to the Premier on Science, Industry and Innovation, I know firsthand the world-class industries and businesses we have that can be utilised as mankind ventures beyond Earth. New South Wales is best placed to host the agency. Australia already plays a critical role in space. Having visited NASA last year, I know that Australia is highly regarded and already assists that organisation with technology, products and expertise. I can look forward to the day when the space agency is established in New South Wales.

#### **LIONS CLUB OF GWANDALAN INC.**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:20):** I bring to the attention of the House the fantastic work of the Lions Club of Gwandalan in raising a grand total of \$18,250 through various fundraising activities over the past 12 months for charitable disbursements to the community. Gwandalan Public School, Lake Munmorah Public School and Lake Munmorah High School have each received a generous donation of \$1,000 and the club has donated \$8,000 to several local community organisations including Summerland Netball Club, Summerland Playgroup, Camp Breakaway, Tidy Towns and both the Mannering Park and Gwandalan Scouts. In addition to the long list of community donations, the club donated \$7,500 to help fund several prestigious community awards and to assist with ongoing programs including the Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation and Lions Prostate Cancer Research and Treatment and Support Project. I congratulate the Lions Club of Gwandalan members on their selfless hard work to raise much-needed funds for the benefit of our community. I look forward to spending tomorrow with them at their annual market.

#### **TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY PATTINSON**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (16:21):** Beverly Pattinson grew up in Mosman, with a passion for the sea and the beach. That passion continued throughout her life, right up until her passing in 2016 at the age of 85. Ms Pattinson had an extensive association with boats and the sea, and thoroughly enjoyed her favourite pastime of sailing. Through her association and experience, she knew of the raw power of the sea, its beauty and its dangers. In her will Ms Pattinson wanted to make gifts to support those who generously and selflessly gave their time and spirit to serve their communities. Ms Pattinson's estate has bequeathed three gifts of \$18,603 to Gerringong, Mollymook and Shoalhaven Heads surf lifesaving clubs to ensure that equipment can be obtained to support their work in the field. I once again say thank you for the gifts given by the late Beverly Pattinson of Bowral. I also thank Surf Life Saving South Coast Branch President Steve Jones for sharing her story of generosity. I thank Ms Pattinson and her family for the bequests.

#### **CENTRAL COAST TAXIDRIVERS**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:23):** I thank the hardworking taxidriver of the Central Coast who provide a fabulous service to not only everyday people who need transport but also disadvantaged locals, our elderly, walker and wheelchair users and those amongst us who cannot afford to run a car for whatever reason. Taxidriver work long hours and often develop a deep understanding of the needs and complexities of our great community. In their workplace they hear stories of people's lives, and they support those doing it tough by providing the odd coffee or drop-off for people who do not have the financial capacity. They do it with love and smiles, often working at crazy hours and rarely for enough money. Their careers have been impacted by recent social changes, the arrival of Uber and more recently by the introduction of Buses on Demand on the peninsula. I thank them for continuing to provide such a great service to members of our community.

#### **TRIBUTE TO DR HENRY NGAI, OAM**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (16:23):** I speak in remembrance of the late Dr Henry Ngai, OAM. Henry was the co-founding chair of the Liberal Party Chinese Council, founding trustee of the Australian Chinese Charity Foundation and Chairman of the Chinese Catholic Community. Henry was always generous with his time and efforts to help those less fortunate. Some of the organisations he was involved with include World Vision, the Red

Cross, Fairfield Hospital, Kids Off the Street and some natural disaster relief programs. Henry started a cataract charity operation team to offer free eye operations in Cambodia and China. In the past few years, the team started donating and assisting with the provision of hearing aids to people in China. Last year during the refugee crisis in Europe it donated 100,000 winter jackets to refugees in Germany. In the past few years, Henry and his company spent more than \$2 million on medical research, medical equipment, hospital donations, education and disaster relief. In 2018 Henry was awarded the Order of Australia by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Henry was a well-loved philanthropist. It is a great honour to commemorate his contribution to our society.

#### **NORTHERN CYPRUS TURKISH ASSOCIATION**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:24):** I recognise the Northern Cyprus Turkish Association of NSW. The NCTA held a commemoration on 20 July concerning events on that date in 1974 in Cyprus. The commemoration was called 20 Temmuz—20 July Peace and Freedom Day. Speaking at this recent event were, among others, President of the NCTA Ibrahim Mehmet and Honorary Consul of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ilkay Yusuf. In one of those remarkable multicultural encounters for which Sydney is famed, the featured entertainment on the night was a Polynesian dance performance by the Sydney Cook Islands Dance Group. There were other performers as well, including Turkish musicians. I acknowledge also the role of the sponsors of the event and the work of the volunteers who made the event possible. The NCTA is a community-based association that brings families together to cherish and celebrate cultural connections among Turkish Cypriots in New South Wales, many of whom live in and around suburbs such as Liverpool and Auburn. It was a pleasure for me to be invited to that event.

#### **BENTLEY ART PRIZE WINNER JULIE MCKENZIE**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (16:25):** I congratulate local Maclean artist Julie McKenzie on winning the prestigious Bentley Art Prize. Julie's entry, titled "Cool Paper Barks", was a depiction of the Australian bushland, inspired by the paperbarks and their existence as a filtration system for our waterways. Julie is a fabulous artist and has won a number of art prizes over the last few years. She is a wonderful inspiration for young artists and those just starting out. She has a studio in Maclean that is well worth visiting. As part of the Bentley Art Prize, Julie's artwork will be hung in the United Kingdom. Well done, Julie.

#### **HUNTER BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:26):** I congratulate the winners of the 2018 Hunter Business Awards hosted by the Hunter Business Chamber. These important annual awards celebrate excellence in the Hunter's businesses and their advocates. It was great to see the Tomaree Business Chamber from my own electorate recognised with the 2018 Local Chamber of Commerce award. Congratulations to chamber president Leah Anderson on her leadership. Lake Macquarie City Council and Port Stephens's own BIG4 Koala Shores Holiday Park were joint winners of the Love Water Love Business award, recognising their work in water conservation.

The winner of the Excellence in Innovation award was locally-based social housing provider Compass Housing Services. The Start Up Superstar award went to Gymnastics 21, with centres at Rutherford, Thornton and Salt Ash. The impressive Ampcontrol won the Excellence in Business award and Hunter Medical Research Institute Chairman Kyle Loades was named Business Leader of the Year. Congratulations also to Port Stephens locals Naomi Farrelly and Rebecca Morley from Spark CoWork, who were finalists for the Start Up Superstar award and to Kim Oakhill from Helpful Love for being a finalist for Outstanding Young Entrepreneur.

#### **WOY WOY ROTARY CLUB DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDRAISING**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:27):** I thank members of the Woy Woy Rotary Club who last Friday and Saturday gave up many hours of their time to collect \$1,300 in donations from locals at Fountain Plaza, Erina, in my electorate of Terrigal. The conditions our farmers face are the worst in decades. We know that 100 per cent of New South Wales is currently in drought. That is why the Government has committed more than \$1 billion so far this year to help farmers directly, including on transport subsidies and assistance, waiving Local Land Services rates, counselling and mental health support, and critical regional services. While the Central Coast region is not directly affected by the drought, as a community we have banded together to help those in need, whether it be buying a "Parma for a Farmer" at local pubs and clubs, making donations at supermarkets or buying "Beers for Bales" at the Empire Bay Tavern. Thank you again to the Woy Woy Rotary Club and President Jayne Mote for your contribution to the drought appeal in raising \$1,300 in my electorate.

#### **AUSTRALIAN CHINESE TEO CHEW ASSOCIATION**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:28):** On Wednesday 8 August 2018 at the Marigold Restaurant, Sydney, the Australian Chinese Teo Chew Association Inc. celebrated its thirtieth anniversary as well as the

inauguration of the seventeenth executive and management committee. Present on the evening were State and local government representatives and leaders from local and overseas Chinese associations. Of course, the celebrations would not have been complete without the traditional lion dancers from the Australian Chinese Teo Chew Association.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr Frank Chou, OAM, and Mr Hung Ly, OAM, President of the Executive and Management Committee of the Australian Chinese Teo Chew Association Inc. gave the official welcome and thanks to all guests for their attendance and good wishes. The Australian Chinese Teo Chew Association plays an integral role in our community, assisting people in need locally, interstate and overseas. I wish the seventeenth executive and management well for the next term, and I look forward to seeing the new Teo Chew Buddhist temple open in the near future.

#### **AFRICAN CULTURAL & DINNER NITE**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:29):** I congratulate the African Cultural & Dinner Nite committee and Chairman Kelvin Ozurumba on hosting the eighth African Cultural & Dinner Nite at the Liverpool Catholic Club on Saturday 4 August. I acknowledge the support of the Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre. I had the pleasure of attending the event along with Mr Ray Williams, the Minister for Multiculturalism. The event provides an opportunity for African-Australians and other Australians to connect and participate in a spirited cultural and social evening and celebrate African-Australian cultural identity. The wonderful event had many performances. The entertainment was vibrant and exciting, and I commend all the performers. The night was a success and promoted a sense of cultural belonging as well as creating a platform for upcoming artists. I commend the ACDN committee for holding such a wonderful night and I look forward to next year's event.

#### *Petitions*

#### **STOCKTON BEACH PRESERVATION**

##### **Discussion**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (16:30):** I commence by thanking the residents of Stockton and Newcastle who join us today. The Stockton community has worked very hard to gather the signatures for this petition and those who are watching us here today from the gallery have taken time out of their busy schedule to travel here and watch this process unfold. I appreciate all their hard work and solid commitment. I promise to all those watching and everyone in Stockton that I will not give up this fight. On the morning of Thursday 19 July residents woke to find council workers in hazmat suits combing the Stockton Beach for asbestos. The image of suited workers walking across the golden sands of Stockton Beach is a stark one, and one that must serve as a wake-up call to this Government. What if workers in hazmat suits were walking across Bondi Beach, Minister? What if the children of Vaucluse were capping off sandcastles with pieces of asbestos, as they have been in Stockton?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Newcastle will direct his comments through the Chair.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP:** It would be a State emergency. Erosion has now threatened the local day care centre, the surf club, Lexie's cafe and the caravan park. It has unearthed two old tip sites.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Newcastle will direct his comments through the Chair.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP:** What does it take to spur this Government into action? I have been in this Chamber ringing alarm bells about the erosion of Stockton Beach since 2016. And what has this Government's response been? Deflect and deny. I know the Minister will simply repeat what she has on many occasions yelled across this Chamber: that addressing erosion at Stockton is the responsibility of Newcastle City Council. If that is so, why did the State Government commit to funding a rock groyne at The Entrance last State election? Why has the Government funded two-thirds of the cost of Jimmy's Beach sand replenishment program? Why is the Minister sitting on an \$83 million pot of money to address coastal erosion?

In 2016 the Minister, to much fanfare, announced \$83 million in funding—the biggest funding boost to coastal management since the 1970s. To date this Government has spent only 4 per cent of this fund, and at this rate it will have spent only 10 per cent by the end. If elected, a Labor Government will commit \$270,000 to fund the coastal management program to come up with some long-term solutions. Through the Chair, I call on the Minister to do exactly the same. When council submitted its Coastal Zone Management Plan the Government took eight long months to analyse it and then told council to remove Stockton from the plan. Why so long, Minister? Under the new laws councils are required to submit a coastal management program before works can begin. But the laws were delayed by this Government for two long years after being passed by Parliament.

Another example of the Government's incompetence was on display yesterday when the Minister told the House the council's plan had been signed off. It was signed at the same time the Parliamentary Secretary—sitting over there—was telling the media he thought it would be accredited in the coming weeks. The left hand is not talking to the right hand and this Government is in chaos. Studies of Stockton have identified the long-term loss of 10 million cubic metres of sand and lowering of the seabed by more than seven metres since breakwall construction. The loss of sand is now accelerating at an estimated 370,000 cubic metres a year—five times the annual average loss. This huge volume of accelerating sand loss may bring Stockton close to a tipping point, after which catastrophic damage is likely and subsequent natural replenishment will no longer be possible. The time is now! This cannot be delayed any longer; we need long-term solutions now. This crisis has been caused by the Government's breakwall construction and dredging, and it should be solved by government action and funding.

