

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 14 November 2018

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given.]

Petitions

SOUTH COAST RAIL LINE

Discussion

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (10:10): I am privileged to lead the discussion on the petition calling on the Government to improve services and funding for the South Coast railway line. I thank all 10,000 people who signed and shared this petition so it could be brought to the attention of the House today. I also acknowledge the work of the Shoalhaven group of unions, Labor candidate for Kiama Andy Higgins, and Labor candidate for Heathcote Maryanne Stewart, and thank them for continually advocating for better public transport services for their communities. I note that the Labor candidate for South Coast, Annette Alldrick, members of Unions Shoalhaven and South Coast residents are in the gallery. I know that they have worked hard and I thank them sincerely for bringing this petition to the House.

The Opposition understands that residents and commuters of the Illawarra and the South Coast are frustrated because they have long been neglected by this Liberal Government when it comes to public transport. Whether they are daily commuters, students or pensioners, all train travellers are crying out for more funding and better services on the South Coast line. Trains are infrequent, as we know. They are often overcrowded and delayed, leaving commuters feeling as if they have no other option but to drive. Even if they decide to catch the train, it is a constant gamble whether they will have a seat or whether the train will arrive on time. The people of the Illawarra and the South Coast are sick and tired of that experience.

It is clear that the South Coast electorate needs more train services and upgrades, but after nearly eight long years it has not received that from this Government, nor from its local member. The Government has even neglected South Coast and Illawarra train stations. It is well known to people in the Illawarra, on the South Coast and in this Chamber that in 2010 the previous Labor Government committed to funding the Unanderra station upgrade and installing the much-needed lifts. But when the Liberals got in, of course, that project was instantly cancelled by the then transport Minister and now Premier. Let me be clear: A Labor Government will fund upgrades to Unanderra station and install those lifts because Labor knows how much South Coast and Illawarra residents value their public transport services. I acknowledge the member for Wollongong, who will also contribute to this discussion.

The Government thinks it has solved all the transport problems of the South Coast simply by commencing a weekly bus service between Bomaderry and Kiama; yet locals are sceptical and they have a right to be sceptical. They know that it is not a long-term solution. They are not crying out for replacement buses; they want more funding for their train services. Thousands of locals from across the South Coast and the Illawarra did not sign a petition asking for more buses to replace trains. Only Labor will provide for the commuters and residents of the South Coast because it is committed to providing more public transport, not more tollways—as we have said from day one. That is why Labor will scrap the F6 extension stage one, which is just an offshoot of the monster WestConnex project, and use the \$2.4 billion from that project to directly improve rail services to the Illawarra, the South Coast, and Sydney's south. South Coast commuters should bear in mind that the amount is roughly how much the Government wants to spend on knocking down and rebuilding two Sydney stadiums.

Why this Government is prioritising stadiums over vital infrastructure for the South Coast is beyond me. This Government's priorities show how out of touch it is and how little the Liberal local members are doing. Labor will always put the transport needs of the South Coast ahead of Sydney stadiums. Labor has also committed to the Maldon-Dombarton railway line in partnership with the private sector, which will relieve pressure on the South Coast line by allowing for more commuter passenger services. Thanks to the work of my colleague the member for Wollongong, who obtained the final business case for the Maldon-Dombarton line under freedom of

information laws, we now know that unless the project is completed the South Coast line will continue to be congested.

Labor knows that this project and its \$2.4 billion commitment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the South Coast. It will mean that Illawarra and South Coast commuters, as well as those in Sydney's south, will be able to spend more time at home, rather than on packed trains or waiting at platforms. Labor will continue to fight for the transport needs of the people of the Illawarra and the South Coast, who have continually been let down by this Government and their local members. Again, I thank all those who contributed to this petition. I acknowledge those who have worked hard and thank them sincerely for bringing this important issue to the attention of the House during this term of government.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (10:15): I join with the member for Strathfield in congratulating and acknowledging the people in the gallery who have come to Parliament today while we speak about an issue that is very close to my heart—public transport. As a public transport user, I am passionate about improving public transport services. We need to correct the record on a few claims that were just made about public transport. First, this week we have heard some funny money faux pas from the Opposition about public transport. We heard some yesterday and some more just now when the shadow Minister said that she was committing to the Maldon-Dombarton railway line. The Labor Party has committed only \$50 million to the project, but it will probably cost approximately \$1 billion. If that is the commitment that the Opposition is making, I look forward to seeing the Parliamentary Budget Office's assessment of Labor's proposals for public transport. The Opposition has committed only \$50 million to the Maldon-Dombarton line.

Mr Paul Scully: That's \$50 million more than you, mate.

Mr GARETH WARD: I would be quiet if I were you, because your Opposition spokesperson just said it.

Ms Anna Watson: You're so rude.

Mr GARETH WARD: I am so rude? Coming from you? There is a \$50 million commitment for a project that will cost \$1 billion—another stuff-up by the Opposition.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! The member for Kiama will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr GARETH WARD: As a university student I used to use public transport very frequently. I remember that in order to meet its on-time running record, the former Labor Government slowed down the train timetable rather than make improvements to the South Coast line. As a local member, I was proud to recently announce that we are adding 512 additional carriages to the line. That will result in the 3.24 p.m. and 3.54 p.m. trains doubling in size. We will see more carriages on that line. We have a transport plan and we have a transport strategy. I am the first local member, together with the member for South Coast, to gain a commitment to look at the electrification and duplication of the South Coast line. That has never been done before. The former Labor Government did not provide for new stations such as Shellharbour Junction and did not upgrade stations such as Gerringong or Albion Park.

Ms Anna Watson: That was a Labor initiative.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time.

Mr GARETH WARD: The member for Shellharbour is interjecting because she is very upset. There was a fight at a Labor Party branch meeting as to who would table this petition. She was outraged that the petition from the South Coast group of unions was originally proposed to be tabled by the member for Wollongong. The member for Shellharbour is always about politics and never about outcomes. When it comes to investment in the South Coast line or anything else, people can trust members on this side of the House to deliver. We saw that in spectacular fashion when the shadow Minister talked about cancelling the F6 extension. We need both projects. We need investments in rail and in road.

The shadow Minister, the member for Strathfield, just said FU to the F6 in spectacular fashion on the floor of the Parliament. I have to say I am disappointed for the 25,000 people—and that number is growing—who drive from the Illawarra to Sydney every day. But Opposition members do not believe that anyone can walk and chew gum at the same time. The last time they were in government, members of the Opposition promised 12 rail lines and delivered none of them. They had 10 transport plans and delivered none of them, whereas this Government has made investments that are changing lives, such as the Princes Highway upgrades and the 512 additional train carriages that will make a real difference to people on the South Coast.

Mr Paul Scully: Built in Korea.

Mr GARETH WARD: I acknowledge the interjection from the member for Wollongong that they are built in Korea. The Opposition built them in China and the person who was last responsible for transport, the shadow Minister for the Illawarra, spent \$500 million while overseeing the Rozelle metro with not a single sleeper laid. The only sleepers on that project were the Opposition frontbench members who are in Parliament today. If the people in the gallery want to trust the Opposition with transport and believe they will do anything on the South Coast then they will believe anything. Opposition members had an opportunity the last time they were in government and they did nothing. My commitment is to continue to stand up for my community and to continue to deliver investments in the area. I note that there has been a lot of talk from Labor Party members but not a single commitment. People can see this Government's results and commitment. They should not believe those who say; instead, trust those who do.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (10:20): The people in the gallery who have travelled from the South Coast just heard the speech of the member for Kiama. He would desperately love to support their petition but he cannot because he knows he will never get a commitment from his Government. He desperately wants to support it. I congratulate Unions Shoalhaven, Labor candidate for Kiama Andy Higgins, Labor candidate for Heathcote Maryanne Stuart, and Labor candidate for South Coast the great Annette Alldrick, who is in the gallery, on helping to gather signatures for the petition. I also thank Tim Montgomery, Carmel McCallum, Jack Millard, Liz Folkhard and Joan "the Intimidator" Crabb, as she was referred to on ABC Illawarra, for working hard to get 10,000 signatures on the petition because they know that people are sick and tired of the poor level of train services on the Illawarra and South Coast lines. Trains are infrequent and overcrowded. Just look at some of the *Illawarra Mercury* front pages that say things such as "Illawarra-South Coast sardines", "Standing room only for a Sunday train trip", "It's time for an end to the South Coast crush" and "Train pain. No more room on South Coast line ..."

This Government wants to stand by its record. Its record is of cutting services in 2013 only to reintroduce them in 2014 when the community protested. They are the same mob who wanted to put full charges on the free Gong Shuttle but then had to back down. After two years of fighting the community in the Illawarra over four more carriages on two afternoon services they finally relented. After telling us that there were no carriages left anywhere on the CityRail network they had to relent because they knew they could not withstand the pressure any more.

Ten thousand people have signed a petition that says enough is enough on the South Coast rail line. Just delivering a couple of stations that were started by Labor, cancelling lift projects started by Labor and returning the services that this Government cut in the first place is not improving things on the South Coast rail line. The people of the Illawarra and the South Coast have a choice at the upcoming election. I know that they will make the right choice with Annette Alldrick, the candidate for South Coast, with Andy Higgins, the candidate for Kiama, and with Maryanne Stuart, the candidate for Heathcote. Their choice is between \$2.4 billion being invested to improve rail services on the Sydney to South Coast corridor or the building of another toll road. We know that the member for Kiama loves nothing more than charging people to drive their car. The bottom line is Labor will always prioritise public transport over toll roads. That is what we will do on the South Coast line.

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (10:24): I am happy to speak in the discussion on this petition and congratulate those who have actually signed it. The opportunity to have discussions like this was a great Barry O'Farrell initiative. Prior to 2011 people had to just suck things up and take their medicine; that was the policy of members opposite. Now they want to come into this House, nice and fresh, and forget about the history of their 16 years in government. Years later the people of New South Wales are still suffering from the former Labor Government's lack of investment. It is a bit rich for Labor members to talk about public transport when they have no runs on the board.

The member for Kiama was right to speak about the Rozelle metro. Many more projects could have been built with that \$500 million. I know the project intimately: members opposite spent \$500 million, did not lay a track, ruined an iconic leagues club and then lost the seat of Balmain to The Greens. That is what people get from members opposite, who want to forget everything that has happened in the past and con the electorate. The people of Kiama have voted for a very good local member who will deliver. The Pacific Highway and the Newell Highway projects can only be delivered by a member such as the member for Kiama. He talks the talk and he walks the walk—unlike members opposite.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! Members will cease interjecting. The member for Drummoyne has the call.

Mr JOHN SIDOTI: Next time Labor's new leader wants to send in the attack dogs I ask that he please not send Chihuahuas; send some German shepherds. Let us look at the issue at hand. Public transport patronage increases when government encourages its use. The number of customers using the Sydney rail network increased

by some 18 per cent in a two-year period. The growth is unbelievable. This Government has invested massively in public transport and roads. Members opposite suggest that they will be able to pay for everything because they will not invest in stadiums. They will not do Allianz because there are no votes in it. They were not going to do Sydney Olympic Park but that was in the electorate of the former Leader of the Opposition, so now they might do something there. And they might do Parramatta stadium because it has already started. That is what people will get from members opposite. The public have become aware of the games that Labor plays. We should never trust a commitment unless there are dollars backing that commitment, and members opposite could not even manage their own purse strings.

Ms Anna Watson: I seek leave to make a contribution.

Leave not granted.

CHILD SEX OFFENCES

Discussion

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (10:27): I support this very important petition before the Legislative Assembly. At the outset I thank Pastor Bob Cotton and all of his team, who have collected more than 10,000 signatures on this incredibly important issue. I have organised several meetings with a number of Ministers and I sincerely thank my friend and colleague the Attorney General of New South Wales, Mark Speakman, for listening to the concerns of the community about this most serious matter. We have had a number of meetings with people like the Attorney General and others such as the Minister for Police, Troy Grant. All of them heard the call—indeed, the cry—from people who demanded justice and asked that the legal system rightly set out the penalties that should be in place for incredibly serious crimes. Recently we heard about the incredible effects and extraordinary impacts of child sexual abuse that was unearthed as part of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

It is appropriate that the standards enshrined in law for people who saw or heard things but did nothing should be increased from a mere summary offence to something that is indictable so that we can reflect the severity of the behaviour of those who could have acted, who had the power to act, but who did not defend the most defenceless people and the most valuable asset in this State. It is vital for community safety and in the interests of justice to ensure that offenders responsible for child sexual abuse offences are apprehended, prosecuted and convicted. It is similarly important that those who have information that is material to the apprehension, prosecution and conviction of those responsible for these serious offences have a strong incentive to report that information to the appropriate authorities and face suitable penalties when they fail to do so.

Currently section 316A of the Crimes Act provides for a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment for a failure to report material information about any child abuse offence to any relevant authorities and five years imprisonment if the concealment is for a benefit. The current maximum penalties apply irrespective of the seriousness of the offence that was concealed. Concealing an offence that carries a penalty of up to five years in prison, such as possession of a motor vehicle licence plate unattached to a vehicle, carries the same maximum penalty as concealing an offence that carries a penalty of up to 25 years of life imprisonment, such as murder.

This petition recognises that the current laws do not reflect community expectations about the seriousness of concealing child abuse. It is concealment that led to a horrific culture of cover-ups, revealed, as I mentioned earlier, by the royal commission. I am so proud that yesterday we responded to the demands and the calls of the community. The two amazing men who made this possible, Pastor Bob Cotton and survivor and advocate Paul Gray, are in the gallery to see this discussion, which they instigated.

I say to them: This would not have happened if not for brave people like you, who stood up and ensured that the pleas of so many people were heard. All of us in this place take this issue very seriously, but you can be proud that you have left a legacy as a result of your work. It is absolutely heartbreaking that you had to go through what you did, that you saw and experienced what you did, in order to bring about this change. For those who sometimes wonder whether the parliamentary process or our legal system works, I hope and pray that the actions in this House, the actions of this Government in this Parliament, will serve as an example of what we can achieve when people who are as committed as you have brought about this extraordinary change we are discussing today. I salute you for that.

The community protection legislation amendment bill will amend section 316A of the Crimes Act to provide that a maximum penalty for concealing a child abuse offence is two years if the maximum penalty for the child abuse offence is less than five years imprisonment, or five years if the maximum penalty for the child abuse offence is five years imprisonment or more. This is a great result and it came about because of your hard work. I want to continue to be a voice for those who are victims and ensure that New South Wales is the safest place in which to raise a child.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (10:32): I speak on the petition requesting an increase in the maximum sentence for concealing child sex offences. Labor is pleased to support this amendment because our members feel the pain of child sex abuse survivors and we want to work in a bipartisan way with the Government on such an important issue. Pastor Bob Cotton of the Maitland Christian Church in my electorate began collecting signatures for the petition in Maitland in late July this year, with 13,000 signatures presented to this place on 16 October. In less than 12 weeks the petition tapped the public's deep sentiment on this issue and called for the existing maximum sentence to be increased.

The petition calls for two actions: first, to increase the maximum for concealing child sex offences from two years imprisonment to no less than five years imprisonment, and, secondly, to apply the increase in penalty to those who continue to conceal information that may aid in the conviction of a child sex offender even if the information was gained prior to the increase in sentence. The petition argues that the current maximum sentence of only two years has never acted as a deterrent under section 316 of the Crimes Act and will not act as a deterrent under the recent Criminal Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse) Bill 2018. Therefore, the petition proposes that the penalty for concealing child sex offenders be elevated to a serious offence, acting as a deterrent and reflecting the criminality of the action and the expectations of the community in sentencing.

