



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 16 October 2018

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16 October 2018

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Presiding Officers

TEMPORARY SPEAKERS

The SPEAKER: I nominate Anna Watson to act as Temporary Speaker in place of Sonia Kathleen Hornery. I thank Ms Hornery for her dedication and professionalism while sitting in this Chair.

[Notices of motions given.]

Private Members' Statements

RACISM

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (12:12): When people or organisations are under pressure a couple of things happen: They make mistakes and act in ways, often thoughtless, that speak volumes about what they really think and believe. It is called reverting to type. At the national level the Government is panicking, increasingly showing us through its words and deeds what it really thinks and believes. Besides being uninspiring, it is deeply disappointing for people such as those in my community of Lakemba. It is very worrying. People talk about a "national conversation". For people in my electorate, that conversation gets played out in very real and often hurtful ways in the playground, in the workplace, in a job interview and on the bus.

Yesterday in the national Parliament we witnessed the almost unbelievable sight of a large number of Liberal and Nationals Senators voting in support of a One Nation motion citing the so-called rise of anti-white racism, and invoking the catchcry of the extremist right-wing groups who say, "It is okay to be white". I said that this was almost unbelievable. To be honest, while I was shocked and deeply disappointed, I was not surprised. While we have come to expect this type of stunt from Senator Hanson, sadly we have seen this pathetic acquiescence from the ranks of the Liberal and National parties on a number of occasions and with increasing frequency.

In mid-August Senator Fraser Anning from Katter's Australian Party delivered his inaugural speech, riddled with racist dog-whistling, in which he referred to a "final solution"—deeply offensive to all of us but especially to the Jewish community and other communities that were targeted by the genocidal Nazi regime, such as the disabled and homosexuals. Senator Anning also called for a return to the White Australia policy. He explicitly called for a ban on immigration by anyone of the Muslim faith: people like me, my family and my community.

How did his fellow Senators respond? Here is what I and people in my electorate noticed: He was congratulated by fellow Senators, including senior Government Ministers such as Mathias Cormann and Matt Canavan. They shook his hand. There was backslapping. It is not good enough to pile on afterwards, acting offended; the damage had already been done. In words and deeds, they reverted to type. Today we see all sorts of things from the Federal Government. Christian Porter published a tweet stating:

The Government Senators' actions in the Senate this afternoon confirm that the Government deplores racism of any kind.

The Prime Minister claimed that there may have been an "administrative error" in having the overwhelming majority of Liberal and National Party Senators vote in support of Senator Hanson's motion. I do not buy it. They reverted to type and now they are trying to recover, but it is too late. For example, this morning Senator Cormann withdrew support for the motion. On my own Twitter feed, I called that "BS"—because that is exactly what it was. You do not vote for something and then the next day say, "Look, we made a mistake. We are now withdrawing it." Surely there is a process they need to go through. Surely since this motion was put up in September, everybody knew it was coming. We cannot accept this sort of thing.

In New South Wales, we see this Government's reluctance to distance itself from the One Nation party. Just this week, there was news of possible infiltration of The Nationals by far-right extremists. I know The Nationals are dealing with it, but it is telling that extremists would seek to embed themselves in a party like The Nationals. That is not acceptable in mainstream political movements in modern, multicultural Australia. We need complete bipartisan support to send a message by making sure that nobody deals with these racist extremists who

seek only to divide. How many times have I stood in this Chamber and called for the Government to rule out a deal with One Nation? How many times have I been ridiculed or made fun of when I have called for that? Yet the Government still is not willing to rule out a deal with One Nation. That tells me those opposite are willing to do anything to ensure they maintain government.

There are issues that we need to be careful with because members in this place have a duty. Every member, including those opposite and those on the crossbench, is here to make a difference and to make Australia better. We all want to do something for the community and that means standing up for what is right. In this place many members have quoted, "The standard you walk past is the standard you accept." We cannot continue to walk past this standard. We must draw a line in the sand. It is not drawn by the Labor Party or the Liberal Party or The Nationals; it is drawn by all of us because the moment we stand up and applaud people who make these sorts of ridiculous claims and comments, we support them and no matter how many times we say sorry, it means nothing. We need to wipe out these sorts of ideas.

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (12:18): As the Minister for Western Sydney and a representative of this Government, I will call out and reject racism at every opportunity when it adversely impacts my community. That is my job. However, I remind people that in New South Wales we have an optional preferential voting system, which means that the only person who chooses where they allocate their preferences is the voter in the privacy of their ballot box. No party determines how a person fills out that how-to-vote card. But if someone supports a party that says to put the Liberals or The Nationals last, by the very nature of that statement they are arguing for parties with a position that may be called racist to be put above the Liberals and The Nationals.

MONARO ELECTORATE FUNDING AND EVENTS

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (12:19): I draw the attention of the House to recent events in the electorate of Monaro. In an effort to be good local members and because of our obligations to this Parliament, we often forget to celebrate some of the fantastic achievements that are the victories of our many hardworking local volunteers. To redress that, I will recap what has happened over the past month in the Monaro, including the big announcements that have been made and some of the events that have occurred to celebrate my wonderful electorate.

The Monaro Panthers call Riverside Oval their home base. The club has been part of the football story of Queanbeyan for more than 50 years and the oval has been an integral part of that story. It was great to be at the club to announce the New South Wales Government's significant investment in upgrades that will occur in the off-season. Funding will be provided through a number of grants programs, such as the Regional Growth Fund and the Stronger Country Communities Fund, to ensure that we build local amenities to support regional sport. Sport in regional areas often characterises the identity of a town, and the footy field or the netball court is often the forum for rivalry between towns and villages. That is why it is important that Riverside Oval continues to be upgraded to make it a premier ground that supports the Monaro Panthers, who play in the ACT Premier League against some well-known regional clubs.

The Government also announced significant new funding for the Queanbeyan River Walk, which has been developed through a partnership between the State Government and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. The walk follows the town's number one asset—that is, the Queanbeyan River. I was joined at the announcement by members of the Queanbeyan Heart Foundation Walking Group, who use the walking path. The path has been built to bring families together and to promote a healthy lifestyle, which is, of course, the aim of the Heart Foundation. That is part of what this Government does and is yet another of its investments in the regions.

Queanbeyan has achieved another coup: For the past couple of decades the local Oktoberfest has been held in the Australian Capital Territory. Because of the Australian Capital Territory Government's strict regulations, it has become extremely difficult to celebrate events like Oktoberfest in the Territory. It was announced at a celebration at the Harmonie German Club that for the next four years Oktoberfest will be held in Queanbeyan. The first Queanbeyan Oktoberfest was held as a trial last year and it was a record year: It attracted the best turnout for more than a decade. Queanbeyan and the surrounding Monaro district have a multicultural community and we celebrate all our various cultural festivals. Oktoberfest is an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends across the region. It was an exciting announcement and the festival will attract tourists and support small businesses. More importantly, it highlights that Queanbeyan is a wonderful place to hold a festival.

We often talk about the lack of educational opportunities in the regions. The Country Universities Centre in Cooma is changing the way we deliver university options for young people in regional New South Wales. It was great to announce a partnership with the National Rugby League [NRL] that will allow local touch judges, referees

and others involved in rugby league to train in their sport. This great announcement was well received by the community. The partnership between the Government and the NRL will see \$8 million invested to build seven centres in regional New South Wales offering post-secondary education options for young people.

I also had the pleasure of hosting the Governor and Mrs Hurley in opening the new indoor sports centre in Queanbeyan. The centre represents a significant investment and, more importantly, it was an opportunity to visit Queanbeyan West Public School. The kids showed off the many wonderful things they are doing, including their garden and other activities, including the school's science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] program. The Queanbeyan Netball Association's celebrity charity game was terrific. It was fantastic to see a sporting club raising much-needed funds for the drought appeal. I congratulate the association for holding the event. Of course, this time of year sees many presentations and announcements, including one about the Captains Flat Fire Brigade. Queanbeyan is also celebrating the centenary of its establishment with an exhibition.

KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (12:24): I direct my comments to year 12 students in Ku-ring-gai who start the Higher School Certificate on Thursday. The Higher School Certificate is not just a set of exams but also the last scene in the school life of these young women and men. Ku-ring-gai is rightly regarded as one of the great school clusters in all of Australia. It proudly boasts high schools which include two outstanding public comprehensive co-educational schools: Turramurra High School and Ku-ring-gai High School, which are very similar to the high school I was lucky to attend. It has two selective high schools in Hornsby Girls' High School and Normanhurst Boys' High School; two Roman Catholic high schools in St Leo's Catholic College and Loreto Normanhurst; and five Protestant private schools in Abbotsleigh, Barker, Knox Grammar, Pymble Ladies' College and Ravenswood.

As a local member of Parliament and parent, I have had privileged access to these schools, their principals, parents and students, including their student leaders. One of the highlights of this and every year is hosting a dinner for two of the student leaders of each of these schools in Parliament House. This year our education Minister Rob Stokes also spent some time with us at that dinner and, as usual, provoked some insightful and inspiring answers to questions about both the future of education and the future educational challenges of my impressive guests.

The world that these young people are going into is very different to the world that I entered at the end of my high school years. When I sat the Higher School Certificate it was largely a memory test. The skills of memorising large quantities of information was appropriate at that time for professions like medicine and law which attracted some of the highest entries into university. But in a world where everyday use of artificial intelligence, which can retain and produce relevant information more effectively than a human being, is just around the corner, I think we legitimately need to ask whether the Higher School Certificate, which still appears to be largely a memory test, is an appropriate university or other gateway for the world in which these young people will be living.

It seems to me that this question is far more pertinent to tomorrow than debates about school funding, the existence or not of selective schools and how much ideology is being taught in our schools. I believe that the most important education debate should be about developing a clear view on what education a future world requires and how to direct our curriculum and funding accordingly. I have been very heartened that the Minister for Education, whom I greatly admire, has been encouraging a debate about what is the appropriate education for the world in which these young men and women will be living.

This year's Higher School Certificate is especially personal for me because I have come to know many of the students in the year 12 of 2018 from our local schools, which includes my beloved youngest child, Angus. When I recently attended the year 12 valedictory assembly at a local high school not attended by my son, I was reminded of how many young men I had coached in sporting teams when these kids were in primary school. It was a little scary to remember them as young boys and girls and now see them as grown adults. I am now physically looking up to the kids I had to get on one knee to speak to face-to-face when I was their basketball or soccer coach in primary school.

The context in which we all wish our year 12 students well for their future—the end of their school lives—is, for many parents, a little sad. It seems like we took these year 12 students on their first day to kindergarten only yesterday, but they are now about to finish their school life after 13 years of study. Since kindergarten these students and their parents have attended many school open days, concerts, dramatic performances, sporting fixtures, assemblies and other school activities. With school friends and their families there have been holidays, birthdays, sleepovers, dinners, lunches, cultural events, parties, gatherings and other activities. There have been arguments, disappointments, break-ups, family tragedies, illness and other adversities that these young adults have had to deal with.

Through all these events that have happened to them since they started school, we have been reminded that it takes a community to educate a child—and that an education is more than an Higher School Certificate number; it is the process of developing into an adult and forging your own identity. From my many interactions with the Ku-ring-gai year 12 of 2018, I have no doubt that the future of our country is in great hands. My simple advice is to stay calm and do your best. Your family and friends love the person that you are and have become, not the mark that you will get. The opportunities that are available to you after leaving school are limitless and there are many paths you can follow to achieve your goals. We wish you all good luck for a rich, rewarding and happy future.

SOAR & ROAR FESTIVAL

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (12:29): Soar & Roar is an annual event held at Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek, designed to raise funds for Special Olympics Australia. The goal of the event is to provide much needed funding support for Special Olympics athletes to participate in many and varied activities, including next year's Special Olympic Games to be held in Abu Dhabi. The Special Olympics allows people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to access robust international competition. Special Olympics Australia is part of a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education and leadership programs to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Over 600,000 Australians who live with an intellectual disability find it hard to do what are considered basic tasks, such as catching public transport, dealing with money or reading. The Special Olympics movement allows people not only to shine to their personal best but also to provide inspiration to the whole community in dealing with life's challenges.

Special Olympics Australia has been formed with the aims of empowering and ending discrimination against people with an intellectual disability. Volunteers working with Special Olympics Australia create accessible sports training, coaching and competition opportunities that are offered weekly in local communities all over Australia. This allows people with intellectual disabilities to break down barriers and ensures they are not shut out from society. Participants have fun, make friends and build confidence and they also have the opportunity to compete to win and receive medals. Without the help of countless volunteers who give up their time on a regular basis, these events would not be possible.

Soar & Roar's inaugural event was held in December 2016 and coincided with the International Day of People with a Disability. In 2017 the event was awarded Blacktown City Council's Community Event of the Year. The 2017 Soar & Roar was a huge celebration with live entertainment on stage all day provided by entertainers such as Justice Crew, Amber Lawrence and the Special Olympics Performance Group. Also present were a number of high-profile ambassadors including Network 10's Sandra Sully, Brendon "Jonesy" Jones from WSFM, Chris Smith from 2GB, and Australian motorsport legends Steve Richards and Kevin Magee.

At the Soar & Roar event Special Olympics Australia athletes are driven in 140 classic, luxury and exotic sports cars and 95 bikes around Sydney Motorsport Park, providing a unique and unforgettable memory. Once our Special Olympic athletes are finished travelling in the exotic cars and bikes, the public will have an opportunity to buy some laps. I wish to send a special thanks to all the people who have made their cars and bikes available to help with the fundraising. I especially thank Ron Goodman from Exclusive Body Werks, Clyde, who will make two cars available for laps on the day, including the rare 1966 racing Porsche 906 for \$2,000 and the 2003 model 996 Cup Car Porsche for a modest donation. I will make a financial donation to the Special Olympics to do some hot laps with Ron. Hopefully there will be no other donation left by me on the track once Ron has finished with me. I note that the Minister for Western Sydney is present in the House. I encourage him to attend on the day, if he is available.

This year Soar & Roar will be held on 9 December and the event is expected to be bigger than ever. Apart from the cars and bikes, there will be a host of live entertainment, amusement rides, a petting zoo for the kids, helicopter rides, market stalls and a record-setting dance attempt on the track. I commend to the House the hard work and dedication of Special Olympics Australia and acknowledge and thank the hundreds of volunteers who participate in Soar & Roar to make the event a success. I also acknowledge the volunteers who assist with sports training and events throughout the year which allow people with an intellectual disability the opportunity to participate in regular sporting activity. Whilst the board chairman Cameron Brownjohn and chief executive officer Corene Strauss can be proud of all their volunteers and staff, I would like to send a special vote of appreciation to the fundraising team of Mabel Park and Fran Eustace for their amazing work. I encourage everyone to join with me and attend Soar & Roar at Sydney Motorsport Park at Eastern Creek on 9 December 2018.

COMMUNITY NORTHERN BEACHES

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (12:34): On Friday 12 October I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Community Northern Beaches [CNB] annual general meeting. Whilst local members work on and care about all kinds of issues in our communities, perhaps the single most important thing we can do is help

organisations like Community Northern Beaches to thrive because thriving organisations create stronger communities. For more than 40 years Community Northern Beaches has been the glue of our local community. In its time it has grown to become the largest community and volunteering hub on the northern beaches and it sets a model for community service providers.

At the meeting I was happy to learn the good news that the team and the staff have expanded. I was equally impressed that 88 per cent of the organisation's total income goes directly to delivering programs to help the centre's clients. But whilst the figures are impressive they are also alarming. For example, the homelessness outreach service sees between six to 10 people per day and there is only four months worth of funding should the current funding model change. For a small organisation, CNB is absolutely doing its bit. It has increased its hall hire capacity by 60 per cent for a great source of income and revenue. It has also increased its community donation support, which demonstrates the high regard that our community has for CNB. A particular section of the annual report in reference to the welfare and domestic violence drop-in service struck me as quite a profound insight. It said:

The most common positive feedback we receive is that our clients have been listened to and their voice is heard. There is no value placed on this, but the result can often be priceless.

In the end, when it comes to the challenges we face as a community, I believe that the need for action always exceeds the limits of government. Whilst the Government can do and is doing plenty, it is active and engaged citizens like the volunteers and staff of Community Northern Beaches who really drive the outcomes. I note that the work of the Community Northern Beaches volunteers is integral to achieving the Premier's Priorities of reducing homelessness and domestic violence. At the meeting five volunteers were presented with awards in recognition of their work, some of them volunteering over many years. Caroline Pearce was recognised for her work as a reception volunteer and member of the management committee.

Nora Takats was recognised for nine years of continuous volunteer service, including as a justice of the peace. Cathie McNabb was recognised for her work as a reception volunteer and her work on special projects. Julia Denne was recognised for her work volunteering at reception in addition to her work on the Community Northern Beaches program to support migrants and refugees. Finally, Linda Stokes was recognised for her work organising the CNB OzHarvest program for the homeless and needy which the centre conducts each Wednesday. The frontline reception roles are incredibly important as they present a kind and welcoming face to the clients who come through the doors of Community Northern Beaches every day.

It has always been the case that the people of Manly invest our time, energy and purpose into the very fabric of our community. In every respect, that is the essence of Community Northern Beaches. When I consider the challenges that local members face, I often think of what happens at Community Northern Beaches and the work of the people within it. I really believe that they sustain me and many of us in the positive work that they do for our communities. It is with great pleasure that I offer a sincere and well-deserved congratulations to the team at Community Northern Beaches and centre manager John Kelly in particular. I wish them all the best for the years ahead and congratulate them on their annual general meeting. I am incredibly proud to be a patron of Community Northern Beaches.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:38): New South Wales is in a housing affordability crisis and the situation in Sydney's inner city has become dire. Buying a home is increasingly out of reach, with property prices having skyrocketed over the past decade amid sluggish wages growth. Those who have mortgages are spending a greater proportion of their income on repayments and more than half of lower income households with a mortgage are in housing stress. While there is talk of property prices easing following the royal commission, it is unclear whether low to medium income earners will benefit. Many people have no choice but to rent, but renting affordability has also declined with rents now so high only 1 per cent of Sydney rental homes are within the means of the lowest income households, none of which are in the inner city.

In the City of Sydney region, rents have risen by 70 per cent over the last decade. More than a quarter of rented households in my electorate are in housing stress, with more than 30 per cent of their income spent on rent. Increasingly the workers needed to make the city vibrant and functional cannot afford to live close to their work, including police officers, nurses, baristas, musicians and artists. The social housing system is there to stop vulnerable and disadvantaged people from becoming homeless, but the waiting list is 60,000 people long and most will have to wait close to a decade to get a home. An estimated 140,000 additional people are eligible for social housing but have not registered. This puts many people at risk of homelessness.

Approximately 38,000 people in New South Wales do not have a home and homelessness rates have risen by 37 per cent since 2011. Of people who are homeless, 7 per cent are sleeping rough, 16 per cent are in crisis services, 18 per cent are in boarding houses, 14 per cent are couch surfing, 9 per cent are in temporary

lodgings and 45 per cent are in severely overcrowded dwellings. All of these scenarios pose significant threats to life, safety, health and wellbeing. Without secure housing, medical issues including mental health conditions cannot be treated and can degenerate, and new health problems emerge. People are at risk of violence and intimidation, and are more likely to enter the criminal justice system. Getting and keeping a job is near impossible.

A range of measures is needed to relieve housing stress and ensure the vast majority of people have a safe and secure home. The most important measure is to increase social and affordable housing stock urgently and significantly. Strong targets are needed for major housing redevelopments that deliver at least 15 per cent new social and affordable homes. Inner-city redevelopment projects are falling short of this vital goal, with Barangaroo set to deliver a mere 2.3 per cent of residential floor space to key workers, and there are no commitments for Central to Eveleigh or the Bays Precinct. While the promise of 30 per cent social and 5 per cent affordable housing at the Waterloo redevelopment sounds like a strong target, assessment shows at best it will deliver only a tiny additional 148—or, at worst, 62 fewer—social housing properties than currently exist on the site. This is in exchange for significant overdevelopment that will result in the highest residential density in the country.

The sale of Millers Point public housing caused significant distress to tenants who were evicted from their homes and relocated away from their communities. It also reduced the neighbourhood's diversity and sense of community, with many homes converted to short-term letting. All of this pain had little impact on the social housing waiting list, with sale funds used mainly to replace stock. Furthermore, approximately two-thirds of the homes to be built through the Communities Plus and the Social and Affordable Housing Fund merely replace existing stock. We urgently need to build 5,000 new social housing properties each year until 2026 just to keep up with need. This is the only way we will end homelessness.

Councils should be permitted to require developer contributions for affordable housing without State approval. The Affordable Housing Taskforce 2012 interim report committed to a new State environmental planning policy [SEPP], standard local environmental plan [LEP] clauses, development standards and integration with strategic planning, but there has been little progress other than extending affordable housing schemes under the Affordable Housing (Revised Schemes) SEPP to five new councils. The Housing Affordability Strategy focuses on increasing housing supply, despite recent building booms failing to improve affordability. We must also closely assess the impact of short-term holiday letting on housing affordability in areas of high tourist demand. I call on the Government to improve housing affordability by building new stock and legislating strong targets, and to work towards ending homelessness by 2030.

TAMWORTH FIESTA LA PEEL

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (12:43): On Saturday 13 October the whole region came together to celebrate the fifth annual Tamworth Fiesta La Peel, with crowds exceeding 20,000 people. This was the biggest fiesta yet, with more than 60 stalls and more than 47 nations represented in cuisine and retail. There were free taste plates from around the world, and street and stage entertainers including bands, dancers and drumming. There were children's activities such as mask, card, lei and wreath making workshops. It filled the new Fitzroy Street mall and spilled over onto Kable Avenue and into Bicentennial Park. I congratulate Carol Hughes from the Tamworth Regional Council and her team, as well as Multicultural Tamworth, led by Juanita Doody, Eddie Whitham and Shalini Pratap, who are community representatives for this event and represent Multicultural Tamworth.

While it was a huge crowd, the biggest achievement for the fiesta was the way different communities came together and worked together. Anything that happened on that day was the result of a great deal of preparation by the community. That is what makes Fiesta La Peel different: the community involvement and ownership of this event. For example, the Fijian community spent all week preparing for this event. That preparation brings together not only that group, but also the whole community. The Koreans had an amazing stall with free food. They took a lot of initiative as they feel they have ownership of this event as well. That ownership and acceptance is a massive achievement. A lot of people selflessly prepared for this event all week long and then gave free food to taste from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. The Serbians spent an incredible amount of time preparing and showcasing their culture. The Filipino band and dance group also support many local events.

The event was well supported by commercial operators such as the Post Office Hotel in Fitzroy Street that went Spanish for the night. It was great to see cultures blend as different groups gave back to the community through their food, entertainment and culture. I will mention just a few of the nations that were involved in the fiesta: India, Fiji, Lebanon, Thailand, France, Italy, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand, Philippines, Madagascar, Hungary, Kenya, Nepal, Botswana, China, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Bangladesh, Colombia, Pakistan, South Korea, Scotland, Ireland, Turkey, Venezuela, Vietnam, Serbia, Burma, Brazil, Afghanistan, the United Kingdom and India. People from South Australia were also involved.

The Rotary Club of Tamworth Sunrise also featured in a stall. Its star was Erika, a former winner of the Finnish Junior MasterChef title, ably assisted by our resident chef, Mr Barry Pawsey. Her cinnamon scrolls were a delight. They walked out the door. I congratulate everybody who took part in the Fiesta La Peel for 2018 and thank the community from right across the region and those who travelled interstate to attend this event. I look forward to next year. This event is big and the sky is the limit. I thank Multicultural Tamworth—keep up the great work. We love you in our communities. We live in peace and harmony, and long may that reign.

LONGUEVILLE SPORTING CLUB

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (12:48): I excitedly stand in this Chamber to say "Diddy". No, that is not a question, as in "Did he?" Rather it is a statement, as in "Diddy". For the uninformed, the Diddy is also known as the Longueville Sporting Club. Longueville Sporting Club [LSC] or Diddy is a wonderful community organisation. Recently I was honoured as the local member to be able to pass on a \$180,000 grant for the Diddy. This graciously accepted grant will be used for the refurbishment and restoration of the clubhouse. It will benefit many people who use the club's facilities: junior and senior players of soccer, rugby, Australian Football League [AFL], rowing, lawn bowls and even frisbee. Longueville Sporting Club was established last century, in 1938.

Originally the club was called the Lane Cove Bowling Club, and it still offers bowls as a sport and as recreation. There is bare-foot bowling, as one would expect, and the greens are surrounded by more lawn, used for the tossing of a footy ball or a frisbee. I can see on the faces of many in this Chamber that they cannot work out how the Longueville Sporting Club got the nickname "Diddy". The answer is a little morbid, but typically Australian. If a member had not been sighted for a while, their fellow clubbies would often ask, "Did he die, did he?" The straight forward question morphed into the club's fond nickname—the Diddy.

The club struggled in the past, but thanks to the work of, among others, Wil Godfrey, Chris McDermott, Deb Burt, John Bingham, Jennifer Rezek, Robert England, Andy Bruce and Rod McDonald, as well as Chris Keighery, the general manager, and the current directors, Michael Donovan, Jim Galvin, Scott Bird, Sally Tremlett, and David Haugh, who have all continued the great work, today there are more than 2,500 members, who are very much alive and well. I praise them for their efforts. These people have kept the club not only alive, but healthy as well. The Diddy offers a fair range of healthy activities. Of course, there is bowling, but there is also a fully kitted out gymnasium on the premises and even yoga classes to keep members limber. I am happy to put the case that the 5,000 members of the Diddy thoroughly deserve this funding and past grants I have been able to secure as their local member of Parliament.

Still in the neighbourhood, I was recently joined by gardening guru Graham Ross at St Michael's Catholic Primary School in Lane Cove to mark Schools Tree Day with the students. With the fantastic Principal Steve Conlon helping to support this cause, we went in with the aim to inspire, educate and recruit our younger generation to actively care for the environment. We were able to speak about the program I instituted as planning Minister to plant five million trees around Sydney by 2030. To meet the canopy target we will plant more than 380,000 trees every year for the next 12 years. That is the equivalent of taking 355,000 cars off the road. The students loved it, along with their teachers, and I am sure most of the children went home that night and told their mums, dads and friends about the importance and benefits of planting a tree. It is pleasurable and joyous to be part of a caring, compassionate and responsible Government.

I pay tribute to the members and directors of the Diddy club for the wonderful opportunities they afford many of our sporting clubs and the wonderful opportunity they afford people to meet in what is a fantastic premise that will become ever better with this most recent grant. I pay tribute to St Michael's Catholic Primary School Principal Steve Conlon. I will have more to say about Steve in the coming weeks. Steve is retiring from St Michael's. He has been an inspirational educator and administrator. He will be sorely missed by the St Michael's community. I wish him well and will have more to say about him in the future.

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER NICHOLAS HARSAS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (12:52): I pay tribute to a remarkable man who has dedicated more than 30 years to teaching and mentoring young students throughout our community. Brother Nicholas Harsas made a commitment in 1994 to devote his life as a member of the Patrician Brothers congregation to the service of Catholic education. Brother Nicholas has excelled throughout the course of his long and distinguished career and has played a pivotal role in the schools to which he served, including the Patrician Brothers' Catholic Primary School, Fairfield; St Therese Catholic Primary School, Sadleir-Miller; and Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Fairfield, where he is presently serving.

Over the years Brother Nicholas has undertaken a variety of roles, including teacher, principal, mentor and, of course, a Patrician Brother of St Patrick. Brother Nicholas' devotion to our local community remains

unwavering as he continues to passionately advocate for and support local students and their families through not only teaching but also pastoral care. Over the years he has made a substantive effort to ensure students and families of low socioeconomic status have the resources and support they need to get a quality education at school. These efforts have been invaluable as the various waves of migrant and refugee families who have passed through our local community have been supported at every turn, thanks to the kindness and generosity of Brother Nicholas.

At Our Lady of the Rosary in Fairfield, 98 per cent of the students come from a non-English speaking background, with a little more than 80 refugee students enrolled at present. The proportion of students who come from a language background other than English has been steadily increasing over the years and Brother Nicholas has been there every step of the way. Brother Nicholas has been at the forefront of program development and new initiatives aimed to support the education, safety and wellbeing of his students and their families.

As a local community leader, he has always set the bar high for not only himself but also those around him. Brother Nicholas believes by working together and supporting one another we can help each other reach our full potential and be the best version of ourselves that we can possibly be. This is something he has helped countless students and families realise throughout his time as an educator as he is a firm believer of education for all. The number of former students who choose to enrol their own children in the school where Brother Nicholas is serving stands as true testament to his devotion and the impact he has on students' lives. Brother Nicholas Harsas remains a "brother" to many as a result of his positive impact on so many lives as an outstanding teacher, distinguished principal, and a source of strength and wellbeing for his community.

There are so many amazing qualities that make Brother Nicholas Harsas stand out from the flock and that is enshrined in his dedication, passion and commitment to always going that extra mile to support others and make their lives better as a result. Brother Nicholas has had a tremendous impact on our local community in Fairfield and we will be forever grateful for his contributions. On behalf of the Fairfield community I take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Brother Nicholas for everything he has done for our area over the years. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavours as he will be taking on new challenges at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School as of next year. I have no doubt that Brother Nicholas will continue his strong advocacy and support for students and families in his new home. The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School community are incredibly lucky to have him. I conclude with the *Irish Blessing*, which I dedicate to Brother Nicholas:

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

DUBBO ELECTORATE VOLUNTEERS

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (12:56):

Today I acknowledge in the House volunteers in the Dubbo electorate who were recently recognised for their contribution to the community. Before I do so, I state that last Sunday morning, as the Minister for Emergency Services, I attended the Emergency Services Volunteer Memorial Service at Mrs Macquarie's Point to honour the 83 emergency services volunteers who lost their lives while volunteering and made the ultimate sacrifice. I said during the ceremony that on a daily basis volunteers throughout the country and particularly New South Wales pay a price, whether it is absenteeism from their families or work, financial disadvantage or whatever it maybe. These 83 names etched on this memorial for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice highlight the importance of volunteering so I mention that as a prelude to my remarks about my local volunteers. We respect those volunteers and thank them for their service. We will be forever in debt to their families, who continue to suffer their loss. We will continue to support them.

The Dubbo electorate proudly has one of the highest, if not the highest, rate of volunteering in New South Wales. That speaks volumes about the character of the people and why the community of Dubbo is such a good community—it has the best people. I was pleased that on 11 September a NSW Volunteer of the Year Award ceremony was held to recognise three outstanding volunteers. The Youth Volunteer of the Year was Zac Cherry from St John Ambulance Australia, Orana Combined Division from Dubbo. Zac is only 24 years of age. He is a great example of the many young people who are engaging in volunteer endeavours throughout New South Wales. At just 24 years of age Zac has already reached the rank of deputy superintendent of St John Ambulance Australia Orana Combined Division. In recognition of his efforts, he has already volunteered a remarkable 270 hours in 2018 alone, an outstanding effort. I am enormously proud of Zac and his great contribution.

Samuel Swain from the wonderful Taronga Western Plains Zoo was named Adult Volunteer of the Year. The zoo is world-renowned for its tourism and environmental conservation offerings. It also has brilliant staff

who are Australian tourism award winners who are known for their breeding programs, particularly the black rhinoceros. Underpinning what occurs at Western Plains Zoo is the volunteer effort. The volunteers are remarkable and they give the visitors a wonderful tourist experience. Samuel was recognised for his voluntary effort over the past four years at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. He is one of the stand-out volunteers who do everything possible to ensure that visitors enjoy their visit to this iconic destination. I congratulate Samuel.

The Volunteer Team of the Year was awarded to the Beyond Barbed Wire mentoring program volunteers from Barnados Australia in Wellington. Wellington is a community that has had its struggles over the years but, since the amalgamation of Wellington and Dubbo, the renaissance of the community and the effort of people volunteering to make Wellington better has been enormous. I recognise councillor Jane Diffey from the Dubbo Regional Council, who is here today. She is a wonderful supporter of volunteers from many organisations. The volunteers from the Beyond Barbed Wire mentoring program were selected as the team of the year for the Orana region.

The program run by Barnados Australia provides support for female prisoners at the Wellington Correctional Centre during and after incarceration. It is not an easy way to volunteer, dealing with people who have been through troubled times and who are transitioning back into the community. The 12 team members spend time with mothers to help strengthen their parenting skills so that they maintain strong bonds with their children and help them connect with support services when they are released from jail. It is a volunteering effort targeting recidivism to ensure that people do not get caught up and remain in the cycle of offending. The team is the wonderful recipient of the Volunteer Team of the Year award. I congratulate them all; I am enormously proud.

CODE C BAY AND BASIN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (13:01): On the South Coast we are blessed to have many community members and volunteer organisations raising funds for many different causes. There is a true spirit in my community—and I am sure we recognise it in all of our communities—but it is worth recognising from time to time in this House. The South Coast is not a wealthy area but it is amazing how community groups and organisations come together to help those who are less well off. One such group that I have been close to over the past 10 years of their existence is the Code C Bay and Basin Cancer Support network and charity fundraising group. Each year the group hosts wonderful fundraisers at The Country Club St Georges Basin. I have been to every one of them—judging fancy dress competitions—and it is amazing how much money is raised every night. Well done to them and well done for this Saturday night. I am sure it will be a similarly successful evening.

It is thanks to this hardworking group of individuals that free transportation is possible from the bay and basin area to the Cancer Care Centre in Nowra. Past events, fundraising drives and community support have enabled Code C Bay and Basin to purchase a bus, ensuring that local cancer patients have one less trouble to worry about and that is safe, reliable and free transport for their treatment. In the last year Bay & Basin residents have assisted cancer sufferers travel 20,270 kilometres. They have transported 267 passengers to 533 appointments with volunteers, donating 754 hours of their time to ensure that these journeys are possible. I remember a time when this project seemed like a dream and it was thought that we could never raise enough money for a bus. Yet here we are transporting our patients to Nowra.

The bus has been in operation for four years, commencing operation in mid-2014. I remember that day very clearly. More than \$175,000 was raised to purchase the vehicle, with 130 sponsors coming on board to support the cause of Code C Bay and Basin. The 10-seater bus has been specially modified to ensure that all members of the local community are able to use it. The bus is disability friendly with a chairlift, safety rails and additional steps having been installed. As well as the purchase of the bus, the funds raised ensure that ongoing costs such as insurance, fuel and servicing are all met by the community.

Additional funds also assist patients at the Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre and throughout the Shoalhaven, ensuring that their time receiving treatment is as comfortable as possible. Each year around \$30,000 is raised at the event. At \$10 per ticket that equates to a lot of support from the community through raffles and auctions, as well as substantial support from sponsors such as The Country Club St Georges Basin. To date, more than \$250,000 has been raised through the Code C Bay and Basin fundraiser. That is a tremendous effort and one that would not have been possible without the hardworking community members who dedicate themselves to ensuring its success.