The Minister would be well placed to do something when she is in town on 25 August for the Liberal Party State Council meeting at Port Stephens. We should arrange a meeting for her with the Stockton residents and me to work out some long-term solutions for this environmental emergency. I await the Minister's call. Unlike this Minister, the shadow Minister did not ignore requests to visit Stockton and to speak with the community. Because the Minister has ignored those requests, I have brought the community to her today. These Stockton residents deserve to know why the Government has ignored their concerns and calls for help. Why would the Minister for the Environment prefer to play the blame game when she could fix this problem? She should tell them and tell them now. [*Time expired.*]

[*Interruption from the gallery*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I realise the people in the gallery have strongly held views. However, clapping in the gallery is not acceptable. I welcome the visitors to the debate, but I ask that they refrain from clapping and making comments from the gallery.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage) (16:36):** I, too, welcome the residents of Stockton to the Chamber. I thank them for making the effort to come to this House of democracy to hear the Government set the record straight. I do not support the petition presented by the Labor Party and, as I said, I will set the record straight. Facts are important, although it may be convenient for the member for Newcastle to ignore them. Unfortunately, they are missing from his ill-timed and political stunt, again brought to this House.

Under the New South Wales Government's coastal management regime, the management of erosion at Stockton is primarily Newcastle City Council's responsibility. Disappointingly, the council—a bastion of the Labor Party—has not responded accurately or in a timely fashion to the challenges that have befallen the Stockton community. The council submitted a draft coastal zone management plan to the Office of Environment and Heritage for certification on 29 November 2016. That was not long after the member for Newcastle left the council, on which he had served for eight years. It beggars belief that he did not know about or act on the long-term erosion and coastal management issues in the area. It is a bit rich for him now to point the finger at members on this side of the Chamber when in that role he put forward a coastal management plan that did not do what it needed to do to assist his constituents.

The member left the council in 2016, and two more years had passed with the Newcastle City Council still beaver away at its revised submission when in January this year a combination of large swells and high tides caused the Stockton Beach escarpment to erode to within two metres of the fence of a childcare centre. I acknowledge that that was the latest in a long list of erosion events at Stockton. The same storm exposed an historic landfill site on Hunter Water and Crown land to the north of the childcare centre.

In response, council did act on this occasion. Council set up the Stockton Coastal Interagency Advisory Committee. That group was set up to advise council about the erosion threat at Stockton, to prepare the revised coastal zone management plan and then to set up a longer term coastal management program with the management actions that need to be undertaken. The membership of that committee included the council, which failed to act; the Office of Environment and Heritage; the Department of Industry—Lands, Hunter Water; the Department of Premier and Cabinet, which is the major oversighting leadership bureaucracy in government; and the Environment Protection Authority.

That group has met regularly since 2 March this year. The New South Wales Government is assisting and has played an integral part since that agency was set up, crafting the solutions. I thank all the participants for that work. I am grateful to the local members of the Stockton community, some of whom are in the gallery, for the active interest they have taken in their local area. All stakeholders are working well towards the solutions that need to be identified to address the issues of concern. I am pleased to announce, as I announced yesterday, that, finally, after receiving the revised coastal plan only two weeks ago—after it was first lodged two years ago and

was not up to scratch—it was signed off. We acted quickly to make sure that the future of Stockton Beach is secure.

Council can now apply for the funds identified to support the management actions in the now certified coastal zone management plan. Some of those actions include emergency protection for the childcare facility, controlling contaminants and remediation of former landfill sites, nourishing Stockton Beach when the Port of Newcastle dredges clean sand from the entrance channels to the Hunter River and establishing a working group to investigate sourcing sand for future beach replenishment needs. In addition, the Office of Environment and Heritage is working with council to develop practical and viable long-term strategies to manage coastal hazards on the Stockton peninsula. I welcome all that work. I genuinely look forward to working with council and continuing that important work to track what is now the ongoing management of Stockton Beach so that the local community, those in this House today, and every visitor to the Newcastle region can continue to enjoy its natural beauty. *[Time expired.]*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Newcastle was heard in silence. He will show the same courtesy to other members.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:41):** I welcome to the New South Wales Parliament all those in the gallery. It is wonderful to see friendly Hunter faces in this place. I know the effort that has gone into obtaining the necessary signatures to bring this petition to the Parliament today, and I thank you all for those efforts. I congratulate the hardworking member for Newcastle on driving this issue from the very beginning and on doing a terrific job. It is incredibly rich for the Minister to come into this place this afternoon and oppose this petition, which involved so much effort and which so many people have signed. In doing so, she has effectively kicked sand into the faces of all the 10,000 people who have signed this petition.

Does the Minister think that the community is so stupid that its members do not know what is going on and they cannot see that their beach is being eroded, that the childcare centre is teetering on the edge of the ocean and that people in hazmat suits are cleaning asbestos from the beautiful Stockton Beach? For the Minister to come in here today and deny responsibility is disrespectful to Newcastle City Council and its enormous efforts to find a solution for the people of Stockton. For her to say at the end that she is happy to work genuinely with council speaks volumes of this Government's lack of cooperation with Newcastle City Council on exactly this issue.

The Minister then said that the member for Newcastle is politicking. That is a very cute thing to say. Government members, particularly Ministers, make that assertion when members come into this House and give voice to their community. They do not like hearing it so they dismiss it as politicking. The Government continues to fail communities and to not listen to the people. Instead, it chooses to dismiss them as politicking. This is not politicking. It is a community fighting to keep its beach, fighting to keep its home and fighting to ensure that its environment is protected into the future.

This Government cannot and should not continue to deny responsibility. It cannot continue to blame Newcastle City Council for its own failings and cannot continue to impose bureaucratic red tape on council because it does not like the price tag on the solutions previously offered up by Newcastle City Council. It cannot continue to prioritise splurging money on stadiums in Sydney while communities teeter on the edge of the ocean. A Foley Labor government will support this community. It has pledged \$270,000 to fix the matter. I thank everyone for their efforts. Thank you, Tim. Go hard: Let's fix this.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:45):** I acknowledge all the people who have travelled from Newcastle today. As the member for Terrigal, I understand the distance they have travelled. As the Minister said, the Government is committed to protecting our coastal zones and providing the opportunity for people to live and thrive in coastal communities. As the member for Terrigal, I have experienced a situation at Wamberal-Terrigal beach where a similar level of coastal erosion occurred during storms. Rather than petitioning the State Government, the Central Coast Council put together its coastal zone management plan effectively, efficiently and correctly in the first instance and submitted the plan.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Stop the clock. I have encouraged members to be respectful and listen to the debate. The member for Newcastle and the member for Port Stephens were afforded the opportunity to be heard in silence. The member for Terrigal will be heard in silence.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** Members opposite referred to hazmat suits and council staff picking up asbestos. That is also occurring at Wamberal-Terrigal beach. Council is working constructively with the Office of Environment and Heritage, Crown Lands and a community organisation to find a long-term solution for Wamberal-Terrigal beach—and that should be occurring in relation to Stockton Beach. The State Government has placed the funds on the table and has made them available for almost two years. The petition and the

community's concerns are valid, as are the concerns of my community. It is important for council to work constructively with the Government to deliver a good outcome for all involved.

I originally had concerns as expressed by the Stockton community but I am pleased to say that the Central Coast Council has worked constructively with residents, the Office of Environment and Heritage and Crown Lands to come up with a long-term solution for Wamberal-Terrigal beach. The same should happen for Stockton. I understand the concerns and empathise with the Stockton community. As the Minister made clear, a correct and applicable coastal zone management plan must be in place to access the funds available. On the Central Coast, we were able to get the plan in place and work with the State Government. Money is on the table to put the plans together and to assist with infrastructure.

The processes are in place for the community and council to work constructively and deliver long-term solutions for the residents of Stockton and the residents of Wamberal-Terrigal beach. It is rich for the member for Newcastle to say that it would only happen at Bondi Beach because it is happening now at Wamberal-Terrigal beach. The council is working hand in hand with the State Government to deliver a good result for the residents of my electorate. The residents of Newcastle should receive the same benefits. Rather than complaining about the State Government, the member for Newcastle should work constructively through council with the State Government to deliver a better outcome for his community. Having sat on council for years, it is a bit rich to come into this place and say, "I did not know what was going on." The reality is that the opportunity to do something exists.

**Ms TRISH DOYLE:** I seek leave to make a contribution.

**Leave not granted.**

#### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **ROAD SAFETY**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (16:49):** On 1 September a new road rule will come into force whereby drivers will have to slow down to 40 kilometres an hour when passing an emergency vehicle on the side of the road which has its lights flashing. The law, however, does not go far enough. It fails to include all first incident responders. This morning the Government shut down debate on a bill that would have rectified this situation. I will read onto *Hansard* a message from Peter Frazer, who has campaigned for this rule change since his daughter, Sarah, was killed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members who wish to have private conversations will leave the Chamber.

**Ms JODI McKAY:** This is Peter's message:

On 15 February 2012 my daughter Sarah Frazer was travelling from our home in Springwood to Wagga Wagga to start university.

While she was driving along the Hume Freeway her vehicle broke down, something that happens thousands of times a day across Australia. But because the emergency lane she pulled over into hadn't been built to AustRoads Standards (it was just 1.5 metres wide), her car was left overhanging into a 110 kilometre per hour lane.

Through no fault of her own, Sarah had become the ultimate vulnerable road user and her life was in jeopardy.

It was around 11:15 am when she left me a frightening voicemail. She didn't know why but her car suddenly lost power, and all she could do was to guide it as close as possible to the barrier. But she couldn't get her vehicle out of the high speed lane.

Additionally, there were thorny bushes on the other side of the guardrail and the ground steeply sloped into a creek.

She was distressed as she told me that she couldn't get herself off the road and out of danger. But it was her next words that will haunt me for the rest of my life ...

This is Sarah's voicemail message to her father:

Cars and trucks are speeding past just centimetres away from my car ... No one is changing lanes. I am terrified that they will hit me. I rang the NRMA. Dad, please call me!

Peter's message continues:

As I was at work, my personal mobile was turned off so I didn't get her voicemail until just after 12:30 pm.

When I turned on my mobile and heard her message, I went into a state of panic ... my heart was thumping in my chest as I dialled her number but it rang out ... I kept on ringing her but it just kept going to her voicemail.

My darling Sarah was the kindest, funniest, most intelligent person I had ever met. She was loved by everyone who met her and at 23 years old, she had everything to live for. But at 12:32 pm, Sarah and the tow truck driver who had come to assist, were horrifically killed when a passing truck crashed into them.

My beautiful daughter was left in pieces on Australia's most important road.

My family didn't find out that Sarah had been killed until the NSW Police came to our home around 5.00pm that evening. I arrived just after 5.00pm to find my family screaming and crying with two Police Officers standing with them, weeping.

I didn't need to be told what had happened ... I just fell to the ground wailing and repeating, "She's only broken down ... She's only broken down."

One of my other daughters wasn't with us when the Police arrived but she would learn of this tragedy in the worst way possible. She was alone at her boyfriend's place watching Channel TEN when a news flash came on about a tow truck driver and a young woman killed on the Hume Freeway ... She recognised Sarah's car from the helicopter footage. Sitting all by herself, she would realise that it was her beautiful sister who had been killed.

As our family and friends will grieve her loss for the rest of our lives, we don't want anyone else's loved ones to go through what we must face every day. No one should ever experience what it is like to have someone you love killed in such an avoidable circumstance.

It is six and a half years today since Sarah was killed. As every life is precious and every life matters, this is far too long for NSW to do so little when we can protect all those who are vulnerable on our roads and highways.

SarahGroup started the push for a Slow Down Move Over (SloMo) law in NSW more than six years ago.

Indeed we submitted a 23,000 signature Petition to the Acting Premier on 15 May 2012 that asked the NSW Government to implement a law to protect our police, emergency services, tow truck drivers and roadside assistance personnel.

But how ironic is it that having started the push for SloMo in 2012, the very class of people whose deaths prompted this push for improved road safety, won't be afforded any protection by the new NSW road rule.

That rule comes into force on 1 September and it is inadequate.