We hear so much in this place of people's commitment to stopping child sexual abuse, but it is time to take action. I urge the Government to also look into the bystander interventions that are available. I congratulate the Government on introducing legislation into this place, but the sad thing about this legislation is that, by the time we get to this stage, the offence has already happened. We need to do more so that bystanders—those people who witness or are aware of child sexual abuse—have much more support to make complaints. Recently there have been some cogent arguments for this, even from the Anglican Archbishop in the Hunter who spoke of the pressure he felt as both a survivor and a minister of the church. We need to support survivors at every step of the way. I thank the child sexual abuse survivors who have stood up and advocated for this reform.

Shadow Attorney General and member for Liverpool Paul Lynch and I have met with Pastor Bob Cotton, Glenn Kolomeitz and Paul Gray to discuss these issues. I thank them for their advocacy on these issues. Peter Gogarty has also played an active role. I acknowledge the survivors who are here in the gallery today. They have all shown immense courage in recovering from the hurt that has been done to them and shown leadership by advocating to both sides of this House to see this legislation amended. That is an important thing to do. Often in politics, simply by virtue of being in Opposition we cannot effect change. That is why I am pleased that the Government has taken this initiative and that is why the Opposition is pleased to support the Government in its efforts.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse starkly documents the terrible ground zero in my backyard in the Hunter Valley, with some of the worst recorded offending in New South Wales. I pay tribute to Joanne McCarthy, a journalist with the *Newcastle Herald* and New South Wales Australian of the Year finalist, who shone a light and advocated strongly for the royal commission, which was launched by Julia Gillard and brought so much out. The royal commission is a living thing: It has made its recommendations and they are being implemented, but we need to conduct ongoing reviews of how they work in practice. We can never say that this issue is done and dusted and then sweep it under the carpet. We need to continue to work and remain vigilant forever. It is not enough to say that we are done today; we must remain ever watchful if we are to stop the abuse of children and the most vulnerable in our community.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (10:38): I contribute to the discussion on the petition of the member for Kiama, which seeks tougher sentences for concealing child abuse. I support the Government's legislation, which was released this week, to achieve that goal. It should not have taken a royal commission to reveal to all Australians the culture of cover-up and concealment that enabled the horrific abuse of children to occur unchecked over a long period of time in all areas of the community and across the State and country. People knew of this abuse and stayed silent, but by speaking up they could have saved those children from ongoing abuse and lifelong emotional and mental turmoil.

In June this year, the Government introduced legislation to fight this cover-up, including a new criminal offence for anyone who fails to report knowledge of child abuse to the police without a reasonable excuse. That legislation provides that the maximum penalty for this offence is two years imprisonment, or five years if the concealment was undertaken for a benefit. On 20 November, as members of this House know, the member for Kiama tabled a petition which received more than 13,000 signatures. Many people were involved in obtaining support for the petition that called for an increase in the maximum penalty for concealing child sex offences to at least five years imprisonment. The member for Kiama was supported by many people in putting together the petition and collecting the signatures, including Maitland pastor Bob Cotton and survivor and advocate Mr Paul Gray.

Mr Gareth Ward: And Glenn Kolomeitz.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I am sure the member for Kiama will allow me to finish my contribution, as I allowed him to finish his. He wants me to also acknowledge the work of Glenn Kolomeitz from Kiama, who worked in the Shoalhaven district, as well as Pastor Bob Cotton and Mr Paul Gray who worked in the Maitland and Hunter regions in support of these reforms. As a government we have listened to the concerns of the community, and the Opposition is working with us to support these reforms. We have listened to survivors and those who fight for them. We have listened to the more than 13,000 people who signed this petition calling for reform for tougher maximum penalties for those who conceal child sexual abuse, and now we have acted. I am glad that the entire House is in support of this legislation.

Yesterday, Attorney General Mark Speakman introduced the Community Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to this House. This bill implements the key recommendation of this petition, strengthening the maximum penalty for concealing child abuse from two years imprisonment to five years imprisonment, or seven years if the concealment was in order to gain some form of personal benefit. Our Government and our Parliament is putting abusers and enablers on notice that if they turn a blind eye to child abuse they are guilty of a serious indictable offence and the courts will be empowered to throw the book at them. Congratulations again to the member for Kiama, and thank you to the Attorney General, his team and all of the people who have worked so hard to put together this legislation to ensure we address and reduce the incidence of child sexual abuse.

MARINE PARKS

Discussion

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (10:42): I acknowledge the members of the Stop the Lockout group who are in the House today, Sal Santoro, Mathew Sofi and John Murdaca, and the thousands who are watching these proceedings online. I welcome them and thank them for the preparation of this petition. More than 17,000 signatures were obtained in one month, which shows the level of interest that recreational fishers have in this issue. It is with great pride that I present this 10,000-plus petition of signatures in support of fishing in New South Wales, and more importantly as a clear rejection of this Government's attempt to join forces with The Greens and the Animal Justice Party to ban fishers from across the State.

I am of course referring to the decision by the Liberal-Nationals Government earlier this year to ban fishing across our waters, where 25 new marine parks in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong effectively ended recreational and sustainable fishing. Everybody knew this was a political decision. It had nothing to do with science or the protection of marine estates. Inner-city Liberals sitting on smaller margins than they held in 2011 created this as a way to claw back green votes. The Nationals, led by the Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, came in over the top to rubber stamp this dictatorial policy. The Government tried to pretend it was about science and conservation, when in reality it was just another silly, short-sighted and poor decision made by a government addicted to bans and lockouts. Just imagine a bunch of green bureaucrats sitting in a room drawing lines on a map showing where fish will and will not swim. Recreational fishers are the friends of marine diversity, not its enemy. As anglers, we are at the forefront of defending the environment. We have a vested interest in maintaining and improving aquatic habitat. Indeed, we are the original environmentalists and conservationists. The approach of "lock it up and hope for the best" simply will not work. I am determined to work with fishos across the State to regain access to areas up and down the coast that have previously been lost to angling.

It was a sad picture earlier this year when the Premier, the member for Coogee, the member for Vacluse and Minister Niall Blair appeared on television, smiling and rejoicing that they were about to lock out decent, law-abiding fishos from their favourite fishing spots. That announcement was made without any consultation and with no regard for sustainable fishing practices. The Marine Estate Management Authority, the bureaucracy the Government tried to hide behind, has a lot to answer for. It found that pollution was the largest risk to fish stocks and the impact of fishing was not even on its radar—and, if they had bothered to ask, any fisherman or fisherwoman could have told them that. But green government bureaucrats and rent-seeking so-called experts doing the bidding of Ministers is nothing new. It happened under previous Labor Governments, but I never thought a Liberal-Nationals Government would try to ban fishing to court and appease Green voters.

Since the beginning of time humans have gravitated to waters across the globe to procure fish for sustenance. Indeed, fishing is enshrined in human culture, religion and heritage; it is essential to our existence. I find it unfathomable that this Government would attempt to impose its will to prevent the citizens of this State from exercising one of their most fundamental rights. Clearly the Government did not learn its lesson from the greyhound racing ban or forced council amalgamations. The Liberal-Nationals are the party of bans and lockouts; the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is the party of freedom.

I take this opportunity to formally thank the Stop the Lockout group. In particular, I thank Mathew Sofi, John Murdaca, Sal Santoro and everyone else who assisted with the Stop the Lockout campaign. Without the countless hours of research, lobbying and preparation they put in, we may only have been dreaming about fishing.

The Government will now say, "The ban is no longer in force. It was only something that was being considered as part of a consultation." Let me make it clear: Had the Stop the Lockout group not risen, gathered the signatures on this petition and protested against it, this ban would have been enacted in legislation. I again thank the members of the Stop the Lockout group for their hard work and diligence. I also thank those who signed the petition for their support.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:47): As the member for Terrigal, I speak to this petition on behalf of the Government. At the outset I acknowledge the gentlemen seated in the gallery and, in particular, the great work that Flynn has done on the Central Coast. Over the past few months I have learnt a lot about this matter and I am extremely proud to stand with the Central Coast community. It first came to my attention when I saw the proposal for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine park. Since then I have spent many hours speaking to my community about the marine park proposals, including recreational fishers, commercial fishers, spear fishers, charter boat operators and small business owners. They are not the biggest threat to our marine environment. The Government's own risk assessment identified water quality as the biggest issue, and nowhere is that more evident than on the Central Coast at beaches such as Terrigal, Wamberal, Avoca, Ocean and many others.

Clearly the proposal of the Marine Estate Management Authority was too extreme. It would not work for the Central Coast community, and I was very happy to say that publicly. The draft marine estate parks in my electorate, particularly at Forresters Beach, are clearly unsuitable. It is ridiculous to think that banning someone from walking along the beach with a fishing rod would protect our environment. I raised my concerns directly with the Premier and Minister Blair as soon as I became aware of this—after all, this was only a proposal of the Marine Estate Management Authority—and I made it very clear that my community would reject the draft proposal. So I was delighted when Minister Blair announced that the lockouts were off the table and that fishers would not lose any rights or access.

Of course, this announcement would be welcomed by my fishing community on the Central Coast. I take this opportunity to personally thank Scott Thorrington, Simon Hovarth, Alex Hamilton and Nathan Bajada, with whom I have spent many hours working to get the outcome we needed for the Central Coast. I am very proud to stand with them any day of the week. Clearly, this is a government that listens, and this is proof of that. I understand the concerns expressed by my community about what had been proposed. However, those concerns have been dealt with by taking lockouts off the table. I repeat: Lockouts are off the table. People will be able to continue to fish throughout the Hawkesbury, as they should.

The Government is also getting on with fixing water quality issues across the State. It recently announced a \$45.7 million commitment over the next two years to implement stage one, and 70 per cent of that funding will be used to address water quality. It has also announced that the remaining ocean outfalls in Sydney, Vacluse and Diamond Head will go ahead. That is a huge win for the community because another legacy issue is being ticked off by this Government.

The question is where the Labor Party sits with regard to lockouts. The new Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, could not bring herself to say that lockouts would be off the table if the Labor Party were elected. When questioned in an ABC interview in September, she was happy to talk about how well the current marine parks are working. Presumably that includes the Batemans Marine Park, of which 19 per cent is locked away from the public. The interviewer asked whether the marine park would have zones where fishing would not be allowed. After a long pause, she said, "Quite possibly." When pressed again about whether there would be areas where no fishing would be allowed, she said, "Well, yes, that's right." Clearly the Labor Party is cooking up a secret plan. Members opposite cannot be trusted on this issue. They have form; we have seen it in the past. The 450 people at the Davistown RSL Club were very aware of the Labor Party's duplicity.

Who will the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party preference in the upcoming election? Will it be the Labor Party? It has done that before. If it jumps into bed with Labor, Penny Sharpe has made it clear that lockouts will be back in Sydney. Only the Liberal-Nationals Government can be trusted definitively on this issue. I am proud to say that we have nailed our colours to the mast. We will not sell out the fishers. I will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of my community to ensure we have the protection we need. Lockouts are off the table, and I look forward to continuing this work with our great team.

The Minister recently met with my group of fishos and agreed to formally acknowledge them as the pre-eminent spokespeople for the Central Coast, which is exactly what we need. I am proud of the work that they have done to ensure the message is clear that lockouts are not acceptable to the people of the Central Coast. As I said, I will stand shoulder to shoulder with them every day. Unlike those at the Davistown RSL Club who would not make the same commitment, we have made our position very clear.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (10:52): I speak on behalf of the Labor Opposition on the petition calling on the Legislative Assembly to stop the creation of marine parks that ban recreational fishing

and to reverse the declaration of existing marine parks to allow recreational fishing. I thank the member for Orange and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party for presenting the petition in this place. I acknowledge the hardworking Deputy Leader of the Opposition and shadow Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, and thank her for her sound leadership on this issue. I also thank the many thousands of people who have signed the petition, some of whom I have met in my office. Others have sent me and many other members emails and Facebook messages that were much appreciated.

I feel somewhat qualified to speak on this issue given that my electorate of Port Stephens has the largest marine park in New South Wales—the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park. Not only do I represent one of the largest stakeholders in this discussion but I can also say with confidence that since being elected to this role I have had discussions about marine parks every week. I have had discussions about recreational fishing, commercial fishing, dredging, boat ramps, tourism, oyster farming, small business and wetlands management. They are all related to our marine parks, which are a centrepiece of Port Stephens. I am also eminently unqualified to speak in this debate because I cannot catch a fish.

We are discussing this petition only because of this Government's ham-fisted approach to creating marine parks without any consultation with anyone in an attempt to lock out all commercial and recreational fishers from doing what they do and what they love to do. As the member for Orange said, it is similar to what happened with the greyhounds and council amalgamations. The member for Terrigal, a member of this Government, tried to suggest that this is all about Labor when it was his Government that tried to lock out the fishers.

[Interruption]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! The member for Terrigal has had his opportunity to contribute to the debate.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: To make it very clear, Labor understands the importance of recreational fishing and the value of marine parks to our communities. In Port Stephens we understand there is economic and environmental value in having a marine park, but we also understand that rec fishers and commercial fishers have to have access to areas where they can fish. To be clear, Labor supports a Sydney Harbour marine park that is multi-use and able to be enjoyed by all—marine conservationists, rec fishers, marine scientists, scuba divers, snorkelers, Indigenous fishers—through cultural practices, tourism, surf life saving, the lot. We will not be introducing any marine parks that impact the Central Coast or Wollongong, as this Government tried to do. We will create an iconic Sydney marine park. Funnily enough, it will be in Sydney and it will not lock out rec fishers.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (10:55): Oh, dear! The Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park and Batemans Marine Park were introduced on the same day by Bob Debus and Ian Macdonald. They locked up thousands and thousands of hectares to recreational fishers and now Labor members come in here pretending otherwise, that somehow they are interested. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition says that marine parks are back. The Labor Party's policy is to introduce the twofold bioregion marine park, the Hawkesbury bioregion marine park. In my electorate and the Port Stephens electorate Labor locked fishermen out of two marine parks that wrecked livelihoods and closed businesses, and the member for Port Stephens—a Labor member of Parliament—is pretending that she does not know something is going on.

[Interruption]

Ms Kate Washington: What did your Government come and do? Twenty-five marine parks—you try and lob up Central Coast and Illawarra.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The member for Port Stephens has had her opportunity.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: This Government has started to reverse some of these lockouts, starting with oceans and headlands.

Ms Kate Washington: Greyhounds! Council amalgamations! Lockout laws!

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: We started with oceans and headlands, and we have opened them back up to recreational fishing. We are now also circling the Batemans Marine Park, working with the advisory committee to look at other zones because typically what those two grubs Bob Debus and Ian Macdonald did was to put these lockouts in place and lock up the best fishing zones within marine parks. Eighty per cent of the fishing zones are gone and Labor pretends there is a little bit of a sanctuary zone over here. Labor took the best fishing

grounds. Labor members can pretend otherwise and say, "We're now going to be opening up marine parks, but on the other hand we're still going to lock them up." For goodness sake, work out your position—

Ms Kate Washington: You were around the Cabinet table, Minister.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time.

Mr David Harris: You supported it in Cabinet—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): I call the member for Wyong to order for the first time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: One thing that this petition says very clearly is that the fishos—and there are half a million of them with licences in this State—want to get out and enjoy their recreation. The other element in all of this, and the fishermen in my electorate tell me this—I do not know what they say to Labor members—is: If there is a known risk to the marine environment, they are happy to protect it. But they are not happy to see what is done in terms of The Greens' politics and the Labor Party's actions of 10 years ago, which, unfortunately, are still playing out. We are going to look at an evidence-based approach, backed by the fishermen in terms of looking at what the threatened risks are to the marine environment.

For the past 15 years the greatest threat to the marine environment has been land-based pollution, not recreational fishers. It is not people casting a line. That is why the Government is now taking action on land-based pollution: to help the marine environment. Labor has a plan off Eden with the twofold bioregion. Labor had the opportunity to reverse its decision on the Port Stephens marine park when the fishermen said not to put the marine park in. Now, some 10 years later, Labor thinks it knows what is going on. The reality is that the Government will look after recreational fishers and support those who have signed the petition.

Mr David Mehan: I seek leave to make a contribution to the discussion.