For the past 10 years Dick Manwarring, whom I have spoken about in this House before, has been the driving force behind all of this. From day one he has worked hard to ensure that every event is not only enjoyable for those who attend but also to raise as much money as possible, and always alongside Dick in that work is his wife, Joan. Over the years Dick Manwarring has received many accolades; however, none will truly represent our community's appreciation for all he has done. I again thank Dick on behalf of the entire South Coast community. He is not only someone who I admire and respect but also he has become a very close friend. Every year the Code

C Bay and Basin Committee ensures that Dick's legacy is carried out. Wendy Hay, Kerri Sedman, Christine Kolbakas and Verile Fitzgerald all work extraordinarily hard, no doubt under the watchful eye of Dick and Joan. Even though Dick says he has semiretired, I am certain he will be there somewhere in the background.

The Code C Bay and Basin fundraiser is always held on a Saturday evening. Indeed, the next one is to be held this coming Saturday evening. I look forward to once again attending and judging the fancy dress competition. It is certainly something to behold. Those who attend really enjoy dressing up, which adds to the fun and frivolity at The Country Club St Georges Basin. It is great to see the South Coast community come together to support those who are going through very difficult times. I again thank Dick, Joan, the committee, the doctors, the nurses and everybody contributing on Saturday night to what no doubt will be another spectacular event.

Visitors

VISITORS

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Anna Watson): I welcome the guests in the public gallery to the New South Wales Parliament, guests of the Leader of the Opposition, and member for Auburn.

Private Members' Statements

AUSTRALIAN TURKISH COMMUNITY

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (13:06): As the member for Auburn—the spiritual home of Turks in New South Wales—and as Leader of the Labor Party, I am very proud to represent our Turkish-Australian community. This week Australia marks an important milestone in our nation's special relationship with Turkey. On 14 October 1968—50 years ago almost to the day—Qantas flight 174 touched down at Sydney Kingsford Smith International Airport. It was 5.10 p.m. on a Monday evening and on board were 168 Turkish migrants. That was the first plane load of Turks to land in Australia following the signing of a bilateral agreement on assisted migration between Turkey and Australia just a year earlier. That agreement for the "residence and employment of Turkish citizens in Australia" was Australia's first such agreement with a nation outside Western Europe. It saw the first major Muslim community settle in our country. Indeed, it was a most significant step in the gradual dismantling of the White Australia policy.

The agreement was signed on 5 October 1967 by Billy Snedden, then Federal Minister for Immigration, and His Excellency Baha Vefa Karatay, the first Turkish Ambassador to Australia. This came at a time when the Australian Government was looking to increase Australia's population and expand the workforce, and at the same time the Turkish Government was encouraging emigration to solve unemployment and overcrowding in Turkey. However, the Australian Turkish story began more than 100 years ago when the Ottoman Empire came up against the young Australian nation at Çanakkale on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula.

What began as a fierce battle ended with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's famous words about the Mehmeds and Johnnies lying side by side, equal as sons of the newly formed Turkish Republic, a sentiment which is today celebrated by the people of Australia and Turkey. It was with this spirit that the first Turks arrived in Australia 50 years ago this week, eager to work hard and find their fortunes. Most did not intend to call Australia home, but planned to work for some years before returning to Turkey. However, in Australia they found a home here that allowed them to maintain their Turkishness. This is shown in the words of Fehmi, one of the first arrivals, who said:

This country has always endeavoured to make us live in good conditions. I remember when Whitlam was the Prime Minister, he gave us social rights, he enhanced our social security. They provided Turks [with] their own radio channel. They provided us translators if we went to government institutions and couldn't explain what we wanted. We could read government announcements in our language. If we have ever felt homesickness here, it was not because we were made to feel alien, it was because of distance.

When I think of the Turkish contribution to Australia I am reminded of the words of Annabelle Rankin, the then Minister for Housing, who was sent by Prime Minister John Gorton to welcome the new migrants to Australia. Minister Rankin said:

The Australian people for many years have admired the qualities of courage and fortitude of the Turkish people. We hope your number will grow, until we have a significant representation of Turkish people, with tradition and skills, which can contribute to Australia's development and add flavour to our way of life.

Those comments were made 50 years ago this week by the then Federal Minister for Housing. I am proud to say here in this Parliament today that her wishes have come true. Today, there is an estimated 150,000 Australians of Turkish descent in our country. They contribute to all facets of Australian life, and they are overrepresented in our professions and business community. I congratulate Australia's Turkish community on its 50 years of outstanding contribution to Australia's multicultural fabric. You should be, as we are, proud of your contribution to our great nation.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE PLANNING FOR HEALTHY AGEING FORUM

Ms PRU GOWARD (Goulburn—Minister for Family and Community Services, Minister for Social Housing, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) (13:11): Again I begin with a reflection on the drought by thanking the wonderful Rapid Relief Team for their drought assistance efforts and fodder donations, particularly in the Southern Highlands on the weekend. Our dairy farmers are most appreciative, including the Whatman family whom I had the pleasure of meeting at the Mayberry Farm hay drop on Saturday.

From the bottom of my heart I wish to thank the Rapid Relief Team and all those who are continuously supporting our hardworking farmers. It gives heart to them and I know how grateful they are. The issue of milk prices is a wicked one, however. The future viability of four-generation dairy farmers like the Whatmans will depend on more than fodder. Prices have been fixed for years whilst this year alone dairying costs will rise by 40 per cent. They need help.

But there is more to the electorate of Goulburn than drought. On 5 October I hosted an ageing forum in my electorate to gather information on what is needed to make our villages and towns more ageing friendly. Making sure we can age well in rural towns and villages means getting it right. I wanted to hear from the experts and brainstorm with some of our community and organisational leaders. While the New South Wales Government has an ageing strategy—and I acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of the Minister for Ageing—I think we need to delve deeper into each of our regions to make sure that our policies are as effective and relevant to the individual as they are to the communities in which ageing people live and wish to remain.

We were very lucky to have the following speakers draw upon their knowledge and share their experiences: the managing director of Verso Consulting, Mr Doug Faircloth; the chair of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation and the mayor of the Yass Valley Council, Rowena Abbey; Ms Katie Constantinou from HarbisonCare; and Natalie Rowsell from Valmar Transport, as well as representatives from NSW Health, local government, and Family and Community Services. The Planning for Healthy Ageing Forum of community groups across the electorate of Goulburn, which spans the highlands and the tablelands, confirmed very strong interest in developing local communities in our region that will be age friendly and enable residents to age in place—in their own homes and communities, whether that is larger regional centres or small villages.

Residential or institutional care is envisaged for only the very end of life. Support with shopping and home care, visits with friends and other social outings as well as professional appointments were identified as the main elements of healthy ageing. The forum agreed that smaller communities could not always expect to have the services available in larger centres, but recognised, for example, the role that local volunteer organisations could play in providing equivalent supports. There was strong agreement between all groups that ageing residents should, despite their health and mobility challenges, be respected by the community and accommodated. That includes dementia sufferers, who should be able to live in their own homes for as long as possible, supported by local services and the wider community. Many participants also reported the lack of discussion within a family about planning for healthy ageing, including discussions about power of attorney, desired funeral arrangements or how services can be accessed. Many left it too late to plan.

Presenters outlined a vast range of services and supports available to ageing residents: community transport, volunteer home or garden care supports, shopping home delivery, supermarkets or banks that provided customer service suited to the needs of older customers or even those with dementia, and support with computer literacy and online transactions. The forum noted that, despite the generous number of services, they were not always widely known and a central point of referral would assist families and the elderly to access the assistance they need. They also agreed that with elderly people seeking to downsize and move away from the pace of life in cities, the promotion of healthy ageing services and supports may actually help bring more people to otherwise declining regional areas. In any case, it was agreed that healthy ageing in a local community would require support from other residents, key businesses and the local council. Healthy ageing would need to be promoted to them as desirable and relevant to their own interests and businesses.

There were many suggestions, including the establishment of a volunteer desk at information centres for a limited number of hours each week to assist families and the elderly themselves identify suitable services and activities; encouraging retailers and local professional service providers to train staff to assist elderly customers or those with dementia; and retailers that satisfy a minimum number of requirements for healthy ageing customers to receive a tick of approval in recognition of the effort they will make for older customers. Ageing in place should and must be considered healthy ageing rather than a form of aged care, intending to ensure that aged people remain connected, happy and part of their communities.

*Community Recognition Statements***OCEANIA ICE STOCK CHAMPIONSHIP**

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (13:16): While ice stock is a popular sport in Germany, Austria and northern Italy, the New South Wales headquarters is located in Kareela Reserve, Doonside. The stocks look like discs with handles and they are passed along the ground towards the put, similar to bowls. Whilst the sport is played on ice, obviously it does not snow in Doonside so they practice on asphalt. Doonside was home to the recent 2018 Oceania Ice Stock Championship and included probably the first ever long-distance stock throwing competition for women in the Southern Hemisphere, won by Chyrs Psychogios.

Australian vice-president Barry O'Donnell from Doonside led New South Wales to gold over the star-studded team from Victoria led by Australian president Manfred Stoeghofer. The Australian Icestock Sport Association is a provisional member of the Australian Olympic Committee as the sport has a strong possibility of being part of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing. It would be great to see another Doonie resident, Barry O'Donnell, at the Olympic Games.

CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE

Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:17): In August this year I had the privilege of visiting the year 9 and 10 girls at Caroline Chisholm College at Glenmore Park to take part in their commerce partnership program, when I spoke with them about my role as a member of Parliament and what my position entails. The theme for this study was "Women change the world", with an emphasis on encouraging the young women to become actively involved in their local area and take action on issues they are concerned about. I spoke about key issues within the Mulgoa electorate and the various forms of political involvement that the students could consider in response to community concerns.

Also at Caroline Chisholm, I congratulate the achievements of the students in the UniSchools Steer Challenge. The young girls spent a staggering 98 days feeding, grooming and training a Hereford steer in order to participate in this year's challenge. The aim of the program was to help build students' knowledge of the agricultural industry, give them a better understanding of where their food comes from and the entire process behind the production of meat. With 13 schools involved, the participants from Caroline Chisholm placed fourth overall and had wins in three categories—a wonderful achievement. To the students and teachers involved at Caroline Chisholm College, I say, "Well done."

PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (13:18): Yesterday, 15 October, was Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, when we honour and remember infants lost as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death. Sadly, it is a tragedy more common than most people think. One in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage, six babies are stillborn each day and three in every 1,000 babies die within the first 12 months. In marking the day as we did yesterday, we cannot forget to acknowledge the work of Nicole Ballinger, a former South Coast resident, who first approached me in 2008 to lobby for formal recognition of this most important day.

It would not be officially declared until 2011, thanks to this Government, and I thank the former Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, for meeting with Nicole and me and for her support, which led to New South Wales becoming the first jurisdiction to institute the day. Seven years later, we continue to show our support for parents dealing with the grief and loss of an infant. I was, and am, proud to get behind this campaign and assist in raising awareness. I thank the members of the South Coast community who also got behind the campaign.

CORAZON LATINO CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:19): On Monday 15 October 2018 I had the great honour of joining the Corazon Latino (Latin Heart) Carers Support Group at its annual buffet lunch to celebrate Carers Week 2018. The event was coordinated by Carmen Ivanic—a wonderful addition to the group. Since its inception the group has had a tremendous positive impact on the Fairfield community. It gives much-needed support to carers in the Latin and Spanish-speaking community. It offers useful information and tips to carers as they carry out their duties day to day. It also acts as a positive motivational force for these special individuals who deserve validation for their tireless dedication to their loved ones. On this particular day, after another year of love and care for their loved ones, it was time for these lively carers to let their hair down and dance. I thank the Corazon Latino group for letting me join in. I express my appreciation to Carmen and the group for the wonderful work they do in supporting the carers in our community.

NEW SOUTH WALES LIFEGUARD OF THE YEAR JAMES TURNHAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:20): I recognise today the New South Wales Lifeguard of the Year, James Turnham from Port Macquarie. I acknowledge his leadership and dedication as a supervisor and mentor over 15 years of committed service in patrolling our local beaches. He is an outstanding role model in the community. James was recently acknowledged by Surf Life Saving New South Wales President David Murray and presented with the prestigious New South Wales Lifeguard of the Year award for his many hours of service. James' love and passion for the job is clearly evident as he strives to educate beachgoers on the potential dangers of enjoying a day in the surf.

James strongly believes that prevention through education is the key to limiting the number of injuries and drownings on local beaches. He actively does this through surf tutorials at schools, where students are taught at an early age about potential risk factors and beach safety. In his downtime James volunteers as a valued member of the Port Macquarie Surf Lifesaving Club, patrolling the beautiful Flynn's Beach. Congratulations James on being named the 2018 New South Wales Lifeguard of the Year, and I wish you all the very best for the upcoming Surf Life Saving National Awards of Excellence to be held on 27 October at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

SUMMER HILL ELECTORATE MULTICULTURALISM

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (13:21): The electorate of Summer Hill is a vibrant and cohesive community, thanks in part to our strong commitment to diversity and multiculturalism. I am proud that our community welcomes migrants and asylum seekers. I am also proud of the many local organisations that work to support and assist new migrants. These organisations include: Settlement Services International in Ashfield, Community and Cultural Connections Inc., the Chinese Migrant Welfare Association in Ashfield, the Greek Cultural Association in Marrickville, Metro Assist Community Hub in Ashfield, the Polish Association of New South Wales and the Portuguese Welfare Centre in Petersham. These organisations serve different cultural communities in the Inner West, but they share a common goal in ensuring that migrants are supported and connected to each other across our community. I congratulate and thank these organisations and their staff for their important work assisting migrants and for making the inner west the multicultural and inclusive place we know and love.

FORSTER TUNCURRY DOLPHINS RUGBY UNION CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:22): I congratulate Forster Tuncurry Dolphins Rugby Union Club—first, for fielding its first women's team and, second, on the men's team making the grand final. I congratulate award winners: Bianca Rugari, Emma Forde, Dani Lewis, Shaun Jackson, Tom Holman and Gavin Maberly-Smith. I congratulate multiple award winners: Troy Haines, two awards; Colin Harris, three awards; Tom Harris, five awards; and Matt Nuku, two awards. I congratulate Dani Lewis and Ben Manning for their games attendance. Coach Ron McCarthy was acknowledged, and I had pleasure in presenting the club president Damian Daczko with the club person of the year award. Tom Harris received the players' player rucking mug award, the best and fairest award and the award for 200 games in 2018.

CLUBSNSW

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:23): Clubs are much more than places where you can have a schooner and a bite to eat. They are also organisations that contribute tremendously to the local community through fundraisers and grants. Last week ClubsNSW held its annual clubs and community awards night to honour those clubs that went above and beyond. It was pleasing to see several Campbelltown clubs recognised. Notably, Club Menangle was announced as the winner of the arts and cultures category for its initiatives. Those initiatives included a large permanent plaque to commemorate the Battle of Beersheba.

The Campbelltown Catholic Club was highly commended in the disability, welfare and social inclusion category for its SafeTCard project. The SafeTCard is a device worn around the neck which can be activated in times of distress. Ten of the devices were given to victims of domestic violence. The club was also a finalist in the education category for its Learning Links, Reading for Life program. Further north, Ingleburn RSL was also a finalist in the education category for its therapy in schools program. Congratulations to each and every club. I thank them for their contribution to our community.

JOHANSEN WINES**SMART FARMER FEE FOR SERVICE AGRONOMIST OF THE YEAR DESI TOOHEY**

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (13:24): Congratulations to Rob and Heather Johansen and their team at Johansen Wines, Tumbarumba, on winning a gold medal and two trophies for Best White Wine of Show and Best White Sparkling of Show for their 2016 Johansen Chardonnay Pinot Noir at the 2018 Australian Cool Climate

Wine Show in Murrumbateman. What a great achievement for all at the winery. We look forward to the opening of their purpose-built cellar door early next year.

Albury's Desi Toohey, an agronomist at Elders Albury, has won the Smart Farmer, Fee for Service Agronomist of the Year Award for Elders southern zone, which covers southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Desi has been based in Albury since 2010 designing management packages for farmers in an area, including Corowa, Oaklands, Rand, Urana, Walbundrie, Brocklesby and Rutherglen. Congratulations, Desi, on such a well-deserved award and for increasing farming productivity in our region.

CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE YOUNG HOCKEY AND NETBALL CHAMPIONS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:25): Today I pay tribute to the local young hockey champions in my electorate of Charlestown. Lucy Wilson, Lily Crockett, Matilda Woolnough and Sienna Harvey of Eleebana and Redhead public schools were all part of New South Wales' title win at the School Sport Australia Hockey Championships at Newcastle International Hockey Complex in August. These girls were almost unstoppable, winning five of their six games at the tournament. On the boys side, Charlestown Public School's Ashley Dimmock was the New South Wales goalkeeper. He played a tremendous six games over five days in front of the net. Well done to all players and coaches involved in this successful event.

I also congratulate Charlestown A-grade netball champions, Heat, for their outstanding win at Whitebridge netball courts on Saturday 1 September. As the runners-up in last year's premiership, the Heat girls rose rapidly to the top of the table this season with straight wins and took out the final 54-45 against rival team, Crossfire. Good on Charlestown netball.

TERRIGAL ELECTORATE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:26): Last week I was delighted to welcome Deputy Premier John Barilaro to the Central Coast. We spent two days touring local businesses, meeting with business owners, employees and skills providers. The Deputy Premier and I also announced a \$120,000 funding boost for Regional Development Australia Central Coast [RDA] to continue its work in facilitating cooperation between government, business and community groups. RDA works very closely with all stakeholders to identify the needs of our region. Because we have built a strong New South Wales economy, we are able to invest more in priority infrastructure for the Central Coast, which the RDA helps to identify. I congratulate RDA Chief Executive Officer John Moulard, Chair Phil Walker and council employee Louise Fisher on their advocacy for this funding. I am delighted to work alongside John, Phil and Louise in ensuring the Central Coast gets its fair share of funding in New South Wales.

VIETNAMESE-AUSTRALIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (13:27): Last week at the Liberty Palace in Bankstown I had the pleasure of attending the Vietnamese-Australian Welfare Association [VAWA] NSW annual general meeting. It was the twenty-ninth anniversary of VAWA. I congratulate longstanding president Ambrose Dinh, treasurer Hoang Diep and Mr Paul Nguyen, Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter President, for organising the event as well as coordinating a number of different organisations to be in attendance. The Vietnamese-Australian Welfare Association has worked tirelessly for many years to support the Vietnamese-Australian community through settlement services, support and targeted early intervention. I congratulate the executive, staff and volunteers on their tremendous efforts in supporting the Vietnamese-Australian community.

KINGS LANGLEY LITTLE ATHLETICS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:28): A few weeks ago at Morgan Power Reserve I had the pleasure of kicking off the Kings Langley Little Athletics Centre's season for 2018-19. I was proud to award Kings Langley Athletics with funds for fresh uniforms for the little ones, and new timekeeping equipment. The little Athletics centre is at the heart of the Kings Langley community, and it was fantastic to yet again see so many 5- to 17-year-olds participate in such a great sport. Athletics is not only a physical sport but also a mental challenge. I know the team at the ground always looks after the kids as they develop into Olympic champions of tomorrow. I acknowledge the members of the committee for their hard work, particularly president Craig Emme, vice-President Daniel Giffney, secretary Stacey Baker, treasurer Ken Poole, registrar Lisa Emme, assistant registrar Helen Budd, and centre managers Eric Emme and Jennifer Wolfgramm. I wish the club, the committee, parents and our little athletes a great season.

THE ENTRANCE ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (13:29): On Thursday 17 October 2019 the Higher School Certificate [HSC] will begin. I acknowledge the two high schools in my electorate that will have students sitting

the HSC this year: Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College The Entrance Campus and Lisarow High School. I thank all the staff who have helped our students prepare for this event. In particular, I mention Korrily Harvey, principal of The Entrance Campus, and Nicole Hunt, principal of Lisarow High School. I acknowledge and thank all the families who have prepared our children in their progress towards this special event. Finally I wish all students completing their HSC all the very best. The HSC is an important moment and they should approach it as such. It is an important part of their life. It is a challenge and it should be; however, it will not of itself determine whether they make a positive contribution to society. Many other personal qualities will be important, including simple things like how they treat other people, and they will be remembered longer than the score. I wish the students all the very best.

MIDWIFE RUTH DWYER TOMASIC

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (13:30): Today I pay tribute to a very special midwife who is finishing her career at Hornsby Hospital. Ruth Dwyer Tomasic will be retiring from her role as a midwife at Hornsby Hospital, having served our community with distinction. Ruth knew from a young age she wanted to be a nurse, often acting out the role with her cousins. She commenced her training as a nurse at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1976 and completed her midwifery training the following year. She began her career in Tasmania and country Victoria before heading back to Sydney to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where she was on full night duty as a midwife. She spent some time overseas with her family before joining Hornsby Hospital in 1984. She was at the hospital for more than 10 years before moving to the Mater Hospital and then back to Hornsby Hospital in 1997. Ruth has three children and a passion for opera and travel. I know she will be greatly missed at Hornsby Hospital and I wish her all the best in her retirement. I thank Ruth for all the babies she has brought into this world and for her remarkable service to our community.

MYALL RIVER FESTIVAL

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:31): The Myall River Festival marks the start of the festive season in Port Stephens as communities start coming together to celebrate the warmer weather and the beautiful place we are blessed to call home. The Myall River Festival is an annual celebration of all things Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest, with great food, amazing stalls, impressive performances, car shows and dog competitions, all set on the banks of the beautiful Myall River. But at its heart the festival is a celebration of a beautiful community full of fabulous people. I congratulate festival coordinator Margie Tierney and stall coordinator Deb Philipson, as well as the members of the Myall Coast Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, including President Graham Lang. Community events like this are only possible with the support of sponsors, including Tea Gardens Country Club, Tea Gardens Hotel, Tea Gardens Real Estate, First National Real Estate Hawks Nest, Ray White Tea Gardens, Palm Lake Resort and Sheargold property management. The Myall River Festival was a great success this year. Next off the festival rank is the Karuah Oyster and Timber Festival this Saturday. Come one, come all.

TRIBUTE TO DR KAMATH

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (13:32): On 4 October the community of Temora came together to celebrate one of our finest doctors. Dr Kamath has been a trusted general practitioner for the residents of Temora and Arianah Park for an incredible 43 years. For so many families he has been part of their lives from beginning to end. The impact he has had on our community over more than four decades is incredible and we are a healthier, happier community for his passionate dedication. On behalf of the Temora and Arianah Park communities and the broader Cootamundra electorate, I extend my most sincere thanks to Dr Kamath, Mrs Kamath and his beautiful family and wish him the absolute best in retirement.

SOUTH NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (13:33): I congratulate the mighty South Newcastle Rugby League Football Club on its outstanding 30-18 premiership victory over Lakes United on Sunday 23 September 2018. The hard-fought victory was Souths' second premiership in three seasons and was celebrated in front of a 5,000-plus crowd of supporters. The club displayed its prowess throughout the game and proved itself to be the undisputed champion of rugby league in Newcastle. I congratulate Luke Higgins on his try in the seventy-third minute which broke the deadlock between the sides and assured victory for Souths. I also acknowledge Harry van Dartel, who received the JJ Wilson Medal for man of the match after a stellar performance during the game. Souths' dedicated Coach Ben Cross said, "It goes to show the good depth of the club and everyone doing their job." I congratulate everyone in the team for their hard work throughout the season and I wish them the best of luck in 2019. Go Souths!

MAVIS COWING 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (13:34): I congratulate Mavis Cowing of Prestons on turning 100 on 2 October this year. Mavis is a cherished mother of three, grandmother of four and great grandmother of six. The family had a large celebration with many friends and family at Blue Hills Manor, where she lives. Not only did her loved ones celebrate with her but they were also joined by the wonderful staff at Blue Hills Manor, who ensured it was a special day. The 100-year-old received many birthday messages, including from Queen Elizabeth and from Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Mavis was born and raised in Sydney, and I was told that she has always brought much joy to everyone around her. I wish Mavis a happy birthday and thank everyone around her for making it such a special day.

CABRAMATTA AND WETHERILL PARK ROTARY POLICE OFFICER AWARDS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (13:34): On 15 October, the Rotary clubs of Cabramatta and Wetherill Park combined to host the Police Officer of the Year Awards. Like me, these Rotary clubs are dedicated to acknowledging the wonderful daily community work done by our NSW Police Force, which mostly goes unrecognised. I thank the presidents of the Wetherill Park and Cabramatta clubs, Shane Burette and David Butterfield, and Tony Zappia, the chief operating officer of Club Marconi, the major sponsor of the event. I also acknowledge Police Area Commander Superintendent Peter Lennon and Police Commissioner Michael Fuller, APM, for their fantastic work in protecting our community and making our families safer and more secure. Most importantly, I personally congratulate the winners and nominees for all of the awards. I will continue to recognise the important work that our police officers do every day.

HUMANITIX GOOGLE.ORG IMPACT CHALLENGE AUSTRALIA 2018

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:35): Humanitix, a start-up based within my electorate in St Ives, has established an innovative third-party events ticketing platform that uses digital cognitive technologies to help people with disabilities to participate in events. Humanitix donates the profits from all booking fees to 30 impactful charities in Australia. I congratulate Humanitix on its selection as a finalist in the Google.org Impact Challenge Australia 2018, which means it will win a minimum of \$250,000 for its project. On 1 November 2018 a panel of judges, including Anil Sabharwal, Professor Alan Finkel, AO, Professor Tom Calma, AO, Su McCluskey, Dr Sarah Pearson, Morris Iemma and Jacqueline Fuller, will select three winners who will each receive \$1 million. A fourth winner will be determined by popular vote and will also receive a \$1 million People's Choice prize. I wish Humanitix all the best in the Google.org Impact Challenge and commend it on its pioneering philanthropic project.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL HYDE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:36): We love Umina and Umina loves Rachel Hyde! I thank our dedicated, diligent, committed, hardworking, friendly, helpful and positive local street cleaner. Shopkeepers and community members gathered last week to recognise Rachel's excellence and generous commitment to our community. There were flowers, chocolates and gift cards, and no speech could sum up the love and appreciation the community has for this incredible worker. Rachel has been in the job only since December, and she has rocked our community. She loves the environment and part of her everyday commitment is ensuring that no rubbish goes down the drain. In the pouring rain on the day Rachel received her community recognition award in the beautiful Umina Library, she was delayed because she helped an old lady with her brolly and her shopping. She said, "On days like today, if I don't get to the rubbish first, it will go straight into the ocean." Rachel does a fantastic job keeping Umina clean and so much more. She genuinely believes in every person and that if we all worked together and respected and assisted each other life would be so much better. We are extremely lucky to have Rachel. Thank you Rachel.

GLENMORE PARK COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:37): I draw the attention of the House to the achievements of three outstanding Glenmore Park residents. Nine-year-old Grace Button is participating at State level in OzTag, judo and athletics. Grace's recent achievements in the Sydney West Schools Sports Association Athletics Championships in September have booked her a place in the State championships for the first time later this year. With personal bests in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 800 metres events and having come sixth in the long jump event, Grace has shown her abilities in a wide range of sports. Grace's hard work allowed her to compete in Nepean OzTag at State level last year and at national level for West Sydney Tigers. In judo earlier this year, Grace tied fourth overall in the country and had the privilege of flying the flag for Zoo Judo in New South Wales. Well Done Grace!

I also acknowledge the courageous achievements of two brothers, 11-year-old Flynn and eight-year-old Kobhi Sanders, who have raised more than \$1,000 by holding a garage sale and who donated 10 per cent to the

Lung Foundation in honour of their late grandmother, who suffered with Wegener's disease. After losing their grandmother Wendy Frame too soon to poor health, the young brothers wanted to make a difference for others in a similar situation. They were blown away by the support they received from the community and will continue to raise funds for the Lung Foundation. I honour them for their courage and for making a difference. Well Done Flynn and Kobhi!

PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:39): Last Sunday I attended the fabulous Pink Ribbon Breakfast, which is also known as "the pink saree breakfast", together with the member for Strathfield and the member for Parramatta, and the Federal member for Parramatta. For the past seven years Rekha Rajvanshi and Sue Advani have hosted a huge pink ribbon breakfast for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, focusing on women from subcontinental backgrounds who have much lower than average breast cancer screening rates. This has been despite their own personal fights against cancer. Each year we have heard the moving and inspiring experiences of women from the community who are undergoing treatment for breast cancer and those who have conquered it, to emphasise the need for screening and, of course, to raise funds for research into a cure. We also heard from Dr Rosy Kumar about risk factors for breast cancer, which affects one in eight women. This year they raised more than \$5,400. Congratulations to Rekha and Sue, and all the volunteers and donors who helped make this year's breakfast such a success.

RICARDOE'S TOMATOES

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:40): I want to recognise the family owned Ricardoe's Tomatoes and their locally grown and freshly picked off the vine tomatoes and strawberries that contribute significantly each year to our local tourism and agricultural sector on the Mid North Coast. During the appalling events of strawberry tampering over recent months, when confidence in our Australian strawberry market was seriously threatened by people who the Prime Minister labelled as "cowards and grubs", the nation rallied behind our local strawberry producers to encourage consumers to cut them in half to support a farmer.

The iconic Ricardoe's Tomatoes, a locally run and family operated agricultural business since 2002, is renowned for its strawberry and tomato produce at its farm located at Blackmans Point. Set on two acres of state-of-the-art, computerised temperature-controlled greenhouses with more than 30,000 plants growing in an insect and disease-controlled, environmentally friendly environment, owners Anthony and Carole Sarks and their son, Tony, are leaders in the field of hydroponically grown tomatoes and strawberries. Visitors can experience the atmosphere of a locally run farm enjoying a free farm tour or picking their own strawberries straight from the vines with the additional option of tasting the deliciously grown produce at the onsite, Cafe Red. I recommend a visit to Ricardoe's Tomatoes for an authentic farm to plate experience by a passionate and hardworking family operated business.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY MCKELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (13:40): Recently three good friends were recognised for their many years of effort on behalf of their communities, the labour movement and the Labor Party with a prestigious McKell Award. Labor leader Luke Foley presented Bob Turner of Port Kembla, Tom Ward of Lake Heights and Charlie Gibbs of Berkeley with a McKell Award recently in recognition of their years of hard work. A merchant seaman, a steelworker and a miner—the three amigos as they are sometimes referred to—are an inseparable campaigning team for improvements to their community and for the election and re-election of Labor candidates.

I was pleased to join with my Federal colleagues Sharon Bird and Stephen Jones and the Port Kembla Branch to support the nomination of Bob, Tom and Charlie. I would particularly like to record my thanks for their support of me. They have been quick with encouragement, ideas and advice, and I have appreciated all of it. Bob, Tom and Charlie back causes and individuals because they believe in them, and the causes and individuals they back are all the better for their support and efforts.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:41): Grandparents Day on Sunday 28 October is an opportunity for the Central Coast to celebrate and thank grandparents and senior citizens for the important role they play. On a daily basis I witness the remarkable contributions that older people make in my electorate of Terrigal, whether it be local Rotarians, Probus Clubs members, or participants in the ARAFMI Grandfamilies support group. To recognise the grandparents and seniors on the Central Coast, in August I launched the Local Grandparent of the Year Award. My office has received dozens of nominations of deserving recipients from across the Central Coast. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate each person nominated. I look forward to announcing the recipient of the Local Grandparent of the Year Award next week. On behalf of everyone on the Central Coast, we thank all of our grandparents and senior citizens.

BELMONT ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL POLICE AWARDS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (13:42): Last month I was delighted to attend the annual police awards night of Belmont Rotary Club to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command. I extend my congratulations to the award winners in each category, including Senior Constable Robert Banks, Acting Inspector Anita Kruse, Jodie Henderson, Senior Constable Lisa Thompson, Detective Senior Constable Todd Clayton and Senior Constable Sharmala Whitehead. Policing can be a difficult and challenging job, but the officers and unsworn employees within the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command strive to provide excellent service to the community, and remain dedicated and passionate about their important work. The active police work of the local area command, together with its efforts to foster a sense of connectedness within the community means that Lake Macquarie is one of the safest places to live in New South Wales. I acknowledge the work of Superintendent Danny Sullivan, who heads up the team. I also thank Belmont Rotary Club.

HORNSBY LIONS CLUB

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (13:43): Today I pay tribute to an organisation that has been serving Hornsby community for 60 years. The Lions Club of Hornsby is one of the most active and dedicated community groups in the local area, and I was pleased to be able to join them to celebrate this wonderful milestone. Recognised on the night was the great John Lockyer, the club president, along with Catherine Bedwell. Both were presented with their awards by former International President and Hornsby Lions member Barry J Palmer. It was also wonderful to see the longest serving member of the club, Barry Thompson, who has been giving his time for 46 years—a remarkable achievement.

New members Steven Kang, Kellie Bedwell and Dr Nicolas Moor were inducted on the night. I cannot talk about the Lions Club without mentioned the amazing Pauline and Ted Henebery. They are the heart and soul of this organisation and they do wonderful work. The Hornsby Lions Club runs a mean barbecue, and I look forward to its Christmas cakes every year. The club is a wonderful community organisation that does so much to help others. It truly makes a difference. I congratulate the Hornsby Lions Club on serving our community for 60 years and I thank everyone involved in this wonderful organisation.

BATHUKAMMA FESTIVAL

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (13:44): Bathukamma is a festival of Telugu people. In Telugu "Bathukamma" means "Come alive, Mother Goddess." It is a spring festival—a festival of flowers—where flowers are arranged in a conical shape and women dressed in traditional South Indian wear dance rhythmically in the round with classical Telugu singing. On 13 October I had the pleasure of attending the South Indian Bathukamma and Dussehra Festival. It is always an honour to attend this event, which showcases the amazing diversity of our local community, which I am proud to represent. I congratulate the Sydney Bathukamma and Dussehra Festival organisers Dr Vinod Elete and Goverdhan Muddam. I hope that this fantastic tradition continues long into the future in Western Sydney.

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

*Announcements***DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX**

The SPEAKER: I welcome to Sydney Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and congratulate them on the announcement that they are expecting their first child.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. I extend a very warm welcome to the delegation led by the Hon. Shane Fernandez, MPP, Speaker, from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Republic of South Africa, who are visiting our Parliament this week and are guests of the Parliament of New South Wales. I welcome students and their teachers from Redeemer Baptist School and Catherine McAuley Westmead, guests of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Western Sydney and Multiculturalism, and member for Parramatta. I acknowledge Jo Restarick, who has travelled from the United Kingdom to attend the Invictus Games and is here with Ian and Jenny Larkham, guests of the member for Heathcote. I also acknowledge the Consul General of Turkey, Melih Karalar, who is joined by members of the Turkish community, guests of the Leader of the Opposition, and member for Auburn. Finally, I welcome students and their teacher from All Saints College Maitland, St Peters Campus, guests of the member for Maitland.