## MULTICULTURALISM

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:54):** New South Wales has a rich and diverse culture of which I am extremely proud. Our region has 160 nationalities who speak 150 different languages. I am always happy to attend cultural events to connect and engage with our strong multicultural communities. Recently I had the pleasure of attending several multicultural events. Those events create a sense of welcome and community, and I am proud to be a part of them. On Saturday 14 July I represented the Hon. Ray Williams, Minister for Multiculturalism, at the Rathayatra Festival of Chariots. I acknowledge the distinguished guests on the day, in particular, host Mr Govardhan Das, President of Vedic Festival Incorporated; and Vara Nayaka Das, Temple President of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which is a significant sponsor of the event. The festival is a part of India's cultural heritage and promotes peace and harmony among diverse communities. This year was the twelfth annual Festival of the Chariots hosted at Bigge Park, Liverpool. The Festival of Chariots combines a street parade and a fair, and honours Lord Krishna in his form as Jagannath, Lord of the Universe.

Thousands of people come together to pull a chariot out of Bigge Park onto the streets and back to the park. Thankfully the 10-tonne truck has no engine. Helping to pull the chariot is said to help one obtain significant spiritual benefit. The next day everyone is sure to have sore arms but hopefully the spiritual benefit will assist them. The festival also showcased the colourful dance, drama, music, art and festivities of Indian culture. It was a lot of fun to be involved in the day's events. The organisers also reached out to members of our State's Fijian Indian community, who consider the event to be of high cultural value. The 2016 Census counted that approximately 8,000 people of Fijian Indian ancestry made New South Wales their home, with many of them residing in the Liverpool region. Many individuals have said that they lost touch with their roots somewhere along the way when they migrated to New South Wales. That is why the festival organisers want to help the Fijian Indian community reconnect with the culture of their forebears. I was pleased to take part in the festival and I commend the organisers for the event.

On 4 August I attended the African Cultural Dinner Night at Liverpool Catholic Club. Once again, I had the pleasure of attending the event with the Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Ray Williams. Earlier today in my community recognition statement I mentioned that this event is full of colourful costumes, talented performers and great speakers. I congratulate the organisers on running a smooth event and I look forward to joining them at their ninth event next year. New South Wales has a large multicultural community and I love immersing myself in the richness of the various cultures that we host. I recently attended the Mateship Fair and Independence Day Celebrations, which were hosted by the United Indian Association. I thank Sreeni Pillalamarri, president of the United Indian Association, for hosting the amazing event which is celebrating its twenty-fourth year. The fair was held on the riverside in Parramatta and attracts more than 10,000 people each year. The event included an Indian flag hoisting and a parade of children dressed up in wedding costumes from the different Indian groups. There were fireworks and music and dances performed by the Indian diaspora. The Premier, the Minister for Multiculturalism and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the culturally rich event.

Experiencing different cultural events and engaging with those communities allows us to connect and get to know the various cultures. Immersing ourselves in learning a different language has the same effect. Our children continue to learn the languages of their parents and grandparents. Today I was pleased to join the



NSW Federation of Community Language Schools to encourage young people to take on a second language, whether it is at Saturday school or during their regular school lessons. It is important to keep our brains working at the best level they possibly can. I acknowledge the children in my electorate who learn Tamil. I recently visited those students while they were doing their exams in Tamil. They told me it is a hard language to learn, but they were happy and thought they did well in their exams. I mention the Pacific Islander group from Holsworthy High School which participated in the Holsworthy Community of Schools Concert. I congratulate the children who took part in the musical performance, which was phenomenal.

### **DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**

**Mr THOMAS GEORGE (Lismore) (16:59):** We all know the devastating conditions that our farmers continue to battle during one of the biggest droughts on record. New South Wales is now declared 100 per cent in drought. The Government has announced more than \$1 billion in drought relief measures, which include transport subsidies, waivers on farming costs, further boosting the Farm Innovation Fund, animal welfare measures and mental health support. However, along with government measures, I have been humbled to witness the incredible support and drought relief that the general public is providing. Across the State, businesses, residents and organisations have rallied their communities together to help our farmers.

Today I congratulate a group of locals from my electorate on going over and above to help drought-affected farmers in Tenterfield. Last Monday Austin Curtin held a meeting, bringing together representatives from Tenterfield and Lismore, local truck drivers and businesses in a bid to coordinate individual drought efforts. During the meeting, Ray Payne and Matt Bidna said that various people wanting to know how to help the farmers had contacted them. They were put in contact with Darryl Boyd from Boyd's Baling and Bill Hewetson from Mallanganee who agreed to use funds provided by the public to donate 40 bales of hay. Tenterfield mayor Peter Petty then offered to send a truck to pick up the donated hay and take it back to Tenterfield, free of charge. The effort enabled the team to access free transport for the fodder.

As a result of this, it was a pleasure to see the 40 bales of fodder loaded on at Mallanganee and headed to the drought-stricken Tenterfield shire this week. Tenterfield Shire Council then offered to store the bales at the Tenterfield Showground. I thank the showground and the trust for making it happen. This Sunday 19 August 2018 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., council is hosting a "hay day" to distribute the donated material. Rural producers in the shire can come to the Tenterfield Showground and receive one round bale of Rhodes grass hay and one dry feed lick block. That will mean so much to the property owners who are struggling.

In addition to the hay donation, Austin and the team are also supporting the Tenterfield branch of the Salvation Army, which has opened a bank account aimed at gathering donations specifically for farmers in the Tenterfield shire. Last week the Salvation Army, together with mayor Peter Petty, also conducted a day of prayer in Tenterfield, which some 100 people supported. That is a fantastic localised effort to help our farmers. Where possible, the Salvation Army will also use donations to secure more fodder and household water, so I urge any organisation or individual still interested in helping the drought effort to support the cause. During the 2017 floods that devastated Lismore, we had help from all over the electorate. It is now our turn to return the favour to our western neighbours. I congratulate Austin Curtin, mayor Peter Petty, Ray Payne, Darryl Boyd, Matt Bidna and Bill Hewetson, the businesses that attended these meetings and have been supporting them, and everyone else who has already contributed and supported this effort. They truly are local heroes and personify Australian mateship.

Today in the House the Deputy Premier made a number of statements asking people to visit those areas and put some dollars into the businesses. It is not only the farmers who are doing it tough, but also the businesses in the little towns. They are struggling. Any support by anyone travelling to those drought-affected areas—even buying a cup of coffee—will mean so much to those communities. While people are there, they should check on the locals to see how they are doing. If they find that the locals need support for mental health or anything else, they should contact someone within the Government or their local member. The Government can help because it has made sure that support is available to anyone who needs it. I ask people to not be frightened to make an application or to contact someone for support.

### **SOUTH COAST BUSHFIRES**

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (17:04):** It would not be news to anybody that yesterday I left Parliament to return to Nowra to receive an urgent briefing on the fires ravaging the South Coast and endangering properties. Those fires frightened a number of my friends, people I know and constituents. It began with a blaze that had been burning for the previous four days, south-west of Ulladulla at Mount Kingiman. Paired with intense winds reaching up to 110 kilometres per hour, and incredibly dry conditions, the fire was declared as out of control yesterday morning and an emergency warning issued. At around 7.00 a.m. emergency services were alerted with more than 100 calls from members of the community in the space of a few minutes. By 8.10 a.m. the

emergency warning was in place. By 9.00 a.m. nearby homes were under immediate threat and residents began evacuating.

The bushfire was intense, unpredictable and fast moving. Embers from the main fire front were lighting spot fires as far as six kilometres ahead. By lunchtime additional bushfires had sprung up across the South Coast and the rest of the State. At that stage 79 fires were burning. The South Coast fires included fires at Tomerong, Jerrawangala, and Bomaderry near Narang Road. Fanned by intense winds the fire at West Cambewarra, and Bomaderry was classified as out of control and upgraded to an emergency warning. Bomaderry residents close to the blaze began evacuating, as did Nowra Anglican School.

As the blaze neared the Princes Highway sections were closed, limiting northbound and southbound traffic. The highway was fully closed for several hours between Bolong Road and Meroo Road. Reports came through as I was travelling south along the highway and it was not clear whether reaching Nowra was even a possibility at that stage. Yet despite the apparent chaos our local emergency services took the day's events in their stride, as they always do. From the very early hours that day up until the late hours of the night they worked around the clock to contain the fires and to keep everyone safe.

It was amazing to witness the professionalism, competency and dedication of emergency service personnel, including the Rural Fire Service [RFS], NSW Police Force and State Emergency Services. From the Shoalhaven Control Centre on Albatross Road, West Nowra, RFS Superintendent Greg Wardle and NSW Police Force Superintendent Steve Hegarty led their teams of staff and volunteers. Acting Mayor Councillor Mitchell Pakes, ably assisted by General Manager Russ Pigg and Shoalhaven Water Director Carmel Krogh, were on hand all day providing information to RFS and emergency service personnel and the police. As a former RFS commander, Acting Mayor Councillor Pakes was excellent at mobilising Shoalhaven City Council's resources to better assist the community and emergency services. I thank him for making himself available and for keeping the community and me informed of events every step of the way.

Every fire, asset, home and weather factor was being closely monitored from the control centre to bring the bushfires back under control and prevent the loss of properties and, most importantly, lives. More than 300 RFS personnel were deployed to battle the Mount Kingiman fire burning across 1,300 hectares and the North Nowra-Bomaderry fire. Available assets were deployed and by 6.00 p.m. yesterday both of the major fires had been downgraded and winds had eased. I am thrilled to report to the House that, as of this morning, thanks to the tireless and selfless efforts of the volunteers and professional staff that only one shed had been reported lost to date, there were no major injuries either amongst residents or emergency services personnel, and both fires had been further downgraded.

At this stage I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has worked, and who continues to work, to help either battle the fires or provide assistance to the South Coast community. Special mention must be made of the South Coast's local journalists who also worked around the clock to report back to the community on the situation. Many of them went above and beyond what was expected of them, to ensure that the public were at all times being kept up to date with what was happening. I thank Rob Crawford, Jess Clifford, Emily Barton, Sam Strong, Rebecca Fist, Andrew Page, Damian McGill, Hayley Warden, Courtney Ward, Ainslie Drewitt-Smith, Natassia Appolloni and Jordan Matthews for putting themselves on the front line to bring us timely and life-saving information. Everybody was certainly listening carefully yesterday.

A further thanks goes to the *South Coast Register* and *Milton Ulladulla Times* editor John Hanscombe for providing live update services to residents. Family and Community Services also deserves our thanks for its set up and handling of the emergency centres at Ulladulla Civic Centre, Milton Showground and Bomaderry Bowling Club. It was on hand at short notice to provide evacuated community members with the items and access to services they would need. Currently, five fires still burn across the South Coast. The RFS and emergency services continue to monitor and contain each one. My thoughts today are again with everyone in my electorate facing and fighting these fires. I remind the community to remain vigilant and to follow advice from the RFS. We are not out of the woods just yet, but the outlook today is much improved from yesterday.

*Visitors*

## VISITORS

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER (17:09):** I welcome to the public gallery Steve Fordham from Blackrock Industries and Rachael Trihey, Chief Executive Officer of Commsync, guests of the member for Upper Hunter.

*Private Members' Statements***WARD AND OLIVE HAVARD MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (17:09):** I recognise the City of Liverpool and District Historical Society, which conducts an annual Ward and Olive Havard Memorial Lecture each year. The fifty-second annual lecture was delivered on Saturday 4 August. On this occasion the lecturer was Dr Stephen Gapps, whom I had the pleasure to introduce at the event. He spoke on the Sydney wars in the early years of the colony of New South Wales and on the Cabrogal clan of the Liverpool district. This lecture built on his book *The Sydney Wars: Conflict in the Early Colony 1788-1817*, which was deservedly well received when it was published early this year. He had previously delivered one of the annual lectures shortly after the publication of his earlier book, *Cabrogal to Fairfield City: A History of a Multicultural Community*. I recommend that book to readers of local history. I have had, for various reasons, the opportunity to read a whole range of local histories and this is, frankly, one of the better ones that I have read.

I should add that I first came across Dr Gapps a number of years ago when he organised the historical re-enactment of the 200th anniversary of the 1804 Battle of Vinegar Hill. The emcee of the most recent lecture was society president Glen op den Brouw. An acknowledgement of country was made by society vice-president Emma Eldridge. A minute's silence was observed for the passing of well-known and well-regarded elder Uncle Stephen Williams. Ward and Olive Havard were well-known local historians who lived in Liverpool. They were both members of the Royal Australian Historical Society and were, of course, members of the Liverpool society. They were both well thought of in the world of local history. Dr Gapps' lecture was quite illuminating. He spoke, as the title of his book suggests, on the years of conflict between 1788 and 1817 between Aboriginal inhabitants of the land and European invaders. He dealt with the military and para-military history of those years.