Leave not granted.

Bills

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO 3) 2018

Second Reading Speech

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research) (10:59): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No 3) 2018 was introduced in the other place on 24 October 2018 and is in the same form. The second reading speech appears at pages 45 to 47 in the proof of *Hansard* for that day. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (11:02): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No 3) 2018. This is an omnibus bill amending six separate Acts in the health and mental health areas. They are: the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007, the Health Administration Act 1982, the Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Act 2009, the Health Services Act 1997, the Mental Health Commission Act 2012 and the Private Health Facilities Act 2007. Although I lead for the Opposition today, I have been guided by the firm and solid hands of the Hon. Walt Secord in the other place, the shadow Minister for Health. I thank him for his review and guidance on NSW Labor's response to the bill.

Labor supports the legislation. I highlight two areas of the legislation that are of interest to the communities that they will impact. I refer to the amendments to the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007, whereby donor-conceived people born after the Act commenced in 2010 will be able to access details about their biological heritage. That comes after previous changes—that I believe occurred about 2½ years ago—that allowed donor-conceived people a certain degree of access to their biological information. The amendments in today's bill seek to close some of those loopholes to ensure that people who are unsure about their biological details and still have difficulty accessing them will now be able to retrieve that information. This is important for an enormous number of reasons, particularly regarding potential health outcomes for donor-conceived people. It is important that they understand exactly what they could face due to their genetic heritage. For those reasons, the New South Wales Opposition supports this element of the bill.

The amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act 2007 are also of interest and concern to the broader community. Schedule 6 to the bill amends the Private Health Facilities Act relating to root cause analysis, which

is an investigation into a reportable incident, which, in turn, is a serious adverse incident that may be the result of systemic problems within the health system. Reportable incidents do not go to the failings of individuals; they go to systemic issues more broadly. During my time as a health lawyer, I experienced and examined a number of root cause analyses. Under the procedures, a root cause analysis team investigates and reports on why an adverse incident occurred. It examines the evidence and talks to doctors, nurses and other relevant hospital staff.

Reportable incidents are major incidents, such as unexpected deaths of mothers who have given birth, suicides in hospitals and major clinical errors. Those issues always warrant investigation and, to date, the obligation to do a root cause analysis has not rested in the private health system. The legislation brings private health facilities in line with the public health system to ensure that when there is a reportable incident, private health facilities are also required to undertake a root cause analysis. Because of the nature of those incidents, wherever they occur, they would always—and should always—warrant investigation. The New South Wales Opposition supports the amendments to ensure that those serious medical incidents get the scrutiny they warrant, regardless of whether they occur in the public or the private health system. This is of interest and importance to families and to those who experience those errors and incidents. The health system also has an obligation to understand what systemic errors have led to outcomes that no-one wants in any service, be it private or public.

The other elements of the bill relate to the Mental Health Commission Act 2012, the Health Services Act 1997 and the Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Act 2009. I will touch on those briefly. The bill proposes to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Act and the Health Services Act to allow public health organisations to meet their obligations under both pieces of legislation to report registered health practitioners by making a single report to a national board or a health professional council.

That is a sensible and pragmatic response to the New South Wales national law obligations. It will ensure that public health organisations are meeting their obligations by making only that single report, rather than having to make numerous reports, as they have had to do in the past. It will also enable public health organisations to share important information to investigate adverse outcomes or activities within certain services so that there is greater support and safety for consumers. For those reasons the New South Wales Opposition supports the amendments contained in this omnibus bill. The bill also makes a number of incidental changes to other legislation. Labor supports them in total. I leave my contribution at that.

Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (11:09): I speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No 3) 2018. The bill makes a range of important and sensible amendments to various health legislation. I will discuss specifically the changes to the Mental Health Commission Act in my contribution to the debate this morning. The Mental Health Commission Act was passed by Parliament in 2012 and, importantly, established the Mental Health Commission. The commission was established to monitor, review and improve the mental health system and the mental health and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales.

I am sure all members will agree with me when I say that mental health is a major issue facing the community. In 2015 it was estimated that four million people in Australia experienced a mental illness. Mental illness accounts for almost 25 per cent of the total non-fatal disease burden, and almost 50 per cent of Australians aged over 16 will experience mental illness at some point. The most recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that there were 880 deaths by suicide in New South Wales, or two to three deaths every day. Mental illness can cause harm in both the short and long term, not just to a person's health but also to their employment, housing and education. Further, as with all illness, mental illness impacts not only the person suffering from the mental illness but also their family and friends. Australian findings indicate that 89 per cent of respondents knew someone who had attempted suicide and that 85 per cent knew someone who had died by suicide.

Improving mental health and wellbeing is not a just a role for the health system; all agencies of government must work together to improve outcomes for persons with a mental illness. To that end, as a government, we should also lead our community to work as a whole society to support people with mental illness. That was one of the key reasons the New South Wales Liberals and The Nationals established the Mental Health Commission in 2012. As such, when it was first established, a primary role of the commission was to develop a draft whole-of-government strategic plan for the Government's consideration. The commission undertook this function, and the draft strategic plan for the mental health system in New South Wales, entitled "Living Well: A strategic plan for mental health in NSW 2014-2024", was adopted by the Government to support a decade-long commitment to mental health reform. I commend the commission for its work to date.

The Mental Health Commission Act required a statutory review to be undertaken in respect of both the Act and the operation of the commission. Over 2017-18 a review was undertaken by Dr David Chaplow, former National Director of Mental Health and Chief Advisor of the New Zealand Ministry of Health. A broad range of stakeholders across the mental health, broader health, government and non-government organisations, and

community sectors were consulted between October 2017 and February 2018. Consultation included 20 interviews and round tables attended by 80 people; a public online survey, which received 753 responses; a multi-stakeholder forum attended by 60 representatives; and 10 written submissions.

In addition, the review considered comparable models and legislation in other jurisdictions. A report on the review was tabled in Parliament in August 2018. The report made 17 recommendations in relation to both the role of the commission and improvements to the Mental Health Commission Act. The bill before the House implements most of the legislative recommendations in the report, which are aimed at refocusing the role of the commission, strengthening the reporting requirements of government agencies, improving coordination between agencies and improving stakeholder engagement.

To that end, the bill amends the objects of the Act in section 3 to focus the role of the commission on monitoring, reviewing and improving the mental health and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales; places more emphasis on the commission and public sector agencies working co-operatively; removes the outdated references to the draft strategic plan; and amends the functions of the commission to focus on three primary functions. Those functions are: strategic planning, reporting and implementation; systemic reviews and reporting; and advocacy. The bill will also strengthen the reporting functions of the commission by requiring government agencies to prepare a response, within six months, to a report prepared by the commission and tabled in Parliament by the Minister, and will provide greater clarity around the need for the commission to consult with different stakeholders.

These changes, together with the other recommendations from the review, will act to strengthen and focus the work of the commission and the role all government agencies have in working together to improve outcomes for people with a mental illness. Together, these amendments focus the commission's work on where it can have the most impact—strategic planning, advocacy and systemic reviews. This will strengthen the commission's impact and ensure that it continues to make a real difference for those it was established to serve—consumers, their families and carers, and the community. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research) (11:14): In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No 3) 2018. In particular, I thank the member for Port Stephens, who led for the Opposition. I have noted her comments, which were generally complimentary in regard to the Government's bill. I also thank the member for Mulgoa, who is, of course, the Minister for Mental Health. She made some very pertinent comments with regard to the changes that affect the mental health framework. The bill makes a range of amendments to various health Acts. The bill will amend the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act to better ensure that details about unknown outcomes in assisted reproductive technology treatment are collected and held on the central register. The bill also strengthens the consent requirements before gametes are used in assisted reproductive technology treatment.

The bill amends the Health Administration Act to improve information sharing between health regulators. As we have heard, that relates to new section 23A. The bill makes a range of amendments to the Mental Health Commission Act following a statutory review of that Act. Those were the issues that were addressed by my colleague the Minister for Mental Health. These changes will help to ensure that the commission's functions are appropriate and adaptive to improving the mental health and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales. The bill will also amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW) and the Health Services Act to allow for a single point of entry for complaints by chief executives of public health organisations.

In addition, amendments to the Health Services Act will ensure that a committee of review has the skills and expertise of a community member when hearing an appeal from a visiting medical or dental officer. The changes to the Private Health Facilities Act contained in the bill will apply the recent changes to root cause analysis in the public health system to private health facilities and improve the investigation of serious incidents. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE BILL 2018**Second Reading Speech**

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (11:17): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Saint Paul's College Bill 2018 was introduced in the other place on 24 October 2018 and is in the same form. The second reading speech appears at pages 47 to 48 in the proof *Hansard* for that day. It makes scintillating reading. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (11:18): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Saint Paul's College Bill 2018, which was introduced in the other place on 23 October 2018 by the Hon. Sarah Mitchell. It was scintillating reading indeed. I acknowledge the visitors in the gallery and I thank them for listening to the debate. I also take the opportunity to thank them for their very strong engagement, not only with me but also with the Minister and other stakeholders in helping us to get to this point. What they did is a very good example of how we can achieve some really good things when we work together. I acknowledge that and I thank them very much for their efforts.

The bill repeals and replaces the Saint Paul's College Act 1854 and the Saint Paul's College Act 1857, which stipulated the original establishment and governance arrangements of Saint Paul's College at the University of Sydney. The arrangements that were set in place more than 160 years ago continue to this day with little change to the fundamentals. This bill is similar to a modernisation bill concerning another University of Sydney residential college. Specifically, this bill is designed to modernise governance and operational arrangements at the college; clarify the very important responsibilities of the college council, office holders and the Anglican Church; and strengthen the relationship between the college and the University of Sydney. The original bills set St Paul's College, like other university colleges, outside the control of the University of Sydney. In recent years, the formal separation of the college from the university has come to be seen as anachronistic and impractical. Amongst other things, the bill addresses this problem, providing both a practical and a symbolic solution.

I acknowledge that this legislative reform is part of a much broader and very necessary process of cultural and structural change at the college—one that I will comment on further in my speech. I will also address the development over time of an unhealthy culture and pattern of very poor student behaviour at the college, most of which is at odds with community expectations. I will cover in some detail the commendable efforts being made by the college to eradicate this culture. The bill contains a number of changes and reforms that relate appropriately to the required modernisation of St John's College governance arrangements. While most changes have been made to address very practical problems, they also offer great symbolism for the broader change process underway at St Paul's.

Within the bill there are a number of important changes and reforms relating to the size and make-up of the St Paul's College Council—the council. For expediency, I will list the most significant relating to the council but note that the bill also contains modernisation changes relating to modern governance requirements, such as conflict of interest declaration requirements. Governance changes in the bill include a reduction in the number of council members from 19 to 13; a requirement that appointments are to take account of relevant expertise and experience; council membership is to include an academic from the University of Sydney; and clerical members can be a clergy person, irrespective of gender, and in any order of the Anglican ministry. Currently only priests can be appointed.

The college warden may be a clerical or lay person where the latter is required to be a communicant member of the Anglican Church. As a consequence, this means women may be appointed as head of the college in the role of warden—an exclusively male role up to this point. Read together, we can see that these amendments represent quite profound change for the council, and therefore the entire St Paul's College community. Some of that change was foreshadowed with the appointment late last year of Dr Donald Markwell to the interim role of vice warden and head of college. It only takes a few minutes in Dr Markwell's company to realise that the college has hired a deeply experienced, wise and accomplished academic, educator, and change and pastoral leader. A few more minutes reading his impressive resume confirms that he is the right person to lead the renewal process.

Of course the current historic bills, which are being repealed and replaced, prevent the college appointing Dr Markwell to the role of warden. Once assented to, this new, modern bill will see Dr Markwell formally confirmed as the eleventh warden and the first non-clerical warden. Other notable first-time changes that the bill will enable are the appointment of female clerics to the council as well as providing the University of Sydney with the ability to appoint a member to the college council. These two reforms alone represent a great step forward for the college and the university. The structural reform to include an academic from the University of Sydney is very

welcome and addresses a long-held concern about the isolation of the college from the University of Sydney. The new council will have a reduced number of members, from 19 to 13. Interestingly, due to the new type of membership, the council will have access to a greater diversity of viewpoints. This no doubt will contribute to more rigorous and informed debate and decision-making.

The bill before us specifically concerns St Paul's College but many of my next comments, especially on points of principle, might apply equally to the other University of Sydney colleges. They are, to a greater or lesser extent, grappling with similar calls for cultural change. During debate on the Saint John's College Bill last year I made a number of comments about the broader significance of the renewal process that is underway at a number of University of Sydney colleges. Those comments hold equally true today as they did when I last spoke. I will repeat them:

As the shadow Minister for education, my formal remit is primary and secondary education in New South Wales but the destination for many students is the university sector. As a parent, former teacher and principal, I, like so many people, care about what happens to students when they reach university. For many school students and their families, the opportunity to enter the University of Sydney, one of the great sandstone universities, engenders feelings of great effort and focus. For a large proportion, a further aspiration is to be accepted into one of the university's colleges. For many, it is a long-held family and faith-based tradition. I am told that for many students, especially from regional areas, the residential colleges offer a trusted home away from home. Parents place the wellbeing of their children, who are under 18 or who have just turned 18 years of age, in the hands of the university and college administrators.

In the middle of 2017 many parents would have been horrified to read, as I was, of horrendous behaviour amongst the student population at St Paul's. We read and heard about extremely degrading and sexist treatment of visiting women, humiliating hazing rituals directed at freshmen, and generally demeaning and often dangerous alcohol-fuelled poor behaviour at many college events. Many of these were celebrated by students as representing great "traditions" of the college and student body. St Paul's College has been operating for close to 160 years and many of its alumni have gone on to be outstanding citizens and leaders. In fact, I noted on a visit to the college a portrait of none other than former Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, an outstanding member of the alumni. I wonder how he and other esteemed men of the college would regard such poor behaviour.

In a scathing assessment at the time, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney Michael Spence described what he saw at St Paul's as a "deep contempt for women". I agree with him. That type of behaviour is crude and totally unacceptable. Over the past couple of years, many members of the public have demanded to know what the university was doing to stop this kind of behaviour, not just at St Paul's but at other colleges. Many wanted to know what the university was doing to "take control" of its colleges and enforce governance and codes of expected behaviour. Those familiar with the original legislation governing this and other colleges knew it was not that simple. The relationship between the university and its colleges is complicated, arising from the fact that the legislation was established between the University of Sydney and, in this case, the Anglican Church more than 160 years ago. The historic Acts provided no role for the university to be involved in college affairs.

With this restrictive legal context in mind, I commend the leadership of the University of Sydney—in particular, vice-chancellor Dr Michael Spence, AC, for his acknowledgment of the need for significant change and his ongoing leadership. Dr Spence has used the authority of his position and the vantage point of the university to find ways to cast a light on the cultural deficiencies of the residential colleges, to commission the right kind of research to understand it and to lead the changes required. During the Saint John's College Bill 2017 debate I especially noted his appointment of former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick, AO, to undertake an extensive review of the university's residential colleges and to recommend changes to prevent sexual misconduct and increase the level of support to students, especially women.

Five colleges initially participated in that review, with St Paul's College joining at a later stage. In my view, achievement of the cultural renewal described in the report will greatly contribute to the longevity and depth of the university's reputation and position in the broader Australian university sector. I was initially surprised and then disappointed to learn that St Paul's College originally declined the opportunity to join the cross-college review of college culture. By contrast, I was relieved to learn that six to seven months later, in June 2017, the college decided to join the review. This culminated in a recent statement in September 2018 by the college of its full acceptance of the Broderick report and its commitment to implement all the recommendations to fight sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault.