*Commemorations***CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR**

The SPEAKER (14:21): Having finally breached the Hindenburg Line with an assault over the Bellicourt tunnel, it became imperative for the Allies to consolidate the breakthrough by securing towns and elevated positions overlooking the rear German trenches. While British forces advanced on the town of Beaurevoir, the 6th Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force launched an attack on the village of Montbrehain just after 6.00 a.m. on 5 October 1918. German resistance was fierce and inflicted heavy casualties. While many strategic objectives had been taken by midmorning, the Anzacs were subjected to heavy shelling and counterattacks from both flanks. At one stage, the Germans succeeded in forcing the brigade several hundred metres back through the streets. By midafternoon, however, the ruined village had been secured.

The Australians suffered close to 400 casualties, representing nearly one in three men. More than 600 Germans were taken prisoner. After six months of continuous service on the front line, the remaining Australian troops were withdrawn from the front following the victory at Montbrehain for rest and reorganisation. With the Armistice declared less than a month later, none returned to the fighting. The battle for the small village of Montbrehain on 5 October 1918 was the last action involving Australian infantry on the Western Front. For the Australian troops at least, there would be no more fighting in the muddy fields of France. Lest we forget.

*Announcements***DEATH OF PETER MAURICE KING, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The SPEAKER: It is with regret that I inform the House of the death on 24 September 2018 of Peter Maurice King, a former member of the Legislative Assembly, who served as the member for Oxley from 21 February 1981 to 28 August 1981. On behalf of the House I extend to the family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained.

Members and officers of the House stood in their places as a mark of respect.

*Bills***CHILDREN (EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES) SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS
AMENDMENT BILL 2018****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT (PRE-TRIAL DISCLOSURE) BILL 2018
RSL NSW BILL 2018****STRATA SCHEMES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (BUILDING DEFECTS SCHEME) BILL 2018
CRIMINAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CONSORTING AND RESTRICTED PREMISES) BILL
2018****IMPOUNDING AMENDMENT (SHARED BICYCLES AND OTHER DEVICES) BILL 2018****PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER AMENDMENT BILL 2018****WESTERN CITY AND AEROTROPOLIS AUTHORITY BILL 2018****ROAD TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PENALTIES AND OTHER SANCTIONS)
BILL 2018****Assent**

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

*Question Time***GO NSW EQUITY FUND**

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:28): My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier was asked at budget estimates whether funding from Go NSW Equity Fund, including \$3.3 million to Australia's Oyster Coast, received ministerial sign-off. The Minister said:

No, everything is arm's length from the Government.

Does the Deputy Premier stand by that statement he made under oath at estimates?

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:29): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for being interested in what is happening in regional New South Wales. However, again he is looking for a negative. The New South Wales Government, through Jobs for NSW, has a number of products it uses to assist businesspeople either in starting up or growing their businesses in New South Wales. Jobs for NSW was built on the idea of creating more jobs in this State. More than 500,000 jobs have been created in New South Wales since 2011. That is because of this Government leading investment and enabling infrastructure. As we already know, \$87 billion is in the pipeline for infrastructure that will grow the economy.

When we set the standard, grow the economy and create an environment that is fertile enough, we then see the private sector invest. We have seen that over and over again. But sometimes it takes government support to assist businesses. The Government has a range of grants to help start-ups. Small businesses and medium enterprises who are looking to grow in this State have a range of products available to them, especially interest-free loans. The Government has interest-free loans for regional businesses of up to \$500,000 so that it can support those businesses to grow and create jobs in regional New South Wales. More than \$30 million has been invested in a Sydney Startup Hub, which promotes start-ups in New South Wales. It has now made Sydney the start-up capital not only of Australia but also of the Southern Hemisphere. The Government is quite proud of it.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time. She will cease interjecting.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The third type of product is an equity product. The New South Wales Government has partnered with First State Super through Jobs for NSW. It has put \$50 million into a fund and First State Super has put in \$100 million.

Mr Andrew Constance: Who is on the board of First State Super?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I will go to the appointments to the board of First State Super shortly. The New South Wales Government, in partnership with First State Super, now has a fund of \$150 million.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question relates to whether the Minister stands by the evidence he gave at budget estimates. The answer should be yes or no. Does the Minister stand by the evidence?

The SPEAKER: Order! That is your idea of the answer. The Deputy Premier remains relevant. Members should not use points of order to dictate what the Minister should say in his answer. I do not appreciate members calling out from the other side of the Chamber.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: My answer has been relevant because I am talking about the fund that those opposite are referring to, the equity fund made in partnership with First State Super. As I said, it is a \$150 million fund made up of \$50 million from the New South Wales Government through Jobs for NSW and \$100 million from First State Super. If I were a shareholder and member of First State Super, I would assume that I could be confident in the process whereby decisions are made in relation to investments and that those investments would in time return value for the shareholders or members of First State Super. It is no different for the taxpayers of New South Wales.

The Government is prepared to take a risk in backing those businesses that it believes have growth potential, especially in the export market. It knows that the oyster industry was calling for investment because of a market failure in accessing capital and finance. So the New South Wales Government, in partnership with First State Super, has those decisions made at arm's length. The process is at arm's length from the Minister. It goes through the processes of First State Super and the board of Jobs for NSW, an independent board of this Government. Secretaries of our departments are represented on that board. The decision is made once due process is made in relation to an investment.

The equity fund made a \$10 million investment into Australian Oyster Coast which, it could be argued, consists of \$3.33 million from the New South Wales Government and \$6.66 million from First State Super. That has become a \$10 million injection of funds. We have injected equity into the company so that we could get a return on investment. In the old days governments would have given a grant to that business and that industry, and it would have been lost in the opportunity. The Government says that businesses do not want a handout; they want a hand up. Access to finance and capital is key. I have met with NSW Farmers since that investment and there has been some contention in relation to an industry that they believe has broader needs. We have said, and even NSW Farmers has said, "Let's look at what else we can do to support that industry".

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:34): I ask the Deputy Premier a supplementary question.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Supplementary? That was such a big hit, number one.

Mr LUKE FOLEY: Well, wait for it, mate. In light of the Deputy Premier's previous answer will he now admit that he signed this note and he personally approved the \$3.3 million equity investment in Australia's Oyster Coast despite his repeated denials at estimates?

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. If that is the behaviour of Opposition members today, some members will not last. They may be out of the House for the week. The Leader of the Opposition has asked a supplementary question. The Deputy Premier stands to answer that question, but Opposition members are shouting, which is common behaviour. The Deputy Premier will be heard in silence.

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:34): The question here is about the process in relation to the decision-making and what is the due process that has been undertaken by First State Super and Jobs for NSW in making a decision for investment going forward. Like every decision for investment, be it a loan product, an equity product or a grant product for start-ups, that decision is actually endorsed by the independent board of Jobs for NSW. In this case, when it is an equity product, because that is in partnership with First State Super, First State Super plus a representative of Jobs for NSW and the Government make an independent decision that goes back to Jobs for NSW, which then comes to me as the Minister to sign off on the final decision, but that decision—

The SPEAKER: I warn Opposition members that if there is a recurrence of previous behaviour, members will be removed from the Chamber.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I sign off on a decision in relation to the process and an investment decision based on the information that Jobs for NSW and First State Super has made, so it is a process. But I have no role whatsoever in picking the industries, picking the businesses, for investment. It is clear that those opposite are trying to politicise a product of this Government that actually supports businesses. Those opposite do not support small business or business in New South Wales, they do not support regional New South Wales and they do not support the jobs that are created in regional New South Wales. If anyone knows anything about regional New South Wales, the number one issue that we have concerns about is job security. We want to see jobs not only for today but for the future of our kids. I make no apology whatsoever that we use the means of this Government through raising payroll tax by the grants, loans and equity products that we offer to support industries. The difference here is that First State Super is the majority partner.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: With or without our money that investment has actually now supported an industry, not just a business but an industry, to actually grow to a level where most of their product would be for the export market. Now that we have Canberra International Airport the reality today is that people can have fresh oysters out of Narooma on a Sunday and on the shelves of Singapore on a Monday. That is good for farmers, that is good for our industry and that is good for the economy.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: Those opposite are trying to find something in this process that does not work. The reason is they know if they have control of these funds, these investments will be made in a way to favour their mates. We just go back to pre-2011 where we had mining leases and property transfers where the unions, Labor Ministers, the Labor Party and donors all benefited from the direct decision-making from those opposite.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will resume his seat.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: They want to come here today and play politics in this House with the jobs that are so important in regional New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Deputy Premier to resume his seat. The member for Keira is implying that the Deputy Premier does what he wants in contradiction of what I have asked. I call the member for Keira to order for the second time.

Ms Kate Washington: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The question specifically relates to what the Minister has signed and what he has not signed; what he said in budget estimates and what he has not said.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier remains relevant. The member for Port Stephens will resume her seat.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I have answered the question. I am sorry, Madam Speaker, that I had my back to you and did not hear your instruction.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I have answered the question and I have explained the process. There is no question that this product we are offering from the New South Wales Government through Jobs for NSW is about growing jobs, backing industry and supporting businesses, especially in regional New South Wales.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: When this fund was put together with the idea that we would be taking equity stakeholding in growth businesses, the first thing I thought to myself was: We would probably be backing some tech business in Western Sydney. But the reality is that the first two investments have been two regional investments, showing clearly that regional New South Wales is more than wind farms and tumbleweeds; that is the way the Labor Party sees the regions. We see it as a place to invest, as a place to grow, as a place of diversity, and a place that we are going to back businesses to support our communities—big, small, medium—the businesses that create jobs for our kids today and most importantly for our kids for the future.

The SPEAKER: I remind members that I will not be using Standing Order 249A for the rest of this session. If members are removed from the Chamber they will be removed for the rest of the day, not for one, two or three hours.

JOBS GROWTH

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (14:41): My question is addressed to the Premier. How is the New South Wales Government's strong economy creating jobs and a stronger, better future for New South Wales?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:41): I thank the member for Holsworthy for her question. In fact, recently I was very pleased to join her at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce function where we talked about jobs and local business and also what will be at the doorstep of the Liverpool community—that is, the new Western Sydney Aerotropolis, the new city that will be around the second Sydney airport. I know that today is a big day for Sydney and New South Wales—we warmly welcome the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, but last night was also a very big day for New South Wales because we held a major conference yesterday: the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee Conference.

I am very pleased to say that yesterday what our Government managed to do was sign two further memorandums of understanding [MOU] with two of the largest Japanese companies, which will also be setting up shop outside the Western Sydney airport precinct. I set myself a target of making sure that both the Minister for Western Sydney, who was instrumental in signing the City Deal, and I were able to encourage at least 10 memorandums of understanding with key businesses locally and abroad to be able to reach our target of 200,000 jobs in the near future and I am thrilled that already there are three memorandums of understanding signed, which will ensure not only is the airport and the infrastructure around it being built but also we are bringing jobs, jobs, jobs to greater Western Sydney.

Recently I was able to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the universities of Newcastle, New South Wales, Wollongong and Western Sydney. For the first time the Western Sydney Aerotropolis, the parkland city, will have one campus with four universities operating together. What that means for boosting business support in that area, research and development and job recreation, and also the opportunity for people like me, who were the first in their family to go to university, is just outstanding. I am thrilled that these opportunities are literally opening up in greater Western Sydney. I know what that means to the member for Holsworthy and to many members in this place and it brings opportunities for successive generations. That was the first MOU that was signed and I am very thrilled about that. Not only is this the very first university collaboration of its kind in Australia but it is outstanding to have four fantastic universities on the one campus collaborating with each other.

When I visited Japan for my first trade mission as Premier I spoke to everybody about the Western Sydney precinct, whether it was the Westmead health precinct or the aerotropolis and the opportunities there. I am absolutely thrilled that last night, in the presence of Chairman Mimura and Sir Rod Eddington, who chaired the Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee, we signed an additional two memorandums of understanding. The first was with Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group. This is one of the largest banks in the world. Its balance sheet is in the trillions of dollars. Indeed, its balance sheet is larger than the entire Australian economy. It is just out of the ballpark for that company to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government and I am absolutely thrilled. This will not only give them a foothold in that area but also it will create jobs for future generations. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in helping to make that memorandum of understanding come to fruition. Since 1984 the Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group has had a strong presence in New South Wales but this will be their first major investment in Greater Western Sydney.

Last night the second memorandum of understanding signed—and the third memorandum of understanding in total—was with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. That company is an absolute giant in aircraft, space, defence, transport, energy, machinery and infrastructure and they are the kinds of jobs we want to create around this precinct. It was exciting to have both of those organisations sign those memorandums of understanding. Last night I was also joined by the member for Parramatta, Mr Geoff Lee, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Treasurer, the member for Davidson, Mr Jonathon O'Dea, who represented me at the last conference in Tokyo.

The signing of those two memorandums of understanding were the fruition of hard work to ensure that we attract both local and global best players to Greater Western Sydney. It was wonderful to listen to the chief executive officers of those two organisations talk about the future prospects for the Western Parkland City. But it does not stop there. This Government is keen to ensure that further memorandums of understanding are signed. As I foreshadowed, Northrop Grumman, a very well-known North American defence company, has already pledged \$50 million. The Government is looking forward to formalising a memorandum of understanding with that company in the future, so we are reaching our target. [*Extension of time*]

I was not being dramatic when I said this precinct has the potential to be Australia's Silicon Valley. When one attracts the local best, brightest organisations and the global best, brightest organisations to one precinct something very special will be created. That is what we are working towards. These opportunities come off the back of the more than half a million jobs created since we have been in office. The Liberal-Nationals Coalition are the party of the workers. We are the party that supports the workers and jobs. Those opposite can talk all they like about the workers but when they were in office Labor had the highest unemployment rate for 68 consecutive months.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: During the last decade Labor was in office we had the lowest jobs growth of any mainland State. For 10 years those opposite lost jobs from New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gosford will cease shouting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: New South Wales is now the jobs capital of the nation. It also makes me proud to know that the future best jobs will be in the Greater Western Sydney because the new Western Parkland City will create opportunities the likes of which have never been seen in this great State. But only the Liberal-Nationals Coalition are able to plan for such a strong future. Those opposite have no idea about running a budget or creating jobs. The signing of those two memorandums of understanding is indicative of our future potential.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. Members will cease passing lollies around.

STATE WATER SUPPLY

Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (14:48): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business. How is the New South Wales Government's strong economic management helping to secure the State's water supply?

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that interjections are disorderly at all times. Any member placed on three calls to order will be removed from the Chamber for the rest of the day.

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:49): I thank the hardworking member for Barwon for his question. The electorate of Barwon covers an area of more than 330,000 kilometres—the size of Germany. Every person in the electorate of Barwon deserves representation and in his many years as the local member he has not only admirably served the electorate of Barwon but also his previous electorate. Last week I joined the member for Barwon to make a number of announcements about great local projects in his electorate—whether in Wee Waa, Narrabri, Gilgandra, Armatree or Coonabarabran. Investment at a local level is making a real difference for those communities in the electorate of Barwon. The member for Barwon jokes about his electorate being the "billion-dollar Barwon" but when one does an audit of the area it is closer to a \$2 billion investment in big and small projects. It was only a couple of years ago that the New South Wales Government made a very significant announcement at Broken Hill—namely, to build a pipeline from the Murray River between Wentworth and Broken Hill—in order to give water security to that community.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: Many people take it for granted that each time they turn a tap on water will flow from it. Many take it for granted that they can water their lawns each weekend or wash their cars. But the people of Broken Hill have been living in the shadow of water restrictions.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Blue Mountains to order for the first time.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: This Government has made a significant investment of close to half a billion dollars in one of the largest infrastructure projects in regional New South Wales—namely, this 270 kilometre pipeline—and we also gave a commitment that we would have the water running by this Christmas. I can inform the House that on Friday the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Regional Water was there as the last pipe was laid. This project is not only on time, if not just in front, but also on budget, or under budget. This is a great outcome for the people of Broken Hill and regional New South Wales. The construction of the pipeline has resulted in the creation of 150 local jobs and the training and upskilling of a number of young people for future careers.

Another significant announcement made last Friday was that the New South Wales Government will absorb the cost of the pipeline. This means that the Government will absorb the determination of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review so the people of Broken Hill will not pay any more for their water than they presently pay—a guarantee that over the next four years the people of Broken Hill will not pay any more than a reasonable price for their water. Those opposite continue to interject. They opposed the pipeline when it was first announced and they continue to oppose it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kogarah will come to order. This is not a debate.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The Labor mayor of Broken Hill, who is now the Labor candidate, opposed the pipeline. Labor continues to play politics over people. They do not care about the community of Broken Hill. This investment is about giving water security to a community that has struggled for a very long time. However, this is only part of the investment we are seeing in the electorate of Barwon, including investments in roads, hospitals and the theatre. I have been lucky enough to travel to Broken Hill on a number of occasions for both announcements to be made and, importantly, for ribbons to be cut—whether for the investment in the Country Universities Centre where more than 80 local students have access to post-secondary education at Broken Hill.

Those students no longer have to leave their hometown, the people they grew up with or their families. They have access to the Country Universities Centre in which we are investing \$8 million to make sure that kids in regional New South Wales have access to the right education. We are also investing in the Broken Hill Civic Centre. It was great to see that one of the first functions at that centre a couple of years ago was The Nationals conference. I also recall when the ribbon was being cut at the opening of that centre the Labor mayor, who is now the Labor candidate, said, "This would not have been possible without the New South Wales Government." What she was really saying was that without the support of The Nationals— [*Extension of time*]

There is no question that when Labor lost the electorate, it forgot about Broken Hill. Under 16 years of Labor, there was no investment in Broken Hill. We recall Wayne Pearce from Broken Hill, who said, "I changed as a Labor voter to vote Nationals for the first time in 2011." He is quoted in the *Australian* as saying:

Labor's been in long enough to do nothing.

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Charlestown and the member for Prospect that they will be removed from the Chamber if they continue to interject.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: That pretty much sums up Labor's track record, not only in regional New South Wales, Broken Hill and the electorate of Barwon. That is, Labor does nothing. They talk the talk. They pull funds out of the regions and shore up electorates against The Greens. Its fight is in Sydney, trying to shore up electorates against The Greens, and the loser is regional New South Wales. People only have to go back to the Government's track record of delivery over 7½ years and compare and contrast that against Labor's. Labor members on that side can moan and they can disagree, but the truth is that they should speak to the communities. Since 2011, they should see what is now the difference between a record investment in the big stuff, in the small stuff—in schools, in hospitals.

The SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections and too many audible conversations coming from members on both sides of the Chamber.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: There is not a project in regional New South Wales that Labor does not support. We know it did not support the \$476 million investment in the pipeline. We know it does not support the Tweed Hospital. Labor wants to keep deferring it because it wants to honour a commitment to a couple of party donors, rather than follow the process.

GO NSW EQUITY FUND

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (14:56): My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Why did the Deputy Premier mislead the estimates, not once but on nine separate occasions, by stating that investment decisions—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will reword the question. The question states, "Why did the Deputy Premier ..." implying that it was done. It should be in the form of a question—"Did the Deputy Premier..." The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: I will reword it now. My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Did the Deputy Premier give incorrect evidence to estimates not once, not twice, but on nine separate occasions, by stating that investment decisions from Jobs NSW were made by others within Government at arms-length from Government when, in fact, the Deputy Premier, by way of his personal signature, approved the \$3.3 million investment in Australia's Oyster Coast.

The SPEAKER: Order! The last part of that question is out of order. The member for Maroubra can delete that part of the question.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: I have got the approval here. I can show it to you. There is no conjecture that he signed it.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is my decision whether a question is admissible and that is not. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. I will come back to him when the question is reworded.

MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (14:58): My question is—

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the member. The House will come to order. The member for Rockdale will come to order.

Mr ADAM CROUCH: My question is addressed to the Minister for Education. What is the Government doing to increase the number of students studying mathematics in order to secure a stronger and better future for our children?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (14:58): I thank the member for Terrigal for his question.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease interjecting.

Mr ROB STOKES: What have they got against maths, Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I do not know. Well, I do. The Minister has the call.

Mr ROB STOKES: I thank the member for Terrigal for his question. Yesterday it was great to be with him at the sod turn for the redevelopment of Wamberal Public School, with principal Paul Miller and the erudite speaker Charlie Rudd, who won a public speaking contest on the Central Coast despite being of a very tender age. I think she is nine or 10 years old. It is an amazing school and school community, and it was an amazing day. Madam Speaker, I hope you will indulge me as I commence my answer with something that I suspect this Chamber needs more of and that is to provide an abstract of my answer by way of haiku. I have thought for some time that there is not enough—

The SPEAKER: Order! I am listening and members should also be listening. Perhaps then they will learn something. The member for Blue Mountains will come to order. I will extend the Minister's time if necessary.

Mr ROB STOKES: Thank you, although it will be brief. Haiku is—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Blue Mountains will come to order. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time. The Minister for Education has the call.

Mr ROB STOKES: I was listening to some of the interjections while I was sitting quietly and I heard: "What is haiku?" Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry, but it is deeply mathematical because it has three lines. The first is five syllables. The students in the gallery can tell us this. The second is seven syllables and the third is five syllables. This is the haiku, everyone:

Maths is important,
Not only for its own sake,
But for all of life.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr ROB STOKES: The reason I thought that was an appropriate interaction is that the point of maths is not just about maths itself. Maths is important not just for mathematical skills in their own right, in the silo of mathematics as a discipline, and not just for—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. Government members will come to order. The Minister for Education has the call and Government members are having conversations behind him.

Mr ROB STOKES: I can hear some composing haikus.

The SPEAKER: I doubt that. They would not know how to compose a haiku.

Mr ROB STOKES: Maths is important not just as a discipline in its own right and not just for its intersection with engineering or with sciences, but in every discipline an appreciation or understanding of formulas and patterns is important—in geography, whether it is understanding the spatiality of scale of population; in history, if it is an understanding of chronology; in English poetry—I have mentioned one example and iambic pentameter is another; and in music. In every discipline mathematical formulas, principles or patterns are involved.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr ROB STOKES: As Friedrich Ludwig Gottlob Frege, a German mathematician of the nineteenth century, once said:

Every good mathematician is at least half a philosopher and every good philosopher is at least half a mathematician.

In a world that is increasingly mechanised and digitised, it is important to also acknowledge the critical need for students to be numerate to navigate the complexities of life beyond school, including managing personal and family finances and for future study and jobs. Maths is a vital skill no matter where we live or what life choices we make. That is why yesterday I was delighted to announce with the Premier this Government's strategy to increase the interest in, and love of, mathematics by school students in New South Wales. It was great to be at Ryde Secondary College with the Premier, who is passionate about mathematics and its capacity to unlock opportunities for young people, and also the numerate member for Ryde, who loves patterns and digital economy.

The SPEAKER: Order! If members are not interested in maths, they can take their conversations outside of the Chamber.

Mr ROB STOKES: The first thing I make clear about the maths strategy is that the Government is not making maths compulsory for the Higher School Certificate [HSC]. The Government is increasing the capacity and confidence that students have to be able to choose. [*Extension of time*]

Education is about making great choices. It is about equipping students with the confidence to choose to study mathematics at all levels, especially higher levels such as stage 6 and the HSC itself. We know that 82 per cent of students currently study maths as part of their HSC studies. We want to increase that proportion because that will increase opportunities for young people and that is ultimately what school-based education is all about. The strategy includes a new mathematics based HSC course to be piloted next year for students who have not typically chosen to study maths. The course will focus on numeracy and practical applications for everyday life.

We will recruit 100 new specialist maths teachers for primary schools over the next five years as well as offer 320 scholarships valued at \$50,000 each for undergraduates with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It will fund the cost of a masters degree in education to encourage career changes that will increase the current expertise within maths faculties in schools. We will work with universities to further incentivise students to take high level HSC maths courses and to introduce more maths ambassadors. That will build on the success of the current New South Wales maths ambassador Eddie Woo. Eddie was with us yesterday at Ryde Secondary College for the announcement and to encourage students to develop a love for maths. We have so many great maths teachers across the State. We want to encourage them and support them and work with them to reach more students in order to help them develop the confidence to choose to do maths at a high level. That is a critical part of our maths strategy and the strategy to make life better for young people across New South Wales.

GO NSW EQUITY FUND

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:06): I direct my question to the Deputy Premier. On Tuesday 4 September this year in budget estimates the Hon. John Graham asked the Deputy Premier questions about investment decisions for the GO NSW Equity Fund. He asked the Deputy Premier, "Does it go for ministerial sign-off or not?" The Deputy Premier's answer was "No." Will the Deputy Premier now concede to the House that

evidence was untrue, given that on 5 April he personally signed and executed a ministerial sign-off for a \$3.3 million investment?

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease interjecting. The Deputy Premier does not require assistance.

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (15:07): I thank the member for his question. Australia's Oyster Coast will thank him for the publicity. It does provide the opportunity to sell more oysters. I said in budget estimates that I am the Minister responsible and I take full responsibility for anything that happens in my portfolio. I do not hide from my responsibility. I will go through the process to make it absolutely clear how a decision is made. First, the deal was identified by Roc Partners. Roc Partners has been engaged by the equity fund First State Super and Jobs for NSW. It undertakes internal assessment and review summaries are prepared. A deal is then circulated to the investment committee for consideration. The members on that investment committee are—

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Cessnock that I have previously ruled that the Deputy Premier is being generally relevant. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Clayton Barr: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question is about the signature and the testimony, it is not about the process.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: It is about the process. This is typical of Labor. It is about the process. The process explains who signs off on the final deal. Let us finish the process. On the investment committee is a delegate from the Jobs for NSW board, an investment adviser from the Jobs for NSW board, the head of alternative investment from First State Super, a partner from Roc Partners, and other Roc Partners staff working on the fund. The deal is circulated to the investment committee for consideration. The investment committee meets and agrees or does not agree to do due diligence. It is all at arms-length of Government. Roc Partners undertake the due diligence and Jobs for NSW undertakes the cost-benefit analysis consistent with the project framework.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The Minister said he did not sign-off and he did.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled that the question is in order. There is no point of order. I call the member for Strathfield to order for the second time. I warn the member for Strathfield that she will be placed on three calls to order if she continues to interject.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: Roc Partners undertakes due diligence and Jobs for NSW undertakes a cost-benefit analysis within the project assessment framework. The Jobs for NSW chief executive officer will approve it and it is then circulated to the board for approval. The deal memo then goes to the Deputy Premier. I am answering the question. I receive a brief, saying the Jobs for NSW board has made recommendations for the Deputy Premier's approval to make an equity investment in Australia's Oyster Coast, of which Jobs for NSW represents \$3.3 million. Note that the Venture Capital Limited Partnerships will execute all related documents for the transactions once endorsed by the Deputy Premier. What happens next is it goes back to the investment committee, the arms-length independent body, who meet to agree or not agree to execute the deal.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members should listen to the answer; they might learn something. Members will come to order.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The final decision is with the investment committee. Roc Partners then execute the deal. As a responsible Minister, I must take responsibility for investment of tax dollars.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: This is in relation to the process of decision-making. Who signs off and executes the deal? That is the investment committee and Roc Partners. Those opposite think that this Government makes decisions because of their past history. I have a recommendation from Jobs for NSW, which is the agency giving the Ministerial advice in relation to a decision.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier will resume his seat. Has the Deputy Premier finished his answer?

Mr JOHN BARILARO: No, Madam Speaker.

Mr Michael Daley: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I did not ask the Deputy Premier about the process.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled on that point of order. There is no point of order.

Mr Michael Daley: He misled the Parliament. You should fess up, John.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maroubra will resume his seat and not make accusations about the Deputy Premier.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: The member for Maroubra can come into this House and use coward's castle and hide behind parliamentary privilege. I dare him to go outside and say that I have misled the Parliament. The process is clear. The independent committee, the investment committee and Roc Partners execute the final deal. It is their signature, not mine.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Strathfield that she is on three calls to order and will be directed to leave the Chamber for the rest of the day if she continues to interject.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: My signature takes on board the recommendation from my agency. Those are recommendations that when Labor was in Government it opposed, opposed, opposed.

STADIA STRATEGY

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (15:12): I direct my question to the Premier. Given that the Government's plan for the \$360 million Western Sydney Stadium involves three National Rugby League teams playing a total of 30 games a year but not a single team is prepared to play there, will the Premier explain to the House how her stadia strategy is not a complete shambles?

The SPEAKER: The question was framed more as a statement.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:12): The Western Sydney Stadium, or the Parramatta Stadium for the benefit of the members of the House, is a fantastic stadium for that community. It is very interesting that on the last occasion that I spoke about the Parramatta Stadium I said that no members opposite supported the stadium, at which point a number of members interjected stating that they did support the Parramatta Stadium. The member for Fairfield supported the stadium.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The member for Fairfield admits it. The member for Campbelltown supports the Parramatta Stadium. The member is not saying "No."

The SPEAKER: Order! Government members will cease interjecting. The Premier does not require assistance.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I have heard the member for Lakemba say that he supports the Western Sydney Stadium. The member is admitting it.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Lakemba that this is not a debate. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the first time. The Clerk will stop the clock. I remind members that interjections are disorderly at all times. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the second time. I warn the member for Lakemba that any further interjections will result in his being removed from the Chamber for the day.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I have already mentioned—and none of them have denied it—that the members for Fairfield, Lakemba and Campbelltown support the Western Sydney Stadium, as does the member for Cabramatta. I know he supports the Western Sydney Stadium. The member for Prospect certainly supports the Western Sydney Stadium.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Prospect to order for the third time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: My point is that not only is the member for Auburn and Leader of the Opposition not in touch with his own community; he is not in touch with his own colleagues who support the Western Sydney Stadium.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: In Western Sydney, whether we are building roads and rail, schools and hospitals, moving the Powerhouse Museum there or building stadiums, we are proud of every single project

we are building in Western Sydney. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition took his head out of the sand and realised what his own community wants. Families in Western Sydney—

Mr David Mehan: A lift at Tuggerah station.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We are talking about stadiums, not lifts at Tuggerah station—just for the benefit of the member for The Entrance. We know what the Western Sydney Stadium means, not only for athletes but also for Western Sydney—

Ms Liesl Tesch: We've already got a stadium.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: You have got one in Gosford. Parramatta did not have one.

The SPEAKER: Stop the clock. The Premier will resume her seat. All members on one or two calls to order are now on three calls to order. The member for Fairfield is not listening, so he is automatically on three calls. There are probably 12 members who are now on three calls to order. The member for Prospect is still talking so he is on the list.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I must have missed something but I do not know why a new stadium in Parramatta is so funny. Does anybody know? The rollcall continues: I have already highlighted the members for Fairfield, Lakemba, Campbelltown, Prospect and Cabramatta. But also I know the member for Mount Druitt supports a stadium in Western Sydney. He does.

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

[The member for Rockdale left the Chamber at 15:18 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Is it not interesting that when I made the rollcall of all the Western Sydney members who support the stadium, none of them interjected? None of them have interjected because they know that for local families, for their local residents, for future generations, Parramatta stadium is so critical.

The SPEAKER: The member for Swansea will come to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Finally, I know she would never, ever admit it but deep down the member for Londonderry supports the stadium as well. She is not interjecting. I have not finished. Can I have an extension? Will the Leader of the Opposition give me an extension on that issue? *[Time expired.]*

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume her seat. Opposition members do not understand that they will be removed for the day. They have been warned. Members will come to order.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW REFORM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (15:20): My question is addressed to the Attorney General. What is the New South Wales Government doing to ensure a stronger, better future through reform to New South Wales domestic violence laws?

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (15:20): I thank the member for Miranda for that question, for her advocacy for women's issues and domestic violence issues, and for raising an issue that affects the communities of every member in this Chamber. We know that certain groups in our society are hit hardest by domestic violence. But domestic violence is a scourge that leaves no group—whether on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexual identity, ethnic background, socio-economic status or geography—untouched. It is such an important issue that its reduction is one of the Premier's 12 priorities in New South Wales.

In the past, domestic violence has hidden in the shadows and was often—and still is—unreported. But more and more, victims are coming forward to report these shocking incidents. That is in large part due to the advocacy of peak groups, such as Domestic Violence NSW and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service, as well as hard work right across the New South Wales Government—including, of course, that of the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. It requires a whole-of-government approach and that is why, for example, we are spending \$390 million in specialist domestic violence programs in the next four years. But law reform is certainly an important part of the overall process. That is why we are constantly keeping our laws in New South Wales under review to make sure they keep up to date and are responsive to society's needs.

For example, we are reforming the law in relation to stalking and intimidation. We have offences in New South Wales of stalking or intimidation with intent to cause fear of mental or physical harm. But what has not been clear in New South Wales is whether those offences include conduct over the internet or by the telephone. So we are making clear in New South Wales that cyberbullying, abuse over the internet and abuse by telephone

messages will be caught by that law and face a maximum penalty of up to five years jail. Just as important as what the criminal law says is that they will be a basis for apprehended violence orders, whether domestic or personal, in New South Wales.

We are reforming the law in relation to strangulation. We know that non-fatal strangulation is a red flag for worse to come. It is estimated that 25 per cent of intimate partner homicides have been preceded by a non-fatal strangulation, which is why we are reforming the law in this area to recognise this red flag. We have in New South Wales two strangulation offences in section 37 of the Crimes Act but often prosecutors have been reluctant to proceed under those sections because of the difficulty in proving strangulation—particularly in showing that there was recklessness about rendering someone unconscious, insensible or incapable of resistance. So we are simplifying the law on strangulation in New South Wales to create a new offence of intentionally choking, suffocating or strangling another person without their consent—an easier-to-prove offence that will have a maximum of five years.

We are also reforming the law in relation to apprehended domestic violence orders [ADVOs]. We know, of course, that these orders are not foolproof. Probably every week we read of dreadful circumstances—tragedies that have occurred notwithstanding perpetrators are subject to these orders. We also know through the statistical research of the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research that these orders do have an effect in reducing the incidence of intimate partner homicide, which is why we are reforming the law in this area. We are changing the default length of an apprehended domestic violence order from one year to two. At the moment more than half of ADVOs are for periods of 12 months or less, so we are doubling the default period. We are allowing courts to order indefinite ADVOs in the most severe circumstances.

We are empowering police with the ability to vary those ADVOs provisionally in urgent circumstances responding to immediate and serious risk and, of course, with judicial oversight going back to court. It is all about personal safety of domestic violence victims. Last month our sentencing reforms came into force in New South Wales on 24 September. They include a presumption that domestic violence offenders will either receive a term of imprisonment or strict supervision under a community-based sentence. We have reformed the intimate image abuse area of the law. We know that one in five young people have been the subject of intimate image abuse at some stage in their lives. [*Extension of time*]

We know that intimate image abuse is one device that domestic violence perpetrators use to intimidate or to control their partners. We have reformed the area of stalking and intimidation law because we know that online stalking and intimidation is one method commonly used by domestic violence perpetrators. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of those perpetrators have used some form of online technique to intimidate their partners. As bad as physical intimidation or stalking is on one view, online stalking or intimidation is even worse. A person cannot go inside their home and shut their door to get away from it because it is 24/7 intimidation and stalking, which is why we will be reforming that area.