Despite the vast amount that has been written about the early years of European colony, there has been very little concentration on the military aspects of it, which was essential to the history of that time. The European colonists lived in fear for much of the time; they could not go beyond the boundaries of settlement. Indeed, Governor Phillip at the time gave orders that people were not allowed to leave the settlement unless they were armed. Clearly, European technology was an extraordinary advantage for the colonists and invaders, but it was matched by the speed, stealth and knowledge of local Aboriginal people whose resistance was, perhaps, far more effective than is often recognised.

Indeed, Dr Gapps talks about the famous clash at Razorback where the Europeans were fairly decisively defeated. He made a number of interesting points in the book, some of which are not necessarily thought of in the terms of this period of history, but he pointed out how loud the colony was. The use of guns and muskets came with the colony and that made it a much louder place than it had been previously. Aboriginals got used to firearms, and got used to using them. Another extraordinarily interesting thing to me, at least, is the fact that convicts were being armed with guns by the people that ran the colony.

**Mr Andrew Fraser:** They still are, aren't they?

**Mr PAUL LYNCH:** I acknowledge the reference of the member for Coffs Harbour to Minister Elliott. It is not something one would have thought would have happened. The book has all the references one would expect to Bennelong, Pemulwuy, William Dawes and Pattyeorang, which give rise to that extraordinary novel by Kate Grenfell, *The Lieutenant* and the notebooks. Dr Gapps has a really interesting analysis of the spearing of Phillip in 1790 where he differs from writers like Inga Clendinnen and Grace Karskens who categorised it as ritual punishment. Dr Gapps has a much different and, I think, quite persuasive argument about that. The book contains information about the Appin Massacre in 1816, which is regarded as the end of the so-called frontier wars in the Sydney Basin. Dr Gapps argues quite persuasively that the end is actually 1817 rather than 1816. The Appin Massacre is still commemorated each year at Cataract Dam. Its commemoration has been taking place since 2000, organised by the Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group.

The book has specific items about Liverpool as well. There are a number of incidents in the frontier wars at Hammondville in 1804; Stroud's land in 1805, which is currently Warwick Farm Racecourse and that land was next to the land grant given to Michael Dwyer in 1806; and an incident at Georges River in 1809. Dr Gapps made a very interesting analysis, however, that there were probably fewer incidents in Liverpool than in other places because when Liverpool was proclaimed by Macquarie in 1810 it was proclaimed as a large military settlement, which meant that there was less likelihood of incidents occurring. Incidents were more likely to be a guerilla-type attack. It was, as Mr Deputy Speaker will gather, something that I thought was an extraordinarily interesting lecture and dealt usefully with the early history of the colony.

### WOOLGOOLGA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

**Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (17:14):** I again bring to the attention of the House the situation faced by the Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club. Over a number of years the club has been in negotiations with the University of New England [UNE] and later Southern Cross University [SCU] along with Marine Rescue NSW in a bid to remove the marine rescue station located in Woolgoolga Reserve so that the club could erect a new building, at an estimated cost of \$3 million. The club has received an assured grant of \$1 million from the Federal Government and about \$600,000 from Surf Life Saving along with about \$300,000 under ClubsGRANTS. I have put in an application for a grant of a further \$1.75 million with our Government on the club's behalf, and it is receiving favourable consideration. The club is all but ready to build, with the development application approved and the project ready to go.

The project is dependent on Marine Rescue Woolgoolga moving to the old marine research station at Arrawarra. That marine research station was run by UNE Armidale and eventually handed to Southern Cross University. After protracted negotiations, the university agreed to sign back the land to Marine Rescue. However, the university was told by Coffs Harbour City Council that it would cost about \$600,000 to restore the research station, and Marine Rescue was asked to contribute \$150,000. Stacey Tannos, Chief Executive Officer of Marine Rescue NSW, agreed to make this contribution. To cut a long story short, the council reneged on its commitment to restore the research station and eventually National Parks in the area, under grants from the Government, spent somewhere between \$800,000 and \$1 million to restore the research station. That restoration is now complete.

Last week Stacey Tannos called me to say that the land, which is Crown land and was originally held in trust by UNE before it was handed to SCU, has now been handed to Coffs Harbour City Council as the council is the trustee of all Crown land in the Coffs Harbour local government area. The council has told Marine Rescue Woolgoolga that it will only get a licence to occupy the site for 12 months. Marine Rescue will not ask its volunteers to occupy the site if it can only get a licence to occupy for 12 months. That means it will not move from its current site and allow the surf club to build the infrastructure that is needed by the Woolgoolga community because the current building must be condemned.

I know that the section of land on which the building stands has a separate title, because that title was handed to SCU by UNE and since then it has been handed over to the Coffs Harbour City Council. Last week I spoke to the Minister for Lands and Forestry to get the title to that land and invest it either in Marine Rescue Woolgoolga or Marine Rescue NSW for as long as Marine Rescue Woolgoolga needs that land, which I suggest is until the cows come home. This week, legislation was brought before the House to recognise both Surf Life Saving and Marine Rescue as legitimate rescue organisations, yet the council has decided, after spending almost \$1 million on the site, to make sure it is fit for a marine rescue station—and I am told it is brilliant—before it will give Marine Rescue a permit to occupy for only 12 months, which is bizarre.

Both Surf Life Saving and Marine Rescue rely on the services of volunteers who, in their own time, keep our community safe. They keep boating and surfing communities safe on the North Coast. Those organisations deserve to have appropriate accommodation to enable them to do the job that they do voluntarily 24/7. Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club performed 15 rescues last year. The member for Port Macquarie and the member for Lismore saw the terrible condition that the surf club is in. Now, when the club is finally in a position to move forward, the Coffs Harbour City Council is once again holding it up. The council has held up the Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club development application for so long it is not funny. I make an appeal to the Minister for Lands and Forestry, the member for Bathurst: For God's sake, just gazette this land under the name of Marine Rescue at either local or State level, and let us get on with saving lives on the Coffs Coast.

### NARELLAN FRIENDS OF ROTARY CHARITY BALL

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (17:19):** On Saturday 11 August I attended the wonderful Friends of Rotary Charity Ball organised by the Rotary Club of Narellan with the member for Macquarie Fields, the member for Campbelltown and the member for Holsworthy. We were hosted by Jim and Marion Marsden. They are wonderful friends and wonderful people. Jim Marsden and Terry Goldacre did a great job as masters of ceremonies. The night went well. The Rotary Club of Narellan is one of those organisations that never fails to astound. The ball has been held for 20 years, and in that 20 years Narellan Rotary has raised more than \$15 million. We can add to that sum the more than \$1.5 million the club raised on Saturday night, when John Ingham donated a cheque for \$1 million on behalf of the Ingham family.

Not only does the Rotary Club of Narellan contribute so much to our community through all its good work; it is also able to raise large amounts of money and invest them back into the community. I do not think another Rotary club in the State or the country has the same ability. Every member of the Rotary Club of Narellan should be congratulated on that wonderful effort. Marty Magro is a great mate of mine and does an outstanding job as president of the club. I attended the changeover dinner last month when he took over. I acknowledge the

ball committee: President Marty Magro, ball committee member Phil Dowd, Chairman Andrew Moyle, Treasurer Louie Sbirziola, Secretary Ruth Morrison—who many call the "glue" of the club—and Tony Perich, who was in charge of sponsorship. They did an outstanding job and should be commended for a wonderful night. They give so much to our local community and to so many groups.

One of the causes they supported that night was the Western Sydney University medical scholarships. The Rotary club has supported undergraduate school of medicine scholarships since the school's inception in 2007. Since then it has supported 14 doctors who are making a real difference to and who are impacting on the Western Sydney community. Another theme of the night was supporting multiple sclerosis [MS] molecular research. As stated in its report of last year, the Rotary Club of Narellan is working with Western Sydney University on the hypothesis that the drug cuprizone can be used to model the key factors of MS in humans. They are pleased that they can now demonstrate this work for the first time. For the Rotary club to support Western Sydney University in that manner is just outstanding.

I was asked to say a few words about Paul Harris Fellow recognition, which is a great privilege. People who are associated with Rotary know that recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow is the greatest honour that can be bestowed upon a member. I was privileged to receive a medal from Narellan Rotary a few years ago. It was lovely to be able to commend the other Paul Harris Fellow recipients in the room, knowing what it means to a Rotarian to receive that medallion. My father was a Paul Harris Fellow medal recipient and a former member of both Camden and Balmain Rotary clubs. In 2011, when I was first elected to Parliament, I hosted the Rotary Club of Balmain in Parliament House and my dad received his Paul Harris Fellow from then Premier Barry O'Farrell.

It was one of the few times I have seen Dad overwhelmed. Knowing what it meant to him and to all Rotarians, I can sincerely say that it was a wonderful award to receive and something of which I am proud, as all Rotarians are. I cannot speak highly enough of Narellan Rotary. It is an outstanding contributor to my local area and to the wider community. Over 20 years it has raised and donated approximately \$17 million to our community. That is something for which should be commended.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sure that the member's father was a worthy recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow medallion.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (17:25):** I congratulate the member for Camden and acknowledge his great work and, more importantly, the great work of Narellan Rotary. Raising \$17 million over 20 years shows what an outstanding club it is. I am sure it is run by a core group of five or 10 members. My wife is a Rotarian. I acknowledge all Rotary clubs not only in the electorate of the member for Camden but also in my electorate. My wife's Rotary club, the Rotary Club of St George, is currently running the Kids at Play project, which is linked with St George Hospital and looking at fundraising there as well. The club is doing some great work. Rotary clubs across New South Wales and Australia do a great job in their local communities. At present many of them are collecting much-needed money for our rural and regional brothers and sisters who are doing it tough.

#### VARROVILLE HERITAGE LISTING

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (17:26):** It seems that when she wants to, the Minister for Heritage acts quickly with regard to her obligations under the Heritage Act. Yet at other times she is as slow as an all stations train to Macarthur on a Sunday evening. I make this observation after reading an 11 August article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* by Jacob Saulwick about the Minister's actions—or inactions—on heritage laws in New South Wales. But my interest in this matter dates back further than Saturday's article and further than the proposed listing of St John's Camden by the Heritage Council in December last year, as referenced in the article. Rather, my concern with this issue dates back to September last year when the Heritage Council made recommendations about Varroville, a property of immense cultural and historical value in my electorate.

In September 2017 the State Heritage Register Committee met to consider the value of Varroville, its land and its curtilage. As a result of the meeting, recommendations were made to the Minister that Varroville, the land surrounding Varroville and its extended curtilage are of State heritage significance. The committee further recommended that Varroville and its extended curtilage should be listed on the State Heritage Register—a worthy recognition of its historical significance not only to south-western Sydney but also to the State's colonial history. The recommendations were clear and unambiguous and, if adopted, would ensure that Varroville, its property and curtilage would be protected in law forever. The recommendations of the Heritage Council were made to no less than the New South Wales Minister for Heritage.

Any fair-minded person would think a Minister for Heritage, who is the gatekeeper on these matters and protector of these properties, would act immediately on the Heritage Council's recommendations. But not so this Minister. In fact, the Heritage Act makes it clear that the Minister has 14 days to act on the Heritage Council's recommendation. But Minister Upton has not said a word on the matter since the recommendations were made in

September last year. The Minister is clearly in breach of the legislation. One can only speculate as to why, but let us consider the possibilities. Does she not trust her Heritage Council—an independent statutory body dedicated to protecting our State's heritage? Surely that is not the case, given that she is only too eager to accept some of its recommendations—as detailed in last week's article. It may be that she is swamped with other matters and business and just does not have time. But perhaps the reason the Minister has been so reluctant to act is that the Varroville matter relates to a property in south-western Sydney, and not Watsons Bay, Woollahra, Point Piper or Vacluse.