The University of Sydney and its colleges are an important cornerstone of the academic and cultural development of this city and this State. What happens there matters to all of us who are interested in the advancement of education generally and the development of inclusive, modern leaders. While this bill is focused on an individual college and on the colleges within the University of Sydney, I restate Labor's set of principles on these matters. NSW Labor believes as a point of principle that it is the right of every student in this State, regardless of gender, sexuality, race or religion, to have access to a learning environment, residential colleges and a living

and recreational environment that is free of bullying, intimidation, discrimination and sexual misconduct. They should feel comfortable, confident and safe wherever they study.

We believe further that there is no room in any university or college for behaviour or rituals—regardless of their perceived traditional value—that rely on degrading, harassing or humiliating fellow students. I acknowledge the contribution of my Opposition colleagues who have fought long and hard for broader college reform in universities across New South Wales. In particular, I acknowledge the shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the member for Maitland, who is in the Chamber, and congratulate her on her work. I acknowledge the shadow Minister for Women, the member for Canterbury, and the member for Summer Hill.

Earlier in 2017, with the imminent return of students to universities across the State, Labor launched its campaign "It's Time for Action". This was in response to students, especially female students, from multiple universities reporting unacceptable levels of sexual harassment, sexual assault, unwelcome sexual behaviour, stalking and rape. NSW Labor is working hard to end sexual assault on campus. My colleagues consider the reform of university colleges and the stamping out of any culture that condones, facilitates or turns a blind eye to inappropriate behaviour towards women as an important part of this broader university campaign. The bill will allow for a reset of council structures. I congratulate the college, its leadership and everybody who worked on this issue. I acknowledge the Minister and his staff for bringing this bill. I trust that the reforms in the bill are the way of the future, that they will continue to improve, and that we will see a culture free of bullying.

Business interrupted.

Members

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

The SPEAKER: I call the fantastic member for Albury, who was elected in 2003, the same year as I was elected. We have shared a good friendship over the years. I really will miss you, Greg. All the best for your future.

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (11:31): Madam Speaker, you are important, but seated in your gallery, the Speaker's Gallery, are the more important people here today. They are the people who make it possible for regional members to be here. They are our family, office staff, Liberal conference executive members and friends. Distance and the hour of day prevent more from being here but they are here in spirit with we few, we happy few. Yes, they are indeed a band of brothers. I will talk about them and also of others.

Madam Speaker, yours is the seat of power in this place and I thank you for inviting me to sit in that lofty chair as part of your Speaker's panel. It indeed has been a privilege and an exacting role on occasions. So I sometimes sit there in the Speaker's chair and sometimes elsewhere. Of late, there has been a tendency in this place to point out places where one has sat, or would like to sit. It started with the now former Leader of the Opposition and was quickly reprised by speakers from our side. For the benefit of our visitors and to be quite en vogue, I will point out that when we started here way back in 2003 Madam Speaker and I both sat there. Later I moved to there, and then to there, and then to there, and now to here. You can see how sentimental people can be about these venerable green leather benches. So a short rewind to 2003 when I had dark hair and had lost 13 kilograms on the campaign trail during the heat of the millennium drought.

Some things changed and some stay the same in 2018. What has not changed is that I enjoy going home to my electorate. During some 800 flights on the airlines serving Albury, it was inevitable that there would be incidents of one sort or another. Fog was always an unpredictable phenomenon and a reminder that, while autumn may well be the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, when winter comes a fog can see aircraft return to Sydney or circle Albury for an over an hour with Barry O'Farrell's Cabinet on board. There were inconveniences caused by fog and also from thick smoke blanketing the region from raging bushfires. Flights ended up in Canberra, Wagga Wagga and back where we started in Sydney.

That was nothing compared to the experience of one journey home which took on the unexpected character of prolonged sightseeing circuits of Jindera, Howlong and north-east Victoria. Eventually we were informed that the undercarriage would not deploy and we should familiarise ourselves with the safety instructions. It was quiet on the aircraft for a long while until the pilot broadcast the good news that the main landing gear had now engaged but, unfortunately, that the front nose wheel had not and we would go in for an emergency landing. Just prior to the final approach, he came back on air to advise that the nose wheel was down. Everyone cheered!

So I got to see my wife again. And that is one of the best things about coming home. Even better, she says she is actually keen to see me around more often. After meeting at university in 1972 and marrying in early 1975, that ongoing loving relationship is a truly great accomplishment for both of us, particularly with the stresses

and the separations that are part of the territory with this job. To Jill, I say a heartfelt thank you for all you have done to help me and our family through four elections and 16 years of this role.

I turn to the band of brothers, who, incidentally, all sang on stage with Adele for the song *Skyfall* during her tour last year. When I arrived in this place I observed in my inaugural speech that my eldest son, Scott, was an accomplished musician with a band in Sydney. He is now not only one of the most accomplished keyboardists in Australia but is in his eighth year as music director for the television show *The Voice*. I am pleased to say he is here today with his lovely wife, Asli, and it is a thrill for me to visit their little girls when we have an early finish in Parliament—unlike last night.

In 2003 I was delighted to have in the gallery our son Richard, who had just arrived back from service in the Gulf. He went on to become a commando captain, then took on a role in a defence-related industry and is now bringing all that life experience to the fore—and you will like this, Madam Speaker—as he trains to be a secondary schoolteacher. He, too, is with us today and we were fortunate to have him and his lovely wife, Kim, and their daughter with us in Albury a week or so ago.

While visits from family are exciting times, Jill and I are exceptionally fortunate that two of our children moved back to Albury. Douglas and his talented wife, Danika, relocated their letter press business from Sydney to Albury, and I know there will be jobs for me to do next year when I leave this role, both in business and in assisting Jill with grandparenting duties. Doug is also with us, so D & D Letterpress is operating with just a single "D" today.

When I started on this path, our daughter, Kathryn, had not long commenced in secondary school. She has lived a lifetime since, not only travelling with us and a group of scientists to the Galapagos Islands but also exploring Europe, marrying the most hardworking and marketing-savvy Frenchman I have ever met, and riding horses in Mongolia for two weeks. Lucky that bucket item is out of the way because a look at her today with Jean-Francois by her side will show why they drove up from Albury and why horses are not for the riding right now. The baby is due in three weeks and students in her French classes at Trinity Anglican College have been having fun suggesting unusual names—like Baguette!

Also watching proceedings from the gallery today are my electorate staff. Moira Stewart and Bruce Holmes have been in the office from the start and will tomorrow receive certificates from Parliament for 15 years service. In Moira's case, "working for the man" takes on added significance because I first employed her in the Albury regional television station AMV4 in 1989 and the time was right for her to make a move to another front-of-house role in 2003. Bruce joined the fray from the Army, where he had been honoured with an Order of Australia medal for services. Dealing with the day-to-day inquiries, the demands, the disasters of life, the reasonable and unreasonable expectations of constituents and the bureaucratic responses crafted for Ministers takes a certain personality. Bruce has nicknames for everyone, but I am yet to find out mine.

Then Peter Cerexhe came on the scene, first as an ATS, or additional temporary staff, and then as a permanent officer. Peter is a lawyer, a writer, a musician and a clear thinker, who had just the credentials to assist me when I held the shadow portfolio of Fair Trading. He has now been part of the team for nine years and we are the stronger for his research and expert turn of phrase. Thank you to you all for everything you do to assist me but, more importantly, for everything you do for the electors, the constituents of the Albury electorate. We have done our job and done it well for 16 years and we have earned the next chapter in the days of our lives.

Madam Speaker, we also have with us in the gallery one of the chartered accountant whiz-kids of the mining boom, a man who later operated an Australia-wide company and who settled in Albury with his charming wife, Deborah. They are here today because Howard Hinde has been on this journey from the outset as campaign manager for four elections when we won every booth on every occasion, even with an expanding electorate that now covers 19,686 square kilometres and 42 booths. I thank Howard for his friendship and guidance over the years in politics and even before that for his considerable but wise investments in television advertising when I was station manager of the local television station.

Along with Howard on the Albury Liberal team, I acknowledge and thank all those who made such great contributions over the years—attending meetings, fundraising, organising events, setting up for polling days and operating behind the scenes. I think of stalwarts like Chris Stern, Ian and Yvonne Ellis, Noel and Tracee Wilson, Bruno and Lois Biti, Tony and Susie a'Beckett, John and Genevieve Knobel, Joe Matto, Mavis Gardiner, Angus Macneil, and Gary and Chris Poidevin. There are so many more, but with us today to represent them is Justin Clancy. I ask members to take a good look at Justin Clancy because he is the Liberal candidate for Albury, a true man of the community, and I hope to see him take my place in this House next March.

While my introductions draw to a close, my next guest is a man who has made music in this very building as a promoter of the value of regional conservatoriums. Stephen O'Connell is the Chief Executive Officer of the

Murray Conservatorium in Albury and in 2016 arranged a concert in our parliamentary theatrette for Ministers and members to showcase the talents of staff and students. His presence here today signals my continuing interest in promoting the need for investment in the arts, particularly in music, in the Albury electorate. While I have sponsored students at the conservatorium and prizes at the Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod, we need the stamp of government to really make those institutions prosper.

I have been talking about people for some time and rightly so, for that is why we are here. We are helped by people and elected by people and we represent the interests and aspirations of people. I have made the decision to retire and hand on the baton to a younger person. This place, the oldest parliament in the Commonwealth, will continue and I trust will have a government that, like now, delivers huge benefits for the people, particularly the regional residents of our great State. Thinking along these lines, I am reminded that there is a great deal of talk in this Chamber and, like the Speaker, I often sit and listen to it. *Hansard* is the product of those wonderful reporters who record it for posterity—every sitting day, every year. It is a flow of words: from some a babble or a tirade; from others a measured response or a thoughtful contribution to a vexed question. Poetry has made a resurgence in this House of late, and I am reminded of a favourite poem:

I chatter, chatter, as I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever.

Members may recall that this is from *The Brook* by Alfred Lord Tennyson. We are all part of the history of this institution, this bastion of democracy, which receives far too little respect. Long after we have gone, this place will continue, so best leave a mark of value, some worthy reminder of service rendered, for in this respect we are indeed masters of our fates. We arrive here in different circumstances and at different ages. Some come, some go every four years, and some do not last that long. It is from Shakespeare's *As You Like It* that we recall those wonderful lines:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

This place is often treated as a theatre. Indeed, it has galleries for spectators, including the fourth estate. It has production staff in the form of erudite Clerks, stage crew in the form of attendants and even a front of House, not to mention food and drink outlets, security and a cleaning team. And we should not forget the stage managers, who take the form of those long-suffering but fantastic organisers in the Whip's office: Rebecca, Alex and Annie. I thank them all for their assistance to me over the time I have been a player in this House.

Prior to making an entrance here in 2003, there were indeed a great many other parts that framed my life. My parents were both in the gallery for my inaugural speech and I paid tribute to them, but, sadly, both have now passed on and I delivered eulogies at their funerals recalling their lives and the influence they had on my brother and me. As school captain of Lusaka Boys School, I led the school in waving Zambian flags at Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and President Kaunda as their motorcade proceeded along the road towards independence celebrations in 1964. My interest in drama and the stage was sparked by lead roles in school plays and Christmas pageants and these continued at high school and university.

I attended Gilbert Rennie School—an eight-kilometre cycle ride from home. Like the country, the school underwent a name change and became Kabulonga Secondary School for Boys. One of the interesting coincidences of life is that many years later when I moved to Albury I found that a history teacher from that school was now the revered principal of The Scots School Albury. My secondary years were marked by high academic results, a love of athletics and participation in many extracurricular activities, such as drama, debating, business club and Rotaract. In my final year I won a national essay competition on "The Qualities of Leadership" and as a 17-year-old noted that "the powers of oratory are not to be underestimated" and that "the ability to speak convincingly and enthusiastically is essential for a leader". I went on to note that the upholding of honour dates from ancient times, when personal dignity and honour were considered a man's most important possessions. We should perhaps reflect more on that today. I quoted Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, who said:

Only he deserves power who every day justifies it.

Those who fashioned some of the more dramatic and scandalous events during my time here deserve to be excoriated by that observation. Time moves on. Scholarships and a bursary are won, two degrees achieved and my arm is broken playing inter-house Rugby after a tackle by a first-grade centre who goes on to play internationally. It is while I am at university that I meet one of my lifelong friends, Peter Debenham, who is with

us today along with his lovely wife, Betsie. He was my best man and I have been toastmaster or emcee at both their daughters' weddings. He was a fearless diver, who surfaced with the most enormous crayfish, which were devoured around a campfire with salad and adequate quantities of white wine!

In this assembly we come from different walks of life and I believe it is important that we bring to this place real experience so we can truly represent our communities. I look back on part-time and holiday jobs, from making milkshakes at shows to becoming an advertising salesman and announcer/deejay at that same show over its five days of operation. The money earned one year paid for a memorable trip for us to the Seychelles—before the coup. Coups d'etats were a regular feature of living in Africa in that era. They probably prepared me for leadership change in Australia, but there was less crying and more blood in Africa.

From working in a shoe shop to waiting at silver service banquets, I then started full time in foreign affairs with the Rhodesian government in 1975 and worked with experienced diplomats in a ministry headed by an Australian. Those were the days of typing pools, carbon paper for triplicate copies, telex machines and conveying diplomatic bags to and from aircraft safes in the middle of the night. I completed national service in the police force, learning drill, first aid, aspects of the law, advanced driving, weaponry and bushcraft, among other things. Friends were killed in counterinsurgency operations and I learned to deal with collecting bodies from fatal motor vehicle crashes. It is part of life and you deal with it.

Posted to Australia in 1977, I met Paddy Elworthy, who was already working in Sydney and who is with us today. I thank Paddy for her great help to Jill and me in those early days in a new country. We recognise your resilience in making the trip today after the funeral of our great friend Betty last week. Three years in Sydney, then back to a country with a new name and a new direction. That has become quite a theme and it is a salutary lesson in life that change is a constant and it is the reorienting by the individual that allows a defined course to be followed.

Back in Australia, 20 years in regional television prepared me for politics—although I did not realise it at the time. Working in management roles in all departments except engineering gave me an insight into business, community relationships and outcomes based on teamwork. It is the reason I chose as my political slogan the simple yet profoundly pertinent three words: Community. Teamwork. Results. Commercial television brought me into close contact with people who had outstanding creative abilities, strong work ethics and the ability to differentiate the practical from the ethereal in unforgiving time frames. It also brought inflated egos, vaulting ambitions, foul language and a willingness to connive and manipulate to achieve a personal goal. A good preparation for politics, as it turned out.

It was as station manager in Albury that I could focus what I had learnt on achieving good things for the community and for the staff. We were financially successful and had a great team of sales executives but it was in the production and news areas that we excelled—winning national awards, including a Logie. In life you want to be remembered for doing things well. As I tell service volunteers at awards ceremonies, "You do not take on the work to gain a medal but you do deserve our thanks and recognition, and, I hope, in that manner encourage others."

Somehow in 2003 all this life experience coalesced and turned me into a politician, although I rather prefer the term "parliamentarian"—it seems to have fewer connotations. The journey was exciting. I was already a member of a service club, the Rotary Club of Albury Hume, but this new role was service on steroids. As a country member, I had a close relationship with the people in the electorate. Country members are called upon to deal with the many details in people's lives—parking tickets, train fares, neighbour squabbles like homing pigeon poo in the next-door swimming pool, barking dogs—and in Albury, border anomalies which impact on trade licences, motor vehicle road rules, taxi rides and a myriad of other frustrations.

While we try to fix problems, sometimes expectations are too great. On one occasion my office and I managed to secure suitable accommodation for a lady who wanted to leave her Housing NSW unit in Albury to move to Sydney to be with her sick daughter. She was happy with the outcome and popped in to see if we could now arrange the removal of her household items too. The member's role involves opening hockey carnivals early on cold mornings, judging show boys and girls at agricultural shows and quirky dogs at pet shows, taking part in Pollies for Small Business, and finding that some comic at the local chamber of commerce has booked you in to deliver a manicure, pedicure and facial treatment at a beauty salon under the scrutiny of the local media. By the way, ladies, I was given seven out of 10 by the very brave subject, so there is clearly at least one opportunity for me after politics.