In relation to intimate image abuse, one in five young Australians have been subject to it. It is a common way to intimidate domestic violence victims. We have introduced a new offence of recording intimate images without consent, distributing intimate images without consent and also threatening to distribute without consent, with maximum sentences of three years. There is no perfect way or magic wand to solve the problem of domestic violence in New South Wales. As a government we recognise that we have to tackle many fronts. One of those fronts is law reform and another is to keep up with technological change and make sure we are doing everything we reasonably can to keep people safe in New South Wales. I have no more important job as Attorney General, and there is no more important job law reform has in New South Wales, than keeping every single member of this community safe.

ORANGE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (15:27): My question is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing. Is the Minister aware that the Child/Adolescent Mental Health Unit at Orange encompasses 86 per cent of New South Wales across five local area health districts and only has funding for 11 beds? Will the Government respond to this crisis by expanding the facility and doubling the number of beds so that children and their families across regional New South Wales can get appropriate and timely treatment?

Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (15:27): I thank the member for Orange for his important question and for taking such a keen interest in matters relating to mental health. It is a crucial area of reform, commitment and investment by this Government. We know that responding early in life, and early in the course of a mental illness, can prevent young people from falling into crisis and often can avoid expensive, longer term rehabilitation. The Government is undertaking a

decade-long whole-of-government reform of mental health care in response to the Mental Health Commission's "Living Well" report.

Under this reform program, the Government is enhancing specialist clinical mental health services across community and inpatient care for children and young people and their families. The crucial point is that our priority is to provide care in the community for people who are living with a mental illness. If we provide care in the community, evidence has shown that a person with a mental illness who is supported in their community and connected with their family, friends and workplace actually lives better. They live a healthier life and that is our priority. Wherever possible we want to avoid their hospitalisation. Hospitalisation indicates that their mental illness has become acute and we want to avoid that wherever possible.

We are investing more than \$21 million this year under mental health reform to continue growing these services for children, young people and families. This is in addition to funding provided to our local health districts. Where an admission is required for a young person, the New South Wales health system provides for this through specialist child and adolescent mental health units. Given the very specialist nature of services provided at these units and the relatively low number of young people requiring admission, these units often serve a number of local health districts or geographic areas. We need to recognise that a bed in a hospital is not always the most appropriate form of treatment for a child.

In 2016-17 there were Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service [CAMHS] beds across nine units in Lismore, Newcastle, Hornsby, Westmead, Orange, Campbelltown, Shellharbour, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and Children's Hospital Westmead. All these units are declared under the Mental Health Act 2007. That means there are four acute CAMHS units in rural and regional New South Wales, all taking referrals from throughout the State. Recent figures show that the occupancy in those units ranges from 54 per cent to 64 per cent, suggesting a sufficient capacity of beds are already available. In particular, the occupancy rate in Orange is approximately 54 per cent.

I am advised the number of specialist acute CAMHS inpatient beds in New South Wales meets population requirements based on international and national benchmarks. In addition, there are high-intensity longer stay beds available at the Walker Unit at Concord hospital and a number of non-acute non-declared five-days-a-week inpatient programs across three sites. In the next 10 years, the New South Wales population of children and young people will grow by 9.7 per cent. Specialist mental health services for this age group need to grow in response to this service demand.

As I mentioned, this Government is embarking on a decade-long reform of mental health services which is being supported by our \$2.1 billion mental health budget this year alone. A key part of that reform is to increase supports available to young people in the community. Schools can play a vital role in the mental health and wellbeing of their students, which is why the New South Wales Government is increasing mental health support in schools. This year alone, six additional school link coordinator positions have been funded. These positions strengthen links between the schools and the surrounding mental health services of that local community.

In 2018-19, the New South Wales Government is investing more than \$11 million in school-based early intervention programs including the highly successful Getting On Track In Time—Got It! program. This statewide program delivers early intervention for children from the ages of five to eight who are exhibiting some emerging conduct disorders. One of the beauties of this program is that it not only benefits the individual child but also, when that child's conduct disorder is supported, the classroom environment is improved which leads to an improvement in their home environment. It is a fantastic program which this Government is proud to support. I have further information— *[Time expired.]*

VETERANS SUPPORT

Mr GLENN BROOKES (East Hills) (15:33): My question is addressed to the Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veteran Affairs. How are the veterans in New South Wales embracing the Invictus spirit? How does the Government's strong economic management support our veterans?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veteran Affairs) (15:33): I thank the member for East Hills. Yesterday the member for East Hills and I provided 20 free tickets to students of Picnic Point High School to attend the Invictus Games. The member for East Hills has a very important commitment to the education of our Anzac legacy. In the past couple of the weeks he has acquired his late father's service medals. It is a very special time for him and his family as they commemorate his father's service in the South-East Asian theatre. Speaking of medals I note in the public gallery Jo Restarick, guest of the member for Heathcote. I wish you good luck with the Invictus Games as one of our true heroes. I really hope you get a medal. If you come back here with it, hold onto it very tight because some people in this place will be very envious.

I know I speak on behalf of all members in welcoming the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. I send my personal congratulations on the very important news that they have chosen to share in the first week of the Invictus Games. The Invictus Games will include 500 athletes who will come from 18 countries around the world to compete in a dozen adaptive sports. The games are a four-year project. "Invictus" means undefeated and the games highlight that just because people have been injured in a theatre of war, lost a limb or experienced mental health issues it does not mean that they cannot make a contribution to the community. The games are all about tenacity, resilience and courage. Those are characteristics that all members of this House should be teaching not only to those who will come after us but also to the people in our community who want to learn and be inspired by the Anzac legacy. These will be the fourth Invictus Games. When we consider the success of the previous ones, I think we can very much look forward to Sydney putting on a great show.

Hosting the Invictus Games is not the only thing we are doing to support our veterans. This Saturday the Premier and I will join a number of dignitaries to open the new war memorial extension. As Minister for Veterans Affairs I look forward to joining the Leader of the Opposition and other dignitaries to open what will be the marquee war memorial in Australia. I acknowledge members opposite who joined me at ceremonies around the State to collect soil for the memorial, including the member for Granville, the member for Heffron, the member for Lakemba, the member for Blacktown, the member for Balmain and the member for Wyong. Nearly every member from this side of the House also attended one of the symbolic ceremonies to gather soil that will be displayed for all to see in the brand new Hall of Service at the Anzac Memorial. It will be a fitting way for New South Wales to conclude its Centenary of Anzac commemorations. At our pre-eminent war memorial 1,701 villages, hamlets, towns and suburbs across the State will be represented, and the sacrifice they made to the 1st Australian Imperial Forces will be acknowledged.

The Government has invested \$20 million in the memorial but I must also pay tribute to the Commonwealth and the City of Sydney for ensuring that the renovations are completed. Members may not know that in 1934 the original war memorial design included the water feature that will be opened next weekend. It was never completed because public subscriptions dried up during the Great Depression. The new Hall of Service along with the library, the exhibition space and the auditorium will be a sacred space that our soldiers and veterans will use to commemorate the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. War widows and legatees who have lost family and friends in a theatre of war will also use it as a sacred and special place. [*Extension of time*]

The commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac also includes the new learning program for schools. I commend the Minister for Education for the work that the Department of Education has done with Veterans Affairs to ensure that this is a commemoration not just of the fallen but also of the story and sacrifice of the Anzacs. When it comes to those who are still serving or who are carrying wounds it is also about resilience, as I said. Last year Madam Speaker joined the member for Rockdale and the member for Miranda on the ClubsNSW Anzac Ambassadors Program. At the end of this month another six students will visit the Western Front and a number of key battlefields. That will show young people how they can follow in the footsteps of those who served and ensure that the Anzac ambassadorships will continue for many years to come.

Each school has been given an opportunity to access 6,500 tickets to the Invictus Games. Those who will be embracing the games and meeting the athletes will take with them a very special personal experience about what it is like to serve your country and make deep and permanent sacrifices. This Government has also ensured that mental health remains at the forefront of its policy for our veterans. Every year more than 1,000 veterans discharge from the Australian Defence Force into New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Order! There are too many audible conversations in the Chamber.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: That creates a demand on State government services, whether it be in homelessness, mental health or education services. For that reason, this Government has embraced the Invictus Games and the Centenary of Anzac to ensure that as a community we support people who decide to discharge into New South Wales. Like many of before them, they will make an everlasting contribution to this State.

Documents

NSW OMBUDSMAN

Reports

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled "The JIRT Partnership - 20 years on", dated 5 October 2018, received out of session on 5 October 2018. I order that the report be printed.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Reports**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with section 78 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1978, I announce receipt of the report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2018, received out of session on 5 October 2018. I order that the report be printed.

INSPECTOR OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Reports**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with section 78 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1978, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2018, received out of session on 15 October 2018. I order that the report be printed.

REGISTER OF DISCLOSURES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with clause 21 of the Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983, I table the Register of Disclosures by Members of the Legislative Assembly as at 30 June 2018. I order that the document be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with section 14 of the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010, I table the Parliamentary Budget Office Operational Plan 2018 variation approved by the Presiding Officers, dated October 2018.

*Committees***LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 62/56**

Ms FELICITY WILSON: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled Legislation Review Digest No. 62/56, dated 16 October 2018.

I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding Legislation Review Digest No. 61/56, dated 25 September 2018.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS**Chair**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 282 (2) I advise the House that on 27 September 2018 Jai Travers Rowell was elected Chair of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that 12 of them are on three calls to order.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce that the following petition signed by more than 10,000 persons has been lodged for presentation:

Child Sex Offences

Petition calling on the Government to increase the maximum penalty for concealing child sex offences from two to no less than five years imprisonment and to apply the increased penalty also to those who continue to conceal information that may aid in the conviction of a child sex offender, received from **Mr Gareth Ward**.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I set down discussion on the petition as an order of the day for a future day.

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 Metro Pitt Street Over-station Developments

Petition rejecting the current proposed Sydney Metro Pitt Street over-station developments, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

The Star Casino

Petition opposing construction of a proposed residential and hotel tower on The Star casino site, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Inner-city Social Housing

Petition opposing the sale of public housing in Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Park

Petition calling on the Government to declare a marine park in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion with sanctuary zones to protect the coastal lifestyle, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Lightweight Plastic Bags

Petition requesting the banning of lightweight plastic bags in New South Wales, 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**.

Woy Woy Public Wharf

Petition requesting that the Woy Woy public wharf be rebuilt to modern operational standards, received from **Ms Liesl Tesch**.

Short-term Holiday Letting

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

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

Cudgen Plateau

Petition calling on the Government to preserve the Cudgen Plateau as State significant farmland and to support local community efforts to retain the land for residents and future generations, received from **Mr Luke Foley**.

No-fault Evictions

Petition requesting that the Government immediately end no-fault evictions and act to make tenancies more secure, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Short-term Letting

Petition calling on the Government to give owners corporations the authority to control short-term letting in strata buildings, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

*Business of the House***BUSINESS LAPSED**

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing order 105 (3) General Business Notices of Motion (General Notices) Nos 2932 to 2966 and 2968 to 2986 have lapsed.

*Motions Accorded Priority***IMMIGRATION****Consideration**

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (15:46): My motion deserves priority because it relates to one of the fundamental policy positions that both sides of this House must address in the forthcoming election. The Government, led by Premier Berejiklian and also ably led by Deputy Premier Barilaro, has always been open to new immigration. However, new immigration places serious constraints upon the delivery of infrastructure. On 11 October 2018 the Premier identified that we must address immigration in this State because of community concerns about congestion, overdevelopment, and the delivery of schools and housing. It is not unreasonable for her to say that we must have a debate about the appropriate level of infrastructure. The call by the Premier was echoed by Federal Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Alan Tudge, who said that our unplanned population growth had led to an infrastructure and settlement imbalance costing the nation up to \$25 billion per year due to congestion in capital cities. I agree with him.

Alan Tudge also warned that this would reach perhaps \$40 billion per year within 10 years. Overall, the costs of congestion to the economy are already great and are rising steeply. This is a serious challenge for families and a serious economic challenge to the nation. Infrastructure built in the early 2000s, particularly in Melbourne and Sydney, was insufficient to cater for forecast growth, let alone actual growth. Mr Tudge went on to identify a potential form of visa that would require people to live in a regional areas for a period of five years after they come to Australia. Whether that is a practical or enforceable provision is a moot point, but it at least requires debate. Additionally, we must debate how we got to this place. How did we become a developing State when we have not delivered infrastructure in accordance with the demands of new immigration? Immigration is an important economic lever that we must address. [*Time expired.*]

GO NSW EQUITY FUND**Consideration**

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:49): My motion deserves to be accorded priority today because there was a time when Parliament mattered and there was an expectation that Ministers were competent, that they were on top of their brief, that they would record key facts and circumstances, but, more importantly, that they would understand the significance of their actions. But that is no longer the case. This place has become so low and the Parliament has become so debased. This Government does not care about anything except winning and everything else has been trashed. New members of the press gallery and members of the public who watch what happens in this place who are uninitiated about how it operates would think that what they are seeing is normal. It is not. This place has become so debased and degraded. Ministers have been sacked for less than what the Deputy Premier did today. This is a clear case of misleading the House whether by intention or otherwise.

There are serious questions to be asked about this scheme. If the Government, the champion of the private sector—or so it believes—thinks that the oyster industry all up and down the coast is not filthy about this, it can think again. Lisa Visentin spelled this out well in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 31 August when she set out all the questions that should be asked about the scheme, about buying a stake in a loss-making company and about the potential to distort the market. Caroline Henry, Chair of the NSW Farmers Federation oyster committee, said that this is not a good look for the industry. How can the Government make an informed and unbiased decision about a company that it has part ownership in? Not to mention questions about notorious Liberal Party operatives behind the decision-making process.

What makes the most disturbing reading is what has come out of the estimates committee hearing. When the Hon. Mick Veitch and the Hon. John Graham asked the hapless, hopeless walking train wreck of a Deputy Premier about the process on a number of occasions he repeated a dozen times or more, "Nothing to do with me." "I know nothing about it." "It was done at arm's length." Members can read through the questions. The Deputy Premier was asked, "Is the investment making decision at arm's length of government? Is there no conflict of interest here?" He answered, "I don't know whether this was the case or that was the case because it is all done at arm's length of government. I do not make the decisions. The Jobs for NSW board makes these decisions." But we then get to a clincher of a question when the Hon. John Graham asked a simple bell-clanger, "Does it go for ministerial sign-off or not?" The answer, as clear as day from the Deputy Premier, was, "No". I do not understand what this ministerial sign-off is for which Jobs NSW sought approval and the Deputy Premier granted approval to go ahead with the investment in April this year. He has misled the House, he is hopeless— [*Time expired.*]

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

The House divided.

Ayes47
 Noes38
 Majority.....9

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
 Brookes, Mr G
 Cooke, Ms S
 Davies, Mrs T
 Evans, Mr A.W.
 Gibbons, Ms M
 Griffin, Mr J
 Henskens, Mr A
 Kean, Mr M
 McGirr, Dr J
 Patterson, Mr C (teller)
 Petinos, Ms E
 Sidoti, Mr J
 Taylor, Mr M
 Upton, Ms G
 Williams, Mrs L

Aplin, Mr G
 Conolly, Mr K
 Coure, Mr M
 Dominello, Mr V
 Evans, Mr L.J.
 Goward, Ms P
 Gulaptis, Mr C
 Humphries, Mr K
 Lee, Dr G
 Notley-Smith, Mr B
 Pavey, Mrs M
 Provest, Mr G
 Speakman, Mr M
 Toole, Mr P
 Ward, Mr G
 Wilson, Ms F

Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
 Constance, Mr A
 Crouch, Mr A
 Elliott, Mr D
 Fraser, Mr A
 Grant, Mr T
 Hazzard, Mr B
 Johnsen, Mr M
 Marshall, Mr A
 O'Dea, Mr J
 Perrottet, Mr D
 Rowell, Mr J
 Stokes, Mr R
 Tudehope, Mr D
 Williams, Mr R

NOES

Aitchison, Ms J
 Barr, Mr C
 Chanthivong, Mr A
 Dib, Mr J
 Finn, Ms J
 Harris, Mr D
 Hoenig, Mr R
 Leong, Ms J
 McKay, Ms J
 Minns, Mr C
 Piper, Mr G
 Tesch, Ms L
 Watson, Ms A (teller)

Atalla, Mr E
 Car, Ms P
 Crakanthorp, Mr T
 Donato, Mr P
 Foley, Mr L
 Harrison, Ms J
 Hornery, Ms S
 Lynch, Mr P
 Mehan, Mr D
 Park, Mr R
 Scully, Mr P
 Warren, Mr G
 Zangari, Mr G

Bali, Mr S
 Catley, Ms Y
 Daley, Mr M
 Doyle, Ms T
 Greenwich, Mr A
 Haylen, Ms J
 Lalich, Mr N (teller)
 McDermott, Dr H
 Mihailuk, Ms T
 Parker, Mr J
 Smith, Ms T.F.
 Washington, Ms K

PAIRS

Berejiklian, Ms G

Cotsis, Ms S

Motion agreed to.**IMMIGRATION****Priority**

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (15:59): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes New South Wales has always been, and will be, open to new immigrants.
- (2) Calls on the Federal Government to give the States a seat at the table on population policy.
- (3) Supports a return to Howard-era immigration levels in New South Wales.
- (4) Condemns the former New South Wales Labor Government for failing to invest in the necessary infrastructure.
- (5) Congratulates the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals Government on building a stronger, better future by building the schools, hospitals, roads and transport links to deal with a growing population.

My motion is an important motion. On 3 May this year the Premier delivered a speech to the Centre for Independent Studies during which she outlined her experience as a migrant child to this country. She stated:

My childhood experience is by no means unique. It has defined so many Australians of migrant backgrounds who are determined to work hard, to give back, and to contribute in their way to the betterment of our State and nation. In an ever-changing world with increasing challenges, the debate about the nature and scale of immigration is a constant one.

She went on to say:

However, we cannot ignore the reality that communities are feeling growing pressure on local services and infrastructure. At the same time, if we want to continue to prosper as a state and as a nation, we cannot underestimate the benefits that successive waves of immigration have brought to our nation—work ethics, skills, talents and energy from all over the world. This is a critical part of what will give New South Wales the edge in the future.

I suggest that all members acquaint themselves with that speech because it provides a clear focus of the Premier's position on immigration in this State. In my inaugural speech I identified congestion as one of the biggest factors that should be addressed in this State because of its impact on family. There is an overriding responsibility on government to ensure that people get to and from work each day so they can spend the maximum amount of time with their families. The importance of delivering infrastructure to ensure that is never so apparent as it is today. That is why we should be asking: How did we get to the stage where New South Wales was not prepared, by way of delivery of infrastructure, for its expansion in population?

Let us look at the Labor Party's record in the delivery of infrastructure when in office and ask one question: Being in office for 16 years and having that great opportunity, how could that be used for the benefit of the people of New South Wales and what would be delivered to them? It would not be \$81 million of handback because of not wanting to do the west metro or \$500 million in compensation for the Rozelle metro. One would not spend \$1.3 billion on the Chatswood to Epping line and then not complete that project; not complete the Bondi Beach rail link, promised in 1998; not complete the high-speed rail link to Newcastle, promised in 1998; not complete the Hurstville to Strathfield rail link, promised in 1998; not deliver the Parramatta to Epping rail link, also promised in 1998; not complete the central business district new harbour crossing rail link, promised in 2008; not do the west metro, promised in 2009 or complete projects such as the metro project and the NorthConnex.

Those projects are being delivered by this Government because it understands priorities in relation to families. The failure to deliver marks the Labor Party as unsuitable for government for generations to come because its priority is not family or workers; it is not delivering for the new citizens of Australia or delivering new schools to accommodate new residents of Australia. However, it is the priority of this Government, which identifies infrastructure needs and delivers that infrastructure. If this Government promises something, everyone knows it will be delivered. [*Time expired.*]

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (16:04): The motion of the member for Epping is nothing more than a timely stunt by a Premier who has had a shocking week, including making one of Australia's most premier sporting events, and an emerging event, look bad in Sydney. This Premier and this Government are getting nothing right. I repeat, this motion is nothing more than a stunt. On 12 March this year Luke Foley, the Leader of the Opposition, issued a press release off the back of a Productivity Commission report. In that press release he proposed that the States and the Commonwealth work together to devise a five-year plan on immigration to better manage the growing population. He said:

Multiculturalism is a great Australian success story and there are obviously great benefits to members.

Mr Foley wants to see a National Population Policy implemented and updated every five years, to provide the states with more certainty to plan for new schools hospitals and housing.

What was the Premier's response? The Premier said there was no need for it. She said the immigration levels are "about right". Indeed, she rejected the Leader of the Opposition's call until certain things happened to this Government—a disaster in Wagga Wagga, poll after poll showing the Government is on the slide, light rail, WestConnex and over development. The reason for this motion and for the Premier's public statements on this issue is something that she is completely politically schizophrenic about. I will unpack the motion. The first paragraph of the motion states:

- (1) Notes New South Wales has always been, and will be, open to new immigrants.

We hope so, and we also hope that Australia will be. Indeed, we hope that this debate does not become debased because we do not want to lose the bipartisan support for immigration that for the past 25 years at least has attended the Commonwealth Government's setting of immigration levels. The second paragraph states:

- (2) Calls on the Federal Government to give the States a seat at the table on population policy.

That paragraph calls on the Federal Government to implement the policy that Leader of the Opposition Luke Foley called for earlier this year. The third paragraph states:

- (3) Supports a return to Howard-era immigration levels in New South Wales.

Last week Prime Minister Scott Morrison was instantaneously out of the blocks to completely bounce the Premier on the alleged number that says supports the third paragraph of this motion as to Howard-era immigration levels. The fourth paragraph states:

- (4) Condemns the former New South Wales Labor Government for failing to invest in the necessary infrastructure.

Some of that infrastructure included the Westlink M7, Chatswood to Epping Rail Line, Eastern Distributor, Lane Cove Tunnel, M5 East, Cross City Tunnel, Parramatta to Rouse Hill T-way, Parramatta to Liverpool T-Way, Olympic Park Rail, Seacliff Bridge, Woronora Bridge, duplication of the Iron Cove Bridge, commencement of the South West Rail Line, Inner West Rail Line—Central to Lilyfield and starting the Dulwich Hill extension, Windsor Road upgrade, and we also completed the airport rail line, but we concede that was started under the former Government.

If those opposite want to talk about major infrastructure projects they should ask themselves: How many major infrastructure projects in the last eight-year stretch of this Government has it cut a ribbon on? The answer is not one. When I put that to Minister Constance his answer was, "Yeah, but the Wynyard Walk." Not once in any of the four terms of the previous Labor Government did we go for eight years and not complete a single project. Those opposite should not talk to us about infrastructure or the reasons for this motion. This motion is before the House today because this Government has lost control of planning in Sydney and in New South Wales. The growth in Sydney is not being done well. It is unfair and there is an over-reliance on high-rise buildings. The Government is back-peddalling on policies all over the place—medium density housing code, priority precincts, et cetera.

In 2011 those opposite promised that it would return the planning powers to the people; it has absolutely taken them away. Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act there is still a provision, which has survived for many years, that enables State significant development to be taken away from councils and put into the hands of the planning Minister or a delegate. I remind members that was only ever for State significant development. Now under the Gateway Process there are blocks of flats bypassing councils and going straight to the planning Minister or his delegate. That is far from returning the planning powers to the people.

Councils are being cut out, and the rules are stacked against communities on planning and on infrastructure. But the Federal Government does not get off scot-free either when it talks about infrastructure. The last budget of the current Federal Government delivered funding for only three new infrastructure projects in New South Wales—namely, \$300 million duplication of Port Botany, \$50 million for planning a rail line for Badgerys Creek, and \$900 million for a Coffs Harbour bypass. None of those was Sydney shaping or Sydney-shaping funding.

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (16:10): I am proud to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Epping. My family were migrants; I am the proud daughter of migrants. I appreciate every opportunity my family has created for me—as no doubt does Deputy Speaker George—in moving to this country. As a government we must look after the people who live here. One of the considerations that each local member deals with when talking to people about the sorts of infrastructure they want to access. They want us to deal with traffic congestion so that they can get home to their families sooner.

As a local member I would like to see the F6 extension delivered. Those opposite have made whimsical remarks about adopting policy from the Leader of the Opposition. That will never be the case because we know there is a complete and utter policy vacuum on that side of the Chamber. Further, the idea of the member for Maroubra defending the Leader of the Opposition is almost laughable when we all know that he would love nothing more than to see his leader fall. We on this side support what our Premier is doing and support the delivery of projects such as the F6 extension.

The member for Keira has said publicly, on behalf of those opposite, that the F6 corridor must not be prioritised over rail upgrades. He has also said that Labor's priority is investment into the South Coast Rail Line in the first instance. That is not the way to look after the people of New South Wales and definitely not the way to look after the people of the electorate of Miranda. We on this side of the House are not only delivering record investment in infrastructure—the road and rail that the people of the shire need—but we are also ensuring that New South Wales remains the best State in which to live, work and raise a family. And we can do all of that whilst ensuring that these projects get delivered to improve people's lives. The other week the Premier said that we should return to Howard-era immigration levels in New South Wales.

During the Howard years the level of immigration was about 45,000 people annually. Since 2007 the immigration rate has risen to 73,000 and over the past two years it has been 100,000 annually. If those opposite consider the Premier's comments to be a stunt then they are sorely mistaken and severely out of touch with what

the people of New South Wales expect. Our job is to represent the people of this State to the best of our ability. They want infrastructure and to spend quality time with their families. Those opposite would do well to support this motion and support the people of New South Wales.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (16:13): This low-rent motion is designed to play on the fears and prejudices of people by suggesting that somehow or other all the problems the Government in New South Wales is facing relate to immigration. The third paragraph of this motion supports a return to Howard-era immigration levels in New South Wales. In other words, immigration is the fault of the New South Wales Government, which has been in office for eight long years and has turned this State into a shambles. In March this year the Leader of the Opposition drew to public attention the Productivity Commission's 2016 report whereby he asserted that the State should have a seat at the table to determine population policy over five-year periods. That report was just sat on.

I remind the House that the purpose of immigration to Australia is to build the economy, shape society, support the labour market and reunite families, which gives Australia a major economic uplift. In March this year, the Leader of the Opposition raised the issue that the economic uplift coming to Australia is not being returned to the States who have to fund the economic infrastructure, so the national population policy needs to be determined by the Council of Australian Governments. It was a sensible position to take. A total of 68 per cent of migration to this country is on the basis of skilled migration. These are people brought to Australia to add to Australia's skill that it does not have. A total of 32 per cent are through our family reunion policies. The real major uplift in terms of the numbers and the levels is 190,000.

The Government has only reached 160,000 over the past two years. The major impact and numbers of immigration come from temporary visas. The 2008 figures published on the website of the Department of Home Affairs states there were 320,000 students. If anyone thinks immigration is the sole cause of the problem and they want to reduce it by 20,000 people, they can knock over one of Harry Triguboff's developments. That is not the solution to the infrastructure crisis that New South Wales faces. The solution is proper planning, proper population projections and proper design of infrastructure. The infrastructure that the Coalition Government has implemented will cost billions and it has been demonstrated to become a complete shambles.

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (16:16): In reply: I thank all the members who have made a contribution to this debate. I agree with a lot of what the member for Heffron had to say about the purpose of immigration. There is no doubt that in this place we should have a bipartisan position on immigration. It would be an untenable position for us not to be able to agree about the level of immigration which should come to this State and to be debating it in circumstances where there was patent disagreement between us. I agree with the comments made by the member for Heffron about it. However, I point out that one of the issues relating to immigration into this country is that 80 per cent of immigration goes to either Melbourne or Sydney. The fact of the matter is that there is an imbalance between those places which are taking the majority of immigration. In May this year the Premier said in her speech:

The aspiration for a better life is what motivates our people to work hard and do amazing things—the kinds of things that propel our State forward. But we can only unlock that aspiration if we prepare rigorously for the decades ahead. Within our Federation, it is States that are on the front line of delivering the infrastructure and services that our communities and our economies need. I am therefore proposing that an entire meeting of COAG next year should be dedicated solely to the issue of immigration and planning.

The Premier is already in that space of ensuring that we have a seat at the table in respect of the levers of immigration. In fact, perhaps it is also opportune to suggest that for infrastructure funding, there ought to be a link between that funding and the amount of immigration to individual States and a formula devised by the Commonwealth to ensure that due to the levels of immigration there is sufficient infrastructure funding to be able to deliver the level of infrastructure that is needed. There is not one suggestion, I do not think, that any of the infrastructure projects which are currently underway or being planned by the current Government are inappropriate. It is the other side who had a Premier who said, "Sydney is full". In those circumstances, it is hypocritical to say today that we should not have this debate about infrastructure delivery. The reason Labor said that Sydney was full was because it did not want to do the infrastructure work that would accompany immigration. Members opposite are condemned by their own predecessors.

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

The House divided.

Ayes	47
Noes	34
Majority.....	13

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Constance, Mr A
Crouch, Mr A
Donato, Mr P
Fraser, Mr A
Griffin, Mr J
Henskens, Mr A
Kean, Mr M
McGirr, Dr J
Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Petinos, Ms E
Sidoti, Mr J
Taylor, Mr M
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Mrs L

Aplin, Mr G
Brookes, Mr G
Cooke, Ms S
Davies, Mrs T
Evans, Mr A.W.
Gibbons, Ms M
Gulaptis, Mr C
Humphries, Mr K
Lee, Dr G
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Pavey, Mrs M
Provest, Mr G
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G
Wilson, Ms F

Ayres, Mr S
Conolly, Mr K
Coure, Mr M
Dominello, Mr V
Evans, Mr L.J.
Goward, Ms P
Hazzard, Mr B
Johnsen, Mr M
Marshall, Mr A
O'Dea, Mr J
Perrottet, Mr D
Rowell, Mr J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Mr R

NOES

Aitchison, Ms J
Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Dib, Mr J
Greenwich, Mr A
Haylen, Ms J
Lalich, Mr N (teller)
McDermott, Dr H
Minns, Mr C
Piper, Mr G
Warren, Mr G
Zangari, Mr G

Atalla, Mr E
Car, Ms P
Crakanthorp, Mr T
Doyle, Ms T
Harris, Mr D
Hoenig, Mr R
Leong, Ms J
McKay, Ms J
Park, Mr R
Scully, Mr P
Washington, Ms K

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

PAIRS

Barilaro, Mr J
Berejiklian, Ms G
Elliott, Mr D

Cotsis, Ms S
Foley, Mr L
Mihailuk, Ms T

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***CIVIL LIABILITY AMENDMENT (ORGANISATIONAL CHILD ABUSE LIABILITY) BILL 2018****Second Reading Debate**

Debate resumed from 26 September 2018.

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:27): I lead for the Opposition on the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018. The Opposition does not oppose the bill. The bill is presented by the Attorney General as the completion of the Government's response to the civil litigation recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. There are three main objects expressed in the bill, all of which amend the Civil Liability Act. One is to create a duty on organisations to prevent child abuse and to create a legal presumption that an organisation has breached the duty if a child for which it has responsibility is subjected to child abuse by an individual associated with the organisation. This is known as a reverse onus provision. It comes into effect with the Act. That is, it is not retrospective.

The second object is to make an organisation vicariously liable for child abuse committed by employees and persons akin to employees. This provision also is not made retrospective and comes into effect with the Act.

The third object is to permit plaintiffs to bring civil child abuse proceedings against unincorporated organisations that may be liable for the abuse. This finds a solution to the notorious Ellis defence, which essentially held that legally the Catholic Church did not exist, despite what Constantine and people for more than a millennium and a half thought.

I remember that when I first read the judgements in Ellis I understood the legal point, but was astonished at what it meant in practical terms. Potential defendants, as I understand it, have as a matter of policy not pleaded that defence for some time. However, this should be resolved as a matter of law and not left to policy decisions. The principles and potential use I note apply to any unincorporated association, from tennis clubs to political parties, and not just to one religious denomination. This provision is retrospective. This is one occasion when retrospective provisions seem entirely appropriate. The Attorney in his second reading speech referred to his Government's record in this policy area and presented it as completely unproblematic. That is not a view that I share.

In May 2018 I indicated in the second reading debate on the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 that the Government position on the National Redress Scheme is at variance with the royal commission recommendations. Most obviously recommendation 19 of the royal commission provided for a maximum payment of \$200,000, while the scheme championed by this Government is a quarter less than that. The basis stated for the lower figure preferred by the Government was to maintain the financial viability of various institutions. That is a wholly inadequate basis upon which to design such a scheme. Presumably, it was also intended to reduce the liability faced by State institutions.

This is directly relevant to the bill before the House and not just by way of background, because the less likely a survivor is to pursue a matter under the National Redress Scheme the more likely they are to pursue a common law claim under the civil liability legislation. I also note the other divergences between the royal commission report and the bill concerning eligibility for the scheme about which I previously addressed the House. The Attorney in his second reading speech claimed the Government acted early in response to the civil litigation recommendations of the royal commission. For example, it removed the limitation period to allow civil claims for damages. Yes, it did introduce that legislation. But, four years ago in November 2015 it voted down the limitation provision in my private member's bill in this place; albeit by only 39 votes to 36.

At that time the Government argued that it was premature to amend the limitation provision until the National Redress Scheme was implemented. That was a nonsense argument, as were so many proposed by the then Attorney. It was forced kicking and screaming to introduce its bill well before the National Redress Scheme was implemented. When I introduced my private member's bill on the limitation period, the Victorian Government had already legislated—well before this Government. A similar situation exists with the reverse onus provisions of this bill. These types of provisions were introduced by the Victorian Attorney General to his State Parliament two years ago in the Wrongs Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse) Bill.

This Government continually plays catch-up with the Victorian Government and, indeed, with the Opposition in this place. Twelve months ago I introduced a private member's bill, the Civil Liability Amendment (Institutional Child Abuse) Bill 2017, which dealt with the reverse onus recommendation of the royal commission. Members will note the similarity of the title of my private member's bill and the bill currently before the House. There is a saying about imitation being the sincerest form of flattery. It takes years for the Government to catch up with the Opposition. I said when I introduced my private member's bill on institutional child abuse that it was a disgrace that the Government had not already acted. That was true then and now holds even more power because it took the Government an extra 12 months to introduce this bill.

In so far as this Government has a legislative agenda, it reminds me of watching grass grow. The first two elements of the bill relate to the civil liability of institutions for child abuse. The liability of an individual perpetrator is clear. The liability of an institution under the present law, as the royal commission pointed out, is considerably less clear. The question is: When is an institution liable for the actions of an individual? When is the institution vicariously liable? Clear legal rules for such liability had not emerged in Australia. Page 54 of the relevant royal commission report points out that what was then the leading Australian High Court case of *NSW v Lepore*, decided in 2003, left the relevant law in "a somewhat uncertain state".

The royal commission pointed out that the United Kingdom and Canada had clearer and broader rules about the liability of organisations for the actions of individuals. Likewise, the royal commission's consultative process saw many submissions arguing for the clarification and expansion of circumstances in which institutions would be held liable for child sexual abuse. That was also the attitude of the Victorian parliamentary committee that delivered the report entitled "Betrayal of trust". The position has changed somewhat and become clearer since the royal commission report as result of a High Court decision *Prince Alfred College Incorporated v ADC* [2016] HCA 37.