Whatever the excuse, enough is enough. With regard to Varroville, the matter before the Minister is urgent. A development proposal for a massive 136,000-plot cemetery and associated works is currently under consideration. This cemetery proposal threatens the Varroville property and its curtilage and will forever destroy its heritage value. The time to protect Varroville is now. My community and, indeed, all of New South Wales has lost too much of its heritage already. It is time to protect the little we have left. Whatever the Minister's excuse for not considering Varroville, I think one matter is clear: The Minister for Heritage has scant respect for her obligations under the very Act she is entrusted to administer. I call on the Minister to immediately fulfil her obligations with respect to Varroville.

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (17:30):** The member for Macquarie Fields mentioned St John's church in Camden. The Minister has acted; it is nothing to do with Watsons Bay or Vacluse. Two of Camden's Gothic gems have been recognised as State significant and are approved to be listed on the State Heritage Register. One is St John's Camden Anglican Church, which is of State significance as an early Gothic Revival church. The Minister has given a number of reasons for it being listed. The other is the Church of the Holy Innocents, churchyard and cemetery, which packs its own heritage punch with links to two famous church architects. For the record, the churches' listings have been approved by Minister for Heritage Gabrielle Upton and are scheduled to be formally gazetted on Friday 24 September. As they were listed, let us set the record straight: Western Sydney has two new heritage items.

#### **RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE STALWART MIKE MCCLELLAND**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (17:31):** It is with great pleasure that I recognise Mr Mike McClelland, honourable member and former president of the Returned and Services League [RSL] of Laurieton, for his 11 years of service to the sub-branch. A well-known, respected and distinguished member of the Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch, Mike McClelland first joined the services league in 1977, taking an oath of service at the Cowra RSL Sub-Branch. The following year he was elected treasurer and served his appointment up until the February annual general meeting [AGM] in 1983.

During his time at the Cowra RSL Sub-Branch, Mike served in many respected board positions, including assistant pensions officer in 1996 and vice-president in 1998. He was then elected and sworn in as president from 1999, serving a remarkable five years of service in this post until 2004, when he stood down for health reasons but continued serving on the board as the assistant secretary. Throughout his time as president, Mike served as a delegate to State Conference and supported the Cowra Breakout Association, an organisation that commemorates the attempted escape by Japanese prisoners of war [POWs] from the Cowra POW camp on 5 August 1944. In July 2007 Mike moved from Cowra to Laurieton in my electorate and transferred his membership to the local RSL sub-branch. He was elected as a trustee at the 2011 AGM and subsequently appointed president in 2012.

As part of the Anzac celebrations held in April this year, the Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch, through Mike McClelland and Secretary George Wise, organised for the Royal British Legion Scotland to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. A delegation of some 16 returned servicemen travelled from Scotland to take part in the Anzac Day commemorations. The Royal British Legion Scotland was established in June 1921 by Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig by bringing together several charities that had been established to assist returned service men and women from the First World War. Following the visit to Laurieton and Port Macquarie, our RSL sub-branch then travelled with the Royal British Legion Scotland to Canberra for a visit to the Australian War Memorial and a tour of the Commonwealth Parliament before returning home.

On transferring to the Laurieton sub-branch in 2007, Mike was elected a trustee and a delegate to both the Lower North Coast District Council and State Congress—positions he still holds to this very day. He is proactive in searching for government grants and has been successful in obtaining financial support for the RSL on a number of occasions. Apart from the sub-branch Mike has been a pivotal member of the community, donating his time and energy assisting others including the Lachlan Legacy Cowra Contact Group. He has coached junior boys hockey teams, acted as a volunteer bus driver for junior golfers and was a steward of the Cowra Wine Show Society.

Mike's service to the Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch has been instrumental in building a strong foundation for returned service men and women in the Laurieton community. The support he has offered in his various roles

over many years has contributed to the well-run and commendable organisation we have today. The Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch acknowledges Mike for his hard work and dedication over his many years of service and believes he is deserving of being inducted for life membership of the Returned Services League of Australia New South Wales Branch. I wish Mike all the best for his future endeavours.

### GRANDPARENTS DAY

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:35):** Selfless seniors work tirelessly in our Central Coast community by volunteering their time to support their families and friends. In preparation for Grandparents Day this year, it is timely to reflect on their collective contribution and remind them that the difference they make in the lives of so many does not go unnoticed. New South Wales Grandparents Day will be held on 28 October. It is a chance for the community to recognise the important work that grandparents do to strengthen our local area. It also provides an opportunity for us to say thank you to them for their ongoing contribution.

In New South Wales grandparents are estimated to spend around 11 hours every week providing unpaid, informal child care within their extended family. That is why Grandparents Day is a great way for us to celebrate and thank grandparents and senior citizens for their selfless work and their vital role in supporting their families and friends. Earlier this week I launched nominations for the 2018 NSW Local Grandparent of the Year Award. The local awards provides an opportunity to thank those who do so much. I urge residents in my electorate of Terrigal—and indeed across the Central Coast—to consider nominating the grandparents and elderly people in their lives who are deserving of recognition.

On the Central Coast we have some truly inspiring grandparents and senior citizens. In my role as the member for Terrigal, I have the privilege of meeting with and listening to a range of people on a daily basis. Cath Rowe is the grandparent worker in the ARAFMI Grandfamilies program on the Central Coast. She coordinates a local Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group that meets each month in Kincumber. She has done such a great job that it has become the largest grandparents support group in New South Wales. Recently I had the pleasure of joining Cath and about 50 grandparent carers for their Christmas in July function at Terrigal. Those carers do a phenomenal job raising their grandchildren or caring for loved ones who are not doing so well. As Cath said to me, recognising their valuable contribution in our community helps to prevent burnout, enhances their emotional health and improves their general wellbeing. I was grateful to be invited to the Christmas in July function. People like those grandparents are truly deserving of recognition and thanks as part of our Grandparents Day celebrations.

I pay tribute to the members of the Terrigal Probus Club, who visited Parliament this week. Many of them are active grandparents and very busy themselves. It is interesting that often when people retire they say that they are busier than when they were working. I hope the club members enjoyed their visit. As part of the Grandparents Day celebrations the State Liberal Government has provided \$200,000 in grants to support community events across New South Wales to show our appreciation to grandparents and older people. Run by local organisations, the events are targeted at engaging seniors of all ages and abilities. Local groups on the Central Coast to share in the funding include: Peninsula Village at Umina Beach, which will host an intergenerational celebration day; Bateau Bay Community Garden, which will host an open day; and the Wyong Neighbourhood Centre, which will host a celebration evening. I note that the member for Wyong is in the Chamber.

We know that grandparents do not selflessly give up their time to receive recognition, but this year's Grandparents Day and local awards will give us an opportunity to highlight the impact of someone special. I urge residents in my electorate and across the Central Coast to consider nominating the significant grandparents and elderly people in their lives. As an only child, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents. My mum's mum had a big influence on my life because I spent a large part of my formative years with her. On the Central Coast, grandparents are shipped in to look after their grandchildren, especially when families are doing it tough. Grandparents who look after grandchildren on the Central Coast play a vital role in our community and it was a delight to spend Christmas in July with them, as I did last year.

I was happy to promote Grandparents for Grandchildren across the Central Coast. After I had mentioned the event, a number of volunteers came forward to assist Grandparents for Grandchildren in my electorate. That is typical of the general sense of volunteering across the Central Coast. We should all be proud of the older members in our communities who selflessly give up their time to help. The Grandparents for Grandchildren volunteers are a special group of people. They never pictured themselves in the later stages of their lives as parents again but when they saw a need they did not hesitate to help. I commend Grandparents Day 2018, which will be celebrated on 28 October 2018.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (17:40):** I also commend Grandparents Day 2018, when we celebrate the role that grandparents and older people play in our society. Unfortunately, my grandparents are no longer here but I take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful influence they had on me, my two younger brothers and my

cousins. My son, James, is now four years old and I acknowledge the wonderful contribution of my dad, Alf Coure, and my mother-in-law, Jamal Abraham, in caring for James. When both parents are working, grandparents often assist in the upbringing of their grandchildren. I thank not only the grandparents in my electorate of Oatley but also all grandparents across the State. I commend Grandparents Day 2018.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** Order! In accordance with Standing Order 54, the member for Rockdale will be seated.

### MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND AWARENESS

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (17:41):** Tonight I inform the House about mental wellbeing and how my community of Pittwater is working to confront this difficult and important issue. For far too long, emotional health and mental health has been a hidden issue in our society. People who have struggled with mental wellbeing issues have often done so in silence, not knowing where to turn and unable to speak of what they are going through. Sometimes they are not entirely conscious of what is making them feel so bad inside. They are even unwilling to open up because of the fear of judgement, stigma and perceptions of weakness. Sadly, in many cases this has ended in the worst possible way. For some, the suffering and the isolation have become too great and we have lost them to suicide. Following these devastating incidents and the torrents of grief, anger and sadness that flow from them, those left behind find themselves asking why and getting few answers.

Mental health is a difficult problem to approach, difficult to talk about and understand, and even more difficult to solve. As a community we must seek solutions. We must work to reach out and embrace those who are struggling and suffering—and even identify those who do not know it themselves—and help them to find a path out of the darkness and the isolation. Indeed, an inspiring group of young people is doing just that in Pittwater. They have banded together to form One Eighty, a charity to prevent youth suicide. Born from the pain of losing too many friends to mental illness, this initiative sets out to have an open discussion in our community on mental health and emotional wellbeing and to help those who need support. The group works to fund, develop and implement local projects that equip young adults with skills in mental health care and how to support the emotional wellbeing of their friends and peers.

Through educational programs, mentoring support, referral services and life skills training, One Eighty deals head on with the issues of youth suicide, emotional wellbeing and mental health. At its core, One Eighty has a remarkably simple and beautiful objective: look out for your mates. We could talk for hours in arcane clinical terms about mental illness but few remedies are as powerful as throwing one's arm around someone and asking how his or her day is going. Being there to listen, offering a helping hand in a time of need or even just getting out with a mate for a surf will be our most formidable weapons in fighting this scourge of youth suicide and mental illness. Another organisation, Gotcha4Life based in Warriewood, is also working to improve the mental health of men and boys. Founded by Triple M radio personality and Pittwater local Gus Worland, Gotcha4Life supports a range of initiatives. It supports the phone counselling service Lifeline through scholarships for crisis support workers. I acknowledge Lifeline patron John Brogden—a former member of this place—and Lucy Brogden. It assists schools to run wellbeing programs and it gives seed funding for community mental health projects.

The initiative sums up its objectives, stating that Gotcha4Life is all about knowing someone has your back, being able to confide in them, then sealing it with a man hug. Again, this emphasises how the relatively simple act of reaching out to each other and talking through our problems can have a profound effect on the wellbeing of our friends and family members. It is incumbent on all of us in our close-knit community to seek out those who may be isolated, bring them into the fold and ensure they know they are welcome and valued and that they belong. I commend these organisations and others for their outstanding work in our local community to support those dealing with emotional wellbeing issues. I encourage the community to rally around these organisations in any way they can.

This weekend, Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club boat rowers will take part in a 24-hour ergometer rowing relay. The event is being held to raise funds and awareness for both these organisations so they can continue their important work in Pittwater and across the community generally. I am looking forward to strapping myself in for a stint on one of the rowing machines for the event. I suspect that current Olympic records will remain safe following my contribution, but I am proud to do what I can to support these wonderful organisations. I thank Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club for running this event. It shows that we as a community want to rally around people struggling with mental illness.

Thank you to Melissa and Nathan Wellings for organising the rowing relay; Leanne Westlake, Samantha Callender and Paris Jeffcoat from One Eighty; and Gus Worland, Peggy Dwyer, Gareth Pike and Vanessa Orr from Gotcha4Life for your efforts to support those dealing with mental health issues and the people who care about them. Finally, I thank and commend everyone in our community who works to tackle mental



illness and improve people's mental health and wellbeing. Their job is one that often goes unseen and does not always get the recognition it deserves and it is fraught with a whole host of challenges. But their work is of immeasurable value. I have no doubt that they have saved many lives in the course of their duties and they will save many more. For that, I can only express immense gratitude on behalf of our local community, of which I am so proud.

#### F6 EXTENSION

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (17:46):** I raise once again matters of incredible stupidity happening in my electorate of Rockdale and express my concern about them in the House. As the F6, the toll trap running to nowhere, continues to crawl its way forward, there are a number of matters of great concern to my constituents that deserve attention. In early July I contacted the Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] F6 Extension community and stakeholder engagement team to attempt to raise these issues directly with the agency.