Of course we support various charities, from selling hamburgers to walking, running and paddling, and then there are the openings of events, where we endeavour to serve a ball to open new tennis courts or at least get a spare when opening a tenpin bowling tournament. The country member visits tiny rural schools to be greeted enthusiastically by the 10 to 15 children who are eager to sing him a song and ask him questions they have

rehearsed. He frames the paintings they give him and puts them up on the walls of his parliamentary office. He attends as many functions as possible, even if the distances are great and he has to dodge kangaroos on the roads or even the occasional stag late at night on the way home. When there are disasters—like the tornado in Mulwala and the floods in the upper Murray—the member travels to meet people and ensure that assistance is forthcoming. Then there is the follow-through to get debris and asbestos cleared or to rebuild a dam.

Buildings and infrastructure are sometimes seen as the only measure of a member, so in this respect I pay tribute to our Liberal-Nationals Government for a truly golden era in regional New South Wales. We are seeing a transformation in our services and roads, with the delivery of projects such as the Riverina Highway east of Albury to Lake Hume, the new ambulance station, multiple fire stations, the rebuild of hospitals as multipurpose services in Culcairn, Tumbarumba and Holbrook, along with the huge expansion of Albury's emergency department and the long-awaited rebuild of Nolan House to accompany my special project, the new Brain and Mind Centre, which is now underway. Roads have been transformed at Yarara Gap and Clarke's Hill, while new ramps will complete the diamond interchange at Ettamogah, where there will also be a new siding at the rail hub. The Murray River Experience is a major investment in tourism, as is our State's first rail trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood. Other investments continue to benefit country residents, such as the boat ramps, cycleways, museums and festivals, all contributing to making country living so appealing.

Madam Speaker, as tomorrow creeps ever closer I look back on those yesterdays and am grateful for the opportunity afforded me to serve the people of the electorate of Albury. In Parliament I have promoted and fought for our region. I have participated in many committees and yesterday chaired my final meeting of the StaySafe committee and tabled our final report in this Fifty-sixth Parliament. For five years I served as a shadow Minister and devised policies which I was pleased to see enacted by government. I am pleased now to see recommendations of our road safety committee find their way into legislation. This is what drives candidates to seek election to this place: to make their electorates stronger and better, to improve the services for constituents, and to leave a legacy that will be considered worthwhile. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Members stood in their places and applauded.

Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (11:56): "Honourable members" is how I commenced my inaugural speech in this place in February 1990. I also stated:

My wish is that my tenure justifies the true meaning of honourable. ...To be honourable we must be a servant of our electorate. I believe that he who has placed his foot on the lowest step of fortune's ladder is as fully entitled to our regard as he who has attained the summit.

I still fervently believe that today. Recently I said that when I ran an election campaign I was a National Party candidate for the electorate of Coffs Harbour and once elected I became the member for Coffs Harbour. That means that everyone in the electorate was entitled to my representation, whether I agreed or disagreed with them. This applies to all members of Parliament. Our job as a local member is to be local and to ensure that we represent the views of our electorates. When I first started in this place, my electorate extended from Macksville to the Big Banana, an area of 9,000 square kilometres. It now covers basically the Coffs Harbour local government area, which is about 1,200 square kilometres.

The tie I am wearing today was given to me by my sister and my brother-in-law, who is deceased. I wear it every year when I go to the cherry auction, which I attended this morning, and I thank the member for Drummoyne for his lift. Why do I wear it? Bananas were once the fruit of Coffs Harbour; today it is a mix of bananas and blueberries. I wear this tie with pride to represent my electorate. When I was elected to this House 28 years ago on 3 November 1990—my wife's birthday—governments governed for the majority and protected and provided for minorities. Now, with the emergence of minor single-issue parties holding the balance of power in the Legislative Council, governments tend to bow to non-representative minorities at the expense of the general populace.

We are forever—and I saw it first in 1991—canvassing the support of minority parties or individuals to ensure that legislation gets through. As a result of that, the promises we make in election campaigns quite often are not kept, and that goes for both sides of Parliament. It is high time that we as a Parliament got back to governing for the majority. I will not be here after 23 March next year, but it is a plea I make to the next Government: If you govern for the majority, you will stay in power. If you look after all electorates in an equal manner, you will ensure that you remain in power. It is not a matter of throwing money at marginal seats; it is a matter of providing for the needs and wants of the communities. I say that, having spent 16 years in opposition when Bob Carr stopped all capital funding in regional New South Wales. For 16 years we suffered. The Coffs Harbour hospital was delayed for six years. The courthouse and police station were not done until we regained government. And it was more than 20 years—about 24 years—from the time I started calling for the police station and courthouse.

We now have \$194 million about to be spent on the hospital and we have one of the best regional health services in New South Wales because I have had the support of the electorate to fight for that. I see the Minister for Health is at the table. We now have \$194 million to bring us up to speed with other hospitals in regional New South Wales. As my electorate has never been regarded as a marginal seat, even though I won the seat with 1 per cent when I first came in, I suggest that we have suffered. Those electorates that were regarded as marginal seats or that had members who have not done their jobs as efficiently or proficiently as they should have ended up being the beneficiaries of governments—and I say "governments".

For the information of those opposite, when my predecessor retired, my wife happened to be in Newcastle with our son, who was then three years old—he is now six foot four—undergoing radiotherapy. A couple of days after Matt announced his retirement, I was approached by a little fella by the name of George Bower. George is a great little fella, a good family friend. I have known him for years. He came into the office of the caravan park we had at the time with two blokes who were about this high and said, "Can we see you, Andrew?" I said, "Yeah, sure." So in he came. He said, "We want you to stand for the Labor Party at the upcoming by-election." And I said, "George, I love you like a brother, but I have actually been the treasurer of the local branch of the National Party for some years. And besides that, Kerrie is not well. She is undergoing radiotherapy treatment after seven months of chemo. So thanks, but no thanks."

That afternoon a fella by the name of Burt Hannaford along with an old mate by the name of Bob Walter came into the office and said, "Andrew, can we see you for a minute?" I said, "Yep." So in they came. I said, "What can I do for you?" "We'd like you to stand for the National Party." And I went through the same deal as I did with George, except they were members of the National Party and I knew them well. I said, "I can't do it. Kerrie's not well. We've got a young family", et cetera. So that night I rang Kerrie and I said, "You wouldn't believe this. Georgie Bower's asked me to run for the Labor Party. Bob Walter and Burt Hannaford asked me to run for The Nationals." And she said, "Well, why don't you?" And I said, "Why? You're not well. We've got a young family." She said, "Well, maybe it's about time you got paid for doing stuff that you've been doing for nothing for many years." So I gave it consideration. I ran a very tight preselection, which I won, and history shows that 28 years later I am still there.

When I came into this place, it was known as the bearpit. These days I would suggest that it is the sandpit. The nonsense that goes on in here is created by people who do not know or do not understand the way the House runs and do not know or do not understand the standing orders of the place. I would suggest to those who remain on the standing orders committee that they get rid of Standing Order 249A. If you are on three calls to order and you are called for a fourth you are out, and you are not out for an hour or two, you are out for a day. At the moment a member can be on seven calls to order and get flicked for an hour, or will come back and say, "Look, I've got a function on tonight. I need to stay." Members need to have regard for the standing orders of this place and for what has gone on in the past.

For example, when we first won government, Barry O'Farrell asked me to talk to new Ministers because I knew the procedures of the House. But I still see Ministers sitting at the table when a division is called. During divisions all members sit on the bench. It is ayes to the right of the Chair, noes to the left—a fairly simple procedure that all members of this place should understand. It is not hard. So I would ask that all members when they come into this place when the new Parliament resumes are given a lecture by the Clerks on the standing orders. Wal Murray told me to learn the standing orders of this place when I came in here, and I did. He was a truly great leader of the National Party.

Over the years in this place, as I said, those who have placed their foot on the lowest rung of fortune's ladder are equally as entitled as those who have reached the summit. The staff in this place who keep it going are an incredible group of people. I talk about the dining room staff—Annu, Charlotte and Paul who service the members' dining room. I suggest members start using it at lunchtime. Yes, it is cheaper downstairs, but if you do not use it you are going to lose it. It is an old adage, but it is true. Chef Vanessa, thank God we got the smorgasbord back. It's funny, when I came in here the smorgasbord was alive and well; it is now back and I'm leaving. We have had many years without a decent feed. It is a dining room, not a restaurant.

To the cleaners, we cannot thank you enough. In the early years in this place when we were sitting until two and three in the morning there was quite a bit of red wine spilt on carpets, and it was always gone the next morning. They were different days then to what they are now. We now have family-friendly hours. The cleaners do a fantastic job. To Brad, the fella out the front—it took me years to get a conversation out of him, but when we walk in here of a morning the leaves are gone, the courtyard is clean, and he is polishing brass. He does a phenomenal job. To the attendants in the House, what a great job they do. The number of times I leave my glasses or phone in my office and they have to find them amidst the mountain of paperwork on my desk is fantastic. They always treat guests with decency and they are very polite.

Hansard, what a great mob of people. I will drop you up a couple of bottles of wine again for Christmas this year. Years ago we used to invite Hansard in for drinks. That old tradition has disappeared as well. They will make this speech look as though it is worthwhile reading. To security: we never had much security when I first came into this place, but these days it is a must, unfortunately. To all members of staff, ministerial staff, office staff from all electorate offices, they are always defending us and looking after us. They do a fantastic job. Departmental staff do a tremendous job. Although sometimes I have arguments with them over different things, at the end of the day 90 per cent of the time you get your own way.

To the Clerks of the House—Russell Grove, Ronda Miller, Helen Minnican, Les Gönye and all the others—thanks for your help and assistance over the years. When I was going through the standing orders and so on I would often go to see Russell Grove and ask him questions on how things should be done, and I always got the right advice. One night I made a ruling in this House, and this goes back to what I said previously, and Les Gönye came up to me and said, "Mr Fraser, you understand there isn't a standing order that covers that." I said, "Les, you and I both know that; no-one else does." The forms of the House are such—and I hear the complaints in question time from those opposite—that if you do not agree with the Speaker's ruling move dissent. You have an opportunity to do it. If you understood the standing orders, you would understand that you could do it and you would do it.

Mr Greg Piper: You tell us now.

Mr ANDREW FRASER: My door has always been open. To the Whip's staff—Rebecca Cartwright, Anthea "Annie" Savage and Alex—you run the place, from the Government's point of view. You really do. The Whips think they know what they are doing but the "whippettes" are actually the ones who organise the business of the House, et cetera. I thank you for your lenience. I disappeared last night as I had a board meeting I had to attend for a charity I chair. Members should understand that we should not even go to the chemist shop across the road without letting the Whip's staff know because they need to know where we are when those bells ring. Over those 28 years, I have sat in the House for approximately 1,700 question times. That is 17,000 questions and probably about 10,000 answers. I have seen nine Premiers, nine leaders of the Liberal Party, six leaders of The Nationals and eight leaders of the Labor Party in those 28 years. Each had his or her own peculiarities and each left for different reasons. I am leaving for my own reason.

I thank the electorate for returning me at eight separate elections. I thank all those National Party members and supporters who have manned my booths year in and year out. I thank Kerrie for ringing those 400 people and making sure they actually did turn up at their rostered times. From a 51 per cent majority, two-party preferred, I rose to 78 per cent at my highest. I am now back in the mid-sixties. It is humbling to know that I have had the support of the electorate over that period of time. There are always issues, but those supporters have letterboxed, doorknocked, manned campaign offices and manned booths. No member in this place can do their job or win an election without the support of those people.

I thank my electorate office staff. I have been truly blessed in this job. When I came in, I kept the staff. I recommend that whoever wins the preselection for my seat keep the staff I have there. They do a fantastic job. They know where all the bodies are buried and what all the issues are, and I could not survive without them. When I came in, I had Barbara Campbell. She was regarded as the electorate secretary's secretary. I also had Marilyn Ely. I bumped into her a few weeks ago when we were out having some lunch. She has not changed since then. They were both fantastic. Barbara made me dictate every letter sent from that office for the first six months that I was there. Why did she do it? She wanted me to understand all the government departments that we dealt with. It was a great experience. At the end of six months she brought in a folder and said, "These are all the form letters. We can use these from here on in."

I then had Lyn Chalmers and Michelle Lawson. Michelle still works for the Attorney General in his electorate office. I had Diane Leahy, Campbell Forsyth and Katie Hunter. Craig McTear, Deb McGrath and Cherrill Powell were temps, and Cherrill still works for us as a temp. Diane started life as a junior electorate officer with Ian Sinclair. She then moved to the coast and began working for Garry Nehl. She then had a little bit of time off and had two young children. She worked part time for Garry and I tried to steal her for years. She then worked for Luke Hartsuyker, my federal member, and I kept trying to steal her. Diane has had a rough time in the past few years; she lost her husband, Peter.

However, Diane's children Nicole and Angus have done exceptionally well. Angus is currently doing his PhD in sports science at Newcastle University, which is absolutely fantastic. Diane is the electorate secretary's secretary. There is hardly a Federal or State issue that has come into my office about which she does not know someone to contact who is able to resolve any difficulties. I thank all my electorate staff over that period. It is not a lot of people for 28 years. All staff who have left either did so on good terms or retired, and I thank them for their fantastic assistance during that period. The member for Keira is not here this morning, but he asked me to mention one thing: I apologise to the House in relation to Joe Tripodi.

Mr Brad Hazzard: It was a great night.

Mr ANDREW FRASER: It was not a great night. I lost a hell of a lot of hair over that incident. If you live in a regional town and people are getting killed on the road, you know them. If you do not know them, you know their neighbours or their relatives. The Pacific Highway was killing more than 50 people a year, and the vast majority of them were being killed between Grafton and Macksville. We have seen tragedy after tragedy. One of Angus's girlfriends, Dixie Gibson, had sat at our table. She was a cheeky thing, a gorgeous girl, extremely tall and a model. She ended up under a truck. If there had been a divided carriageway, she probably would not have died. Tripodi played politics with people's lives and I saw red.

I still apologise for it. I came around the Chamber to steal his notes, because he was reading them word for word, and he ran out of the Chamber. So I pulled him back in. As my daughter said to me that evening, "Two shakes were okay. Three was probably one to too many." I must have received hundreds of letters in relation to it. Some condemned me, but the Wollongong branch of the Labor Party actually congratulated me. Even though I have never been presented with it, at its Christmas party that year the Labor Party gave me a trophy for doing the most for its left wing that year. I know this because I had a friend who was there, but I have never received the trophy. If those opposite would like to give it to me, I will stick it in my study with some pride.

One thing that really annoyed me after that was that it was claimed that I was drunk. That night I had come down in the lift to meet the Hornsby Chamber of Commerce as I was shadow Minister for Small Business at the time. I saw Andrew Stoner there and asked him, "As leader of the party, would you like to come and meet the Hornsby Chamber of Commerce?" He said, "I am going to have a drink at the bar with someone first. Come in and then we'll go." I said okay. I had half a glass of red wine. Whoever he was meeting with did not turn up, then we met with the Hornsby Chamber of Commerce in the Parkes Room and then went in for dinner. I had barely sat down when the debate on road safety began in the House.

Andrew Stoner could not do road safety because his driving record was not good, so I had it as one of my portfolios. The next day, he indicated to the media that I was not drunk and that I had had a glass of red wine in his presence, but he was not with me all night. I guarantee it was 15 minutes from the bar to the Parkes Room to the dining room, and all I had had was a half a glass of red wine. I really do regret that he was so insecure that he had to make those comments to the media. After Andrew Stoner held that media conference, Barry O'Farrell came up to me and said, "Your leader just threw you under the bus."