This bill deals with the recommendation in two ways. The first is to codify the common law position on vicarious liability and to expand it. The second is to regard institutions as liable unless they discharge an onus of proving they have taken reasonable steps to avoid the abuse. This imposes civil liability upon organisations even if it was an individual rather than an organisation that committed the abuse. That means that if a perpetrator is deceased, cannot be found, or is impecunious, a verdict can still be satisfied. It is also extremely significant in delivering justice to survivors. As the royal commission reported, "Legal duties are important for prescribing the standard that the community requires of institutions."

Technically the bill is about the recovery of damages. In substance it is about what we expect of institutions and organisations. It is hardly unreasonable that the community would expect an organisation to do all it reasonably can to prevent child abuse. If it does not do all it reasonably can, then this bill will hold it civilly liable. Another virtue of this approach is that its introduction is likely to promote good governance in the institutions concerned. The royal commission recommended that these changes be prospective and not retrospective. This bill adopts that position, which I think is entirely reasonable. The royal commission also proposed as another approach the imposition of strict liability on institutions. That is not the approach of this bill, nor was it the approach of the Victorian Parliament, nor of my private member's bill, so obviously I do not dissent from that now.

In principle, the approach taken in this bill is a better one. Moreover, a strict liability approach removes some of the incentive for organisations to improve governance levels and take reasonable steps to avoid child sexual abuse. If it does not matter if the organisation takes reasonable steps to reduce child sexual abuse, then there is less reason for them to do so. The reverse onus provisions are in new section 6F of the Civil Liability Act in the new Part 1B. That an organisation that has responsibility for a child must take reasonable precautions to prevent an individual associated with the organisation from perpetrating child abuse of the child in connection with the organisation's responsibility for the child. The organisation is presumed to have breached its duty if the plaintiff establishes that an individual associated with the organisation perpetrated the child abuse in connection with the organisation's responsibility for the child, unless the organisation establishes that it took reasonable precautions to prevent the child abuse.

New section 6F (4) lists some of the items that a court may take into account to determine reasonable precautions. As with the vicarious liability provisions, child abuse means sexual abuse or physical abuse of the child but does not include any act that is lawful at the time that it takes place. Organisations that are included are described in new section 6D as those that exercise care, supervision or authority over the child. This is not exactly the royal commission's wording, which is neither surprising nor inappropriate, but it achieves the purpose. New section 6E specifies those who are associated with an institution. Appropriately, this is widely defined and obviously includes volunteers. It also includes members of religions, organisations and authorised carers. Those categories can be expanded by regulation. The new division 3 deals with the vicarious liability of organisations. The operative provision is new section 6H.

An organisation is vicariously liable for child abuse perpetrated against a child by an employee of the organisation if the apparent performance by the employee of a role in which the organisation placed the employee supplies the occasion for the perpetration of child abuse by the employee, and the employee takes advantage of that occasion to perpetrate the child abuse on the child. New section 6G provides that an employee includes an individual who is akin to an employee. Such a person, in turn, is defined as an individual who carries out activities as an integral part of the activities carried on by the organisation and does so for the benefit of the organisation.

Division 4 of the new Part 1B deals with proceedings against unincorporated associations. As a matter of general common law, proceedings cannot be instituted against unincorporated bodies. They do not exist; they have no legal personality. Proceedings have to be against individuals, corporations or government or statutory bodies. If it is not a corporation or a government or statutory body or the individual is deceased, there is no-one to sue. If they are alive but impecunious, there is no-one to recover against.

I note in passing that the Electoral Funding Bill debated in May in this place dealt with an analogous problem, specifically allowing prosecutions against unincorporated associations. The bill now allows proceedings against unincorporated associations. The court can order one or more management members of an unincorporated association to exercise a specified function of the organisation. If it is a public sector body, the State is taken to be appointed as the proper defendant. The unincorporated association may, with that body's consent, appoint a proper defendant for the organisation. If the unincorporated association fails for 120 days to appoint a proper defendant, the court may appoint trustees of a trust as defendants if they are suitable to be appointed. The trusts that are relevant here are an associated trust of the organisation or a trust that was formerly an associated trust.

New section 6N (3) provides the criteria by which a trust is judged to be an associated trust of an organisation. This is particularly significant in practical terms. Much of the land on which places of worship and schools are located are held by trusts. This is hardly surprising granted the frequency with which Parliament has

passed property trust Acts for a range of denominations. A quick look at the Allocation of the Administration of Acts regulation reveals a dozen or so pieces of legislation of this sort allocated currently to the Attorney General. Self-evidently, such trusts have property that can satisfy a judgement. The proper defendant nominated by the unincorporated association or appointed by the court incurs the liability for the claim in the proceedings on behalf of the organisation that the organisation would have incurred if the organisation had legal personality. New section 6P (2) provides that the liability of a trustee is limited to the value of the trust property. The royal commission recommendation number 94 in its redress and civil litigation report read as follows:

State and territory governments should introduce legislation to provide that, where a survivor wishes to commence proceedings for damages in respect of institutional child sexual abuse where the institution is alleged to be an institution with which a property trust is associated, then unless the institution nominates a proper defendant to sue that has sufficient assets to meet any liability arising from the proceedings:

- a. the property trust is a proper defendant to the litigation
- b. any liability of the institution with which the property trust is associated that arises from proceedings can be met from the assets of the trust.

I note that the experience of John Ellis was a case study in the consideration of the royal commission. The royal commission noted that many institutions now nominate proper defendants but quite correctly believed that survivors should have more certainty when seeking to commence litigation. The royal commission recommendation followed in this bill allows potential defendants to nominate a body most suitable to them to meet the liability of a particular claim. The Government did not pursue the other option that was raised of a nominal defendant for reasons that are entirely sensible. However, I note that if a particular institution wishes to establish its own nominal defendant, then there is no reason for it not to do so. This bill allows for that. The issue is to make sure that there are sufficient assets for judgements to be able to be recovered. Having said that, I reiterate that the Opposition does not oppose the bill.

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (16:40): It is very rare that we have an opportunity in this place to fix wrongs that have occurred in the past. The Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018 goes some way towards fixing some of those wrongs. I have helped a gentleman in his mid-50s go through the rigmarole and trauma of preparing for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I will give some brief comments and then I will tell his story. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was set up because survivors of child abuse were brave enough to tell their horrific personal stories of abuse at the hands of adults they trusted. The stories of abuse are so prevalent it was hard to imagine the scale of the problem; the ways the abusers used shame and embarrassment, threats of retribution or subtle and incremental manipulation to silence the children they abused for years or decades; and the lasting and devastating effect that the child abuse had on persons after that abuse. Those stories and the royal commission's findings are the reason for this bill.

A gentleman who I will not name contacted me regarding the royal commission. He was unable to go through the process on his own. The member for Prospect and I know this gentleman and I assisted him by helping him make a report to police. That was an arduous 2½-hour interview with detectives. The gentleman described the people that abused him, where he was at the time and what was happening in his life. He was aged six at the time. He named everything, including the colour of the blankets, what was hanging on the wall, what colour the door was, what shape the doorknob was and what was happening outside the room. It was absolutely devastating to hear what this poor fellow went through.

As I said, he is in his mid-50s now. He has been unable to work a full-time job. He is grossly overweight. He has some ongoing mental issues. The abuse that happened to him from age six to about nine changed his life forever. Restitution and compensation may in some small way fix the wrongs but in no way will it absolve those who committed the abuse against him. One of his abusers was Robert "Dolly" Dunn, who was a notorious perpetrator of child sexual abuse. The descriptions he gave of the abuse that happened to him at the age six were absolutely horrifying. The interview ended with the detective, the gentleman and me in tears.

The royal commission found that under existing laws child abuse survivors faced multiple obstacles in pursuing civil litigation against the institutions responsible. The very nature and impact of institutional child sexual abuse can work against the ability of survivors to seek damages through existing avenues. Without a strong legal position, survivors said they had to go cap in hand to institutions and accept whatever was offered, no matter how inadequate. Survivors are also disadvantaged by the years or decades it can take to confront and disclose child sexual abuse. The average gap between abuse and disclosure for survivors who gave evidence at the royal commission was 23.9 years. Specific obstacles to civil litigation include that members of religious orders are not employees under liability law and that some institutions are unincorporated so there may be no legal entity that can be sued or that holds the assets necessary to pay damages.

I helped the gentleman to whom I referred fill out forms for compensation. As a layman, so to speak, I found the forms quite arduous and when the people involved fill them out, it churns up memories of what they had to go through. They have to describe in detail the people who abused them, their relationships, where they were abused, in what circumstances, their age and whether there were any siblings involved. The younger brother of this poor gentleman was also abused. He is completely different: He has been suicidal and in mental institutions. This is the ongoing price that our community pays for the sexual abuse of children.

Members are probably aware that anything that happens to a child before the age of seven becomes part of their make-up. They cannot forget it. It is formative time of their life: Whatever happens to a child in their first seven years, they will remember forever. These creatures who crawl around this earth—the perpetrators of sexual abuse—rely upon the fact that these little kids will do anything to try to forget, although they are unable to because of the horrific nature of the abuse they suffered. This bill addresses the royal commission's finding about institutions evading their responsibilities. This bill directly tackles institutional responsibility for child abuse. The bill makes it easier for past and future survivors of abuse in unincorporated institutions, including churches, to sue those unincorporated institutions. That proper defendant reform was recommended by the royal commission.

The Ellis defence can no longer defeat valid claims after the proper defendant reform commences. The bill also makes it easier for survivors to sue institutions responsible for future instances of child abuse by imposing two liabilities. The first liability reverses the onus of proof for negligence cases by introducing a new statutory duty and a presumption that the statutory duty is breached where a child is abused by a person associated with an institution in connection with the institution's responsibility for that child. The second liability extends vicarious liability for child abuse beyond employees of the institutions to also cover those who are akin to employees, such as some volunteers and religious members.

By making it easier to sue institutions for abuse, by sheeting home responsibility to the organisations that are able to prevent it and by placing the onus and the incentive on all institutions to make their world safe for children, this Government is taking the necessary steps to protect all children who are under the care of government and non-government organisations. In closing, over decades many children were subjected to abuse over many decades in refuges or orphanages, where they had been placed because of a family breakup. They were then handed around to different people in the organisation and abused, and they were even shipped out to other places in the same organisation for further abuse. This deep-seated crime was occurring in the community and people must have known about it, but they did not speak up. That is a disgrace for our community. We need to start speaking up and speaking for these voiceless people in our community.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:49): I refer to the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018. The Opposition does not oppose this bill. Broadly, this bill will, most importantly, create a duty on organisations to prevent child abuse and ensure that organisations must prove they took reasonable steps to prevent the abuse. Secondly, the bill will also make an organisation vicariously liable for child abuse committed by employees and persons akin to employees. Thirdly, the bill enables survivors to identify a proper defendant to sue in the case of an unincorporated association by allowing proceedings to be commenced against the unincorporated organisation or association in its name and allows the organisation to appoint a proper defendant. If a proper defendant is not appointed within 120 days, the court may appoint a proper defendant, which are the trustees of an associated trust of the organisation. This third component is retrospective and extends to proceedings commenced before the commencement of the legislation.

At the outset I say that this amendment is overdue, and it is also necessary. I note that the member for Liverpool and shadow Attorney General tried to bring this matter to the attention of this place in November last year in a private member's bill, 10 months before the member for Cronulla introduced the current amendment. The Attorney General has tried to portray his Government as being among the leaders by being among the first to opt into the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Yet here we are today, virtually as the member for Liverpool intuitively predicted—yes, he suggested nearly 12 months ago in November 2017 that it would take the Government another 12 months to finally debate the issues in this bill. What kind of message does that send to the survivors of sexual assault in this State?

The Liberal-Nationals Government is too busy putting together strategies and policies but it has lagged behind on this matter. I take a moment to acknowledge the victims as well as the courage and tenacity of the survivors—because even though light has been finally been focused on the truth of their individual injustices, it alone cannot remove the pain and suffering survivors live with each day. As difficult as the past six years have been for Australia since the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we should all be thankful that survivors have finally had an opportunity to speak, that the nation has finally listened to the unthinkable and that governments are finally trying to act and to prevent it from happening again.

Next Monday, the Prime Minister will deliver a National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse but, yet again, this is not the end of this process but another step in the redress of this stain on our nation's history. The amendment before us, as I mentioned earlier, is in my mind late redress of this specific situation, but it hopefully underscores that we are heading in a new, much more enlightened direction for the care of children in our State and our nation. The first part of the legislation establishes clear ground rules for all organisations that exercise care, supervision or authority over children. They will have to act to prevent child abuse being perpetrated by individuals associated with the organisation.

It also rightly makes the organisation prove that it took reasonable steps to prevent any abuse. I also suggest that we have a special duty in this place to closely monitor and scrutinise child protection legislation, wherever it is, to ensure that we take our oversight role and our role as legislators seriously and act on it. The second component of the amendment is brave and bold but again a highly necessary step to tackle the question of vicariously liability for organisations. There has been a longstanding need to establish clear and simple rules about when an institution is liable for the intentional criminal conduct of someone else. The Attorney argues that:

The bill levels the playing field to ensure that all survivors have access to a civil remedy through vicarious liability and provides a deterrent to all institutions where appropriate.

I have to agree with the comment made previously in this place by the member for Liverpool and shadow Attorney General that, it is a reasonable proposition that the community would expect an organisation to do all it reasonably can to prevent child abuse and, if it does not do all it reasonably can, it should be held civilly liable. The royal commission commented: The significant financial consequences that may flow if the (community) standard is not met create powerful incentives for institutions and their insurers to take steps to ensure that abuse is prevented. Changes to the duties of institutions do more than provide an additional or more certain avenue for victims of abuse to seek compensation after institutional child sexual abuse has occurred. Changes to the duties of institutions are critical measures for preventing institutional child sexual abuse occurring in the first place. The third part of this legislation will also finally provide clarity for victims by giving them a proper defendant to sue. My hope is that this finally ends the hiding behind being an unincorporated organisation and gives power to the court to appoint a proper defendant if necessary. I note the comment of the Attorney in this place when he said, "It is important for survivors that responsibility be squarely attributed to the organisation in which they were abused." This amendment represents three significant and—as I have suggested—overdue steps to assist survivors of organisational child abuse.

I note my intense admiration for everyone who experienced child sexual abuse in an institutional setting. I have spoken before in this place about my role at the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs many years ago. I read and heard about so many stories in preparation for the royal commission that the Western Australian Government was undertaking. As someone who did not experience it myself but merely read the stories of those children, hearing the names of those institutions even today strikes horror into my heart. To think about the things that those little children experienced on a daily basis in institutions that the community trusted and that parents sometimes unknowingly entrusted their children to is completely chilling and awful. The devastation that was wrought upon those children in their adult life was completely incomprehensible to those who did not experience it.

I vividly remember stories of people who had become lifelong alcoholics or drug addicts. When they finally got to see someone for substance abuse rehabilitation they were told that their story was fantastical and they could not have actually experienced the abuse they said they had. They were told that no-one would have put them on a boat on the other side of the world to bring to them to Australia and dump them in a remote community to build magnificent church buildings by hand. They were told that everything that they had experienced in their lives was wrong, that it was never going to be possible and that it would never have been possible. Time and again their stories of abuse were denied by governments at every level and by anyone who had any responsibility to help them.

The changes in this bill are so important, which is why this is so frustrating to those of us who care about stopping sexual assault and sexual abuse. It is so galling that when the Opposition came a year ago with a bill that would have addressed this issue it became a political debate and the bill was not enacted. I think of those people who have waited an extra year for the Government to act in this way. I feel disgust that the Government has not done it before now and has chosen to make this a political issue. I will end my contribution there. I urge everyone in this place to support this bill as they should have done a year ago.

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (16:58): Before I embark on my remarks in relation to the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018, I will reflect on some of the observations by the member for Maitland. She spent some time criticising the Attorney General and the Government for what she perceived to be a failure to bring this legislation forward or to support the private member's bill of the member for Liverpool some 12 months ago. This Government has a coordinated response to the recommendations of the

royal commission. It did not seek to act presumptively before the report was finally delivered. It received the report and coordinated consultation on its recommendations. After a considered and well-thought-through process it has delivered legislation to address the recommendations of the royal commission.

It is plain wrong to say that the Government sought to politicise this issue. In its condemnation of child sexual abuse the Government has acted consistently throughout. It has acted quickly in signing up to the National Redress Scheme and it has acted expeditiously in ensuring that compensation is properly paid to victims of child sexual abuse. I deplore the fact that the member for Maitland would use this as an opportunity for political pointscoring by saying that we could have had this legislation 12 months ago and that persons today have been deprived or have in some way had their suffering exacerbated by the failure to bring this legislation forward—in fact, I challenge her to identify someone in that category. In my experience, the bill that we are dealing with today requires organisations to identify proper defendants in any litigation that is commenced for the purposes of seeking redress. It also creates vicarious liability provisions for potential offences whereby an organisation ought to, ought reasonably to know or ought to be responsible for the actions of a person who engaged in this conduct.

I say to the member for Maitland that it is entirely unbecoming to try to use this legislation to say that Opposition members are politically more pure and they wanted to do this 12 months earlier. She should acknowledge the fact that the Government spent some time ensuring that it had a proper response to the recommendations of the royal commission. We ensured that we would get that response right and put legislation before this Parliament which would be a proper reflection of the recommendations of the royal commission. I will concentrate on the notion of the proper defendant reform to ensure that survivors of historical sexual abuse know who they can sue in circumstances. The proper defendant reforms are found in division 4 and operate prospectively and retrospectively. That means that for abuse in the past and for abuse in the future, survivors will be able to pursue civil litigation against the institutions in which the abuse occurred even if they are churches or other unincorporated associations. Until this law, that has not been possible.

Let me identify the problem by giving some specific examples. Everyone is aware of the Ellis defence, which I will address in the course of this contribution. At present, survivors cannot sue unincorporated associations responsible for their abuse. They have to sue related individuals and institutions which might have a tenuous connection to the perpetrator of the abuse. In John Ellis's case, because he could not sue the church itself as an unincorporated association, Mr Ellis sued the Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal Pell and the trustees of the property trust for the diocese of Sydney.

The New South Wales Court of Appeal found that Archbishop Pell could not be held liable as he was not the archbishop at the time of the abuse and had no connection with the Sydney archdiocese at that time. That was probably a correct finding in the circumstances. The court also found that the trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the archdiocese of Sydney could also not be held liable as they had insufficient control over the appointment, removal and day-to-day activities of the perpetrator. That control lay with the diocese and bishop and was described by President Mason of the Court of Appeal as very extensive. So what is the solution?

The proper defendant laws do three things for survivors of historical abuse that change the litigation landscape for them. First, they mean that an unincorporated organisation, which in the example of Ellis was the Catholic Church, can be sued in its own name. This is important for survivors who want to legally hold to account the organisation that they hold responsible for enabling the abuse in the first place. That cannot be done under the law as it stands and was a total block to justice for survivors such as John Ellis. In a nutshell, these amendments ensure that if, for example, a Catholic priest was involved in sexual abuse, the survivor is entitled to sue the Catholic Church, and in those circumstances the Catholic Church should nominate a defendant or a proper defendant for the purposes of conducting the proceedings.

Secondly, the amendments effectively allow plaintiffs to access funds held in trusts associated with the unincorporated organisation, if necessary, to meet an award of damages. That means a church or other unincorporated organisation cannot rely on technical legal defences to place its assets out of reach of survivors with valid claims. It also puts survivors on an equal footing in terms of their ability to recover compensation, irrespective of how an organisation organises its internal affairs.

Finally—and this is very important for historical survivors of child abuse—these reforms close the liability gap for unincorporated organisations like churches. That is done by placing the proper defendant squarely in the shoes of the unincorporated organisation such that anything done by the unincorporated organisation is taken to have been done by the proper defendant. That is found at section 6O (b) of the bill. This means that acts of members of the unincorporated organisation, such as the relevant bishop who had control over the "appointment, removal and day-to-day activities" of the perpetrator, to use the words of President Mason in the Ellis case, are attributed to the proper defendant. This opens the way to common law claims based on vicarious

liability and negligence that were previously blocked because the current archbishop and trustees were considered too remote from the abuse.

Because of the combination of these three elements of proper defendant reforms, plaintiffs will now be able to sue a diocese, a bishop or the church itself as the unincorporated organisation. The proper defendant reforms do not just give survivors of abuse in unincorporated organisations a legal entity to sue and a way to fund damages, they also connect responsibility to liability for common law actions. Not only do these amendments apply to churches and the like, they also apply to tennis clubs, Scouts organisation and the like. The fundamental and underlying principle behind all this legislation is that persons who are engaging in child sexual abuse in circumstances when they are part of an organisation and then use that organisation to hide behind, or are involved in it for the purpose of carrying out their abuse, cannot use that organisation or the structure of that organisation to protect themselves. I support this bill. It is an important reform and is not politically motivated. It is for the benefit of all child sexual abuse survivors. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:08): I speak on behalf of The Greens on the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018. This bill seeks to make it easier for victims of child sexual abuse in institutions to prove that the organisations under whose auspices they were abused were legally liable for that abuse. It does so by creating a duty on organisations to prevent child abuse and to create a legal presumption that an organisation has breached the duty if a child for which it has responsibility is subjected to child abuse by an individual associated with the organisation.

There is a reverse onus of proof on this offence, meaning the institution itself has the burden of proving it took all reasonable steps to protect children in its care. Such organisations are taken to include incorporated and non-incorporated associations and public sector organisations, though not the State itself. Successors to an organisation are considered part of the same organisation. This makes tracing liability much simpler, particularly if an organisation undergoes a number of reinventions over the years. The bill will also make organisations vicariously liable for child abuse committed by employees and persons akin to employees—for instance, this would include members of clergy. A further change will be made that allows victims to bring civil proceedings against unincorporated organisations that may be liable for the abuse.

The Greens support this bill, and in doing so commit to continue to work to ensure that barriers to justice for victims of child sexual abuse are removed from the law of New South Wales. It is clear that the power imbalance regarding young people connected with these organisations and institutions does not favour these vulnerable young people who face and risk child abuse. The law needs to step in to provide protection, support and assistance to them and also to the victims of child sexual abuse of the past.

I acknowledge Greens member Mr David Shoebridge, MLC, for his commitment to this work. He has worked tirelessly with communities, survivors and other people on this issue since he first entered Parliament. He told me that, when he was elected, one of the first issues raised with him as the justice spokesperson for The Greens related to access to civil claims for victims of child sexual abuse and particularly what is known as the Ellis defence. It is very significant, not only to Mr David Shoebridge but also to survivors and their families and loved ones who have seen them suffer and been impacted by this injustice, that this bill finally overturns that defence. It is a testament to the work of John Ellis and many survivors and their advocates that we are finally removing this obstacle to justice.

The Ellis defence is the apparently paradoxical position faced by victims of child sexual abuse when they attempt to seek compensation from the Catholic Church. Even if they are successful in the court, they may find that there is no institution called the "Catholic Church" at law which holds assets that would enable it to pay compensation. This is in part due to the legal structure of the church: The Catholic Church Property Trust holds the church's assets, and church lawyers argue that this trust was not responsible for the abuse and therefore cannot be held liable. It is truly disgusting to consider or fathom that argument would be made but—lo and behold—it is. This is a nasty legal fiction, and it has been a constant feature of Mr David Shoebridge's attempts, since he was elected, to have this obstacle to justice removed. It is due to the tireless efforts of so many people that we are seeing this change implemented in this legislation.

This bill implements the royal commission's recommendation to enable survivors to identify a proper defendant to sue. This is an important step which practically assists victims to seek compensation through the courts if they so choose, and in doing so rebalances the power between the organisation and the individual that in so many cases has served as an obstacle to justice. The Ellis defence was used as a bargaining tool by church lawyers to reduce compensation offers to victims of abuse with the rationale that they likely could not get any money through a civil suit, so they should settle for less. The changes in this bill operate retrospectively as well as prospectively.

It is truly horrifying to imagine a situation where someone has gone through the trauma of child abuse. It is horrifying to see a family member or loved one go through that trauma and have their faith in organisations and institutions completely removed as a result of the lack of trust that they would now have in the institutions and organisations that wielded completely uncontained power over them when they were vulnerable children. But then to see the lawyers, the advocates of the Catholic Church, seek to further impose injustice and harm on them by using this defence as a bargaining tool to get out of paying what would be just and reasonable compensation for the trauma caused is even more horrifying.

The Government has indicated that this bill is the final part of its implementation of recommendations for reforming civil litigation for victims of child sexual abuse. I note that the Government has committed to provide annual progress reports to Parliament. There are some areas that the Greens will continue to work closely with the community in in order to pursue justice and the implementation of all of those recommendations. Too often we have seen recommendations of royal commissions languish, so in this case credit should be given to the witnesses and the brave contributions of so many survivors that have enabled changes to be made and some of the recommendations to be implemented. It is truly heartening for those who showed the strength and courage to participate in the royal commission. Things were done to them and they suffered injustices and abuse that no individual, particularly no child, should ever have to suffer. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (17:14): I support the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018 and I commend the Attorney General for his work in this very important area. I also commend members of his staff, in particular Shaun Robertson, and I note Bryce O'Connor, who is sitting in the gallery and thank them for their work on this important bill. Earlier today I had the opportunity to table in this House a petition containing more than 13,000 signatures relating to offences concerning the concealment of child sexual offences. The feeling across the State is that the penalties available to the court for this crime are too low; they are at the summary level. This offence should carry a penalty of at least five years. I ask the Government and the Parliament to consider increasing the penalties for those who conceal child sexual offences. I will say something about section 127 of the Evidence Act towards the end of my contribution. However, for fear of being cast into irrelevancy on the bill, I will now turn to its objects, which state:

- (a) to create a duty on organisations to prevent child abuse and to create a legal presumption that an organisation has breached the duty if a child for which it has responsibility is subjected to child abuse by an individual associated with the organisation, and
- (b) to make an organisation vicariously liable for child abuse committed by employees and persons akin to employees, and
- (c) to permit plaintiffs to bring civil child abuse proceedings against unincorporated organisations that may be liable for the abuse.

The provisions in the bill conclude the New South Wales Government's response to the civil litigation recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. The bill enacts three significant reforms that remove legal barriers identified by the royal commission and provides clear pathways to justice for survivors of child abuse in institutional settings. The Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse made profound revelations about our society. Over the five years of its inquiry we learnt about the thousands of children in institutions who tragically have been sexually abused. Each of these stories is horrifying and disgusting. Each of the victims has lived with the impact of this abuse their entire lives.

While our response as a Parliament and a Government cannot change the past, we can commit ourselves to do all that we can to support victims and strengthen laws that make sure these appalling events are never repeated. I am proud that the New South Wales Government and Parliament has been a strong leader among the States and Territories, actively and swiftly responding to recommendations from the royal commission, and I commend the Attorney General for leading this work. On 23 June the Government formally responded to the royal commission, accepting the overwhelming majority of its recommendations. The Government's response covers changes already implemented and new reforms. This includes measures across government to keep children safe, to hold perpetrators to account, and to provide justice and support to survivors.

The Government has committed to provide annual progress reports to Parliament, starting in December this year. In March this year New South Wales was one of the first two States to announce that it would opt into the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. I contributed to debate on that legislation earlier in the year. The Government has consistently supported the establishment of a single national scheme that is comprehensive and sustainable, and best meets the needs of survivors. This State has taken the lead as the first State to pass legislation referring powers to the Commonwealth Government to establish the redress scheme. The National Redress Scheme commenced on 1 July this year. It includes a monetary payment of up to \$150,000, access to counselling and psychological support, and a direct personal response from the participating institution or institutions.

The commencement of the scheme represents a major milestone, with government and non-government organisations coming together to recognise and take action to address the harm and suffering caused by institutional child sexual abuse in this country. The redress scheme applies only to past abuse as recommended by the royal commission, which found that civil litigation simply is not an effective means for survivors to obtain adequate redress. This is due to society's failure to protect children across a number of generations. The royal commission also concluded that reforms to civil litigation are required to provide justice more effectively to survivors in the future.

In the redress and civil litigation report the royal commission explained that, having heard from survivors and support groups about the many, many difficulties people had faced in seeking damages for child abuse through litigation, the very nature and impact of institutional child sexual abuse can work against the survivor's ability to seek damages through existing legal avenues. So many came forward and told the royal commission that without a strong legal position they had to go cap in hand to institutions and accept what was offered, no matter how inadequate. The royal commission highlighted that one of the main challenges faced by survivors has been identifying a proper defendant to sue. This is because many religious organisations are unincorporated organisations and thus do not have any legal personality or identity, meaning they cannot be sued. This is more commonly known as the Ellis defence, which many members have touched on in their contributions to this debate.

Upon enactment of this bill we will consign to the dustbin of history this ridiculous defence. With great respect to President Mason of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, who was merely applying the law as it then existed, the Ellis defence has been rightly criticised for its unfair results. This has effectively blocked access to civil litigation as a remedy for many of the survivors who remain. It means that a survivor who was sexually abused in one institution could sue for damages, but if the same abuse occurred in another, the person could not sue based only on whether or not the institution was incorporated. For example, the royal commission heard evidence that Marist Brothers would use the Ellis judgement to defend any child abuse litigation and the royal commission also noted that litigation against the Anglican Church could "be expected to have raised the same difficulties that Mr Ellis experienced". As the Attorney General pointed out in his second reading speech, John Ellis suffering on several fronts has led to these reforms. He was abused by a priest. His complaint was unfairly handled by the church and he was let down by the legal system.

This bill squarely overturns the Ellis defence and, for the benefit of the House, I will go through the details of what that means. The first point is that as a result of this legislation unincorporated organisations can now be sued. The proposition in the Ellis defence that an unincorporated organisation cannot be sued in its own name under the common law is overturned by new section 6K (1) in schedule 1 item [4] part 1B division 4, and new sections 6O (c) and (d) in schedule 1 item [4] part 1B division 4. Together these provisions enable a survivor to commence proceedings against an unincorporated organisation in its own name as if it had the legal personality required for legal action to take place. It allows a court to make orders and directions in respect of the organisation as if it had a legal personality and allows a court to make substantive findings in the child abuse proceedings against an unincorporated organisation as if it had a legal identity, that is, an unincorporated organisation can now be sued in its own name and have findings made against it.

The second thing is that trustees can now also be held liable. The proposition in Ellis that trustees of a trust associated with the unincorporated organisation are too remote to be liable for the abuse since they lack the power to appoint, manage, discipline or remove priests is overturned by new section 6N in schedule 1 item [4] part 1B division 4 and new sections 6O (a) and (b) in schedule 1 item [4] part 1B division 4. Together those provisions allow a court to appoint an associated trust as proper defendant to an action if the unincorporated organisation fails to appoint a suitable proper defendant, place the proper defendant in the shoes of the unincorporated organisation as defendant to the child abuse proceedings and attribute to the proper defendant and any of the unincorporated association's and organisation's acts, duties or obligations. That means that an association and its trust can now be held liable in place of an unincorporated organisation and cannot claim it is too remote from the responsibility of the acts that have been done.

The third point is that churches can be organisations despite their abstract nature. The proposition in Ellis that an organisation as a church or dioceses with fluctuating membership has insufficient existence to be responsible for abuse committed by individuals within it is overturned by the definition of "unincorporated organisation", "organisation", "function" and by new section 6K (2). New section 6K (2) allows any function that can be exercised by an unincorporated organisation to be exercised by a management or member. In the religious context a bishop or an archbishop, among others, would be considered a management member. As President Mason acknowledged in the Ellis decision, a bishop or archbishop can and does have management responsibilities for his diocese. If a diocese exists sufficient to be drawn on a map to hold assets via trust and maintain an internal government hierarchy, it exists sufficiently to foot liability like any other organisation. Why should it be any different? *[Extension of time]*

The fact that many of these institutions were unincorporated is irrelevant to the suffering of the survivors and must be relevant to their quest for justice. This is beneficial legislation and will be interpreted beneficially for survivors, even if that requires courts to crystallise an abstract concept of an unincorporated organisation with a fluctuating membership. I do not believe that these organisations should escape on that argument. The findings of the royal commission have made it clear that to the extent any court in the circumstances of the case finds the term "organisation" ambiguous, it will be assisted by the definition of "institution" in the terms of reference of the royal commission. The royal commission's exhaustive work produced comprehensive findings not just about child abuse, but also about institutions and how they have addressed, or refused to address, abuse of children in their care.

I acknowledge and pay tribute to the extraordinary work of the royal commission. I acknowledge and pay tribute also to the courage of each and every survivor in telling their extraordinary stories to bring about the changes to keep children safe from future abuse and harm. In the face of that courage and those findings, as a society and a legal system we must dispense with legal technicalities that obstruct the most basic of justice and rights. We must insist upon and defend our values of justice and equal treatment before the law. It is with those comments that I again ask the Government to consider amending section 127 of the Evidence Act, which allows clergy to not report any crime that includes child sexual offences. It remains analogous to me that just because one undertakes that work they should be entitled to that protection. It is my view that the church no longer has the moral authority to have this protection and provision in place.

If child abuse were committed in any institution, I think most members of this House would want the clergy to come forward. They should not be able to hide behind their specific role as this legislation acknowledges—I note this was another of the royal commission's recommendations. I hope that not only members on this side of the Chamber but all members will call for this particular change, as difficult, challenging or even frightening as it may be for some. I believe it is the right thing to do and I hope in time it will be recognised through changes to legislation. I thank the Attorney General for the opportunity to debate this bill. I commend him for his work and I look forward to future challenges being met by this Parliament.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (17:27): I support of the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018, which was introduced by the Attorney General. I note that the Labor Party, the Coalition and The Greens, and I imagine the other parties and crossbenches in the upper House will support this legislation. Over the past few years we have seen the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and we have heard testimony from survivors and the families of survivors. I am sure their stories have shaken our society to the core. Sadly, we have heard these stories repeated time and again in every Australian State, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and so many countries throughout the world. Certain individuals have used the churches, and scout and voluntary organisations of all kinds as a vehicle to act as predators towards our children. Sadly, for decades these perpetrators have gotten away with so much and destroyed the lives of so many young, innocent children.

Time and again before the royal commission we heard the stories of those survivors who are still alive, those who were able to give their evidence. Some gave their evidence in camera because reliving the trauma of what happened to them was just too great for public exposition in a court room. We heard how the churches and different voluntary organisations simply safeguarded and protected these perpetrators, paedophiles and abusers of our children. I am pleased that in this House today we are openly talking about this issue, finding ways to resolve the crimes of the past and assist the survivors of those crimes. We are also acknowledging that it is still a problem today. Abuse continues, so we must always be vigilant and support the police and other organisations to create the laws and give them the resources they need to go after these criminals.