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Do you support the F6?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** However, sadly, they refused to arrange a meeting with me.

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Do you support the F6?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Just listen and then you will work out what I support.

**Mr Mark Speakman:** You do not support the F6?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I support the F6 and you would have supported it too. They instead referred me on to the office of the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and more than six weeks later I still have not received even a cursory response. I contacted the RMS because the Minister clearly has no idea what is going on with this road.

**Ms Gabrielle Upton:** That is not true.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** That is true. While I do not expect any useful response from the member for Oxley, it is still disappointing that she cannot be bothered to respond to correspondence on major projects such as the F6. The stupidity of this project cannot be understated. Who has ever heard of a road project running through a major road junction that will not allow motorists to exit to the road they want to get onto?

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Why did you cancel the F6?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** For as long as I can remember the F6—and the member for Cronulla is very conscious of this—has been considered a solution to get traffic travelling to Southern Cross Drive off the Grand Parade.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** In many respects, members opposite continue to mislead the people of southern Sydney because they are too ashamed to own up to what they are doing. This is the understanding the community has of the F6. Instead, those opposite will create this pathetic toll trap to funnel more revenue into the WestConnex Ponzi scheme. In terms of functionality, the WestConnex southern extension will make the Tibby Cotter footbridge look like responsible spending. The continued construction of these tollway bolt-ons to fatten the WestConnex sale is simply disgraceful.

It is no surprise that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC] has stepped into this process, to the Government's detriment. The lack of commercial experience among those opposite has become increasingly clear as more and more contracts fall apart or prove not to be in the public interest—whether it is the Premier's disastrous contract with Acciona for the light rail; the ridiculous contract with Crown Resorts, which is currently suing the Government; or their mismanagement of competition issues in their toll trap Ponzi scheme. They clearly do not know how business works.

On 18 October last year those opposite initiated a debate on the F6 in this Chamber, pushing the supposed benefits of this road down our throats. One of the statements made by Government members during that debate was that there were only five residential property acquisitions required for the first stage of this WestConnex toll trap. I can confirm to the House that the compulsory acquisition jackals are out in full force. Business owners on West Botany Street have now been informed that their properties have been slated for compulsory acquisition. This represents the loss to my community of thousands upon thousands of square metres of employment-generating land.

I have also now received reports of the predatory way in which the RMS compulsory acquisitions team has begun engaging with my constituents, and I am highly concerned that they are not being treated fairly. I call on the Minister to reconfirm immediately that there will be no more than five residential property acquisitions, or to clarify those comments made to the House. Despite repeated commitments from the Government that this would be better managed than the WestConnex debacle, the same sort of chaos, mismanagement and total disregard for affected residents is once again on full display. One of the affected business owners was reportedly told that, while he could fight RMS in court, he would definitely lose and he should expect to give up his livelihood for whatever they offer him within the next 12 months.

This is what the Government's new caring approach to compulsory acquisition looks like. Residents on President Avenue are now panicking at the compulsory acquisition letters they have recently received from RMS, threatening legal action if they do not agree to RMS sale conditions within six months. Elsewhere on the F6 corridor, my constituents have told me that RMS has failed to follow its own guidelines in relation to the review of valuations, but the owners were nevertheless forced to sell due to financial hardship. Roads and Maritime Services cannot be allowed to behave in a predatory fashion like this. I call on the Minister to immediately make public the full compulsory acquisition plan for the first stage of the F6, residential and commercial, and to guarantee that this sort of strongarm behaviour will cease immediately. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (17:51):** The member for Rockdale cannot work out whether he and Labor are Arthur or Martha. We are getting on with the F6, which Labor cancelled, and its massive inertia for 16 years is the reason we are now getting on with it. Does the member for Rockdale support the F6 or not? Why does his leader not support the F6? We are committing to spending more than \$2 billion to get the F6 started and planning the rest of the F6 south of Kogarah. Why will the member for Rockdale not clearly state whether his side supports the F6? Does the member for Rockdale support the F6 or does he not? Does Luke Foley support the F6 or does he not? Why will Luke Foley not build the infrastructure that southern Sydney needs? Why is he opposed to the F6? The member for Rockdale says he wants it; his leader does not want it.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** Order! The member for Rockdale has left the Chamber. He is not able to participate in debate from outside the Chamber.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** Our Government is getting on with the job of building transport in southern Sydney, upgrading the T4 line and getting on with starting the F6.

#### SYDNEY MARINE PARK

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (17:52):** I welcome today's announcement of a proposed Sydney Marine Park, which includes 25 sites between Newcastle and Wollongong and, in particular, the expanded protected zones that are proposed in the Sutherland shire. As a member of Parliament who represents a coastal area and as a former Minister for the Environment, I know how important it is to protect and nurture our marine environment and to implement measures that aim to protect and increase our marine biodiversity. These proposed sites have been carefully analysed by the NSW Marine Estate Management Authority.

Under the proposal, the marine park will have three types of zones. The first category is sanctuary zones, to enhance biodiversity at a site and to deliver a range of other environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits depending on the objectives for the particular site. A range of activities can occur within this zone, including scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming and boating. However, there will be general restrictions on fishing and other extractive activities. The second category is conservation zones, to enhance some aspects of biodiversity at a site while also delivering economic benefits that are consistent with ecologically sustainable development, specifically Aboriginal cultural use and lobster and abalone fishing. The third category is special purpose zones, to address a particular threat or to enhance a particular use at a site—for example, to provide for recreational fishing or scuba diving only at a site to reduce the potential for social conflict.

I am delighted about the sites that have been announced today as proposed inclusions in the Sydney Marine Park. Some old favourites will be included with no changes to management rules, such as Boat Harbour and Shiprock. A considerable increase has been proposed in the size of the Towra Point Aquatic Reserve. It now covers 1,448 hectares, and it is proposed to be increased to 1,797 hectares. The proposed reserve maintains the existing sanctuary zone, but also extends the boundaries of the existing refuge zone to incorporate additional adjacent *Posidonia australis* seagrass and shorebird habitat as a special purpose zone. The reserve protects the largest and most diverse wetland complex in the Sydney region. It is adjacent to the Towra Point Nature Reserve, a wetland of international importance and declared Ramsar site. It is also an important nursery area for fish and invertebrates, it provides habitat for migratory seabirds, and it is rich in marine biodiversity.

Cabbage Tree Creek, which is in the electorate of Heathcote, will be a new 23-hectare sanctuary zone incorporating all of Cabbage Tree Creek and The Basin. Cabbage Tree Creek is a small tidal creek on the southern

side of Port Hacking and is surrounded by the Royal National Park. The area contains extensive estuarine habitats, including saltmarsh, seagrass and mangroves. Importantly, it is a significant area for the local Aboriginal community, as is Towra Point. An 85-hectare conservation zone is proposed further south in Royal National Park in the area from Martin Head southwards to the northern end of Garie Beach, including Wattamolla Beach and Wattamolla Lagoon, and 100 metres seaward.

I am grateful for the advocacy earlier this year by local swimming group and marine protection zone enthusiasts Shelly Ocean Swimmers. The group drew my attention to potential zones at Jibbon, around Hungry Point and Shark Island. I am particularly interested in continuing to advocate for the inclusion of Shark Island in the marine park. As the Shelly Ocean Swimmers pointed out, the proposed reserve will protect a unique rocky reef habitat that supports different species and larger pelagic visitors. It will also provide an iconic area for tourism and ocean swimming, snorkelling and diving.

As I said, I am pleased about the sites in the Sutherland shire that are proposed to be included in the Sydney Marine Park. However, I will continue to advocate for the inclusion of a marine protection zone around Shark Island. I am doing that because it is not too late to be part of the consultation and feedback process. I encourage anyone with a keen interest in marine protection to provide the Government with feedback on this initiative and the proposed zones over the next six weeks. It is community groups like Shelly Ocean Swimmers that have valuable knowledge of local marine hotspots that help to make a difference in our marine environment and our biodiversity. Details about the marine park can be seen at [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au). Today's announcement is a significant advance for marine conservation across the Hawkesbury bioregion, including the Sutherland shire in particular.

### DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (17:57):** I will add to the comments made by other members about the drought that people are enduring in New South Wales, including many people in the Upper Hunter. People need to be reminded of a number of aspects of the drought that have not been mentioned in the heartbreaking stories that have been relayed in the media and in our local communities. Unfortunately, the Deputy Premier was rudely interrupted earlier today when he was talking about what people can do to assist rural and regional towns in this State. I will expand on that because to date the focus has been on assistance for farmers, farming families and farming communities. Very little attention has been paid to the businesses in small rural and regional towns, and even larger centres such as Tamworth and Dubbo. Those businesses are suffering because of a lack of economic activity.

It makes sense that if farmers have to spend their money keeping stock alive and doing the bare necessities, then a lot of that expenditure is actually done out of town; normal everyday expenses do not go on and neither does normal everyday economic activity. Rural and regional New South Wales are wonderful places. There are so many positive things for city people to experience and enjoy in those areas. For example, I have said many times—and I will continue to say—that the Upper Hunter is home to world-class mines, wines, equines and bovines. Now the bovines are suffering; there is no doubt about that. We probably have much fewer than we had a couple years ago, but nevertheless they are of the highest quality.

People who want to go to a wonderful restaurant and experience five-star hospitality and cooking should go to The Cottage in Scone, which specialises in steak that is sourced locally. The restaurant has received a number of awards. Indeed, I think it is one of the top 10 restaurants in Australia—and if it is not, it should be. It is a wonderful place to go if people want the best-quality city meal in a wonderful country town. In addition, I have a significant proportion of the wine industry in my electorate. Everyone knows Pokolbin in the Hunter Valley wine district. The member for Cessnock and I share that particular region. People seeking world-class wines should visit the Hunter Valley for a weekend and spend some money in the restaurants, as every dollar spent will generate about \$3 or \$4 in the local economy—the money circulates and activity goes on. It means that local businesses that traditionally rely on agricultural income do not suffer as much.

I have given just two examples, but there are many things that people can do to help. I have spoken about world-class mines, wines, equines and bovines. Scone is the horse capital of Australia. My electorate has the world's greatest thoroughbred-breeding facilities. One can spend a weekend in the area and be next to some of the world's greatest stallions, like Redoute's Choice at Arrowfield just out of Scone or other world-famous horses that people hear about and put that little bet on in the hope of turning a fortune out of 10 or 100 bucks. Of course we have world-class mines also. People are fascinated by the operations and activities of the mines. Visitors can drive around areas of the Upper Hunter viewing all those good things—the mines, wines, equines and bovines—but they should also visit the little country towns, spend some money and tell the people there how much they care about them.

## DISABILITY SERVICES

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (18:02):** Last week I spoke in this House about the dire situation facing many people with disabilities in Port Stephens and across the State, along with their families, carers, advocates and service providers. I spoke about the impact of this Government's privatisation of disability services, which has led to widening gaps and people falling through the cracks with nowhere to turn. The Minister for Health responded to my statement in this House by describing it, in this House, as a litany of lies and half-truths designed to mislead vulnerable people. The Minister said I had a history of lying and claimed that I was lying again on that occasion. That accusation was sanctioned by the Assistant Speaker and I was not given an opportunity to respond nor stand up for the thousands of people whose reality I spoke of.

So tonight I will share the voices of my constituents and people with disabilities around the State to make it clear to this Government that its heartless privatisation of disability services is hurting vulnerable people. After the health Minister's personal attack last week I shared that exchange on Facebook. In one week the video has been shared by 1,000 people and viewed by 40,000 people. It has close to 200 comments, none of which support the Minister's out-of-touch ignorance and his response. For the benefit of the House and the Minister, I will put on record some of the responses I received from constituents, people with disability and their families around New South Wales.

Maree Jones said she was "absolutely disgusted" by the Minister and the total disrespect he showed. Matthew Palmer said the Minister was a "terrible human being". He said he would like to see the Minister accuse those people with disabilities and their families of being liars. Chris Turnbull called the Minister's response "appalling" and said "he had no answers for the hard facts". Kate Knightley is an occupational therapist at Ageing, Disability and Home Care [ADHC] in the Hunter region and said the "privatisation of disability services has proven to be the gut-wrenching shambles" predicted. Genny Murphy called the Minister "very rude, but typical." Judy Bowman called the Minister "out of touch." Nadine Harris called the situation a "disgrace". She agreed there is no safety net at all. Chantelle Robards said she was astonished at the Minister standing there and denying those reports. She said, "This is why advocates are so damn tired and frustrated."