When the motion to exclude me from Parliament was heard, I told the leaders of my party at the time that if the then Coalition voted against the motion I would vote with Labor to expel myself. I do not believe that any reason could justify what I did on that evening. I suppose if it had not been for the death of a 21-year-old who had just completed her university degree, if not for the fact that her parents had been killed the week before, and if Andrew Stoner had not lied about that incident in the House, I probably would not have done it. I have often said the last fight I had I won by 150 metres. I just want to set the record straight.

I am leaving this place because my time is up. I do not want to spend another four years here. I am still as keen as I was the day I came into this place, but if you put your hand up at an election then you have to spend another four years. I would not leave mid-term, as others have done, because it costs the State somewhere around \$750,000 to run a by-election. I would rather see that money spent in my electorate. I turn now to speak about a few electoral achievements. I begin with the Coffs Harbour Education Campus, a combined partnership between a university, TAFE college and the NSW Department of Education. John Fahey, who was the Premier, and Minister for Further Education, Training and Employment at that time, visited my electorate to turn the first sod on the new campus. While he was there I asked where Marnie Yates was, because she had been pushing for a university. She was not there.

John turned the sod and said, "How would you feel about having a combined campus here?" I said, "That would be fantastic." He said, "Come and see me on Tuesday." And I did. So John Fahey, Virginia Chadwick and I organised the most unique campus in New South Wales, if not Australia. The campus has cross accreditation—high school kids can do parts of university degrees while still at school, and TAFE students can transfer to university or whatever. This really is a phenomenal institution and we should be looking at having more of these types of campuses. In my inaugural speech I mentioned the PCYC. Richard Face did not want it at the time, but we soon convinced him and we ended up getting a PCYC in my electorate. We have had tens of millions of dollars, if not hundreds of millions of dollars, in grants to our council.

For example, there was a recent grant of \$10 million to improve the sports facilities at Coffs Harbour. I often hear the councillors say that rate-pegging is killing the Coffs Harbour City Council. Over the past five years the Coffs Harbour City Council has had rate increases of 25.3 per cent and it has received hundreds of millions of dollars in government funding. I would suggest it should stop playing games and get on with the job. It should dump its \$76 million Taj Mahal, which would save \$35 million, and get on with the job it is supposed

to be doing. We also have phenomenal sports infrastructure. Unfortunately, I am beginning to feel somewhat ill. At about this time every year I get rally fever. Tomorrow the latest stage of the 2018 World Rally Championship will start in Coffs Harbour. I have asked the Government Whip for leave. I do not know whether I've got it, but I will be going this afternoon.

Mr Chris Patterson: You're going anyway!

Mr ANDREW FRASER: I have told the "whipettes"; I do not know whether I have told the Whip. At that event I will be representing the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Sport, and the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, which goes to prove that a good local member can easily represent four Ministers and do their job. Earlier I mentioned the Coffs Harbour Health Campus. I thank the Government for the \$169 million in funding. At the last election its estimated cost was \$156 million and now it is \$194 million. We will get first-class facilities, and I again thank the Treasurer and the Minister for Health.

Our cancer care unit is also phenomenal. I thank a lady by the name of Dorothy Hayes for doing a wonderful job in collecting 29,000 signatures—sorry, Leslie, we beat Port Macquarie because it only got 23,000 signatures. I have spoken about the Pacific Highway. We have other major sporting events, including ladies golf. We have the Australian Ladies Classic Bonville, which should be in February again next year, and last year we also hosted the Women's NSW Open. All these events put Coffs Harbour on the map. In fact, more than 50 million viewers will be watching the World Rally Championship on the Coffs Coast, which is absolutely fantastic.

In his valedictory speech the member for Albury referred to issues members often have to deal with. That reminded me of a letter I received from a constituent who said, "A neighbour of mine has built a swimming pool and it has no fence. I demand you do something about it." The letter was unsigned and had no address so I threw it in the bin. About a month later I received another letter in the same handwriting. It said, "Mr Fraser, thank you very much. The neighbour has now put up a pool fence. We appreciate your intervention. My family and I will vote for you from now on."

Finally, my family. Kerrie, 28 years—shit! Last week we celebrated our forty-fourth wedding anniversary and, as I said the other day, it does not seem like a day over 43 years. She has been my rock. She has looked after three kids and got them through three Higher School Certificates. She has wiped their noses and their bums. She has raised three kids who we are both extremely proud of. I have never pushed my kids or rung someone and said, "Give them a job." Alexandra is now living in Melbourne with our young grandson, Charlie. We were down there for his birthday last weekend. She worked as a marketing manager at Gowings. She worked also for the Department of Sport and Recreation, or whatever it was called. She left because she said there was no real work ethic there—but I think there is these days.

Alexandra then went to England for a couple of years. She was regarded as a convict over there, so she got the job of sacking all the people when they were downsizing the councils where she worked because they knew she could stay for only two years. When she came back to Australia she was an instigator of one of the environmental awards. She worked under Labor—the Labor Party did not know she was my daughter—and she did a great job. In fact, I know that from those who were very complimentary about her. She then ended up as the Chief Executive Officer of the Energy Retailers Association of Australia. When they merged, she took a redundancy and went to work for the then Minister for Energy, Anthony Roberts. She stayed there until her husband was moved to Melbourne. Alexandra has done a great job.

Elizabeth, like the member for Albury's daughter, married a Frenchman. We went over there this year for her wedding. They have bought a home. She and Mathieu are just suited. Elizabeth had the wanderlust. She studied science at university and then became a scuba diving instructor. She decided to take that skill around the world, and I think she met Matt in Spain. They then travelled to Croatia, and in the 12 months they had over here they have seen more of Australia than I have. Matt is now an extremely responsible executive with GE Healthcare in Buc, France. We will now have the opportunity in retirement of probably spending a little more time over there. At the moment they are doing up their house. We are getting emails and texts saying that they need someone to help them paint it. Hopefully it will be done by the time we get there.

Angus and Tiana—Angus is in the gallery today. As I said, he was a three-year-old when I started in this place and now he is six foot four inches, but I think I have still got him bluffed. Angus works in an information technology business of his own. What else would his generation be doing? He was recently re-elected captain of the North Shore Sporting Car Club, and for the information of the Minister for Sport, the Premier and others, on Thursday nights at Eastern Creek they run a rally sprint. Angus also drives and navigates rally cars. Well done, mate. I have always told my children that if they do something they like it will never be work. I think they are doing what they like.

One year, 11 years ago today or thereabouts, was my annus horribilis: I was stabbed in the back over a Port Macquarie by-election. I can tell you now it was not my fault but those who were responsible know who it was. I got blamed for it. In fact, I missed a week of the doorknocking there because Kerrie's dad had passed away. I had a stent in my heart. I had a defamation case that was sold to me by a fellow member, who left this place recently. I rang him and said, "Mate, did you get a defamation writ?" He said, "No, we changed the letter, we didn't send it out." Thank you very much. My solicitor said he was a most unreliable witness. That cost me \$42,000, even though I won the case. That was the year our house was destroyed by fire and burnt down.

I have to say that during that time the members of this place were absolutely supportive. I had donations from the Liberal Party, even though we were fully insured. Barry called me into his office one day and said, "I want to see you." I thought, "What have I done wrong this time?" He said, "We've passed the hat around." I will not mention the amount, but it was substantial. I said, "We're fully insured"—although I will advise people to check their contents insurance, because you are never fully insured; it is replacement value you need. He said, "Good. Then take Kerrie on a holiday or do something." Labor Party members sent me cheques. It was unbelievable.

It was a very tough time. Elizabeth was burned and Angus suffered smoke inhalation. For six months after that Kerrie was living in Sydney and running over to the burns unit at Royal North Shore Hospital. During that time, the support we had from friends and family was unbelievable. I especially mention Elizabeth and Jay Ruthann, who are still great friends of ours. I moved into their house while Kerrie was here. Then when Kerrie got back we moved in with Sheryl Epton, now Rowan. The families were absolutely incredible. I wish you all extremely well. Before I finish, I will read a couple of quotes that I have had on my office wall for years. One says:

I've been ... kicked, punched, promised, robbed, underpaid, underappreciated, overworked, lied to and overlooked. The only reason I stay in this bloody place is to see what happens next.

Well, I do not want to know what happens next. But I do wish the incoming government all the best. Gladys, you have done a great job for regional New South Wales. The amount of expenditure I have had in my electorate over the past eight years has been phenomenal. I thank the Coalition for that. I will leave you with one final thought. It is something my father had in his wallet when he passed away. It is called *The Indispensable Man*. I apologise to the ladies in the audience, but I will read it the way it was written:

Sometime when you're feeling important;
Sometime when your ego's in bloom
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified man in the room,
Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how they humble your soul;
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.
You can splash all you wish when you enter,
You may stir up the waters galore,
But stop and you'll find that in no time
It looks quite the same as before.
The moral of this quaint example
Is do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself but remember
There's no indispensable man.

Thank you for the journey.

Members stood in their places and applauded.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his 28 years of amazing service. I congratulate him on his eight elections and, more importantly, his 44 years of marriage to the amazing Kerrie. Angus, you should be very proud of his commitment to this place. I thank you for giving him to the people of New South Wales.

Bills

SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE BILL 2018

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (12:35): As I was about to say before the debate was interrupted for valedictory speeches, I read with a great deal of interest the aims of St Paul's College as noted on its website. They are great goals that are worth repeating here:

- to open the way to the best that the university has to offer;
- to create a home for intellectual leadership and moral responsibility;
- to sustain itself as a community which is intelligent, amicable, amiable, dynamic and inclusive of varied religions, ethnicities and sexualities;
- to amuse, given that not all who wander are lost;
- to celebrate the historic Christian tradition of faith and worship in a critical and informed Anglican manner, and to recognise and explore the best in all faiths;
- to contribute to the goodness of the nation and the world.

I have a call to action to students, current and past. I ask them to set about creating new traditions and new rituals that are commensurate with those aims, the esteemed status of the Anglican Church, the college and the university, and what we all might expect from a group of presumably intelligent and engaged young leaders who have the opportunity to study at one of the great universities and reside in one of its oldest colleges. Last year I made a specific call out to the students of St John's. I will make it again to the students of St Paul's. I urge them to start new traditions that are worthy of the university, the college and its long history, and the Anglican Church; start new traditions that are worthy of future leaders of our professions and communities.

I ask them to turn their capable minds and imaginations to doing things differently; think about what the college should be known for and how they can become outstanding students who actively participate in civic life; and think about how a culture of giving back to the more vulnerable in our society can change the very nature of the way outsiders view the college and its traditions. A new chapter is about to be written at St Paul's. How it is written will be up to a range of people. I trust that in the new chapter the college will build on positive traditions, establish new ones and become a model of governance and decency. Most of all, I trust that in the new chapter the college will never return to the dark days of degrading rituals and socially unacceptable behaviour. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (12:38): I speak in debate on the Saint Paul's College Bill 2018. I acknowledge Dr Don Markwell in the gallery, who I spoke to earlier this morning. It is good to have him here; it is important for this to be an open discussion. I thank Dr Markwell particularly for the way in which he has engaged with me, the shadow Minister and the Government to ensure that we are aware of what is going on at St Paul's and the efforts the college is making to effect change. That change is so important.

In the past three years in my role as shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault I have found that the cycles of violence, particularly sexualised violence, are very strong in our community; they go through generations and through communities. Earlier today we discussed the potential leaders of tomorrow. Although not all leaders come from universities, the reality is that is where many of them are trained. What those people learn at university about the way to conduct themselves and to show respect for others is vital. The people in government positions in this place choose the heads of departments, who then choose the people who serve our community—there is an ultimate flow-on effect.

We should remember that universities are not the first point of call in learning to deal with other people. Lessons about respect come from our earliest family of origin and from our time at school. Governments have to do all they can at every point of an individual's life to raise awareness of the impact of violence and to provide pathways, instructions and guidelines for the best way to behave. Governments are not just about building concrete and brick buildings or bridges, roads, schools and hospitals. Governments are about building a community of people. Universities are a crucible of the learning that is so vital to ensuring that the leaders of tomorrow are able to do that effectively and that they can generate compassion, understanding and—most importantly—respect in our community.

I acknowledge the steps that St Paul's has taken in its long journey to get to this position. I acknowledge the journey that the survivors of violence in all of our institutions, and particularly in our residential colleges, have taken. On Monday I convened a roundtable not necessarily with residential colleges but with broader university student support services. One thing that came out of the roundtable was an acknowledgement of the need for everyone in this space to be bold and for all of us to recognise the pain felt by survivors of violence. A conversation during the roundtable was around data collection. So much of what we do in government is driven by numbers, by key performance indicators and by showing where there is a need for something. We know that because of the under-reporting of sexual violence in our society and of all the risks that survivors face when they come forward. We do not have a good dataset on the extent of the problem.

I pay strong tribute to the men and women who have experienced violence and who have put their hand up to say enough is enough. Predominantly they are women from all backgrounds—women with disabilities, women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning [LGBTIQ] community. Their stories are what has driven us forward to make a change, and that is empowering for those survivors and those who will follow them. It takes real courage to do that and I salute them for it. I thank End Rape on Campus for the work that it has done—people like Anna Hush, Sharna Bremner and Nina Fennell. I know that Nina Fennell has been working on a very strong campaign called #Let Her Speak about laws in Tasmania and the Northern Territory to ensure that survivors are able to speak.

Shame and secrecy are at the core of the impact of sexual violence on victims and survivors. If we can empower survivors to speak out we will empower them to help to change the situation because—as somebody said to me today—they are no longer part of the problem but part of the solution. For so long they have been seen as the problem because of their silence. I acknowledge the very hard work of the shadow Minister for Education, my colleague the member for Summer Hill, who has been an exceptional long-term campaigner on this issue and has worked in particular with the University of Sydney. I also acknowledge Sophie Cotsis, the shadow Minister for Women, who has done amazing work in this space. I thank Jordi Austin, the director of Student Support Services, and Amber Colhoun, the project manager of Student Support Services at the University of Sydney, who came to the roundtable last week. It was inspiring to see the work that they are doing and the care that they have.

The consensus at the roundtable was that this is not about a tick and flick on compliance; we want to effect cultural change. How do we do that? We do that by providing openness and transparency. We know that the reporting is going to increase, so how will we deal with that? Dr Michael Spencer said that the data would be released. We must consider how it can be released in a way that protects the identity of those survivors who do not want to be identified but does not shy away from the problem. I was very much encouraged by the work of Dr Don Markwell. These are terrible issues but we must face them. That is the first step. Once we face them all the other good things that need to happen to change the culture can happen.

We must acknowledge the importance of the royal commission. There are 60,000 or so young people at university today who are under the age of 18. The power imbalances are incredibly real. Labor members and I have been saying since the beginning of this journey that that must be remembered in the governance of colleges. When implementing all of these reports and recommendations we will need to adjust the strategy as we go through to ensure that it does not lead to unintended consequences, that we are keeping pace with technological change, and that we are maintaining best practice and not just changing things because we thought five years ago that it was what we should do.

The royal commission, the Broderick report and the work done by Universities Australia and Catriona Jackson inform us of the ongoing vigilance that we must have. We cannot put change to one side and say that it is done. When this bill passes this House that is not the end; it is the beginning. It will be the first day of change for students. It will create a safe place for them to learn and grow. As a mother of an 18-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl, I am hoping they will be part of a generation when this sort of behaviour stops. Anyone who sends their child to a residential college wants to feel confident that they will come out as an enriched and enhanced human. That is what we are all fighting for. The survivors have asked us to be brave and to embrace change because they have been so brave. I salute them and I commend the bill to the House.

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (12:48): On behalf of The Greens and as education spokesperson I make a contribution to debate on the Saint Paul's College Bill 2018. I acknowledge that some fellows of the St Paul's College Council are in the gallery. The governance reform of St Paul's College has the support of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Dr Michael Spence; the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, the Reverend Dr Glenn Davies; the Broderick team that undertook the cultural review of the college in 2018; the college council; the committee of the St Paul's College union; and the alumni body. On behalf of The Greens I congratulate the college on reviewing its governance model and modernising its governance structure. We have heard in previous contributions to debate that it is timely that the college and the university have recognised the need for reform. I am an adjunct fellow of the School of Law and Justice at Southern Cross University. My daughter is a PhD student at the University of Sydney. Bringing St Paul's College into the twenty-first century is well overdue.