The bill is the completion of the response of the State Government to the civil litigation recommendations of the royal commission. The bill amends the Civil Liability Act. It is pleasing at this point that so much legislation has been completed. The key parts of this bill will create both a duty of care on organisations to prevent child abuse and a legal presumption that an organisation has breached the duty of care if a child for which it has responsibility is subjected to child abuse by an individual associated with the organisation. Basically it reverses the onus of proof so the liability of the organisation is put forward. Organisations will have to show that they took reasonable steps to prevent or stop the abuse. Such organisations are responsible for a child if they exercise care, supervision or authority over that child. Previous speakers have referred to a similar bill being introduced by the shadow Attorney General. I will not go into that. What matters to me is that the survivors know the truth of the matter and I am pleased that the Attorney General has introduced this bill.

The royal commission dealt with child sexual abuse, which continues to be a massive problem, but it did not deal with the physical abuse of these children. Survivor groups such as the Care Leavers Australia Network [CLAN] and others have talked constantly about how reparations and the focus of the royal commission has been on sexual abuse and not physical abuse. Physical abuse is a major problem for these survivors. For decades in

their youth and early childhoods they were subjected to a great deal of sexual, physical, verbal and emotional abuse. This needed to be recognised and I am pleased that the definition of "child abuse" in this bill reflects that. Another key element of the legislation is that it overturns the Ellis defence. I understand the legal reasoning of the Ellis defence—that at the time the Catholic Church was seen as an unincorporated organisation so it had no liability for what happened to Mr John Ellis—but laws and legal decisions do not work in vacuums. They have an effect; they have an impact. Every bill that comes through this House, and every decision and interpretation by the courts matters to people's lives.

I can imagine, as I am sure can members of this House, how John Ellis felt when the court told him that he could not do anything, "Your perpetrator may be guilty, but the church has a defence." Thank goodness we have legislation that will overturn that decision so that proceedings can commence against unincorporated organisations that will have to provide a defendant themselves or if they do not, the courts will do it for them. Let us be honest, it has taken the church and voluntary organisations decades to take responsibility for what happened to those children when one would have thought they would have been the first to step up, change tack and get rid of such people from their organisations; not protect them. One would think they would protect the children and the survivors, but that has not happened. This legislation is key to doing that.

I know that survivor organisations continue to talk about the fight that goes on, but they still have to go through the process of acknowledging and recognising not only child sexual abuse, but also abuse at the hands of different perpetrators and institutions over many decades. National apologies have been made. At the Federal level an apology was made on Monday this week. All of this helps, but the battle is far from over. Children are still being abused in care and in foster care. We must continue to support our New South Wales police, the Director of Public Prosecutions and other organisations that identify these individuals. Justice must be meted out to them.

The member for Kiama commented about the Seal of the Confessional. I am a practising Catholic. I believe in confession. But I do not believe that if someone goes to a priest or to anybody, no matter who they are, and tells them that they sexually abused or abused a child, that that person should be protected. If the Evidence Act has to change, so be it. I say this to the church, of which I am a very strong member and supporter: There is no excuse. We know time and time again that this responsibility has been avoided, as have many others. It cannot go on. Perpetrators must be identified and brought to justice. The church owes it to not only the children who were abused but also the future generations of Catholics and others who have faith in the church.

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:37): I contribute to debate on the Civil Liability Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Bill 2018. Every now and then you come into this place and contribute to a debate or legislation that you feel is doing the institution of the Parliament proud. This is one of those times. I acknowledge the Attorney General, and thank him and his staff for bringing this bill to the House. The bill does a number of things, but I will not go through all of them because they have been so well articulated by others in great detail. The bill creates a duty on organisations to prevent child abuse and to create a legal presumption that an organisation has breached the duty if a child for which it has responsibility is subjected to child abuse by an individual associated with the organisation. It also makes an organisation vicariously liable for child abuse committed by employees and persons akin to employees, and permits plaintiffs to bring civil child abuse proceedings against unincorporated organisations that may be liable for the abuse.

In simple terms, the bill says that those organisations have a responsibility to those children that other people would have expected. It is not that complicated. It also says that there is no place for organisations or individuals to hide. If you are an individual or an organisation that abuses children the people will come after you, the police will come after you, and the judiciary will come after you and deal with you with the weight of the law. I acknowledge both sides of the House and all members of the House who support this bill. The issues dealt with in the bill do not predominate or are not consigned to one particular organisation; it is across the board—secular, non-secular, small and large. There is a whole host of areas in which we know abuse has occurred.

I will speak about my experience throughout my Catholic education. I do not stand here and claim to be of faith. If I learnt anything from my Catholic education it was that there was a massive failure to adopt Christian practices and to walk in the shoes of Jesus Christ. I attended St Pius X College at Adamstown, which, I think it would be fair to say, was close to the epicentre of sexual abuse in the Hunter and one of the areas that brought a great focus on this issue. It is important to note that the legislation does not deal only with sexual abuse, although that is most heinous and, probably quite understandably, has been given the most attention because of its lasting impact on people's emotions and their sense of self-worth. The bill also deals with physical abuse.

From my experience, the Catholic education system at the time was expert at meting out physical punishment that I believe extended far beyond anything that any right-thinking person would sanction. It is certainly something that I experienced. I wear with some pride the fact that I would not be cowed by some of the teachers at St Pius. I think others have been consigned to the record over the years in these discussions, but I note Edward "Ted" Hall is one name that had not come up. Recently he was convicted in Newcastle court of numerous

charges of sexual abuse of boys at St Pius. He was a teacher whom I knew quite well. In hindsight, I am not surprised. One of the survivors of that abuse, Ben McCulloch, wanted his name publicised because he wanted to speak out about the abuse that was meted out to him but has not broken him. Unfortunately, such abuse has affected many individuals and their families if they had brothers, sisters and parents around them or subsequent families, if they married.

I have mentioned St Pius X College or St Pius X High School as it is now, and I feel sorry for those who are responsible for on the running of that school and other schools that bear that legacy. I am sure they are fine people who are trying to address the issues as best as they can, look after those in their care and provide them with a good education. They have to deal with the legacy and the burden of the sins of the past. I thought I knew about the sociopathy or psychopathology of those teachers but was unaware how far it permeated the school. The first time I heard of the sexual abuse, and what drove it home like a slap in the face, was the suicide of John Pirona. It was a great tragedy. He was a local firefighter who had shouldered this burden for many years. We have had heroes step forward. I acknowledge Joanne McCarthy from the *Newcastle Herald* who led the push for the "Shine the light" series that largely brought about the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I acknowledge former detective chief inspector Peter Fox, Peter Gogarty from the Upper Hunter Valley and Ben McCulloch, who recently went through the ordeal of Ted Hall's trial.

In this Chamber I have previously spoken of an abiding regard for the member for Dubbo, Troy Grant. He has prosecuted the issue on an individual basis with Father Vince Ryan, who he pursued and brought to justice. He has also advocated for a full and proper investigation of these issues. While they are important markers for us, it is what we do from here. How do we deal with the victims and ensure there are not future victims? That is what the Government is doing and I fully support that. There is both a direct and a vicarious obligation for everyone to look after children in their care and I believe this bill makes it clear that there is no place to hide. I thank the Government and the Attorney General and I strongly support the bill.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (17:46): In reply: I thank the members for the electorates of Liverpool, Heathcote, Maitland, Epping, Newtown, Kiama, Prospect and Lake Macquarie for their contributions to the debate. I note the member for Liverpool's comments about the National Redress Scheme. In November 2015, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released its Redress and Civil Litigation Report recommending the establishment of a single National Redress Scheme and civil litigation reforms. The royal commission found that the past and current civil litigation systems and redress processes had not provided justice for many survivors. The New South Wales Government has consistently supported the establishment of a single National Redress Scheme, which is comprehensive, sustainable and best meets the needs of survivors.

On 9 March 2018, New South Wales was one of the first two states to opt into the National Redress Scheme. We are pleased to take the lead as the first State to pass legislation referring powers to the Commonwealth to establish the National Redress Scheme. I note the member for Liverpool's comments about the cap for the Redress Scheme. The Commonwealth Government determined that monetary payments would be capped at \$150,000 for eligible survivors. This is a cap, despite the member's concerns, a number of Labor governments have signed up for, including the Victorian Government. Despite concerns about the National Redress Scheme, all his Labor counterparts in Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory were happy to sign up.

The cap for \$150,000 is less than that recommended by the royal commission, which recommended a cap of \$200,000. However, the average payment to survivors is expected to be around \$76,000, which is \$11,000 more on average than the average recommended by the royal commission. A higher average payment, even with a lower cap, will ensure more consistent and equitable financial recognition for survivors who are part of the Redress Scheme. The National Redress Scheme is not just about providing survivors with monetary recognition. Of equal importance is access to counselling and support. I note the member for Liverpool made comments about delay in introducing the reform and alleged that New South Wales was playing catch-up with Victoria. The member for Maitland made some unfortunate comments about alleged political gains.

New South Wales is the only State that is in the process of implementing all of the civil litigation recommendations of the royal commission. No state has extended vicarious liability to those akin to employees as yet. The vicarious liability reforms we have introduced implement the intent of the royal commission's recommendation on non-delegable duties. No other state has done this. New South Wales is proud to be a leader in responding to the royal commission's recommendations and providing clear civil litigation pathways for survivors. In 2016 limitation periods were removed and the model litigant policy adopted. These were reforms that the royal commission identified as the most urgent civil litigation reforms.

The Government commenced consultation on the remaining recommendations in 2017. That consultation has been extensive and comprehensive. It has involved three discrete consultation rounds and extended for more

than a year, because we want to get it right. Stakeholders include survivor groups, faith-based and non-faith based institutions, the insurance industry and the legal profession. The reforms have broad stakeholder support. We have listened carefully to those stakeholders. A preliminary round of targeted consultation occurred in July 2017 and October 2017 via written submissions and roundtables with key stakeholders. Submissions were received from a large number of non-government stakeholders.

A second round of consultation occurred in March 2018 with further submissions received from key stakeholders. In August this year, we completed a final targeted consultation round on the draft bill before the House, again accepting submissions. Stakeholders broadly support the bill and in the case of survivor groups, keenly support it. I thank all of the stakeholders for their thoughtful engagement, which has helped shape the bill. I note that Victoria's Wrongs Act amendments were also responding to the Victorian "Betrayal of trust" report, which was released in May 2014, over a year before the royal commission's Redress and Civil Litigation Report was released.

I also note that we are the first Government to have responded to all aspects of the royal commission's civil recommendations: redress, proper defendant, vicarious liability, and the new statutory liability and the reverse onus of proof. Victoria has yet to respond to the royal commission's non-delegable duty recommendations. I note the member for Liverpool's comments about the Civil Liability Amendment (Institutional Child Abuse) Bill 2017. The debate of the bill commenced on 3 May 2018, but was not finalised. The bill lapsed on 15 May 2018. The private member's bill only addressed one aspect of the civil litigation reforms in isolation—a new statutory duty. By contrast, the Government is introducing a consolidated package of reforms. The Government's reforms codify and extend the employer's vicarious liability for child abuse to include abuse committed by those who are akin to employees. The reforms also include the proper defendant laws recommended by the royal commission.

As the member for Prospect noted, we are going beyond the royal commission recommendations regarding sexual abuse to include physical abuse. It is appropriate to introduce this package of civil litigation reforms together, rather than in a piecemeal fashion. The reform package was developed with extensive consultation with key stakeholders. The completion of our Government's response to the royal commission's civil litigation recommendation is an historic milestone in the long path that survivors are walking towards justice. I thank survivors for their bravery in coming before the royal commission to tell their histories. I thank survivors and survivor groups for their ongoing advocacy to ensure governments across Australia and perpetrators are held to account.

I thank the Department of Justice and, in particular, Stephen Bray, Katy Wood, Alison Bell and Celia Barnett-Chu for their hard work and dedication to help the Government deliver these vital reforms. I thank all my ministerial staff and, in particular, Sean Robertson, Mary Klein, Rebecca Mayer and Clare Wesley for their contribution to the delivery of these reforms. This bill removes the remaining legal barriers to justice for survivors of past abuse. It sets the standard for better protections for children now and in the future. It is a key part of our comprehensive response to the royal commission, accepting the overwhelming moral imperative to do so in order to keep our children safe. I commend the bill to the House.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

NATIONAL PARK ESTATE (RESERVATIONS) BILL 2018

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 27 September 2018.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Maroubra, I note that he has guests behind the Speaker's chair: David and Amee Bowen, who apparently won fourth prize in a raffle.

Mr Michael Daley: They won the booby prize—dinner with me.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Make sure you order everything on the menu. It was a school auction and they bought a dinner with the member for Maroubra. It is a good wine list and a good menu; make sure you spend up big.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (17:56): Thank you for that warm welcome for my guests. I lead for the Opposition in debate on the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. I note the objects of the bill are to transfer around 4,500 hectares of so-called unproductive State forest lands to the national parks estate from 1 January 2019 in five separate transfers. These include 2,080 hectares of Carrai State Forest north-west of Kempsey added to the Willi Willi National Park; 120 hectares of Yarrowa State Forest near Robertson added to Budderoo National Park; 1,144 hectares of Mernot State Forest added to Curracabundi State Conservation Area; 647 hectares of Yengo State Forest in the central region will become Yengo State Conservation Area; and around 500 hectares of Muldiva State Forest, west of the beautiful Dorrigo, will be vested in the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Despite appearances in this bill—which, I should say, the Opposition will support—the evidence has been laid out over more than seven years that this Government's agenda for national parks is directed completely by anti-conservation forces within the Coalition. While there are small additions to the national parks estate under this Government, they are rare and therefore must be supported. It is really a drop in the ocean that will make little difference to the overall conservation outcomes in New South Wales. In addition, in recent years the Government has taken an axe to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, including cuts of more than \$100 million and the loss of hundreds of skilled staff and rangers. That is just to start but always the start from a conservative Government to cut. There have also been a plethora of other retrograde measures in relation to the environment.

Since coming to office almost eight years ago, this Government has increased the New South Wales national parks and reserves estate by just 1 per cent, or around 75,000 hectares in total. We are proud that in Labor's last term of Government it increased the national parks and reserves estate by 75 per cent, adding 3.05 million hectares—equal to 3.8 per cent of all New South Wales land—to the estate. In mathematical terms, that means that the Coalition's record represents, on average, adding just 9,978 hectares per year compared to 190,450 hectares added per year when Labor was in office. Under Premier O'Farrell, the tone was set for wanting to, let us say, brag about additions to national parks. At this rate, it will take the Coalition more than 300 years to match Labor's record of expanding and enhancing the New South Wales national parks estate.

In my opening comments, I mentioned the ever-present budget cuts. That has been one of the features of the administration of national parks in this State for the past 7½ years, beginning under Treasurer Baird and continuing under Treasurer Berejiklian, who is now the Premier. Over two years—2016-17 and 2017-18—\$121 million was cut from the National Parks and Wildlife Service through a budget reduction, massive budget underspending and efficiency dividend reductions. So embarrassed was the Government by these acts that it now refuses to provide standalone budget figures for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2018-19—absolutely scandalous and cowardly.

However, we know the overall budget for the Office of Environment and Heritage was cut by \$66 million in this budget, in addition to a large underspend of \$165 million from 2017-18. The cut and underspend means that there is \$231 million less funding available to spend on the environmental challenges we face in New South Wales. The budget cuts are not just from the top line; they are also from staff cuts. Since the Coalition took office in 2011, permanent ranger positions have been cut by 26 per cent—from 245 permanent rangers in July 2011 down to 181 in July 2017.

The electorate of Maroubra is blessed with a national park and there was a recent addition to one west of the Malabar Headland. The staff are terrific but there is a lot for them to do. Being in one of the fortunate urban seats that contains national parkland, I have seen firsthand what terrific work they do under such enormous budgetary pressures. Area manager positions have been cut by more than a third—down 35 per cent from 71 in 2011 to 46 in 2017. Permanent field officers have also been reduced since 2011, with 23 fewer in 2017 at 563 staff. In total, 246 full-time equivalent staff were cut from the National Parks and Wildlife Service budget in the 2016-17 financial year; that is 13 per cent of all staff. That is on top of previous budget cuts of \$24 million in 2014-15. The Office of Environment and Heritage had a \$75 million efficiency dividend cut since 2012. All environmental agencies combined have had \$93 million in efficiency dividend cuts since 2012.

One of the very first offerings that this Government made to flora in New South Wales was the 10/50 regime for land clearing. I stood exactly where I am now and said that if the legislation was passed without all of the requisite schedules and plans and maps that should have been produced to the House at the time, it would lead to environmental destruction on a wanton scale. That is exactly what happened. In 2016, the Government revealed a plan to add 75,000 hectares of State forest to the national parks. That was slashed by the Government down to 23,000 hectares to exclude forests in seats held by National Party members who objected to potential loss of access to timber. Even then, the reduced plan was scuttled when the present Premier took up her role.

The Government proposed laws to allow the inundation of 65 kilometres of World Heritage protected Blue Mountains National Park as part of the proposed project to raise the Warragamba Dam wall. This would risk the World Heritage status of the Blue Mountains National Park—the highest level of protection given to precious

natural areas. The Government might think that is cute, but looking at it objectively it would be equivalent to dredging the corals of the Great Barrier Reef. The Government also passed laws that it says protect the wild horses of Kosciuszko National Park and place them above all other environmental and cultural values within the park.

This ignores the science and the irreversible damage that unmanaged wild horse populations have done to the park—backfiring big-time on the member for Monaro in his own seat. It puts under threat the unique threatened species that live there. This will lead to irreversible damage to soil, water, threatened species and endangered ecological communities. So let us not hear lip service to national parks—if the Government is doing it to the iconic Kosciuszko National Park nothing else really matters. The Nationals member for Murray, Austin Evans, has promised to present a bill this week to overturn the Murray Valley National Park and allow logging back into the globally significant river red gum forests of the Riverina. What a disgrace.

Mr Christopher Gulaptis: It is a good thing.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: The member for Clarence says it is a good thing. Yes, it is a great thing—let's go log in national parks. That is terrific. The proposed F6 motorway could run through the first national park ever declared in Australia—Sydney's Royal National Park. Meanwhile, the Government has failed to continue pursuing World Heritage listing for the park. The Australian Workers Union [AWU] estimates that approximately 100 senior National Parks and Wildlife Service firefighting staff have been made redundant across the State, replaced by less experienced junior staff, leaving the National Parks and Wildlife Service short of experienced firefighters who can coordinate and manage complex bushfire responses, as well as train and develop future firefighters.

The shocking cuts to national park budgets and staffing come at about the same time as the latest survey of visitation revealed the public's love affair with national parks and shows that it continues to grow. Visits to parks skyrocketed in the past two survey years, increasing by 32 per cent from 39.2 million visits in 2014 to 51.8 million in the latest 2016 report—no thanks whatsoever to this Government. This environment Minister is the same Minister who signed on to the new land clearing laws even after being warned by her own department that the laws would allow 99 per cent of koala habitat on private land in New South Wales to be cleared.

None of us should be surprised about the environmental destruction that has been visited upon the forests of New South Wales and the fact that this is a completely token effort. If the Government knocks down 110-year-old fig trees on Anzac Parade that literally saw the Anzacs off to war and were there to welcome them home, and it can knock down 800 trees for a light rail project that should never have been built, including those Anzac heritage fig trees, then we should be surprised by nothing. The Opposition will support this bill but no-one should be surprised by the fact it is just a stunt and a sales pitch.

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (18:07): I am pleased to support of the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. The bill is an important part of the New South Wales Government's commitment to biodiversity conservation and the protection of environmental, conservation and heritage values. New South Wales is rightly proud of its national parks system, now 139 years old, and it is home to the world's second oldest national park, the Royal National Park in my electorate. The transfer of 4,505 hectares to the national park estate through this bill is a continuation of this proud legacy. These areas will add to the more than seven million hectares of land already managed and protected for conservation by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The New South Wales national park estate now covers more than 9 per cent of the State—an area larger than the size of Tasmania. These new additions to the New South Wales conservation network will make a significant contribution to biodiversity conservation in the State. They will provide important connectivity corridors that will allow species to move across the landscape. They will provide habitat for a range of threatened species and ecological communities, including the brush-tailed rock wallaby, the powerful owl, the spotted-tail quoll, and of course, the iconic koala.

The transfer of 2,080 hectares of Carrai State Forest to Willi Willi National Park demonstrates this Government's commitment to protecting koalas. This area includes land that has been specifically selected for its recognised koala habitat, and its addition to the national park estate will improve connectivity of koala corridors in the landscape. As well as conserving important biodiversity, the bill will protect sites of significant cultural heritage through the creation of the Yengo State conservation area.

The new parks and reserves will also have significant benefits for community wellbeing. They provide opportunities for recreation, volunteering and community stewardship programs. We also know that visiting a park for recreation and relaxation can have significant health benefits such as lowering stress and blood pressure, boosting immunity and improving mental wellbeing. They will also be places of work. This Government is committed to supporting local communities to capitalise on visitor and other tourism opportunities associated with

the establishment of new parks and reserves. New parks and reserves help diversify regional economies and stimulate business investment in rural and regional areas. They lead to new infrastructure, create new jobs and bring new people to regional centres.

It is important to note that the transfer of these State forests will not have an impact on timber supply from native forests. This is an important demonstration of how policy decisions taken by this Government balance the long-term sustainability and reliability of timber supply while maintaining and, where possible, enhancing, environmental and conservation values. This is in keeping with the New South Wales Forest Industry Roadmap, released in 2016, which outlines a triple-bottom-line approach to social, environmental and economic sustainability through four priority pillars: regulatory modernisation and environmental sustainability; balancing supply and demand; community understanding and confidence; and industry innovation and new markets. The National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018 will enable the transfer of five important areas to the NSW national park estate and shows a commitment to biodiversity conservation in New South Wales.

The member for Maroubra said that the Government had not put forward the Royal National Park, which is my electorate, for World Heritage listing. The member for Maroubra should read his papers a bit better because that was done in 2013. Unfortunately, the Royal National Park did not meet the criteria for World Heritage listing so it did not go forward to the Federal Government. The study was done and it was rejected. If the Opposition says it will have the Royal National Park World Heritage listed it is incorrect. The park does not meet UNESCO's criteria.

I also proudly say that at the start of my political career one of the best things the Government did was to proclaim Dharawal National Park a year into government. We signed off on this fantastic national park, which is within the water catchment areas of my electorate. Being a member who has the Royal National Park, the Heathcote National Park and Dharawal National Park in my electorate, I am very proud of what this Government has achieved in ecological sustainability. The numbers of visitors to the Royal National Park is just over 4.5 million a year, which shows the viability of tourism. Most visitors go to the Figure Eight Pools and Wedding Cake Rock to take photographs for Twitter or whatever—

Mr Alex Greenwich: Instagram.

Mr LEE EVANS: Instagram. Being so popular is a problem in itself. The numbers of people who go to Figure Eight Pools is ruining the environment. People ask to have better facilities but if we build them more visitors will come. I have been at Bundeena of a morning and seen Chinese people come over on a ferry. They sit at the bus stop for about 1½ hours and then ask if a bus goes to the Figure Eight Pools, which is about a two-hour or 2½ hour walk from Bundeena. Many visitors risk their lives as well as the lives of volunteers who save them should an accident occur. In this year alone, there have been 27 helicopter retrievals from Figure Eight Pools from people falling over and going out with the surf and scraping along the barnacles.

I also mention the cabin community along the Royal National Park who have been charged with looking after some of these visitors when they head out late in the afternoons to the Figure Eight Pools. They take their photos and start to head back when night falls. The people who have custodianship of the cabins take them in overnight, feed and water them, patch them up and then walk them out the next morning. They do it for free and it is part of what the community does, but we really need to warn people against putting their lives at risk, especially with the fire season coming up. There is also the danger of the deadly snakes that are found in that area, plus the blue-ringed octopus and everything else that is waiting to bite tourists who go to see the Figure Eight Pools. I must say the last report I had on pollution around the pools was not encouraging. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (18:15): I support the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018 and will support any move to add to the national park reserve. National parks are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation. New declarations are one of the most important actions this State can take to save our rapidly eroding biodiversity. We must continuously expand the boundaries of each park. I welcome the around 4,500 hectares of new land added across five existing national parks proposed under the bill. However, it is hard not to be cynical about the bill. The additions have few conservation outcomes and no impact on forestry or any other environmentally destructive activity. The bill reflects little more than a quick stocktake of unimportant unproductive land that can quickly and painlessly be converted to national park to give the Government an environmental win ahead of the next election.

There is significant and warranted criticism that this Government has stalled on national park and wilderness expansions and dedications. We have not seen any good news on the national estate since the 2012 creation of the Dharawal and the Berowra Valley national parks. Yesterday I read with great concern in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that in 2016 the Government dropped a plan to transfer almost 23,000 hectares of State forest to national park. Indeed, in the past eight years funding cuts and restructuring of the National Parks and

Wildlife Service has weakened its ability to maintain and protect our existing estate. Destructive activities including grazing, horseriding and development have been permitted on highly protected land. Of the five regions added to the national park estate under the bill, only the Mernot State Forest has some areas that could be logged. All other land comprises of informal reserves that are already protected. Indeed, it is unclear what objectives are being achieved in their transfer to the national estate.

The transfer of around 2,080 hectares of Carrai State Forest to the Willi Willi National Park is part of the Government's koala strategy, which promises to set aside large swathes of koala habitat for protection. As part of the strategy, the Office of Environment and Heritage has identified the key koala habitat in the State including koala hubs and priority areas for protection. But assessment by the North East Forest Alliance of documents accessed through freedom of information requests shows that of the 12 koala reserves proposed by the Government as part of its koala strategy 10 are already protected as informal reserve, only three have high-quality koala habitat, two of which have no recent records of habitat, four have no records of koalas at all and only two have records of habitat from the last decade. The parts of Carrai State Forest set aside for reserve have not been identified as providing koala habitat or koala hubs and I understand there are no recent records of koalas in the region. They are also already protected from logging as informal reserves.

Experts stress that if we are to save the koala from extinction in New South Wales we must identify and protect the areas where they live. Arbitrarily setting aside bushland in the hope that they will move there will fail. The Government is not being scientific but taking a haphazard approach that is nothing more than window dressing for political announcements. To save the koala we urgently must impose a moratorium on logging in koala hubs and create the Great Koala National Park. I support The Greens amendments in regard to that. It is high time we create a new national park. Less than 9 per cent of the State is protected under national park and many significant areas remain unprotected. Six bioregions and 49 subregions have less than 5 per cent of their area protected and 11 subregions have no protection at all. We need to work towards protecting 17 per cent of the State through national park, in line with Aichi Targets.

In addition to the Great Koala National Park, other priority areas include the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 and the Clyde Wild and Scenic River proposals. We must progress World Heritage listing of our rainforests and eucalypt forests. While this bill makes minor additions to the national estate, which is not a bad thing, it fails to achieve meaningful biodiversity conservation and should not be talked up as a major environmental win. As I said, I support amendments being moved by The Greens to reserve more than 200,000 hectares of critical biodiverse land, including for the Great Koala National Park, the Gardens of Stone and areas currently being destroyed by the Wallarah 2 and Maules Creek coalmines.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (18:20): It gives me great pleasure to support the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. I have been very pleased with the direction that the Minister for the Environment has taken in bringing the bill forward. The new additions to the New South Wales conservation network will make a significant contribution to biodiversity conservation in the State. They will provide important connectivity corridors to allow species to move across the landscape. They will provide habitat for a range of threatened species and ecological communities including the brush-tailed rock wallaby, the powerful owl, the spotted-tail quoll and, of course, the iconic koala. The bill is an example of how we are delivering the recently announced NSW Koala Strategy. The strategy commits \$44.7 million towards securing the future of koalas in the wild and is the biggest commitment by any State government to koalas.

A key pillar of the New South Wales strategy is setting aside large areas of land where koalas can thrive and where new habitats can be created. That includes adding more than 24,000 hectares of unproductive State forest to the national park estate to help secure the long-term future of koalas so that they continue to survive in the wild. The transfer of 2,080 hectares of Carrai State Forest to Willi Willi National Park through the bill is just one of the ways we are delivering on that commitment. That area was selected for its recognised koala habitat and its addition to the national park estate will improve connectivity of koala corridors in the landscape.

We have already fulfilled our pledge to protect koala habitat in two other State forests. More than 1,300 hectares of the Mount Boss State Forest near Wauchope was permanently protected and is now known as Kindee Creek State Conservation Area. In addition, some 590 hectares of the Oakes State Forest was added to Gumbaynggirr National Park, 35 kilometres west of Nambucca Heads. The bill also includes the transfer of other unproductive State forests to the New South Wales national park estate to protect other threatened species and significant areas of rainforest. The transfers are just part of the 43,000 hectares of land that will be newly reserved for conservation in New South Wales.

Recently my community and I campaigned for and the Minister granted just on 100 hectares of land at the back of Koala Beach near Pottsville as a future koala habitat and sanctuary. That is important, because we recently announced funding of \$350,000 to build the first koala chlamydia research station in the State. Chlamydia is a terrible disease and one in three koalas on the North Coast is infected. Our partner in this is the world renowned

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. I pay tribute to Dr Michael Pyne, who has been a vet there for some 30 years. We have also put another \$500,000 into the development of a chlamydia vaccine for koalas. One might wonder why koalas suffer from high rates of chlamydia. During their breeding cycle, which they are currently in, koalas have a tendency to have four or five sexual partners in 24 hours.

Therefore, the spread of any sexually transmitted disease is on the rise. We are building a number of pens so that over a three-month period the koalas can receive three injections of the vaccine and then be released back into the wild. This disease is one of the greatest threats to koalas. The reason that koalas often suffer so much from chlamydia is that they also often carry the AIDS retrovirus, which is significant in the koala population. The experts tell me that unless something is done, apart from the issue of habitat loss, all koalas will disappear with chlamydia and the AIDS retrovirus. I am pleased that this Government has recognised that and is putting funds into that issue.

Recently, Minister Gabrielle Upton was in our area and announced another 43 hectares at a place called Sleepy Hollow near Cudgera Creek Road. It is an important area because although it is not a significant amount of land, it locks in another wildlife corridor and increases the Cudgera Creek Reserve by 72 per cent. It also contains another nine species that are recognised under the State's Biodiversity Conservation Act. There is a great group called Team Koala, led by Jenny Haynes and Maria Smart. Team Koala is active in promoting the preservation of koalas throughout the Tweed. It has been a little controversial lately because it has been campaigning against the lead developer in the Kings Forest development up north.

More than 2,000 objections have been lodged against that development and particularly against developer and leader Bob Ell for trying to reduce the amount of koala habitat and for removing koala feed trees in the name of profit. I note with interest that he has recently been prosecuted in Queensland for the same thing. I stand with Team Koala and its protest against that development for removing feed trees and reducing wildlife corridors. Koalas are a threatened species. Apart from what this Government is doing in the rest of the State, in my electorate it is clearly committed to koalas. It is doing practical things such as vaccination research into chlamydia and research into the koala AIDS retrovirus.

I am pleased to note that Taronga Zoo Sydney and Taronga Western Plains Zoo have recently formed a significant partnership with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. They treat more than 300 North Coast koalas per annum and are a significant player within the market. Team Koala is also out there doing its bit and has recently received a grant to spread education in schools and create greater awareness. One of the issues that was raised is that even though there are massive concerns about the Kings Forest estate, koalas being devastated and trees being chopped down with little regard, this is the site where the Labor Government plans to build the brand-new Tweed Heads Hospital.

Without any reference to the health infrastructure and the bureaucratic process and without listening to the experts, the Labor Party has decided it will build the hospital on Kings Forest. "Bugger the koalas, bugger the people of the Tweed. We are just going to do this." It is amazing. I wondered, why is this occurring? As mentioned in this Chamber, that developer was a major donor to the New South Wales Labor Party—now the lights have gone on. "Bugger the koalas. Let us worry about our mates and major developers." The people of the Tweed will not stay quiet. We love our koalas and we will protect our koalas. More importantly, we will be open and transparent. I have a great deal of faith in health infrastructure. The Government has released an ecological report, or environmental impact statement, which is currently on public exhibition. It reveals the truth of the matter—koalas are threatened.

This Government is taking positive action to support koalas and look after their environment, but it is doing this in a scientific manner and not just to get a quick media grab. That is important because we have seen many quick media grabs by members opposite. The end result is that nothing is achieved or maintained, which is to the detriment of our environment, our iconic koalas and many other species that inhabit our State conservation areas and national parks. I used to live not far from the Royal National Park. It is an iconic place and all we can do is protect it. I note that the member for Heathcote and Temporary Speaker has fought fiercely for the protection of that park and for the ongoing future of the wildlife and fauna within that area. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (18:30): I contribute to this debate on the national park estate (unproductive State forest reservations) bill 2018. I and my Labor colleagues will not be opposing this bill. I commend Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Michael Daley, and the Hon. Penny Sharpe in the other place for their leadership in this area. I will use my contribution to this debate to highlight Labor's proud record when it comes to national parks in New South Wales and to outline some of its recently announced plans to build on that legacy. While I must admit that I am surprised to see a bill expanding our national park estate come from members opposite, one only needs to look at the name of the bill to see how they truly feel about the environmental protection and conservation of our great State.

The bill relates to unproductive State forest reservations—the implication being that the only worthy reason for making a national park is if we cannot do something more productive with that land. In my experience, I have found national parks to be incredibly productive in their own right. They are productive in producing the clean air we all need to breathe and in many cases they are productive in creating significant tourist attractions and subsequent economic benefits. While it is disappointing that the only reason the Government has introduced the bill is because the lands in question are not wanted by its mates in the logging industry, one cannot look a gift horse in the mouth. My reason for saying that is, particularly in relation to national parks, that in the eight years of this Liberal Government those gift horses have been incredibly rare.

Over the 16 years of the last Labor Government the size of the national park estate was increased by almost 200,000 hectares every year. Eight years into this Government those opposite have not even reached half that amount. The estate has increased by just 75,000 hectares across the past eight years that this very conservative Coalition has been in Government. The neglect of our national parks by members opposite has not only been limited to their failure to expand the estate but also they have actively cut more than \$120 million from the National Parks and Wildlife Service over the past two financial years. So ashamed are they of their terrible environmental record that they are now refusing to provide figures for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the 2018-19 budget. This is more of the secrecy that has characterised this Government. Those budget cuts have a real impact. More than 60 ranger positions have been cut, 25 area managers have gone and more than 20 field officers are no longer in the field. In total, almost 250 staff have been axed from the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an outcome of those harsh cuts.

Who could forget the brainwave from the Minister for Roads, saying that the new F6 motorway would be built straight through the Royal National Park? We have a couple of members of the Royal family in town at the moment. Maybe we could get their thoughts on the Minister's plans to build a freeway through the National Park named in their family's honour? As is the case with most things these days, the bill also demonstrates the enormous division between the Liberal Party and its Coalition partners, The Nationals. Today we are debating the bill introduced by the Liberal environment Minister from the eastern suburbs of Sydney while at the same time the member for Murray is threatening to introduce a private member's bill to open up the Murray Valley National Park for logging. The chaos and division of those opposite on something as simple and fundamental as protecting our precious natural environment is truly astounding. The contrast could not be greater between members opposite and members on this side of the Chamber when it comes to national parks and environmental protection more broadly.