Sue-Anne Henderson said the private system is not working. Profit before people is always a disaster when the needs of the people are complex and challenging. Deb Stephens said every word was the truth. She is a retired ADHC manager and said that thousands of others could attest to the serious concerns in the sector. Steph Travers said, "We all know this is happening." She said, "The Libs are so out of touch. Brad Hazzard needs to start reading the submissions on the NDIS inquiry page, learn something and wake up." Ann Frost said, "These important truths need to be told." Further, "It is very worrying for the future of people with disabilities if people don't listen to what's happening." Troy Wright said the health Minister's faux outrage was the actual lie. He said the State Government is using the NDIS as a convenient excuse to stop providing essential services to people. Most compelling was Melinda Adderley, a woman I met prior to speaking in the House last week, who said:

As the parent of a resident from Summer Hill Group Home, who recently met with Kate Washington, I have to confirm she accurately represented our experience and concerns. All of the NGOs who are tendering for our centre confirm they cannot afford to maintain the current level of service with the NDIS funding and if the State Government does not guarantee extra funds, they will not be able to take over the service. Please share—we are desperately concerned about the lives of our loved ones. The Summer Hill Centre has a strong P and C and the members are concerned for all residents, including those who have no families or carers to champion their interests. We need your help before lives are lost.

I suggest—I demand—that this heartless Government stops denying the truth and starts fixing the terrible mess that the Minister for Disability Services, Ray Williams, has created. The health Minister has called me a liar in this place for telling the truth. It is his legacy. If he does not start acting he will stand condemned by the inevitable and unthinkable consequences of these policies and actions. For the benefit of the House and the health Minister, and in response to his outrageous accusations, I say I was telling the truth and receive daily support for my statements.

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:07):** I will respond to the statement by the member for Port Stephens. There is no doubt that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is an initiative that has received bipartisan support. It is an initiative that attracts record funding from both the State and Federal governments. I give credit for the initiative to former Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard. It is an initiative supported by both sides of government and it should be recognised that in transition there are always issues, and things do not go as smoothly as they could. In essence, the National Disability Insurance Scheme should be recognised as a positive initiative and supported by both sides of politics.

## COOGEE MARINE SANCTUARY

**Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH (Coogee) (18:09):** Today has been a very exciting day for me. I am very pleased to address the House about the new marine park proposed for the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion, which will protect the marine environment in New South Wales at 25 sites stretching along the coast from Newcastle to

Wollongong. Importantly, this marine protection zone includes the best beaches in Sydney: Tamarama, Bronte, Clovelly, Coogee and Gordons Bay, all of which are in my remarkable electorate of Coogee. Coogee is a name derived from the Bidjigal word meaning "the smell of rotting seaweed".

The current protections of the Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve cover 36 hectares and approximately four kilometres of coastline from the southern headland of Bronte Beach to the rock baths at the northern end of Coogee. This area contains rocky shores, beaches, shallow and deep rocky reefs, and deep, soft sediment habitat. The known threatened and protected species in the area include the weedy sea dragon. The proposed new marine sanctuary, by contrast, will extend three nautical miles out to sea and cover 2,000 hectares of sanctuary and conservation zones in my electorate of Coogee alone. Importantly, this area has a strong fishing heritage. It is used by the Gordons Bay and Coogee Bay fishing clubs as well as by recreational fishers and the Gordons Bay scuba club. The Gordons Bay and Clovelly pool area is very popular with snorkellers, scuba divers and swimmers because it is well known as a place to see Bluey the grouper in his or her many incarnations.

Without doubt, the Coogee coastline is one of the most iconic landscapes in New South Wales. Now is the time to ensure that the area is safeguarded from pollution, marine litter, overfishing and overdevelopment. Sadly, this area is under threat from habitat disturbance, a reduction in species and a lack of access to infrastructure for those who wish to use it. It also faces environmental threats, such as climate change and commercial and recreational fishing. This morning I was privileged to join the Premier and my colleague Gabrielle Upton, the member for Vacluse and Minister for the Environment, at Clovelly Beach to announce not only the proposed Coogee marine sanctuary but also \$45.7 million in additional funding to deliver the first stage of a 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy for New South Wales.

Importantly, my electorate of Coogee will benefit from this substantial investment in the marine estate along the Sydney coastline. I am pleased that the Marine Estate Management Strategy will enhance conservation of marine biodiversity and continue to provide for marine economic opportunities consistent with ecologically sustainable development, such as low-risk commercial fishing activities. However, the focus of the bioregion marine park proposal is to protect the wide variety of marine habitats and safeguard the unique marine biodiversity on the coastline stretching along the beaches in my electorate of Coogee. This will include protecting the beaches from one of its major threats: marine pollution and litter.

A significant aspect of this initiative is its focus on future use by enhancing the intrinsic benefits of the area for the community at the same time as protecting its cultural heritage values in the marine environment and ensuring that the area is maintained for future generations. Today's announcement is exciting. I commend the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry, the Hon. Niall Blair, in the other place for his work, along with the Minister for the Environment and the Premier, on this wonderful initiative to protect the marine environment in Coogee and in New South Wales. It is the first time in history that it has been afforded such protection. I welcome all public comment for the six weeks that the strategy is on exhibition.

#### TRIBUTE TO GIUSEPPE FIN, OAM

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (18:14):** Last Friday I attended the funeral of a stalwart of the Italian community. Our community mourned and farewelled Giuseppe Fin, and celebrated his life. Mr Fin was a recognised and highly regarded figure in the business, political, religious and social communities. He is often regarded as the founder and father of Co.As.It., which is the largest Italian community organisation in Australia. I have spoken many times in this House about Co.As.It.—the Italian Association of Assistance and Italian Language and Community Services. Despite its humble beginnings, Co.As.It. is the most profound Italian organisation that supports Italian migrants and promotes Italian culture and language. I have always supported the wonderful work of Co.As.It. Every day it provides vital services to those who need it most—migrants, the elderly, the vulnerable, children and youth. Without Giuseppe Fin, the organisation would not be what it is today. Without a doubt, he was a community leader for which there is no category.

Mr Fin's greatest legacy lives on at Co.As.It. through his contribution, members of our community to whom the organisation provides assistance, and the hundreds of staff and volunteers. He inspired a sense of social responsibility, which guides them every day. Mr Fin probably did not realise the positive impact he had on people. His approach to people was almost always the same, irrespective of whether they were a member of staff, a member of the community, or a political figure. He was always calm, composed, respectful and honest, which are qualities we must all respect. I most admired Mr Fin's active community and voluntary work. This year marks the seventieth continuous year since he began his community work in Italy, between 1948 to 1951, when he founded two Italian Catholic associations.

Shortly after arriving in Sydney in 1957, he commenced his activities with the Associazione Cattolica San Francesco, which played a major role in assisting newly arrived Italian migrants, especially those who became

ill or were in need. He was responsible for the construction of the San Francesco Hall in Leichhardt and the construction and organisation of the San Francesco Day Nursery. In its peak in the 1970s, the preschool cared for approximately 80 children per day. Mr Fin was passionate about assisting the less fortunate, which he did for almost two decades through his involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

In 1975 Mr Fin joined the executive committee of the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW to lobby more broadly for the needs of migrant communities and for recognition of the migrant story. He understood the value to migrants of maintaining a cultural link to their homeland. In the 1970s he held various roles, including Administrative Director and President of the Italian Schools Committee. He served continuously as a board member of Co.As.It. from its incorporation in 1984 until his retirement in 2008, and rejoined the board in 2013. He served as president, vice-president and director and was extensively involved in running Co.As.It. every day. He believed strongly that children should have access to Italian language education programs. He worked tirelessly over many years to ensure that those objectives were met.

Mr Fin's achievements with and for Co.As.It. are endless. In particular, he increased the number of students in Co.As.It.'s Insertion Program from 4,000 to 43,000; developed and opened the Italian Multimedia Resource Centre; opened Casa d'Italia in Norton Street, Leichhardt; and initiated the idea of an Italian Bilingual School. Mr Fin's lifelong passion for learning and teaching culminated in the realisation of his ultimate vision to open an Italian Bilingual School. He formed a subcommittee that not only worked for 10 years to attain registration but also prepared the model that was to become the first Italian Bilingual School in Australia.

The school was his greatest joy to see this dream become a reality. He attended the school for official events, including the annual presentation of the Fin Award, which is received by students who demonstrate excellence through bilingualism. Mr Fin received numerous awards and honours for his lifetime of volunteer work, including an Order of Australia Medal. He was a man with vision, determination, strength and a strong work ethic. His involvement in the community typified the very essence of altruism and the spirit of volunteerism. He leaves a special legacy. Rest in peace. Vale, Giuseppe Fin.

#### THE GLEN ILLEGAL DUMPING

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (18:19):** Ngaimpe Aboriginal Corporation is a community-controlled organisation that operates The Glen, an award-winning drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. The Glen has been operating for 24 years on the Central Coast on Crown land. Recently The Glen was the victim of an illegal dumping of asbestos and other material on its property. When this was discovered, The Glen worked closely with the team from the Newcastle office of the Environment Protection Authority [EPA] and followed all directions. The Glen will continue to do so.

Ngaimpe Aboriginal Corporation has formally asked for consideration from the EPA to exempt it from the waste levy, which was charged on 1 August 2018. The Glen was charged \$141.20 per tonne for 383.68 tonnes, which totals \$54,175.62. The Glen is hoping that consideration could take place under the following grant programs: Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean Up Program, Combating Illegal Dumping: Clean-up and Prevention Program, and emergency pollution program guidelines. The basis for asking for this exemption is that in this case The Glen was a victim. It acknowledges that some of its systems and processes could have been better and that it has learnt a lesson. The Glen is a tenant on Crown land. It is paying the expense to keep a New South Wales Government asset clean and safe. The Glen is a registered not-for-profit organisation and any payment it might need to make will limit its capacity to offer programs to some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

I have made representations to the Minister for the Environment on this matter. It is extremely important that she considers making an exemption for The Glen because it is completely unfair to punish this great organisation for illegal dumping that others have done. Illegal dumping is a scourge in my community. We have a lot of vacant land, Crown land and Aboriginal land. It causes a lot of problems but it is especially egregious that a community rehabilitation facility should have to use its valuable funds—that it uses to help people—to pay a levy on waste that was illegally dumped on its property. I hope that the Minister listens to the plea. The Glen is known across the State for its work. Its cultural value and success rate are recognised. I was concerned when Joe phoned me and said, "Mate, it looks like this illegal waste is going to cost us \$100,000." That would be removed from The Glen's budget and, as he said, \$54,000 of that is the waste levy.

Those at The Glen do not like it but they will have to pay \$54,000. But if the Government and the Minister could see their way clear to give The Glen an exemption for the levy, it would help the program. The Glen is a beacon of hope in our community and I hope the Minister takes into account its great work. Because of the waste levy, many more people are now dumping illegally in national parks, on Crown land and in other places. Often councils have to pick up the costs of illegal dumping. But this community organisation is trying to save people's lives—that is what it does. Out of its meagre budget, it might have to find \$100,000—\$54,000 of which is for a Government levy—to clean up somebody else's waste. I am sure members would agree in a bipartisan way that

that is not what the levy is meant for. I hope that The Glen's plea is heard. Earlier this week I took a letter to the Minister's office. Recently the Minister has had a lot of attention, but I think that she is basically a decent person. In this case, if there is any way that The Glen can be helped to defray those costs, it would be appreciated.

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:23):** I commend the member for Wyong on raising this issue in the right way. I suggest that the member for Port Stephens might go about things in a similar way if she has legitimate concerns. I certainly think the request that the member has made—of waiving a waste levy of \$4,000—sounds reasonable. It is not my decision but I am glad that the member has written to the Minister. I commend him on raising the concerns on behalf of The Glen. I wish him well; I am sure that the Minister will, at least, seriously consider what seems to be a reasonable request.