The legislation that governs the college is more than 150 years old. This bill is purely about the governance structure of St Paul's College. It reduces council membership from 19 to 13 members. It changes the quorum requirement of seven members where one is required to be clerical. The warden no longer needs to be from the clergy but must be a member of the Anglican Church. Two lay people will be elected by the council. Women clergy members can now be elected. Although there is a question around the diocese of Sydney accepting women as priests, we welcome that as a positive move forward in opening up the governance structure for women

clergy members. The bill leaves some of the election processes to by-laws, which is a matter for the college. We raise a concern about how much weight will be given to the clergy in that process. The transitional arrangements for the new council favour existing membership and, therefore, favour the church and clergy membership. We saw that with the Saint John's College Bill 2017.

It is strange that the Parliament has any ability to interfere in the governance model of the college and the university. We urge the college to reform and modernise as quickly as possible. The bill stops short of reforms on student safety and cultural issues, but we recognise that this bill is not about that. While we have heard commentary about the cultural shift required in our universities, I acknowledge that this bill is not about that. It is important to say that the safety and cultural expectations, behaviours and norms in our universities are being addressed and we recognise that as a positive move. We think that needs to continue rigorously.

Historically colleges have had a terrible culture of sexism, sexual assault, bullying and hazing rituals. Reports such as "The Red Zone Report" and the Australian Human Rights Commission report into sexual assault at universities show the need for serious reform. We know that has to happen and we encourage that. We note that St Paul's College engaged with the Broderick project team who undertook a cultural review of the college in 2017 and 2018 and encouraged the college to take up recommendations emerging from the review. We would like to see increased gender diversity through a 50:50 requirement and the removal of the requirement that clerical members and the warden must be a member of the church. We recognise that it is a good start. As my colleague said, it is a start towards modernising the governance structure of the college, which will have a huge effect on the culture of the college.

It is a much more democratic model. The alumni is also pushing for reform. Everyone is on the same page and we look forward to a reduction in the number of negative conversations about the culture at our universities and more conversations about the wonderful work going on at them. The Greens would like an increase in funding for universities. The current draconian backlash against the humanities at a Federal level is incredibly hard to understand. So much reform is required in our universities, but we support this bill and we support the modernisation of the governance structure of St Paul's College.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (12:54): The Saint Paul's College Bill 2018 repeals both the Saint Paul's College Act 1854 and Saint Paul's College Act 1857 and sets out governance structures for St Paul's College at the University of Sydney. The college council will be reduced from 19 to 13 members, with terms set at six years. Two members of the council are to be appointed, including at least one academic from the University of Sydney. That will help to lessen the separation of the college from the University of Sydney, which is an important step towards bridging the existing cultural divide. Importantly, women will now be able to serve as both council members and as wardens of the college, expunging the current rules that exclude women from those roles. Allowing the council to appoint fellows allows for a greater diversity and breadth of experience in the council itself. That is a significant reform that cannot be underestimated.

The bill outlines a number of measures regarding the transitional arrangements towards the new governance structure and a range of measures to improve accountability and transparency around decision-making. Students will be permitted to enrol at the college irrespective of their religious beliefs. The bill amends a private Act, which has not been touched in more than 150 years, that establishes the college outside the control of both the University of Sydney and the Parliament. It is the culmination of a long journey by the college council and successive wardens, by the college body and its alumni, and by the University of Sydney. But it is also the culmination of a long struggle by generations of women who have fought the culture of toxic misogyny that pervades the college.

Rape culture is real. It is ever present on our university and TAFE campuses, and it is entrenched at residential colleges, including St Paul's. While I recognise the important efforts of those who are working to reform and improve those institutions, I must reflect on the facts regarding sexual harassment and assault on university campuses. In 2016 the Australian Human Rights Commission inquired into sexual assault and harassment at Australian universities and produced the report entitled "Change the Course". The report reveals that around half of all university students have experienced sexual harassment on at least one occasion, with 26 per cent of students harassed in a university setting. Women are almost twice as likely as men to be sexually harassed in a university setting, and more than three times as likely to be sexually assaulted. Some 71 per cent of sexual harassment perpetrators are male. Rates of sexual harassment increased for LGBTI students, Indigenous students and students with disabilities.

A further review into university residential colleges conducted by Elizabeth Broderick revealed that one in four women has experienced sexual harassment since starting at college; 6 per cent of women and 1 per cent of men had experienced attempted or actual sexual assault; and 50 per cent of students reported witnessing bullying, intimidation and hazing. Those statistics are backed up by reports from journalists such as Nina Funnell, who uncovered rampant hazing and sexism at colleges such as St Paul's, including a pro-rape Facebook page created

by St Paul's students; Facebook posts comparing sex with large women to "harpooning a whale"; St Paul's students wearing T-shirts emblazoned with derogatory slogans; and initiation rituals that involved being beaten with thongs, or pushing a mattress uphill while other students attack the person or set fire to the mattress.

There is no place for that behaviour in a modern society. It is simply unacceptable and it must stop. Despite the evidence, there are those who seek to cover up and deny rape culture on our campuses. I was appalled that Young Liberals hosted a tour by sex therapist Bettina Arndt entitled "Fake Rape Crisis Campus Tour" at the University of Sydney and La Trobe University. Her main contention was that rape culture is inflated by campus feminists as a way to denigrate men. Let me say categorically, rape culture is real and bills such as this one before the Parliament today must work to end it.

The review by Elizabeth Broderick has helped shape the contents of the bill and provide a real blueprint for reform. Broderick, a former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, offered a comprehensive list of recommendations focused on best practices around student leadership structures, O-Week events and policies, the supply and demand of alcohol, safety and wellbeing, and reporting and disclosure procedures. St Paul's reluctantly joined the review following negative media attention about practices at the college, but I am pleased that we received its report in September this year. Following the release of the report, under the leadership of Dr Don Markwell, Vice Warden and Head of College, St Paul's issued a comprehensive action plan which will see the college adopt all of the Broderick recommendations. This is leadership. The action plan is prefaced with a statement that St Paul's values include:

... respect and dignity for all, including equality of respect regardless of gender, and diversity and inclusion. They also include emphasis on integrity, community, learning, faith, service, and responsibility.

I am hopeful that the leadership of the college will act in good faith in line with those principles. I note that NSW Labor has said it will continue to review the legislation governing colleges and to hold them accountable for their promises of reform. I particularly thank the shadow Ministers—Jihad Dib, Jenny Aitchison and Sophie Cotsis—for their commitments on this important issue. The objective of reform is cultural change at the college. It will not be easy and it will not happen overnight, but cultural change takes leadership. I acknowledge again the significant leadership that has been shown to date by Dr Markwell, who is in the gallery. I acknowledge the leadership provided by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Dr Michael Spence, who has continued to strongly articulate the need for cultural reform. Again, this is leadership.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of activists and young women on campuses across Australia. This is a small victory in a much bigger fight for justice. I have been honoured to support those activists and I am endlessly inspired by their conviction and passion. I acknowledge the courage and resolve of women who speak out about harassment and assault; often they are speaking truth to power. It is unfair that the responsibility to speak up and fight back continually rests on their shoulders. People like us in this place, people in positions of power, have been too slow to acknowledge and support them. But through their courage will come change. I say again, I am optimistic that we can fight for a future free from sexual harassment and assault.

I support this bill because I support constructive reform of our institutions to stamp out sexism and misogyny on our university campuses. But I also acknowledge the reservations of those who have been disappointed in the past by empty promises of reform, only to see harassment and assault continue. I acknowledge the deep hurt and trauma of survivors who have been ignored for too long and who have been told before that things would change. We can no longer turn a blind eye to this behaviour. Let us be part of delivering the solution. Let us be part of delivering accountability and real change. I am optimistic. I hope the bill will deliver that change. I commend it to the House.

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (13:03): In reply: I thank all members who have contributed to debate on the Saint Paul's College Bill 2018, particularly the member for Lakemba, the member for Maitland, the member for Ballina and the member for Summer Hill. I note that all those members welcomed the reforms contained in the bill and made a number of reflections. I particularly acknowledge the collegiate and bipartisan approach exhibited by the shadow Minister in this place, the member for Lakemba, for his response and his engagement, which at all times has been thoughtful, considerate and intelligent. It is wonderful that we can work together in the public interest for outcomes that help to strengthen some of the institutions that have been part of our society for more than 150 years.

I acknowledge the comments by the member for Maitland about the scourge of a culture—which the member for Summer Hill referred to as "toxic misogyny"—and the need to ensure that governance systems, wherever possible, are framed so that people behave in appropriate ways that respect our shared dignity as humans and encourage effective and healthy relationships across the board. Those behaviours must also recognise people who might be vulnerable and who might need protection and assurance that governance systems, wherever

possible, ensure a culture that is inclusive, protective and safe. I note the comments of the member for Ballina, her reflections on Anglicanism and its role in modern society. I also note that she supported the bill.

The bill will modernise the administration and operation of St Paul's College. Importantly all positions—both clerical and lay—on the college will be open to male and female candidates, which has been reflected on by other members in this place. The link between the University of Sydney and St Paul's College will be strengthened through the requirement that one member of the college council be an academic at the university. The bill is drafted in contemporary language, for which we can all be thankful. It is important symbolically and as a matter of practicality in administering the operation of St Paul's College as it moves forward as a modern institution with a long and extraordinary history. I note that it will commence enrolling female students at postgraduate level from next year. I look forward to hearing how the college is supporting a more inclusive and diverse culture. The bill sets up St Paul's College to embrace modernity and sets it in good stead to continue its contribution to academic life as Australia's oldest residential university college.

I make a couple of observations for the purpose of posterity. First, I acknowledge the extraordinary privilege and opportunity that attendance at a college such as St Paul's provides. It offers opportunities and possibilities afforded to only a few. It is important to reflect on this reality and the responsibility that comes with the great freedoms of having those opportunities as a result of being part of a college such as St Paul's. I note that the college's motto "Deo Patriae Tibi" can be interpreted in a number of ways: For God, country and thyself. Peter Benny, a long time head of college, interpreted it as "My God, it's all for me". He did that in a joking sense, but we have to be careful that that does not become a reality for students, future students or alumni. The troublesome word in this motto is "thyself". The incredible freedoms acquired from attending St Paul's bring with it an obligation to use those opportunities to serve the society that has afforded those opportunities. It is important for the college to reflect on that in future. Education is personal but its objectives are societal. As Theodore Roosevelt once said:

To educate a person in the mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society.

To reflect on some words of scripture, given the Anglican and Christian nature of the college's origins and culture, Luke 12:48 states:

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.

Those sentiments are echoed in the Parable of the Tenants as recorded in Matthew 25. In conclusion, a college such as St Paul's has an incredible heritage and provides opportunities and freedoms. With that comes the responsibility to serve society, and that includes an obligation to treat all others with dignity, respect, care and love.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr ROB STOKES: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT (ENFORCEMENT) BILL 2018

Second Reading Speech

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (13:10): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

As this bill was introduced in the other place on 24 October 2018 and is in the same form, the second reading speech appears at pages 51 to 53 in the proof *Hansard* for the day. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (13:11): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018 and note from the outset that this is a bill for an Act to amend the Public Works and Procurement Act 1912 to provide for the enforcement of certain directions and policies of the NSW Procurement Board concerning procurements to which international procurement agreements may apply. On the surface, this bill purports to do something quite benign and simple; that is, to set up a

mechanism so that should there be any disputes about a procurement process they can be heard and dealt with by the New South Wales Supreme Court.

The language of the bill also recognises the right of our international trade partners to have equal access to procurement and gives power to the New South Wales Supreme Court that was previously given to the investor-state dispute settlement process. Essentially, this bill simply brings onshore disputes where there is an international interest. The other important thing that this legislation does in a practical and some might say benign way—but I will leave that for others to judge—is ensure that policies and directions from the NSW Procurement Board will be enforceable for the different agencies. A fact of life that has been repeated over the years is that various New South Wales agencies often disregard the policies and directions of the NSW Procurement Board, even when there is a Premier's memorandum.

Business interrupted.

Community Recognition Statements

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (13:14): This week marks the first anniversary of the historic announcement that 62 per cent of Australians voted in favour of marriage equality. Since that time at least 4,914 same-sex couples have tied the knot, including 1,552 in New South Wales. Congratulations to every one of them. I acknowledge all of the Inner West community groups that campaigned for equality, including the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby, Rainbow Families, ACON, the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and the Gender Centre. I also acknowledge the fantastic work of the Inner West Council, which is moving ahead with bold policies, including the establishment of a pride centre for New South Wales. This week we can celebrate the fact that we live in a more progressive and equal country than we did a year ago. I also take this opportunity to urge all members of this House to work together to end all forms of discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning community in our schools, workplaces and across our community, including ending the continued discrimination against members of the transgender, gender diverse and intersex communities.

TUNCURRY GOLFER SARAH KEMP

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:15): I congratulate and recognise the achievements of Tuncurry golfer, Sarah Kemp. Sarah started playing golf at the age of 12 and credits her parents, Jennifer and Greg, along with coaches Peter Knight and the late Bill McWilliam, as the individuals who most influenced her career. Sarah, who turned professional in 2007 at the age of 19, finished last year's European season well and gained conditional status on this year's Ladies Professional Golf Association tour. On 22 October the NSW Golf Industry Awards took place and I am pleased to inform the House that Sarah Kemp was named Australian Ladies Professional Golfer of the Year. Competing at the highest level in the Ladies Professional Golf Association, the Ladies European Tour and the Asian Golf Tour, there is no doubt "Kempy" is world class.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES HALLINAN

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (13:16): On the centenary of the signing of the Armistice I recognise James Joseph Hallinan. Jim, as he was known, was a carpenter who enlisted to serve on 1 May 1916. Jim saw active service alongside the allied forces in the tunnelling companies that played a crucial role in many battles in France. Jim's company comprised miners, carpenters, explosive specialists and engineers. These men worked many feet below the surface in dangerous and cramped conditions, sometimes in total silence when near the enemy lines. Upon the signing of the Armistice, Jim remained in France to support infrastructure rebuilding and his tunnelling skills were in demand. He was deployed to check for booby traps to make shops and houses safe for civilians returning. Jim disembarked in Melbourne in August 1919, took a train to Sydney, then a bus to the Domain where he was greeted by his mother. Sadly, his brother, John, was killed in action and did not return. Jim passed away at the age of 99 in January 1995, and was the last living tunnel miner from World War I anywhere in the world. We remember James Joseph Hallinan and his fallen comrades on the solemn occasion of the centenary of the signing of the Armistice.

TWEED HEADS & COOLANGATTA RSL SUB-BRANCH INC. REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (13:17): I congratulate Tweed Heads & Coolangatta RSL Sub-Branch Inc. on its amazing Remembrance Day service. A war that had lasted four years, three months and one week ended at 11.00 a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. This year marks 100 years since the end of the Great War. The sub-branch put on an amazing re-enactment of the ceasefire, with a number of army cadets dressed as German, British and Australian soldiers. Compliments to sub-branch President Joe Russell and the army reserve unit.

RSL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:18): It was a privilege to attend the Ettalong-Hardy's Bay RSL Remembrance Day service. I recognise the Central Coast Sub-Branch of the Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association of Australia for their fantastic work in organising the service. Also present was the National Service 1951-1972 Re-enactment Unit. The commander of the unit, David Myers, delivered a moving address, sharing the story of his great-uncle Private William Alexander Jamieson, who fought in World War I. Born in 1897, Jamieson left Sydney for Egypt on 18 February 1916 aboard HMAS *Ballarat*. By July his division was on the frontline at Fromelles, France. His unit fought its first major battle on 19 July 1916, suffering 572 casualties. According to records, Private Jamieson was killed in action on 21 July 1916, aged 19. He was buried in a mass grave at Pheasant Wood. In 2013 this grave was exhumed and 124 Australian soldiers were identified and then reinterred with full military honours in Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery. We will remember them.