While they fight amongst themselves about the need to prioritise the logging industry ahead of national parks, New South Wales Labor is on the front foot in advancing our State's national park estate. A couple of weeks ago I joined the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Minister for the Environment and Heritage in the other place, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, to announce New South Wales Labor's plans for a koala national park in Campbelltown's backyard—a 4,000-hectare commitment to preserve government-owned land along the Georges River between Glenfield and Appin that is prime habitat for Campbelltown's precious and disease-free koala colony. This national park will be supported by a commitment to ensure that infrastructure upgrades in the region, particularly along Appin Road, will include necessary wildlife protection measures, including overpasses, underpasses and exclusion fencing.

Labor has also committed to establishing a koala care centre in the Macarthur region, similar to those already in existence at Lismore and Port Macquarie, and to which the member for Tweed referred. This will support the Macarthur region's threatened koala colony, which is of course the last disease-free koala colony in our State. The Government's NSW Koala Strategy identified the need to transfer State forest land to the national park estate, but rather than starting with areas that have a high environmental value, the Government has started with the scraps that the logging industry simply did not want. It is worth noting that Labor's announcement of that national park alone is about the same size as the five national parks proposed in the bill, and from my discussions with the shadow Minister I am confident Labor will have much more to say about national parks in the lead-up to the next election.

I conclude by reiterating that the Government bill is a surprising, albeit somewhat disappointing, expansion of our State's national park estate. This Government continues to demonstrate, at best, ignorance and, at worst, contempt for our State's precious natural environment. I am proud of Labor's commitment, indeed our legacy, historically and going forward, to protect our State's environmental beauty. I look forward to being part of a Foley Labor Government that will deliver that in my community's backyard, through the Macarthur Koala National Park. I thank all my colleagues for their passionate advocacy, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Michael Daley, pointed out so thoroughly.

I believe this issue must never be overlooked or used in any way other than for environmental preservation and protection. The State is growing, and no better example of that is my beloved Macarthur region

and indeed south-west Sydney. It is accepted that people want to live in our beautiful area but we must have protection measures in place to preserve our valuable green space and indeed our koala colony. Whilst Labor supports the bill as being a step in the right direction, much more work needs to be done. The Government has limited credibility at best on this discussion. I thank the House.

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (18:38): I am pleased to speak in support of the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. The electorate of Clarence has numerous national parks, including Yuraygir National Park and Bundjalung National Park on the coast and Washpool National Park and Guy Fawkes National Park inland, to name a few. They bring nature to our doorstep, make it a great place to live, are great tourist attractions, wonderful places for locals to enjoy on weekends and go camping, and we value them greatly. The creation of new parks and reserves is an important demonstration of how policy decisions taken by this Government balance long-term sustainable and reliable timber supply while maintaining, and where possible, enhancing environmental and conservation values.

The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to a sustainably managed forest estate that underpins a dynamic, economically efficient forestry industry, while continuing to deliver social and environmental benefits. This is in keeping with the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap, which was released in 2016 and is now into its second year of implementation and, I am happy to say, delivering its key objectives. The roadmap outlines a triple bottom line approach to social, environmental and economic sustainability. It is important to note that the existence of the timber industry and a sustainable national park are not mutually exclusive; they can coexist.

Indeed, both are sustainable if they are managed appropriately and properly. Logging that occurs in State forests is managed appropriately. Protocols exist to manage logging in State forests and, in particular, protocols for dealing with koala habitats. Where koalas are seen in an area, scats are visible on the ground or scratch marks are apparent on trees identifying an area as a koala habitat, the area becomes a no-go zone. The timber industry understands that and adheres to the protocols. That is why some of the State forests have been declared national parks; they have been managed effectively by the logging industry and sawmillers in the area.

A guiding principle of the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap is that policy decisions will balance long-term sustainable and reliable timber supply with the maintenance of environmental values. The creation of these new parks and reserves is an example of this policy in action. The New South Wales Government is delivering actions and reforms that are modernising our land management and conservation laws, enhancing our protected areas and preserving our iconic species. On 6 May 2018 the \$44.7 million NSW Koala Strategy was released. Under the strategy more than 24,000 hectares of State forest is being set aside for koalas, while \$20 million is committed to purchase and permanently reserve properties containing priority koala habitat.

The National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018 is enabling more than 4,500 hectares of unproductive State forest to be transferred to the national park estate. This is in addition to nearly 2,000 hectares of koala habitat that was added to the national park estate on 21 September 2018. The lands to be transferred through this bill are part of a broader range of government announcements that will see more than 43,000 hectares of land managed for conservation outcomes in New South Wales. More broadly, the New South Wales Government has increased funding to \$1.9 billion in 2018-19 to enable a valued and protected environment and heritage. This includes \$632 million—that is \$2.5 billion over four years—for national parks, walking trails, public parklands and gardens to improve livability and sustainability and increase tourism. The budget increases the amount government spends to purchase conservation land over five years, improving protection for a vast range of habitats, ecosystems, plants and animals.

The New South Wales Government has also delivered on an election promise to modernise the State's land management and conservation laws. On 25 August 2017 the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, the Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016 and supporting regulations commenced. The legislation establishes strong offences and tougher penalties for illegal clearing and harming threatened species. The reforms are supported by an unprecedented investment of \$100 million over five years in the Saving our Species program, which aims to secure the future in the wild for as many threatened species as possible. This is in addition to \$41.3 million on reintroducing locally extinct species to remote national parks. The New South Wales Government has also committed to a new private land conservation program of \$240 million over five years to 2020-21 and \$70 million per annum beyond the first four years.

This clearly demonstrates the Liberal-Nationals Government's strong commitment to the environment and its conservation. As I said before, national parks and State forest can coexist and are sustainable. While these parcels of land contain significant biodiversity and conservation values, the transfer will not impact wood supply or the important regional jobs that are created by our timber industries. My electorate has a sustainable and viable timber industry and a significant area of national parks. Both are important to our local economy. The lands selected for transfer were identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage in collaboration with the Forestry

Corporation. This is a great example of government entities working in partnership to deliver positive outcomes for the State.

The transfers are not just about hectares of land but represent strategically important areas that add value to the existing reserve system, adjoin existing parks or support the creation of important movement corridors for wildlife. The new parks and reserves include sites that have been identified by the Office of Environment and Heritage for their specific conservation values. They contain important habitat for threatened species and ecological communities. They will be worthy additions to the New South Wales national park and reserve estate. I am very pleased to support the bill.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (18:45): On behalf of The Greens, I participate in debate on the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. While The Greens support the very modest addition of approximately 4½ thousand hectares to the national park estate, this is a far cry from what is critical for conservation—especially for koalas. Every member of this House recognises that koala numbers are in dangerous decline. If we are serious about saving koalas, we need to ensure that the key factor in their decline is reversed; in other words, we must prevent the destruction of their habitat. It is interesting to consider the history of national park reservations and the work done by the Koala Foundation. In 1924, 600,000 koala skins were purchased just in New South Wales alone. The koala population in this State at that time was really quite amazing. But now, of course, there are probably less than 100,000 koalas across the country, which is a real shame considering the animal is so iconic.

The Greens consider that the bill and the Government's Koala Strategy are woefully inadequate. Faced with climate change and unprecedented losses of global biodiversity, including the rapid decline in the number of koalas, we should be embracing an ambitious and visionary plan when it comes to our national parks. Instead, we have a proposal before the House to reserve a tiny area of land—only 4½ thousand hectares. Claims have been made that that land is being reserved to protect koalas, but we are not preserving a single area of genuine koala habitat. Most of the areas referred to in the bill do not have a single koala recorded and are outside the regions that the Government's own mapping has identified as critical koala habitat.

In contrast, areas with high conservation value seem to be in many National Party electorates such as the State forest near Kempsey, the Yarratt State forest near Taree and the Carwong State forest near Casino—and have been overlooked. We know that those areas have high conservation value when it comes to koalas. Eighty-two per cent of the Government's new koala reserves are already protected from logging in informal reserves and so are not actually new. Ten out of 12, which is more than 90 per cent of the area of koala reserves, are being given only the much lower protection of flora reserve status rather than national park status. Only 14 per cent of koala hubs, which are basically areas in which koalas are present, are protected in national parks. The Government's new koala reserves cover just 0.2 per cent of hubs; therefore, 86 per cent are vulnerable to logging, clearing and urban development.

It is important to address the matters I have referred to, but we should also recognise that the Government's record on national parks needs a great deal of improvement. All members of this House have heard about budget cuts and the loss of experienced front-line staff from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. However, I take this opportunity to say that the National Parks and Wildlife Service staff who are working at Callan Park are doing a fabulous job. In my view, they deserve a lot more support—in particular, financial support—to help to manage a site that needs immense investment. We know that 4,700 hectares of World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park is being threatened by the proposal to raise the wall of the Warragamba Dam. We also know that the Government's record of gazetting additional national parks is very poor compared with other governments. The Greens believe this Government could do much more to improve the current arrangements.

The Greens believe this Parliament should be embracing the National Parks Association's "50 Parks" proposal; end logging in native forests; protect Sydney's water catchments that are not already reserved as national parks; protect new key areas that provide recreational and conservation opportunities for the residents of south-western Sydney, notably the Upper Georges River Regional Open Space and the Nepean-Bargo gorges; protect high-conservation and iconic additions within the Greater Sydney area, including Brown's Forest and the Blue Gum High Forest, O'Hares Creek Crown lands, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust lands, and the famous Kellys Bush and Currarong Beach addition to the Ku-ring-gai national park. The Greens also believe there should be a reservation of important North Coast parks for the protection of koalas, coastal wetlands and river catchments, including the Great Koala National Park, Sandy Creek, the Lansdowne Escarpment and additions to Barrington Tops, Wallis Lakes and the Cattai Wetlands.

The Greens also think it is important that key South Coast reserves should be reserved, including those formerly set aside as flora reserves under the regional forest agreements as part of the comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system that protects key koala habitat and resolves conflicts in land use with coastal reserves. The Greens believe there should be a transfer of 16 State parks that currently do not have protected area

status. They should form the basis of a statewide system of regional national parks. The Greens also support the protection of marine areas for the Sydney (Hawkesbury Shelf) Marine Bioregion, the inter-tidal zones adjoining existing coastal parks as well as wild and scenic river status for the Clyde River on the South Coast.

The Greens strongly support the National Parks Association and its members' view that there should be a resolution of longstanding community concerns in relation to conflicts between mining interests, logging and conservation interests for Gardens of Stone stage two and the Pilliga, as well as a simple addition of internal travelling stock reserves to the Sturt National Park. The Greens also think it is important to reserve previously identified flora reserves within the south-west slopes near Tumut, which have been identified as potentially part of the comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. The Greens believe all the matters to which I have referred are important for this Government to consider.

The Greens have given serious thought to this bill and recognise that a balance needs to be achieved. There has been a claim that The Greens suggested that 75,000 hectares of land for national parks was proposed and then greatly reduced by this Government after pressure was applied by National Party members of Parliament. I take this opportunity to confirm that that did not come from The Greens: We did not make that assertion. Of course, The Greens are concerned about that assertion because since the Liberals and The Nationals have come to power we have seen a significant reduction in average annual additions to our national park estate, a massive increase in deforestation and a koala plan that fails to protect koalas. No-one can disagree with the assertion that an enormous amount of clearing has taken place under this Liberal-Nationals Government, which has had a significant effect on the State's ecology.

Mr Stephen Bromhead: We can disagree.

Mr JAMIE PARKER: It is very difficult to clear land and then say that it does not have an effect on ecology. The Greens intend to move amendments to improve the legislation. The Greens amendments will mirror the proposal that has been developed by the National Parks Association by adding 176,680 hectares from 45 State forests, excluding areas of existing plantations, to 49 existing national parks and State conservation areas around the Coffs Harbour region. The Greens support this visionary proposal. It is an incredible opportunity to protect important koala habitat, place the Mid North Coast on the map for tourists, generate vital local employment opportunities and create a great national park on the Mid North Coast.

A range of people and organisations in my electorate have approached me about the very difficult and challenging issue concerning the Gardens of Stone State conservation area. It is a significant problem. We support that area being included in national park, but we also recognise that the Colong Foundation has put forward a proposal to consolidate three existing State forests as a 39,000-hectare Gardens of Stone State conservation area adjacent to the existing Blue Mountains National Park. That would create a world-class conservation and ecotourism reserve in an area that is in need of rapid economic diversification and would benefit Lithgow's workers, economy, community and environment. The resulting Gardens of Stone reserve would provide greater conservation outcomes for the ancient and globally significant pagoda landscapes adjoining Lithgow where the "lost villages" of intimate sandstone pinnacles are bounded by forest and spectacular escarpments with Aboriginal rock art, canyons and waterfalls.

While we have stated that we do not support continued underground mining in this area, this amendment would make the area a state conservation area rather than a national park and ensure that existing coal licences in the area will not be extinguished. This will allow underground mining to continue while making transitional use of the existing infrastructure in the area, such as the established road access, to develop appropriate recreation facilities and build on a vibrant tourist economy for Lithgow. This bill is welcomed, although it is a very modest addition. It is clear that the Government has not stepped up to the plate and made significant complements to address habitat destruction and reverse the dangerous decline of koala populations, not to mention other flora and fauna in our beautiful State. I commend the issues that I have raised to the House and encourage members to support The Greens amendments.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:55): I do not oppose the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. The bill will transfer 4,500 hectares of unproductive State forest land to the national park estate from 1 January 2019 in five separate transfers. But, in a similar vein to the promises made in the Koala Strategy about transferring State forest land to become koala reserves, the Government has prioritised the addition of forest identified as unproductive rather than beginning by identifying land that has the highest environmental and conservation value. The Minister for the Environment stated in her second reading speech that the transfer of this land will not impact timber production or supply. This would appear to be the Government's primary objective. The Government's agenda for national parks is directed completely by anti-conservation forces within the Coalition. While any addition to the national park estate by this Government is rare, it must be supported.

This is a drop in the ocean. Since coming to office almost eight years ago, the Coalition has increased national parks and reserves by 1 per cent—or 75,000 hectares in total—whereas Labor, in the 16 years from 1995 to 2011, increased the national park and reserve estate by 75 per cent. That is 1 per cent compared with 75 per cent, adding 3.05 million hectares—which is equal to 3.8 per cent of all New South Wales land—to the estate. The Coalition's record represents adding an average of 9,978 hectares per year. Compare that with Labor's record of adding 190,450 hectares each year we were in office. This highlights the Coalition's dire record in comparison to Labor. At the current rate it will take the Coalition more than 300 years to match Labor's record of expanding and enhancing New South Wales national park estate.

I turn to the National Parks and Wildlife Service budget cuts. Some \$121 million was cut from the National Parks and Wildlife Service over two years, 2016-17 and 2017-18, through a budget reduction, massive budget underspending and efficiency dividend reductions. The Government now refuses to provide standalone budget figures for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2018-19. However, we know the Office of Environment and Heritage overall budget was cut by \$66 million in 2018-19, in addition to a large underspend of \$165 million from 2017 to 2018. This cut and underspend means there is \$231 million less funding available to spend on the environmental challenges facing New South Wales.

While it is all well and good for the Coalition Government to boast about this very minor addition, it needs to look at the money it has cut. Associated with that are staff cuts. Permanent ranger positions have been cut by 26 per cent since the Coalition took office in 2011—down from 245 permanent rangers in July 2011 to 181 in July 2017. Area manager positions have been cut by more than a third—down 35 per cent from 71 in 2011 to 46 in 2017. The number of permanent field officers has also been reduced since 2011, with 563 staff—which is 23 fewer than in 2017. In total, 246 full-time equivalent staff—or 13 per cent of all staff—were cut from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2016-17. This is in addition to previous cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It previously suffered a \$24 million budget cut in 2014-15. The Office of Environment and Heritage has had \$75 million in efficiency dividend cuts since 2012. All environment agencies combined have had \$93 million in efficiency dividend cuts since 2012.

Ms Liesl Tesch: Shame.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP: I note the comment by the member for Gosford. I am flabbergasted by this Government's cut, slash and burn approach to the Environment portfolio. On another interesting note, it has been revealed that in 2016 a plan to add 75,000 hectares of State forest to the national park estate was slashed by the Government to just 23,000 hectares to exclude forests in seats held by The Nationals members of Parliament, who objected to the potential loss of access to timber. But even then the reduced plan was scuttled when Gladys Berejiklian became Premier. I outline some other travesties of environmental vandalism that this Coalition Government is proposing. It is proposing laws to allow the inundation of 65 kilometres of World Heritage protected Blue Mountains National Park as part of the proposed project to raise the Warragamba Dam wall. If passed, it risks the World Heritage status of the Blue Mountains National Park—which is the highest level of protection given to precious natural areas. The proposal is the equivalent of dredging the corals of the Great Barrier Reef.

Another travesty is that the Government passed laws to protect wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park—feral horses—above all other environmental and cultural values in the park, ignoring the science and the irreversible damage that unmanaged wild horse populations have done to the park and the unique threatened species that live there. It will lead to irreversible damage to soil, water, threatened species and endangered ecological communities. The Nationals member for Murray, Austin Evans, has dramatically promised to introduce a bill this week to overturn the Murray Valley National Park and again allow logging in the globally significant red gum forests of the Riverina. What a disgrace.

The Government has also proposed that the F6 motorway could run through the first national park ever declared in Australia—Sydney's Royal National Park. Meanwhile, the Government has failed to continue pursuing World Heritage listing for the park. There are estimates that 100 senior National Parks and Wildlife Service firefighting staff will be made redundant across the State—replaced by less experienced, junior staff—leaving them short of experienced firefighters who can coordinate and manage complex bushfire responses as well as develop firefighters.

[*Interruption*]

There have been a few comments from the peanut gallery opposite. Obviously this is a bit of a sore point. We have had shocking cuts to national park budgets and staffing at about the same time as the latest parks visitation survey reveals that the public's love affair with national parks continues to grow, increasing 32 per cent from 39.2 million to 51.8 million in the latest 2016 report. This is happening on the watch of the same Minister for the

Environment who signed up to new land-clearing laws even after being warned by her own department that the laws would allow 99 per cent of koala habitat on private land to be cleared.

Ms Liesl Tesch: Shame.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP: It is an absolute disgrace. The record is a disgrace. This Government is a disgrace.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:03): I am proud to be in this Chamber today as a member of the Labor Party to speak in debate on the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018 and support the transfer of 4,500 hectares of unproductive State forest land to the national park estate. As we get closer to the next election—and I am sure beyond it—we will have a lot more to say about national parks and the proud history of the Labor Party and national parks. I am in this Chamber following on from Bill McKell, the Labor Premier who created the Kosciuszko National Park in 1944. This Government wants to destroy that park by allowing horses to run free in it. I am here as a member of the Labor team following on from Neville Wran, who saved the rainforest in the north of the State, expanded the Blue Mountains National Park, created Wollemi National Park, stopped sandmining in coastal national parks and established Australia's first wilderness park.

It was the Carr Labor Government that saved the coastal forests in the State's north-east and south-east, created more than 1,000,000 hectares of new parks in western New South Wales and banned the large-scale clearing of native vegetation. One-third of the coast is now permanently protected and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS] and 20 new national parks have been created—thanks to Labor. In 16 years, Labor governments created three million hectares of new national parks, building one of the most diverse and comprehensive park systems in the world. Labor is the party of national parks in New South Wales. This State's park and reserve estate is larger than Tasmania thanks to Labor governments.

It is sad for the people of New South Wales that this Government is not prioritising the addition of forest that has the highest environmental and conservation value. It is a slap in the face to think the Government is splurging \$2 billion on rebuilding stadiums while neglecting and underfunding our national parks and removing resources from the Office of Environment and Heritage. While the Government went on a spending spree, the last budget provided no new funding for the environment. The Berejiklian Government has no vision for nature conservation in New South Wales. Today's legislation is a drop in the ocean for a Liberal Government that has stripped and slashed its way through the national park system since coming to power.

To put today's figure into context, the 4,505 hectares in this bill represent only 0.1 per cent of the national park estate. While I welcome any and all additions, what we have seen over the past eight years cannot be forgotten. The Berejiklian Government has ripped up land-clearing laws and cut \$121 million out of the NPWS. In eight years, the Government has added fewer than 70,000 hectares to the conservation network compared with Labor's three million hectares when it was in government. At that rate it would take the Government around 330 years to match Labor's record of expanding and enhancing the reserve estate. This Government's record speaks for itself: Almost nothing has been added to the conservation network over two terms of government, there have been disgraceful cuts to the rangers and staff who look after our national parks, and land-clearing laws have opened up the State to bulldozers.

The McKell Government left a legacy, the Wran Government left a legacy, and the Carr Government left a legacy. Why does Premier Berejiklian refuse to leave a legacy that she could be proud of by better protecting and recognising our national parks? It is sad that the Government is not adding additional State forest land to our koala reserves given that their habitats across New South Wales are in dire circumstances. The Minister for the Environment signed new land-clearing laws even after having been warned they would allow 99 per cent of koala habitat in this State to be cleared. While the Government provided \$800,000 this year to fit radio collars to koalas, it is estimated that our koalas are worth \$3.2 billion to the Australian economy every year and that they support 30,000 jobs. That is a pretty miserly investment.

Just this year, 14 more New South Wales plant and animal species were added to the national threatened species list or had their threatened status deteriorate further. Under the Berejiklian Government there are now more than 1,000 threatened animal and plant species in this State. However, it is not only flora and fauna that have become endangered under this Government. NPWS staff numbers have been reduced drastically, with 26 per cent of permanent rangers cut and 35 per cent of area managers gone since 2011. The electorate of Gosford has already been impacted by cuts to staffing and management of the NPWS in New South Wales. Having watched NPWS staff work with Rural Fire Service staff in dealing with a fire at the western edge of the electorate last year, I am fearful for the safety of people living on the edges of our magnificent national parks given the staff cuts.

It is no surprise that this Government is prepared to transfer only land that will not impact timber production or supply. The electorate of Gosford will always celebrate any addition to our national parks. We will

enjoy the extension of the important Yengo National Park. I celebrate that on behalf of Aboriginal people in our community and in all the communities around Mount Yengo—the Darkinjung, Guringai, Wonnarua and Awabakal peoples and the Birpai to the north. They understand the incredible importance of Mount Yengo, which stands at the centre of the Yengo National Park.

Mount Yengo is the sacred place where the Aboriginal spiritual ancestral hero—for want of a better term—Baime stepped down from the sky and jumped back into the spirit world after creating the mountains, lakes, rivers and caves in the area. Baime flattened the top of Mount Yengo. As the mountain and as part of Mother Nature, she could also be called the mother echidna who cared for her babies—the smaller mountains—in our region. The area around Mount Yengo is home to magnificent petroglyphs that are tens of thousands of years old and which provide maps and teachings as an ongoing part of Aboriginal culture.

As a member of the New South Wales Parliament, I am honoured to have visited a number of these sites, and to have received some of the teachings of our First Nations people. We, as elected representatives, have an important role in ensuring that Aboriginal cultural heritage has the strongest possible protection and that the petroglyphs and rock art in Yengo National Park are acknowledged as an important part of our cultural heritage. Extending the protection of Mother Earth and the cultural heritage of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in the expansion of national parks in New South Wales is a privilege. While I would ask for more from this Government, I commend to the House this first step in a possible further expansion of the legislation.

Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (19:10): I welcome the Labor Party's endorsement of the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018, and particularly the Yengo National Park, which is one of key areas that the Liberal-Nationals are adding to the conservation area. I welcome the fact that, apart from legislating for the Willy Willy National Park, Budderoo National Park, Curracabundi State Conservation Area and Yengo State Conservation Area, the Coalition Government is working to achieve a balanced response not only to development in New South Wales but also to environmental outcomes, particularly for flora and fauna.

I have been in this place long enough to see statistics change and for them to be used in certain ways, particularly in respect of land reservation. Having been a Minister responsible for Crown lands and having half of my electorate still designated as Crown land—that is, the western lands leases—I know that while times have changed the commitment to preservation by people living on the land and with the land in community has not changed. I welcome the Opposition's support for the bill, but I remind members opposite that the Crown land reservation in this State 10 years or 15 years ago was far less than 10 per cent. That has changed significantly, and I recognise the work done by previous governments, on all sides, to preserve our flora and fauna reserves.

However, what is not acknowledged enough in this place is the work done by private landholders across the State to achieve sustainable outcomes. It is not solely the Government's remit to be the custodian of outcomes and balanced land-use practices. Although people invoke Indigenous cultural values, I have spent my life involved in those values and I respect their perspective enormously. Those traditions have been passed on to other custodians in shared stewardship across the country. To say that flora and fauna conservation is the sole remit of government is a little arrogant and naive.

I point out to members opposite that 87 per cent of this State is still in private landholder ownership or stewardship—whether that be through freehold titles, Crown reserves or leases. Most of those people do a very good job. I could take members to vast parts of the State that have far greater tree cover than there was prior to European settlement more than 200 years ago. Our knowledge of the land and how it behaves is a little naive. I refuse to be lectured by some of the inner-urban groups that have put bitumen and concrete over every square metre of their space to determine land values under their agreements and then say, "We know we have green space problems in our areas but let's take the moral high ground and look for the offsets in some of the regions."

We have sustainably managed our part of the world over a long period of time—well over a century—and I would back the work that has been done by the Country Party and The Nationals now in coalition with the Liberals over any other government. Some people have a capacity to reinvent history about what has been allowed to happen in the past in our extractive industries. Let us take the example of the Pilliga Forest and the Warrumbungle National Park. Under the Wran Government four conservation areas were set up, including a very large area for timber extraction and multiple use that included coal and gas extraction. The now flip-flop Opposition is opposed to a title, which was set up by Labor in conjunction with The Greens, to extract natural resources from an area that is still under a managed agreement with the Government and the community. I find that both naive and duplicitous. It suits them in one political term to set aside 186,000 hectares under a Labor-Greens agreement, but in a very significant component of that area they can still get timber and extract coal and gas.

Exploration licences were given out willy-nilly with no due diligence but, under some cosy deal between Labor and The Greens in the upper House for preferences, Labor gets to divvy up all the coal and gas exploration

licences in the State and The Greens have a fair bit to say about land use management, whilst farmers have restricted multiple land use options—whether it be clearing or selective thinning of trees. I repeat, it is rather naive to see people come from one political cycle to the next and articulate a backflip. We will not be lectured by those opposite on land use management. The North Coast should be preserved under its multiple land use and environmental values largely because country and regional people have represented them both State and federally for a very long time. We get the balance right because we live there. Indeed, that is why I suspect the seat of Lismore will be returned to The Nationals at the next election.

Mr Adam Marshall: Ballina.

Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES: Sorry, Ballina—I thank the member for Northern Tablelands. We will also obviously retain Lismore. I will not be a member of this place for much longer but I can inform the House that 186,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest was set aside as an offset under Labor to develop the Cumberland Plain in Western Sydney. It is my understanding that a number of deals were done by Labor Ministers at the time to trade off the Cumberland Plain, a unique and environmental biodiverse section of the Sydney Basin, to land developers. The Cumberland Plain—I am not hearing much opposition from those on the other side—basically went from Parramatta west to Liverpool, to Penrith—

Mr Jamie Parker: We are being polite.

Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES: So be polite while I tell you that the offset for that development was the Pilliga Forest and a number of developments out west. I refuse to be lectured by those opposite on how much of this State has been set aside for Crown reserves. They should go back to their reference to Indigenous people because the people who live, work and are integrated in that land management process are the best stewards we have got. In rural New South Wales we have evolved from our Indigenous ancestors. We have learnt along the way—whether on the North Coast or out west—and we are doing it better. The flat earth ideology of some of those opposite needs to be exposed. We all know the world is not flat; it is round. We now have a broader view of life because we are better informed by science and more involved with our communities.

The greatest changes to climate in this country have resulted from urbanisation and heavily urbanised areas. This Government is trying to get it right. I would prefer to be sitting on this side of the Chamber and taking a balanced view of development right across the board. This legislation is a good news story and I am pleased to support it. However, other parts of the estate need to be added—namely, flora and fauna corridors in addition to koala corridors. I repeat, this Government is far better placed to balance the strategic management of this estate both now and into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (19:20): On behalf of The Greens I contribute to debate on the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill 2018. I also support the contribution of the member for Balmain as to the detail of the bill. While it may be contrary to popular belief for those who do not understand the connection of people in the city to the vast landscapes and beautiful environment that New South Wales has to offer, the people who live in my electorate and the inner city value our national parks and the need for conservation. They also value the importance of providing absolute protection for our koalas in this State.

It is clear from the media release issued by the Minister for the Environment, Ms Gabrielle Upton, earlier today, titled "Greens wrong on national parks", that she is slightly unhappy about The Greens having exposed the reality of the complete hypocrisy of the Liberals and The Nationals purporting to provide amazing protection for our national parks and koalas. However, as my colleague in the upper House Ms Cate Faehrmann, MLC, said:

Since the Liberals came to power we have seen a 94 per cent reduction in average annual additions to our National Parks estate, a massive increase in deforestation and a koala plan which fails to protect koalas. Earlier I checked Twitter to see whether, on her visit to Taronga Zoo this morning with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex for a photo to be taken with namesake koalas Harry and Meghan, the Premier mentioned that today in this Parliament the Liberals and The Nationals would be failing to take the necessary action required to protect koala habitats in this State. My guess is she probably failed to mention that. Some members in this place, including the member for Ballina, understand that koalas are a national treasure. Indeed, in the lead-up to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games the member for Ballina questioned the contradiction that koalas, a natural treasure being forced into local extinction, were being used as iconic mascots at those games. Clearly, this bill and the Government's koala strategy are unacceptable. They are not delivering what is needed. Instead, we are seeing a complete failure to take the opportunity to protect our koalas and their natural habitat. The Greens are committed to embracing the 50-part proposal of the National Parks Association of NSW.

We believe that we need to end logging in native forests to protect Sydney's water catchments not already reserved as national parks; protection of key new areas which provide recreational and conservation opportunities for the residents of south-western Sydney; protection of high conservation and iconic additions within the Greater

Sydney area; reservations of important North Coast parks for the protection of koalas, coastal wetlands and river catchments including the Great Koala National Park; reservations of key South Coast reserves; reservation of previously identified flora reserves within south-west slopes which have been identified; and resolution of longstanding community concerns in relation to conflicts between mining interests, logging and conservation for Gardens of Stone stage 2 and the Pilliga, as well as simple addition of others.

It is absolutely clear that what we are seeing is a commitment to the idea of providing genuine protection, the idea of the National Parks Association with 50 Park Proposals. The Greens will move amendments in this place. My Greens colleague Jamie Parker, the member for Balmain, will move amendments to try to improve this bill so that we actually see some changes that will mean real protection for some of our national park conservation areas, real protection for koalas and a koala strategy that is in line with expert advice, science, communities and the people who are most concerned with seeing that our koala habitats and koalas are protected now and in the future.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (19:25): I make a contribution on the National Park Estate (Reservations) Bill. This is a good bill. Making additions to the national park estate in New South Wales is always welcome, but the bill disappoints me in many ways. This is not about the most high conservation value parcels of land that could be added to the national park estate; it is about unproductive State forests. It comes from a government that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. It thinks the price of this land is close to zero, so it will put it in the national park estate for some brownie points in the lead-up to the election. That attitude is disappointing and unsurprising. It is a silver lining on a very big cloud, which is the approach that this Government has taken to the environment over the last eight years.

This Government has added very little to the national park estate. Over the eight years, the national park estate has been increased by only 1 per cent, compared to the 16 years when Labor was in power, when the national park reserves were increased by 75 per cent or more than three million hectares. On a year-by-year basis under the Coalition, there are less than 10,000 hectares per year, compared to more than 190,000 hectares per year during the 16 years that Labor was in office. That reflects the different priorities of the Labor Party and the Liberal-Nationals when it comes to nature conservation.

Today we are looking at some important additions to national parks but it would be better if they were driven by high conservation values, rather than unproductive State forests. More than 2,000 hectares of the Carrai State Forest will be added to the Willi Willi National Park, 120 hectares of the Yarra State Forest will be added to the Budderoo National Park, more than 1,000 hectares of the Mernot State Forest will be added to the Curracabundi State Conservation Area, 647 hectares of the Yengo State Forest will become the Yengo State Conservation Area, and around 500 hectares of the Muldiva State Forest, west of Dorrigo, will be vested in the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

These are all important additions to those national parks and State conservation areas, but they do not take away from what this Government has done to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and to the National Parks and Wildlife Act, for that matter. There have been more than \$100 million in cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. There have been dozens of staff cuts. The Government has cut permanent ranger positions by more than 25 per cent in the last eight years, from 245 permanent rangers to 181 as of July last year. The cuts have had a huge impact on the capacity to manage the national park estate, to maintain it properly, to police it, to look after it to make sure that preparations are carried out for fire mitigation and to make sure no illegal activities are going on in those parks. All that capacity is reduced and the environment protection of those parks is reduced by having fewer staff in the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

While this is a welcome addition to the national park estate, only a few months ago we watered down the National Parks and Wildlife Act by passing laws that will allow wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park greater protection than the rest of the park. Having the overriding value for that national park be a feral animal, rather than the native flora and fauna resident within that park, was really disappointing. We will also shortly debate changes to the Blue Mountains National Park, which will allow the inundation of 65 square kilometres of a World Heritage-listed national park to raise the Warragamba Dam wall, which is an election stunt and a final parting gift to the property developers of Western Sydney, who will put another 100,000 people in the flood plain in Western Sydney.

This Government has delivered some of the worst environment Ministers we have seen in the State. A previous Minister for the Environment said that koalas benefit from logging. The current environment Minister's support for koalas is not nearly as great as her support for brumbies. There is a place for brumbies in the national park but that should not override every other consideration of the Kosciuszko National Park—which is doing under this Government. Its koala strategy will deliver nothing in terms of koala protection. It goes nowhere near Labor's commitment to establish the koala national park, which is a proper commitment to supporting koalas on the North Coast. It goes nowhere near the strategy that Labor has announced for supporting the koala population

in south-west Sydney, a population that is constantly being undermined by the growth in residential development in nearby areas.

As much as the Opposition wants to—and does—commend the addition of this 4,500 hectares of unproductive State forest to the national park estate, in comparison to what Labor has done in office previously, it is just a drop in the ocean. Choosing the land on the basis of it being unproductive is disappointing. What should drive additions to the national park estate in this State should be their high conservation value. What should drive additions to the national park estate in this State should be the preservation of threatened species, including iconic species like the koala. But I expect very little from a Government that has prioritised commercial interests over the interests of the environment time and again. Its land clearing laws are an absolute disgrace. There has been a rapid acceleration in greenhouse gas emissions caused by land clearing. The Government is also considering overturning the Murray Valley National Park in the south-west of the State to allow logging back in for the River Red Gum Forest—that is also an absolute disgrace.