#### **LIFESAVER HUGH STEWART**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (18:24):** I would like to congratulate 16-year-old lifesaver Hugh Stewart for his dedicated volunteer service for the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club, which was recognised at this year's presentation awards evening held on Saturday 26 May. Hugh commenced his volunteer service with the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club at the age of 13, undertaking the responsibility of patrolling with the senior lifeguards while progressing through the nipper's specialist program. During this time he completed his Surf Rescue Certificate and proceeded to receive his Bronze Medallion in 2016. His passion for lifesaving continues to see Hugh excel at all levels at his club, as he takes every opportunity to pursue training development programs through surf life saving to increase his skills and awareness of dangerous rescue situations at the beach.

I was fortunate enough to attend the awards presentation night at the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club to acknowledge all the members that have gone above and beyond in their service to support locals and visitors wishing to enjoy a day in the surf at Rainbow Beach. The presentation evening saw Hugh collect many of the awards for his outstanding service and commitment to the club. The awards he received included the Allan Barlin Shield for Sports Person of the Year, Club Surf Craft Competitor of the Year, Club Swimmer of the Year, Club Surf Craft Competitor of the Year, Under-17 Male Club Person of the Year, member of the Team of the Year—the under-17 ski relay team—and, to top it off, Young Athlete of the Year. Hugh was also recognised for completing an astounding 30 hours of patrol service during the 2017-18 season.

In July Hugh travelled to Japan with three other club members to represent the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club at the inaugural Japan Life Saving Exchange Program. The program is aimed to establish a lifeguard service in Shimoda that teaches the local Japanese lifeguards all the fundamentals behind rescues, resuscitation and incident prevention when patrolling the beach. Hugh Stewart should also be very proud of his record of accomplishments at the Country Championships this season, held at South West Rocks. He has also competed for New South Wales and proceeded to the final where, unfortunately, he broke his wrist, which ruled him out for the remainder of the competition.

The Wauchope Surf Life Saving Club formed in 1927-28 and was originally designated to patrol Nobby's Beach in Port Macquarie. The club renamed itself, five years on, to the Hastings District Surf Club then split in 1934. During the Second World War the club became defunct and after some time the old clubhouse was dismantled and transported to Bonny Hills, where the rebuilding and renaming of the organisation occurred on 8 October 1958. In 1960 the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club moved from the Community Hall to Rainbow Beach, where it is today. In 2009, after a resolution to demolish the existing building, the construction of a new clubhouse was announced by the committee to build a new \$2.8 million structure.

Today the clubhouse is one of the best in the region. It promotes youthful engagement and training development for new and existing lifeguard members like Hugh Stewart. Hugh attributes his success and experience to the supportive committee and members of the Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club who have assisted him along the way, since his commencement with the club in 2014. On behalf of the community, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Hugh for his dedicated service and commitment to the community of Bonny Hills and beyond, ensuring that locals and visitors feel safe and protected while enjoying a day at Rainbow Beach.

#### **GREEN SPACE ADVOCATE KATH HACKING**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (18:28):** I draw to the attention of the House a remarkable member of my community who has made an extraordinary contribution to the livability of our community and has helped shape the future of the place that we love. That person is Kath Hacking. She was born in 1929 in Bellingen—the eldest of six children—and grew up, surrounded by virgin bushland, 25 river crossings away in Brinerville. As our community changes and grows, there is pressure on shared spaces—green spaces in particular. While this might seem top of mind today, it has been at the top of Kath Hacking's mind for many years. She started as a housekeeper and then worked at the Eveready Battery factory, as a telephonist for the Postmaster-General's

Department, before taking responsibility for staff on the switchboard at the Department of Family and Community Services. She came to Sydney and settled in Balmain, and she has been a leader in our community ever since.

During the 1990s, Kath spearheaded a community campaign to protect industrially zoned sites throughout Balmain from residential development. She envisaged a truly livable Balmain, abounding with green space and that valued heritage and public open space. She took up the cudgel and she made it happen. As businesses like Caltex, Unilever and Ampol began to move their operations off the peninsula, vacating large plots of harbour-side land, Kath founded a community campaign to reclaim these sites for public use. Along with her neighbours, she formed the Unilever Ampol Action Group. The group's logo was a fig tree, in memory of the tree that was illegally cut down to clear the Unilever site. Along with a growing horde of community activists, Kath was a central figure in the battle for Ballast Point, a movement to oppose the then Leichhardt council's attempts to sell off prime waterfront real estate to residential developers.

Kath regularly held community meetings in her home before graduating to large-scale public meetings in Balmain Town Hall. She was a true leader in that campaign and she continues in that role today. Kath organised local residents and councillors to boycott Leichhardt council meetings, to prevent quorums and to stall the attempts of then Labor Mayor Larry Hand to push through the sell-off at Ballast Point. Eventually Kath was voted onto council as an Independent, as the community recognised her huge contribution. She served during the filming of the now infamous *Rats in the Ranks* documentary, which exposed the scheming and backstabbing that goes on at local government. But Kath remained above the fray, honourable and honest at all times.

During her term the battle to secure Ballast Point was resolved successfully, with its purchase as open space for community use. Thanks to her tireless advocacy, Ballast Point remains to this day an invaluable slice of harbour-side green space. I acknowledge that without the work of Kath Hacking this may well not have come to pass. The benefits of open and green spaces are undeniable: They enhance our local environment, offset carbon emissions and provide vital habitat for native creatures. They make our cities more livable by reducing heat and keeping our air clean. They bring with them a litany of health benefits by impacting on obesity, coordination, strength, agility and flexibility, in particular for our younger and older communities.

While serving on council, Kath also increased open space requirements for developments on the Balmain peninsula and assisted in the formation of resident precinct groups across the municipality. She established the first heritage committee and was incredibly important in the nuclear free zone movement. She led the campaign to save Callan Park and was involved in the founding of the Save Callan Park Committee. For more than 20 years, Kath was involved in writing and distributing the local precinct committee newsletter. She was secretary of St Andrew's Congregational Church for five years.

Sadly, Kath's vision for a truly livable Balmain is under threat. WestConnex, in particular, is taking a lot of our green space and impacting on air quality. Kath has been an amazing and remarkable person in our local community and has been instrumental in providing services to so many areas. She has survived breast cancer and open heart surgery. I am sure that she will survive for many more years and continue to take up the cudgel through community activism against overdevelopment. Without her vision, the peninsula would be a much starker landscape than it is today. I am proud to have Kath in my community. Without her, our community would be much worse off. Thank you, Kath Hacking, for all your work and for everything you have done for our community.

### **SHELLHARBOUR PUBLIC HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:32):** Earlier this week I wrote and delivered a letter to the Minister for Health requesting an update on the long-awaited upcoming redevelopment of Shellharbour Public Hospital. As the House would be aware, the road to Shellharbour Hospital's redevelopment has been a rocky one. At least three years ago, those opposite made a re-election commitment to fund a \$251 million redevelopment of Shellharbour Public Hospital. One year later, in September 2016, then Minister for Health Jillian Skinner announced that the redevelopment of Shellharbour Hospital, as well as of four other regional hospitals, would be delivered under public-private partnerships. Without any community consultation, those opposite had announced they were effectively privatising our local hospital.

For the next 13 months, the community of Shellharbour fought hard to protect its hospital and keep it in public hands. A campaign led by the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association included protests, rallies, rolling stoppages of services, community round tables and at-capacity community forums. Over the course of just a few months, 12,000 signatures were collected on a petition opposing the Government's attack on Shellharbour Hospital. The petition was tabled and discussed in this House on 10 August 2017, and less than three months later we got the news we had all been hoping for. On 27 October last year, it was finally and rightly announced by this Government that it was abandoning its cruel and misguided plans to privatise our hospital. This 13-month struggle was an incredible show of people power, but it should never have had to happen.



This attempt at privatising our public hospital was a step towards the Americanisation of our healthcare system—a direction in which no-one in this State would want us to be heading. Thankfully, my community and I are finally ready to look to the future. This failed attempt at privatisation has set the project back years but we are finally ready to get things back on track. After such a rocky past filled with indecision, delays and secrecy, I would think this Government would want to make up for lost time and be up-front and honest with my community. It has been nearly 10 months since the Minister for Health, alongside the member for Kiama, announced the backflip and made a promise to my community that Shellharbour Hospital's redevelopment would finally "begin next year". It is now "next year"—in fact, it is now August of "next year"—and we still do not have a concrete start date for this project.

In my letter to the Minister I asked about the staging of the project. How many stages will there be? When is each stage expected to commence and conclude, and what will each involve? What services and facilities will be offered at Shellharbour Hospital when the redevelopment is completed? In essence, I want to know when my community can expect the long-overdue upgrade to their local hospital to be completed and what it will look like when it is complete. I also took the opportunity to ask whether the \$251 million budget for this project had been adjusted at all and, if not, why not.

As the House would be aware, 82 senior doctors across the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District recently joined forces to call on the Government to fully fund the redevelopment of Shellharbour Hospital. These doctors maintain that the \$251million commitment is based on a five-year-old service plan. As such, they have called on the service plan to be updated and additional funding to be allocated to match the updated plan. I could not agree more with them. Members of my community have waited long enough. They have been kept in limbo, and now in the dark, about this project for nearly two years. It is time to be up-front and tell us what is happening with our hospital. I want to ensure my community is not forced to suffer another delay in a project that has already put community members through so much. Four and a bit months are left of 2018. For the Minister to keep his word, we need to see shovels in the ground, equipment on site and real progress in this project. I look forward to the Minister's response.

### EASY CARE GARDENING

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:37):** Green spaces make us happier, healthier, less stressed and more social, according to recent World Health Organization research. Easy Care Gardening aims to provide gardening services to older persons and people with disabilities so they can remain in their homes for longer and enjoy the benefits of green space in their backyard. Easy Care Gardening assists many people within my electorate, as part of its provision of services to the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde and Hunters Hill local government areas. In this place 10 years ago I praised Easy Care Gardening for its community ethos and ongoing efforts on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary, and I repeat my words on that occasion:

Easy Care Gardening has become a model for other like-minded groups, which have been established in other parts of Sydney. These areas include Manly-Warringah-Pittwater, Baulkham Hills, Canterbury-Leichhardt-Marrickville, Engadine-Jannali-Menai, lower North Shore, outer western Blue Mountains, St George-Rockdale and south-east Sydney areas. There is clearly a need for this important community service. I cannot praise the work of these volunteers enough.

Ten years on, I was very pleased to attend recently Easy Care Gardening's Thirtieth Anniversary Garden Party at Eryldene, an historic home in Gordon in my electorate. I acknowledge and applaud the efforts of President Frank Windeyer, manager Glenn Stimpson and Easy Care Gardening's hardworking staff and volunteers. Two of the four founding members, Anne Shires and Lyndell van Noort, are still actively involved, and I thank them for their long service.

In 2007 Easy Care Gardening had 889 clients, serviced by 284 volunteers who completed approximately 18,910 gardening work hours. Easy Care Gardening now has 1,089 clients, serviced by 583 volunteers who have clocked up about 28,000 gardening work hours and 1,600 administrative work hours. Volunteers range from individuals, groups of business employees and church congregations to those carrying out community service orders or participating in Work for the Dole. In 2018 Easy Care Gardening volunteers made 1,830 garden visits, not only weeding, mulching and pruning gardens for a small client contribution but also having morning or afternoon tea with clients and encouraging them to roll up their sleeves and join in the fun.

Gardening volunteers also assist clients to establish low-maintenance gardens so people can enjoy independently tending to them. The volunteer management committee generally receives positive client feedback and many people look forward to their next visit. Easy Care Gardening was established in 1988 with funding from Ku-ring-gai Council. Today it receives significant funding from the Federal Government, small council grants and individual donations. Previously it also benefited from some State Government funding, but this has finished as clients with disabilities have transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Robert Frost once questioned whether good fences made good neighbours in a local village. The work of Easy Care Gardening's volunteers and staff shows what truly makes good neighbours—reaching out to those who may feel isolated from others and helping those in need to maintain their homes and quality of life. Easy Care Gardening is a wonderful example of how communities can support each other in creating beautiful and friendly spaces in which to live, work and play. It is an organisation that I wholeheartedly support and commend. I hope that Easy Care Gardening's clients, staff and volunteers will see many more years of pottering around the garden and enjoying a cuppa and bickie together in our local communities. I commend the work of Easy Care Gardening and I wish it all the best for the next 10 years.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:43 until  
Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 10:00.**