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage) (19:33): In reply: I thank all members for their contribution to the debate. In particular, on this side of the House, I thank the member for Heathcote, the member for Tweed, the member for Clarence and the member for Barwon. This bill is an important milestone. It reaffirms the New South Wales Government's commitment to biodiversity conservation, including to the iconic koala. The bill will transfer more than 4,500 hectares of State forest to the national park estate. You cannot argue with that. This is another win for the environment. Therefore, it is another win for the people of New South Wales.

What the Opposition and The Greens fail to acknowledge is that the areas are specifically chosen as transfers to the national park estate for their conservation and connectivity value. They have been scrutinised carefully and are being specifically transferred because they have the quintessential quality of conservation value and connectivity. The selection criteria for areas to be added to the national park estate includes the availability of suitable habitat for koalas and other native species. It seems the Opposition and The Greens have been asleep. Those areas form only part—I emphasise part—of transfers of unproductive State forest to the national park estate. These form a small part of the recent announcements that will see more than 43,000 hectares of land managed for conservation outcomes. The Opposition and The Greens have not acknowledged that.

I will now go through what those parcels include. There are 24,000 hectares of new koala parks and reserves that are part of the NSW Koala Strategy—a comprehensive strategy, a sophisticated strategy, a good strategy that was announced in May this year by the Premier and me. There will be 5,400 hectares added to the national park estate, and 14,200 hectares of State forest will be dedicated as flora reserves and transferred to the care of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I remind the House that just over 51 years ago it was the Liberal-Nationals Coalition and National Party member Tom Lewis that set up the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Tom Lewis was a proud Minister in this House. He was distinguished in his service to the Government and people of New South Wales. He was the member for Wollondilly in this House from 1957 to 1978. It was his vision that established the National Parks and Wildlife Service that we celebrate 51 years later.

Since 2011 when the Coalition Government took power in this State, more than 75,600 hectares have been added to the national park estate. More than seven million hectares of New South Wales are managed and protected for conservation by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. That is something of which our Government is very proud. When we do add to the national park estate, this Government does so in a targeted and smart way. We do not want to put people's livelihoods at risk. We put people first. The plans talked about by those opposite would necessitate people losing their jobs and livelihoods. Country towns that have proudly built their communities around the timber industry would vanish.

Labor and The Greens support a radical plan to lock up State forests. Those radical plans will affect the livelihoods of people in regional communities. They do not represent those people in this Chamber and do not understand the valuable communities they form across New South Wales. Their employment, sustenance and future relies on an industry that the Coalition Government must support. I will address comments made by other members in this Chamber. A number of members have spoken in debate, including the members for Maroubra, Newcastle, Gosford, Balmain, Newtown, Granville and Sydney. I thank those members for supporting this bill. Many of them have made comments clearly in support of the bill while having a sideswipe on the way through, to say that they are happy but they are not happy. They cannot have it both ways.

There are a number of issues I will address. As I have said on a number of occasions, the areas dedicated today are but a small portion of unproductive State forests being dedicated to the national park estate. The announcements have been made throughout the year. The areas have been chosen for their conservation and connectivity value. They have been scrutinised for the extra value that they can add to a national park estate. We are adding, through all of the commitments that the Government has made this year, to important koala habitat, coastal upland swamp, threatened ecological communities in the Upper Kangaroo Valley, significant areas of

rainforest in the Upper Hunter and sites of significant cultural heritage. We are protecting a diverse group of assets by adding them into the national park estate.

It is wonderful to see the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Forestry Corporation working collaboratively to identify State forest suitable—I emphasise suitable—for addition to the national park estate. The lands are only a small part of what we will see at the end of the work that we are doing, with more than 43,000 hectares of land managed for conservation outcomes. Due to the different land tenures and categories of land that comprise the 43,000 hectares the processes of those transfers will vary. That is why today we see only part of that—4,500 hectares—that needs to be transferred by way of a bill through this House. An Act of Parliament is required. With the other transfers an Act of Parliament is not required.

I note that more than 3,700 hectares of the transfer before this Parliament tonight are in national park electorates. Accusations have flown about cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Labor and The Greens want to ignore the facts. The Government is now recruiting for National Parks and Wildlife Service staff. There will be an additional 119 full-time positions—opportunities for young people in our regional communities and opportunities for our Aboriginal people to have employment and dedication to a national park estate that would not otherwise be available. These are the facts—not the lies perpetrated in this House tonight by the Opposition of cuts to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. That is simply not true. A majority of those new full-time positions will be frontline roles.

I value the contribution of all of our National Parks and Wildlife Service staff across New South Wales. They do a wonderful job: They educate communities across the world in state-of-the-art firefighting in parklands, help people who visit national parks and carry out essential pest and weed control across regional communities. It is ironic for one of the members in this House to bring up the brumbies bill. When it comes to horses, the only one the Leader of the Opposition values is the one he can place a bet on. Those opposite do not value the horses this Government has protected in a bill that recognises and celebrates the heritage value of the brumby while protecting the national ecological value of Kosciuszko National Park.

Labor's Great Koala National Park is a gimmick. We did the costings of the proposal recently announced by the Leader of the Opposition to save 400 koalas in this proposed Great Koala National Park. It was going to cost up to \$320 million to roll it out in the way his announcement suggested. That is \$800,000 per koala. The point I would make is that the money can be better spent in the smart, targeted and sophisticated way that this Government has committed to. It has committed to sustain and build the koala population in New South Wales.

We are doing it in ways to build koala hospitals; to do research to address the impacts of chlamydia, which were mentioned by the member for Tweed earlier tonight; to train our vets in specialist techniques to sustain the population when koalas are injured; to address hotspots where there are road kills across the State; to make sure that we build the roads, barriers and bridges to preserve our koala population; and, indeed, to grow and sustain them. Our package that was announced in May is sophisticated and comprehensive—not the gimmick that Labor chose to announce recently, which will cost many times more, lock up land, and not provide a comprehensive solution, which the Coalition has done earlier this year.

The New South Wales Government has a proud record of delivering for the environment. It will oppose the amendments that have been foreshadowed by The Greens: one in relation to the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area and one establishing its own Great Koala National Park, which would lock up nearly every State forest across New South Wales. For the reason that I have already made clear in this House, the Government will oppose both foreshadowed amendments.

It is easy for Labor and The Greens to talk in this House in Macquarie Street without looking into the eyes of the people who potentially will lose their jobs and homes as a result of some of the arguments that they choose to use for this bill. I believe that the Liberal-Nationals Government has the balance right. It is conserving the ecological value and the conservation value of those parts of New South Wales—unproductive State forests—that meet the standards and that can contribute to that valuable resource across New South Wales. We also must provide a future for regional communities that rely on our timber industry. There is a role for a sustainable timber industry.

It is shameful that a number of lies have been told in this House again. The Government is building our National Parks and Wildlife Service with jobs. There are no budget cuts. To mention that in the context of this discussion that it is but a part of a broader comprehensive package of dedications to the national park estate—more than 43,000 hectares—is dishonest on the part of Labor and The Greens. The Government is doing a sensible, good, comprehensive job to preserve conservation values across our community, to sustain a timber industry where people deserve to have jobs and to sustain our regional communities. It is getting the balance right.

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

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mr Jamie Parker.

Consideration in Detail

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): By leave: I will deal with the bill in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 9 be agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 9 agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that schedule 1 be agreed to.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (19:48): I thank the Minister for the clarifications in her speech. I appreciate the time she has taken to address some of the issues. However, I am disappointed that the Minister has indicated that she will not support the amendments. I note that on advice from the Clerks, there has been a change to the order of amendments on sheet C2018-126: amendment No. 1 has been renumbered No. 2 and No. 2 has been renumbered No. 1. I move The Greens amendment No. 1 on sheet C2018-126:

No. 1 **Additional national park**

Page 7, Schedule 1. Insert after line 14:

3 Great Koala National Park

The dedication of the land known as the following State forests is revoked and the land is reserved as the Great Koala National Park, but not including any area that is zoned as a special management zone under the Forestry Act 2012 as Forestry Management Zone 5 or 6:

Bagawa State Forest
Boambee State Forest
Boundary Creek State Forest
Buckra Bendinni State Forest
Chaelundi State Forest
Clouds Creek State Forest
Collombatti State Forest
Conglomerate State Forest
Diehappy State Forest
Ellis State Forest
Gladstone State Forest
Gundar State Forest
Hyland State Forest
Ingalba State Forest
Irishman State Forest
Kangaroo River State Forest
Little Newry State Forest
Lower Bucca State Forest
Marara State Forest
Marengo State Forest
Mistake State Forest
Moonpar State Forest
Muldiva State Forest
Nambucca State Forest
Nana Creek State Forest
Never Never State Forest
Newry State Forest
Nulla-Five Day State Forest

Oakes State Forest
 Old Station State Forest
 Orara East State Forest
 Orara West State Forest
 Pee Dee State Forest
 Pine Creek State Forest
 Roses Creek State Forest
 Scotchman State Forest
 Sheas Nob State Forest
 Tamban State Forest
 Tarkeeth State Forest
 Thumb Creek State Forest
 Tuckers Nob State Forest
 Viewmont State Forest
 Way Way State Forest
 Wedding Bells State Forest
 Wild Cattle Creek State Forest

The amendment lists a range of areas that, in our view, should be included in the national park. This reflects a proposal that has been widely supported around New South Wales. It mirrors the proposal that has been developed by the National Parks Association by adding 176,680 hectares from 45 State forests, excluding areas of existing plantations, to 49 existing national parks and State conservation areas around the Coffs Harbour region. In our view, this is a visionary proposal and an incredible opportunity to protect important koala habitat, place the Mid North Coast on the map for tourists even more than it is at the moment, and generate vital local employment opportunities. I have previously addressed the reasons why this is important and I encourage the House to support the amendment.

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage) (19:50): As I foreshadowed in my speech in reply, the amendment is not supported.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that The Greens amendment No. 1 on sheet C2018-126 be agreed to. A division has been called for. There being fewer than five members for the question, the question is resolved in the negative.

Ayes, 2

Ms J. Leong
 Mr J. Parker

Amendment negatived.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that schedule 1 be agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that schedule 2 be agreed to.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (19:52): It is disappointing that neither Labor nor the Coalition supported The Greens amendment No. 1. Sadly, members of the Labor Party have left; we would have encouraged them to come in and support us. I move The Greens amendment No. 2 on sheet C2018-126:

No. 2 **Additional state conservation areas**

Page 8, Schedule 2. Insert after line 10:

3 Addition to Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area

The dedication of the land known as the following State forests is revoked and the land is reserved as a part of the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area:

- (a) Ben Bullen State Forest,
- (b) Newnes State Forest,

(c) Wolgan State Forest.

There has been a great deal of controversy and support for the protection of this area. In my electorate of Balmain, I have met several residents and organisations that strongly support protection of this precious and important area. This amendment reflects a proposal put forward by the Colong Foundation to consolidate three existing State forests as a 39,000-hectare Gardens of Stone conservation area adjacent to the existing Blue Mountains National Park. We think this is important. It is an incredible area and, as I have said previously, the proposal would create a world-class conservation and ecotourism reserve in an area in need of economic diversification for the benefit of Lithgow's workers, economy, community and environment. This would provide greater conservation outcomes for the ancient and globally significant pagoda landscapes adjoining Lithgow. We believe that this is incredibly important for this area, with its spectacular escarpments, Aboriginal rock art, canyons and waterfalls.

Members know that The Greens have publicly stated that we do not support continued underground mining in this area but this proposal would make the area an State conservation area rather than a national park and that would ensure the existing coal licences in the area would not be extinguished. This will allow underground mining to continue while making transitional use of the existing infrastructure in the area such as established road access to develop appropriate recreational facilities to build a vibrant tourist economy in Lithgow and the surrounding area. We believe that this should have a high level of protection, but that this proposal would reflect the position of the Colong Foundation. We believe it is worthwhile to put to the Government and we trust it is something that all members would consider supporting.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that The Greens amendment No. 2 on sheet C2018-126 be agreed to. A division has been called for. There being fewer than five members for the question, the question is resolved in the negative.

Ayes, 4

Ms J Leong
Mr J McGirr
Mr J Parker
Mr G Piper

Amendment negatived.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that schedule 2 be agreed to.

Schedule 2 agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin): The question is that schedules 3 and 4 be agreed to.

Schedules 3 and 4 agreed to.

Third Reading

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Private Members' Statements

NSW HEALTH WORKPLACE BULLYING

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:57): I speak on behalf of members of my community who have seen firsthand the debilitating effect that bullying has on individuals, families, and workplaces. In just the 18 months that I have been a member of this place, I have been approached too many times by victims who have experienced severe bullying while employed by the New South Wales Department of Health. These are smart, dedicated and qualified people who have committed their working lives to serving the people of this State, but were either forced out by bullies or can no longer bring themselves to go to work and continue to experience the terrible conditions they are being subjected to.

In a historical case that I am advised still has not received a suitable conclusion, Peter and Dora Rea, both employees of NSW Health, were bullied out of their jobs and blacklisted from ever working in the department again. Mr Rea detailed his experiences in a long and moving letter to me, not only outlining all that he saw and experienced, but also the effect it has had subsequently on his ability to find work, his health, and the wellbeing of his family. It is truly crushing to read of a dedicated professional, taken down in his prime, over petty office politics. Mr Rea worked for Health for 15 years before the bullying started in 1993. He says that he saw systems at Central Coast Health misused for the gain and advancement of others, all of which was sanctioned by top management.

Appalled by the misappropriation of public funds for personal gain, Mr Rea started his fight, but instead of being able to work for the community, he and his wife ended up spending years fighting their own government to the highest levels. Mr Rea tells of his experience of both he and his wife being threatened and intimidated and of his being dismissed and then reinstated in a dead-end job, while his wife highlighted a separate incident of misappropriation and being moved out of the department she had worked hard to establish, which destroyed her career. Over the next five years while they fought for justice, Mr Rea claims that every dirty trick in the book was pulled on them, but in the end they were forced from the workplace completely. No work and no pay went on for 2½ years.

This destroyed Mr Rea, who says that he had no grandiose dreams in life, just a few very achievable plans that relied on a fair wage and fair treatment where he could work for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. His plans for family, for his mother, for his kids and for grandkids were destroyed. Names that Mr Rea says are responsible for his treatment, and those who he says helped cover it up, are household names that I will not mention here, but I have provided them to the Minister for Health for his attention and action. It took Mr Rea and his wife eight years to get an investigation and a report into his treatment. I am advised that the report found treatment including: the administration of the Health Service pursued a course, which was unfair; denial of procedural fairness; treatment that was harsh and unfair; and in all circumstances subjected to unfair treatment.

In bureaucratic language, that might be read as an admission of guilt on behalf of NSW Health. Despite this report, the situation did not get much better for Mr Rea, and to this day is seeking an apology from NSW Health about his treatment and for the financial compensation that Mr Rea advises was first promised as recompense for his treatment way back in 1998. Mr Rea and his family have been through a lot, but we should not think that these tales of bullying are behind us.

More recently, I have been visited by a group of staff currently employed at Gosford Hospital, concerned about bullying and work culture. Although it is my understanding that a number of investigations have been undertaken and reports compiled detailing the concerns of staff, and that some actions have been taken to address the complaints, little has changed. Reports have been compiled and committees have been established, but no recommendations have been seen and no further action has been taken to address the issues that staff live with every day. Staff have informed me that bullying is rife in other parts of the hospital as well, but they are too scared to speak up. The policy and procedures are in place, but people are too scared to use them because they do not want to lose their job.

It appears that work is being done by the Central Coast Local Health District and the hospital to work towards addressing the treatment and experience of workers, but without action on these reports, staff are left wondering what the point of it all has been. Very concerning for the Central Coast community is that I am advised that staff are leaving the hospital and NSW Health due to this culture. Losing experienced health workers is a great loss to the hospital and our community. The stories of bullying and nepotism concern me greatly and I hope they can be addressed. I want our hospital and its entire staff to be focussed on delivering great health outcomes for the Central Coast community.

AMAWATURA BUDDHIST CENTRE

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (20:02): It gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of the House the upcoming Katina Ceremony hosted by the Amawatura Buddhist Centre, which will be held at the Senior Citizens' Community Centre in North Rocks on 26 October. Katina is one of the most significant and important events in the Buddhist calendar, dating back to the days of the Buddha over 2,500 years ago. It is celebrated around the world by the Sinhala Buddhist community. The Buddhist community celebrates several occasions and two of the significant are the day Buddha was born and he passed away, which is called Vesak Day. The other most important one is the Katina ceremony.

Full moon days are also considered most important in the Buddhist calendar and many Buddhists observe noble eight precepts on the day and spend it in retreat in noble silence wearing white clothes and a white shawl around their shoulders to signify they have observed the noble eight precepts. Generally white clothes are worn whenever Buddhists attend the temple. This year's ceremony will be attended by many devotees from the Sinhala Buddhist community. Monks from many temples including Cambodian, Shaolin, Vietnamese, Laotian, Korean, Bangladesh, and possibly Sri Lankan and Myanmar have also been invited to join this memorable occasion.

I recognise the Amawatura Buddhist Centre Committee and make special mention of Mrs Sunethra Balasuriya, Mrs Ranjanie Dhammapala, Mr Tharaka Manawardhana, Mr Chavisanka Dissanayake, the Sunethra family, their relatives and friends and other committee members for their hard work and contribution to the temple and for making all their ceremonies a success.

The Amawatura Buddhist Centre was established in 2016. There are only two predominantly Sri Lankan Buddhist temples to serve the Sri Lankan Buddhist community and other interested groups in New South Wales that number over 30,000 people. The Amawatura Buddhist Centre is located in Carlingford and serves the personal, cultural and spiritual needs of the Sinhala Buddhist community with Sinhala speaking Buddhist monks who are well versed in the Sinhala Buddhist traditions. The centre aims to provide the Sinhala Buddhist community with the opportunity to give to others as an act of virtue in their homes. Monks provide for the spiritual needs of the community through Pirith, which is a Sinhala word that means protection, and chanting, counselling, blessing of newborns and visiting the sick in hospital and at home.

The Amawatura Buddhist Centre also provides other Buddhist cultural activities such as holding the annual traditional Vassa followed by the Katina Pinkama and celebrating Vesak in the traditional manner. Those events help to bring the Sinhala Buddhist community together. I was privileged to join many devotees and Sinhala speaking Buddhist monks at last year's event, which started with the chanting of Buddhist scriptures and blessings, and offerings to the Buddha. Presided over by a senior monk, the ceremony is carried out according to strict Buddhist cultural principles.

The Amawatura Buddhist Centre is a member of the Buddhist Council of New South Wales. The idea to establish the centre was conceived during a visit by the Venerable Ratmalana Sri Sumana Nayaka Thero, Anunayake of the Amarapura Sangha Sabha, and the Venerable Hapugoda Buddhadatta Thero to Australia in 2015. Today the centre offers daily meditation and weekly Gilanpasa Puja on Saturdays and Dhamma School on Sundays. I thank Dr Gamani Goonetilleka for the kind invitation to attend this year's event. I also wish the Amawatura Buddhist Centre committee, monks and the many devotees all the best for the important upcoming Sinhala Buddhist event. I am sure that this year's Katina ceremony will be another beautiful and traditional Buddhist cultural occasion.

PORT MACQUARIE MISSION AUSTRALIA

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (20:06): I acknowledge the brilliant staff of Mission Australia at Port Macquarie and thank them for their support for a national plan to end homelessness in Australia by 2030. Mission Australia Chief Executive Officer James Toomey recently visited my electorate to discuss issues pertaining to homelessness in Port Macquarie and to create a dialogue surrounding the risk factors and potential strategies to support the ongoing issue in our region. Port Macquarie Mission Australia staff John Talamaivao, Karen Quinn, Kellie Ansell, Robyn George, Bev Bernard, Robyn Richardson and Nicole Rowe attended a meeting with Mr Toomey to speak about the recent youth survey conducted on youth homelessness, which sadly suggests that 15.6 per cent of young people are living on our streets in Australia. Mission Australia is a fantastic ambassador advocating for children's safety and welfare in our community. Its workers pride themselves on ensuring zero tolerance of abuse and neglect while combatting homelessness, and assisting disadvantaged families and children suffering from mental health problems, substance abuse and unemployment.

On the Mid North Coast, Mission Australia has been supporting families and advocating for reforms to tackle homelessness in our region for the past 16 years. It provides social housing to low and moderate income households and offers intensive case management supports to families experiencing parenting and family issues through its Brighter Futures Program. The local team at Mission Australia is highly trained to offer support for a wide range of mental health issues faced by those who are disadvantaged. They offer a number of mental health programs aimed at targeting complex situations involving domestic violence, substance abuse and disability support. Through the Family and Carers Mental Health Program, Mission Australia offers group support to carers of people who have a mental health disorder. The specialist service program aims to build capacity and empowers carers by facilitating specialist training to support the enhancement of learning and development needs. Support groups are client led and directed—supporting "client voice" to help shape and steer the program.

Another significant program gaining momentum is the Youth On Track early intervention program that provides intensive case management for 10- to 17-year-olds. Youth On Track identifies and responds to young people at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. Another highly regarded program within the Mission Australia portfolio is the Partners in Recovery mental health program that aims to provide cross sector support for participants with severe and persistent mental health issues. The program also assists current participants under the National Disability Insurance Scheme to ensure that adequate assistance is obtained through the client's ongoing package. During his visit to Port Macquarie Mr Toomey outlined the importance of getting on the front foot to tackle the growing rate of homelessness in the community. He encourages all tiers of government—including developers and town planners—to play their role to support the end of homelessness by 2030.

Leading the way to accomplish that ambitious directive so that no-one is left sleeping on our streets is the multi-organisation campaign that encourages the community to join the Everybody's Home initiative, which focuses on a five-step approach to combatting homelessness. The five-step approach is creating a discussion

surrounding additional support for first home buyers by looking more in depth at a national housing strategy, securing a better deal for renters, identifying immediate relief for Australians in chronic rental stress and locking in a plan to end homelessness.

I acknowledge the work of Mission Australia in my electorate as it focuses on key issues to target risk factors associated with homelessness in our region. The fantastic staff who work across from my office in Grant Street strive on a daily basis to achieve real outcomes through the amazing strategies and policies they have in place to support the homeless and the disadvantaged living in our region. Without Mid North Coast Area Manager Nicole Rowe and her dedicated team of professionals programs such as Parents Next, which assists parents to plan and prepare for employment before their child reaches school age, would not be achievable. I thank Mission Australia staff on the Mid North Coast for their valuable contribution to our region and their focus on immediate support and preventative measures to ensure that men, women and children in our community are not forgotten.

INTERCITY TRAIN FLEET

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (20:10): The new intercity train fleet is shortly due to come into service on the line between Newcastle, the Central Coast and the city. Recently, the member for Gosford and I attended a meeting with train guards who highlighted some worrying information to us. The member for Terrigal is probably aware of this as well. The new trains have been designed through tender not to have guard stations, therefore abolishing train guards from trains. The trains will only have a driver on them. It is a real concern. Even though the trains will have new technology that will help the driver to monitor what happens at stations, it is clear that just having a driver is not enough. The member for Gosford is aware of the stories that were highlighted to us. Recently a lady fell between the platform and the train at Woy Woy and another lady fell at Gosford. In both cases the train guard was able to come to the aid of those women; the driver was not in a position to see what had happened. The fact that train guards were there saved those people's lives.

After attending the meeting I did some research into the issues that our train staff face. One of the biggest problems is suicide. We do not talk about it a lot in the community because we do not want people to become copycats, but the number of people killing themselves by jumping in front of trains is on the rise and it is a real concern. The research shows that the train driver is often understandably traumatised. When someone jumps off an overhead bridge or moves in front of a train and is hit the driver obviously becomes very upset. If the driver is the only staff member on an intercity train and there is no guard it will mean that there is no trained person who can go to the person's aid or lend assistance. That is a real worry. Several stories have appeared in the media about train drivers being traumatised by suicides.

I was interested to hear that guards are trained in first aid. A long train journey from the Central Coast to the next part of the urban area at Berowra can take about 40 minutes. If someone becomes ill on the train and there is only the driver to respond, the train has to stop and the driver has to respond to that illness or accident, or whatever it is. At the moment, a train guard can carry out that role and the train can continue to the next station where the passenger can get assistance.

We underestimate the role of train guards in the system. Designing the new system without guards is a serious safety issue. They do not just sit in the cabin and not interact with anyone. Train guards are like surf lifesavers on the beach—they are there when they are needed. If they are not there when they are needed, what will people do? I can imagine that if there is an accident—and we have had a few accidents on that line—and the driver became disabled as a result, we could literally have 2,500 people on a train with no staff and only a recorded public address system announcing, "Please stay seated. Do not panic." It is clearly not good enough. Although I do not support it, I understand there may be an argument for no guards on some of the city lines where there are short distances between stations. However, on those long-haul journeys of more than an hour, only having one person on a train who is responsible for all those people is not good enough. We must retain those train guards.

LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE YOUTH SERVICES

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (20:15): We often hear that it takes a village to raise a child. While I am not sure that the adage is entirely true all the time, it is certainly true when it comes to protecting, growing and encouraging vulnerable young people in our local communities. The Lake Macquarie community is no different to most, with many young children and adults finding themselves on the wrong life path for a variety of reasons. The electorate's youth unemployment rate is roughly the same as the State average at 10.3 per cent, but its youth crime rate has generally been falling for some time. I am particularly pleased about the latter statistic as there are many people and agencies in the Lake Macquarie area who work together to protect our vulnerable young people, keeping them on the right track, providing pathways to reform, and helping them find new opportunities.

Our police and justice system are vitally important in creating good outcomes when our young people are, for whatever reason, at risk. Recently I was pleased to receive an update from Magistrate Ellen Skinner on some of the great initiatives and youth services that are employed throughout my electorate that provide opportunities for young people appearing in the Children's Court. In 2009 Magistrate Skinner became the youngest Magistrate to be appointed in New South Wales. Having worked as an Aboriginal Legal Service provider for some years, she has served as Magistrate at Broadmeadow Children's Court since 2017.

The court, which hears the majority of juvenile cases in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area, now hosts a meeting every two months which brings together managers from Police, Education, Health, Juvenile Justice, Family and Community Services, and local non-government organisations involved in providing services to young offenders. The meeting aims to provide an oversight for youth workers to assist in ensuring that government agencies are delivering the services needed. So far it has been working very well. The court also hosts an afternoon tea every three to six months that brings together people working in the youth services sector to discuss issues and share ideas.

Among other initiatives, Family and Community Services now funds an outreach worker to provide referrals and support to young offenders. I am told that this initiative is assisting in reducing youth homelessness, conflict and the number of children who remain in custody because appropriate accommodation is not available to them. Allambi Care, a prominent non-government service provider in my electorate, also funds a youth case manager who attends court every Monday to speak to young offenders, identify needs, and assist with referrals. It also has recorded early success. Two young offenders who frequently appeared before Magistrate Skinner last year have been able to make vast improvements to their lives and have stayed out of trouble for almost a year. It is a fantastic achievement for them.

A collaboration of services including local police and Police Citizens Youth Club centres developed a 10-week life skills project called Leaders in Training [LIT]. The pilot program has been running throughout Lake Macquarie and early results suggest it is also doing well and may be extended into other areas. LIT is backed by a number of organisations including Wesley Youth Services, APM Employment, Family Planning, TAFE, the Salvation Army, Relationships Australia, and local police. It targets anger management, drug and alcohol issues, employment and education issues, general life skills, sexual and mental health, and even cultural issues. These are just some of the initiatives happening in my community. I am proud of the way that various agencies are collaborating to make good adults out of our vulnerable young people.

There is no magic wand we can wave to keep our kids out of trouble. Substance abuse and mental health issues are still significant issues in our communities, as is youth homelessness and proper education. As I mentioned earlier, it sometimes takes a village to raise a child well. I am buoyed by what is happening in my electorate. I have had regular meetings with Superintendent Danny Sullivan, the District Commander of Lake Macquarie Police District and a friend of the member for Terrigal. He has a particular interest in identifying and protecting vulnerable or at-risk young people. He has told me that he is proud of the role that senior constables Lisa Thompson, Vanessa Ell and Darren Martin have had in working with others through LIT to assist younger members of the community. He was particularly complimentary of Magistrate Skinner's role. I thank the police, the agencies and the many individuals such as Magistrate Ellen Skinner for the work they are doing, for the commitment they are providing to this important sector, and for the opportunities and hope they are providing to young people in Lake Macquarie.

SOUTH COAST TRAIN SERVICES

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (20:20): I speak on a very important victory for the community that I and my colleague the member for Wollongong represent. From January next year we will get additional carriages on our afternoon peak train services. Temporary Speaker Crouch would know, as someone from outside of Sydney, that train services are particularly important for those people who spend an enormous amount of time commuting every day. The commuters I represent spend in excess of three hours a day commuting. An hour and a half each way is the approximate average time, but that does not include the additional time it takes to get to the station. By the time we add it all up, the journey time may be around about three hours, but for many people the actual time is probably closer to three and a half hours.

What were those people experiencing? The afternoon service that leaves Central Station at approximately 3.22 was always packed. Having travelled on that service a number of times, I have seen people arrive approximately 20 to 25 minutes before the train departed Central Station to take a seat on the train. Those commuters who could not get to the station early because of a minor thing called work commitments then faced the arduous journey, having to stand for most of the way. We can appreciate that standing for more than an hour each way it is very different to standing for 15 to 20 minutes, as many city commuters do. It is very uncomfortable and difficult. Many of those people are elderly and have mobility issues. Some commuters were forced to go into

the toilet to sit down for five or 10 minutes and some sat in the vestibules of the carriages. That is not the way public transport should be delivered, nor does it incentivise people to catch public transport.

I thank the community of the great electorate of Keira for getting behind this campaign. The campaign to acquire additional carriages has been going on since changes were made to the timetable in 2013, but in the last couple of years it has accelerated. I thank the many thousands of people who have signed petitions, emailed me, called me, spoke to me at street meetings and signed letters in their simple request for additional carriages on those peak services. I spent too long corresponding with Minister Constance; it should never have taken this long. This issue should have been sorted a long time ago. We did not need the carry-on that we have seen from the Minister or his treatment of South Coast commuters. This should have been solved a long time ago with additional carriages.

I thank the Illawarra Rail Fail group for its advocacy, support and great commitment to the campaign. In particular, I thank my colleague Paul Scully, the member for Wollongong. He comes from a community where the commuters are in a similar position to my commuters—they are stuck on these very, very overcrowded carriages for long periods of time. I reiterate that this issue has gone on for too long. If the Government had listened sooner the issue could have been resolved sooner. I urge the Government to remember that many of those people do not commute for 15, 20, 25 or 30 minutes. People from the communities of the Central Coast, the Hunter, the Illawarra and far Western Sydney have to commute for many hours each day. It is a difficult situation and I urge the Government to prioritise those outlying communities when it is looking at timetable changes and the allocation of new carriages.

HORNSBY STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (20:25): Tonight I acknowledge the sixtieth anniversary of the Hornsby State Emergency Service [SES] and in doing so acknowledge 60 years of outstanding and dedicated community service by some wonderful volunteers in that period. Since 1958 the Hornsby SES unit has been on call for our community when we face a crisis. In weather when no-one else would dare leave their house, the SES is always there. They are amazing and today I thank them publicly for their dedication to our community. Hornsby has faced a number of devastating storms over those past 60 years and the community feels secure knowing that the wonderful men and women involved in the Hornsby SES are always ready to answer the call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Formed just three years after the State Emergency Service Act of Parliament in 1955, the group originally started by giving talks to the local community on what to do if a nuclear bomb was dropped on Australia. Their first home was in Hunter Lane in a small shed on the grounds of the Hornsby Council Depot. In 1965 the Hornsby SES assisted with a major bushfire that started in Hornsby Heights and travelled towards Mount Colah. At the time there was no Hornsby Heights Rural Fire Service and all help was needed to assist with the blaze. This massive fire led to the formation of the Hornsby Heights Rural Fire Service. By 1973 the Hornsby SES unit had 20 members, two vehicles, an ex-Army truck and an old bushfire brigade four-wheel drive [4WD]. Today the unit has grown to 120 active members and attends thousands of jobs not just in Hornsby but all over the State. The surge in numbers was due mainly to the devastating storm of 1991. The storm ripped through many suburbs in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai areas, leaving them looking like a war zone. It tested the SES volunteers, who worked for weeks to repair the damage but it also saw many community members answer the call and join our local SES.

Over the past 60 years the unit has had only six local controllers: Len Williamson; Colin Gale; Bob Leisk; Lawrence Jones; Colin Hamer; the great Bob Corbett; and Reinoud Beijerinck, who took the reins in May 2016 and is still the current controller. I thank those men for their service to their unit and our community. They not only provide assistance during an emergency but also are required to undertake training to ensure the safety of themselves and others on the team. The local controller provides leadership and support for all volunteer members of the Hornsby SES, who are also called upon to assist with emergencies across the State. They have provided assistance during the Newcastle earthquake, the Thredbo landslide, the eastern suburbs hailstorm, the Wollongong flash flooding and the Casino floods. More recently they have assisted during the Central Coast floods, the Blacktown hailstorm and the Kurnell storm. On average the Hornsby SES attends more than 1,000 jobs each year, which is a phenomenal achievement for this local unit.

To assist the volunteers the unit now has three modern response trucks, four 4WD vehicles, two flood boats and multiple-purpose trailers, which is a big step up from their two trucks in 1973. However, those vehicles and the equipment maintained by the SES are required to ensure the safety of our entire community. Over the past two years, thanks to the efforts of Ross Wallace, the Operations Centre has been refurbished. An outdated room has been transformed into a state-of-the-art area with six video screens and a functioning communications centre. This year has seen the transformation of the downstairs area to include a members lounge, team muster area, climbing and rope access training points, and improved storage area. Ross has been integral in the transformation of this space, along with Scott Guy, James Logan and Tony Hine. Many of the volunteers have worked four to

five days a week in the lead-up to the sixtieth birthday celebrations to get the unit ready for the party. I thank them for their hard work to ensure that the unit has the very best equipment and facilities to assist when disaster strikes.

I was pleased to attend the sixtieth birthday celebrations, which included the unit's first ever Open Day. Five hundred community members were able to enter the facilities, take a tour and see how the SES deals with a disaster. Michelle Whye and Chris Mawn were the organisers of this event and it went off without a hitch; it was a job very well done. I was pleased also to see Ankur Chaudhary receive his 15-year National Medal, Controller Reinoud Beijerinck received an award for 10 years of service and Haywood Yeung received his five-year award. I have named a few of the 120 valuable members of the Hornsby SES. I thank every member for the work they do to protect our community. Every day of the year, no matter what the conditions, we know we can count on the SES to be there. I congratulate Hornsby SES on reaching this significant milestone and thank its members for including me in their sixtieth anniversary celebrations. I urge all the volunteers to continue their good work; the Hornsby community thanks them for their service.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch): I thank the member for Hornsby, and Minister, for his acknowledgement of Hornsby SES, which does a wonderful job. I thank them for joining us on the Central Coast when we had the floods.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:31 until
Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 10:00.**