HALFWAY CREEK HALL COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (13:19): I acknowledge the incredible effort of Tony and Liz Wade, together with the members of the Halfway Creek Hall Committee and the Rural Fire Service, in holding a fundraiser for our drought-stricken farmers last Saturday night. Halfway Creek is a rural hamlet halfway between Grafton and Coffs Harbour. However, what it lacks in population it makes up in spirit. There are no town buildings or residential dwellings at Halfway Creek, just generous country people with big hearts. Tony Wade cooked a delicious three-course meal. We were entertained by Catfish, with some classic songs from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, and by Bill Kearns, who recited some fabulous bush poetry. On behalf of the House, I express my sincere thanks to the hall committee and the Rural Fire Service for a wonderful evening organised for a very worthy cause.

MADE WITH LOVE-MURRUM CHARITY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (13:20): I acknowledge the magnificent contribution to the Newcastle community made by Lori Parish in her work with the charity Made with Love-Murrum. Lori, along with her friend Mitchell Barker, founded the charity a year ago. Made with Love-Murrum is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation that provides comfort to families facing the unimaginable grief of the death of a baby. It takes wedding dresses and formal wear and creates funeral garments for babies who are born sleeping or from a miscarriage. The organisation provides the garments to about 65 hospitals and 60 funeral directors in New South Wales. Lori is always looking for volunteers and says, "It's a nice way of being able to connect people in the community but it also gives back to the community for people in need." Keep up the great work, Lori, and thank you for all that you do for the Newcastle community.

THE MEADOWS PUBLIC SCHOOL POPPY GARDEN

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:21): As the member for Seven Hills and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Centenary of ANZAC, Counter Terrorism, Corrections and Veterans, I am immensely proud of the new poppy garden at The Meadows Public School in Fuller Street, Seven Hills. Teacher Vicki Lyon and the school's special needs class have worked incredibly hard over many weeks to dig, plant, seed and pave the new poppy garden. I thank the terrific community for its involvement in the project, and in particular the staff at Bunnings Seven Hills for their wonderful donation of plants, soil and pavers and their additional help with the garden outside of work hours.

The Meadows Public School notes that the garden was created in memory of those who served in the armed forces in the First World War. Ms Lyons said that garden stands as a tribute to Private Cecil William Whitney and Private Harold Tuck, who the Blacktown and District Historical Society stated were students at the school more than 100 years ago. This poppy garden is a site of commemoration of the Centenary of Armistice and will stand for a long time as a place for young students to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms that our nation holds so dearly.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (13:22): I would like to live in a world in which domestic violence does not exist. In Wagga Wagga there are estimated to be more than 25 domestic violence incidents reported to police each week, with numbers during the past financial year being almost double the New South Wales average. Until attitudes change and we prevent this scourge, we rely on services to support the victims of domestic violence. I pay tribute to two not-for-profit groups—Tumut Regional Family Services and Wagga Women's Health Centre—which are supporting women and families crippled by domestic violence in my electorate. These are groups of dedicated women working on the front lines and dealing with, quite frankly, some pretty ordinary stuff. I pay tribute to the generosity, compassion and skill of these dedicated women, who through funded programs are

able to provide trauma counselling, crisis support, clean facilities, pregnancy counselling, life skills lessons and many other services. We need more community champions like these women to take up the task of eliminating domestic violence.

V8 SUPERCARS RACER JOSH ANDERSON

Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:23): I congratulate Mulgoa resident Josh Anderson on his achievements in V8 Supercars racing. Josh's interest in racing began as a small child and he has been hooked on V8 Supercars since he watched his first race at three years of age. He has been racing on online simulators since he was about 12 years old. His interest has grown into a passion that has found him achieving his first podium result after beginning his racing career only midway through 2017. A natural behind the wheel, Josh was placed sixth in the National Championships out of more than 30 entries, and he hopes to end this year's series with another podium finish. With the encouragement, support and mentoring of his stepfather, Darren Chamberlain, who also has a substantial history in the racing industry—in fact, he won the National Championship in 2014—Josh has continued to blow people away. I wish him all the best in his future career in V8 Supercars racing. Well done, Josh.

LAKE MACQUARIE RECLAIM THE NIGHT MARCH

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:24): I was proud to join hundreds of women, men and children on Friday 26 October for the Lake Macquarie Reclaim the Night March. This annual event aims to draw attention to sexual violence against women in all its forms. The movement was born in Leeds, England, in 1977, demanding that women be able to move freely throughout public spaces at night. Twenty years later, in 1997, Reclaim the Night Australia was founded. Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that roughly one in five women has experienced sexual assault after the age of 15.

The event kicked off with live entertainment by The Jazz Monkeys and a free barbecue courtesy of Warners Bay Scouts, followed by the march along the foreshore with chanting and singing. The guest speaker on the night was Sharon Grimmond from the Newcastle Sexual Assault Service, who spoke about sexual assault reports to police being at an all-time high, with more than 1,200 reported incidents in the Hunter region alone from March 2017 until March 2018. I congratulate the Eastlakes Domestic Violence Committee on organising the event, and in particular committee chairperson Jess Salvador.

ST LUKES GRAMMAR SCHOOL RETURN AND EARN RECYCLING SCHEME

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:25): It is my great pleasure to update the House on the wonderful work of Kai Hush in my electorate. Kai is the junior school captain of St Luke's Grammar School and is a future community leader. Using his own initiative, Kai has been working hard to improve recycling within his school and to make better use of the Return and Earn vending machines. He did this after seeing the plastics in and around Curl Curl Lagoon. He has raised awareness of the importance and value of recycling, and with the support of his friends and community is seeking to expand his program to other local schools. It is young leaders like Kai who give us all hope that future generations will be socially conscious and more than willing to do their bit. Kai has identified an issue that this Government is passionate about, and as his representative in this Parliament he has my full support.

TASTES AT THE BAY FESTIVAL

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:26): It was warm and there was a buzzing atmosphere for the recent fifteenth annual Tastes at the Bay food, wine and jazz festival at Nelson Bay. Record numbers of people enjoyed more than 60 stalls over two days that showcased the region's local fare, including oysters, seafood and wine, as they were entertained by cooking demonstrations and live music. Among those doing cooking demonstrations were talented chefs from local restaurants, including The Poyer's, Little Beach Boathouse, The Anchorage and Sienna's Pizzeria. The festival expanded this year to offer cruises, dinner and coach rides to get the full experience of all Port Stephens has to offer. I was proud to be one of the sponsors of this year's event, along with the Tomaree Business Chamber, Newcastle Airport, Nelson Bay Golf Club, Moonshadow Cruises, Woolworths, Salamander Men's Shed and many others. I extend a huge thank you to the many volunteers who made it all possible, particularly Anita Hutchinson, Chontelle Grecian, Peter and Susan North, and Leah Anderson. After six hours in 37 degrees in my festival mobile office, I was done, but also grateful to have been part of such a vibrant, awesome community. Bring on the 2019 Tastes at the Bay.

SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE EVENTS

Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (13:27): The beautiful town of Ulladulla recently played host to Premier Gladys Berejiklian and members of the New South Wales Cabinet. Community and business leaders, volunteers and community groups from across the South Coast were invited to the Ulladulla Civic Centre

to meet with the Premier and Ministers. The Premier and her Ministers have visited the South Coast on a number of occasions to hear directly from the community and to see the progress of the Government's investments up and down the coast. It was a great opportunity for the local community to speak directly with Ministers and, in turn, for Ministers to learn more about issues affecting South Coast residents. I note Minister Toole is at the table. I thank him for the wonderful bike path.

Mr Paul Toole: I rode on it.

Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK: Yes, the Minister did ride a bike along the path. The Premier and I also acknowledged some outstanding community members and presented them with awards in recognition of all that they do for others. They included Alison Pakes, Glenda Staniford, Patricia Smith and Alan Pendleton. I thank the Premier and all the Ministers who made the trip to meet with the South Coast community and all those who attended the morning tea. I extend special thanks to Michelle Babington and the team at the civic centre for hosting us.

ORANGE DIWALI FESTIVAL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (13:28): I acknowledge the Desi Aussies of Orange, a not-for-profit association comprising many Orange residents of Indian cultural background. For the second year running, the Desi Aussies brought to Orange the globally celebrated Diwali Festival, also known as the Festival of Lights. On 27 October Desi Aussies' President Vijay Bohra joined his members in hosting this family event for the Orange community. Those who attended the celebration were treated to a wonderful evening of Indian cuisine, music, song and dance and were bathed in lights and colour. This year's Diwali event raised funds for farmers who are affected by the current drought, and the proceeds from the ticket sales went to local charities, through which assistance will go to farmers in need. The dazzling spectrum of colours is demonstrative of the unique cultural elements that comprise Orange's already diverse cultural composition. The Orange Diwali Festival now complements our cultural kaleidoscope, and I am confident this event is a permanent fixture in the city's annual event calendar. I congratulate the Desi Aussies of Orange.

AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (13:29): I am proud to congratulate a number of young Hornsby swimmers who have represented New South Wales at the Australian Swimming Championships in Hobart. Jensen Goodchild from Berowra Public School, Joseph Kim from Thornleigh West Public School, James Burt from Mount Colah Public School and Ian Kim from Hornsby North Public School travelled to Hobart to swim for New South Wales. Jensen Goodchild, who was recently named New South Wales Primary Schools Sports Association swimming team captain, finished third in the 200 metres individual medley—a stunning result. I congratulate Jensen.

Joseph Kim received gold medals for the 50 metres butterfly, 100 metres backstroke and 4 x 50 metres freestyle relay; silver medals for the 50 metres freestyle, 50 metres backstroke and the 4 x 50 metres medley relay; and a bronze for the 100 metres breaststroke. James Burt finished fourth in the 50 metres butterfly and fifth in the 50 metres backstroke. He took home a silver in the 4 x 50 metres medley relay and bronze for the 4 x 50 metres freestyle relay. Ian Kim was part of the New South Wales relay team that won the bronze medal. Ian also competed in the junior breaststroke event and finished in fifth place. Jensen, Joseph, James and Ian have done Hornsby proud and I am sure that it will not be the last we hear of the amazing swimmers as they continue to smash records in the pool.

GREYS HAUNTED HOUSE, KILLARNEY VALE

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (13:30): I congratulate Shane Raics, the evil overlord of Greys Haunted House on the Central Coast. For the past eight years Shane and his family have been putting on a haunted house in their home at Killarney Vale for residents to celebrate Halloween. Each year it has grown bigger—so much so that this year Shane and his family had to hold the event at a larger venue, the 1st Berkeley Vale Scouts Hall. I was fortunate to be invited to this year's event with my daughter Lily, and we thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Hundreds of people patiently queued in the street, waiting for a chance to experience the Halloween treat. Aside from giving the locals a good fright, the haunted house also raises money for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter from donations received from the people who attend. Well done to Shane, his wife, Danielle, and their family.

HIDDEN TREASURES HONOUR ROLL RECIPIENTS

Mr AUSTIN EVANS (Murray) (13:31): I recognise the incredible dedication and commitment of three ladies in the Murray electorate who have recently been inducted into the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll for 2018. I congratulate them on receiving this honour and recognition. I have had the pleasure of honouring the first

recipient, Heather Whittaker from Leeton, in the Parliament on a previous occasion when she received the NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Award. Mrs Whittaker's place on the honour roll is another string to her bow. Her nomination recognises her lifetime of voluntary service to the Murrumbidgee and Leeton communities, which encompasses decades of membership, executive positions and devotion to the local RSL Sub-Branch, RSL Women's Auxiliary, Country Women's Association, Legacy, war widows and St Peter's Anglican Church.

The second recipient is Sue Killham, the chair of the Western Riverina Arts board and vice-chair of Narrandera Art and Craft Network. She also donates time to the Narrandera Art and Community Centre, and has had a long association with the Leeton Roxy Community Theatre. Our third recipient is Judith Robinson from Dareton. Her long list of community service includes life membership with Dareton Primary School P&C and regional catering coordinator with the Australian Red Cross. [*Time expired.*]

DIWALI FESTIVAL

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:32): In recent weeks I have enjoyed celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with the Hindu community at numerous events, culminating in joyous celebrations of Diwali and Annakut with the congregations at the BAPS Mandir in Rosehill and Sri Mandir in Auburn last Wednesday and Thursday. Diwali commemorates the victory of Lord Ram over Ravana. It also commemorates the clay lamps, or diyas, which were placed outside to light the way for Lord Ram's return to Ayodhya. It symbolises the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Annakut is also often referred to as Hindu new year, especially by Gujaratis, and involves making offerings to the deities as well as praying, feasting and celebrating Lord Ram's return.

I also thank the other organisations whose Diwali celebrations I joined: the Hindu Council of Australia, the Federation of Indian Associations, the Council of Indian Australians, the Wentworthville Tamil seniors, and the Consulate General of Fiji and Cumberland Council, which is celebrating Diwali this weekend. I also thank everyone who decorated their homes with beautiful lights, especially those who entered the Granville versus Strathfield Diwali Lights Competition. It has been an absolute delight to join them and the wider community in celebrating Diwali again this year.

TRIBUTE TO TED MACK

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:33): I acknowledge the loss of Ted Mack, known as the "Father of the Independents", who was the member for North Shore from 1981 to 1988. He also served in the other two levels of government, as the Federal member for North Sydney from 1990 to 1996 and on North Sydney Council from 1974. His career spanned two decades and his life of service was respected across Sydney's North Shore community. Since about 2016 he had been unwell with stage four lung cancer and brain cancer. Recently he died from a stroke. I acknowledge his lifetime of service and contribution to my community and pass on my regards to his wife, Wendy, and his children. He was known throughout his life as being a giant slayer. In 1981 he took on Bruce McDonald, the then leader of the State Liberal Opposition, and won the electorate of North Shore. He also won the Federal electorate of North Sydney from the Liberal incumbent, John Spender. This House will have another opportunity to pay tributes, but I put on record my sympathies. Vale, Ted Mack.

AUSTRALIAN CHINESE BUDDHIST SOCIETY THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (13:34): On 28 October I was honoured to attend the thirty-seventh anniversary dinner and inauguration of the committee for the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society at Golden Palace in Cabramatta. I was joined at the celebration by my colleagues the members for Fairfield, Strathfield, Parramatta and Oatley, which showcased the breadth of support for the society. The Australian Chinese Buddhist Society administers the Ming Yue Lay temple in Bonnyrigg, the largest Buddhist temple in metropolitan Sydney, which often caters to worshippers in the tens of thousands. The function also served as a belated celebration for its president, Vincent Kong, on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Vincent Kong, OAM, is a tireless community worker as well as a successful businessman and sponsors almost every Chinese community function in Western Sydney. I congratulate Vincent Kong, chairman James Chan, OAM, and the hardworking team of the society on the temple's thirty-seventh anniversary. I wish the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society every success in the future.

LITHGOW AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing) (13:35): I congratulate the Lithgow and District Family History Society. Last Sunday we celebrated the Remembrance Day commemorations at the Lithgow General Cemetery. As a community, we came together to acknowledge those who have fought in various wars but never returned home. We came together to acknowledge those heroes who returned home, broken of bodies, minds and spirits, and also to acknowledge men and women who still put on the Australian uniform. I commend the work that has been undertaken for the Anzac Memorial garden,

established in 2015. Unfortunately, a few years ago it was vandalised. The incredible work by convenor Helen Taylor—her passion, hard work, commitment and research—has ensured that the memorial garden and plaque has been unveiled for the community to enjoy once again. The plaque reads, "This plaque commemorates the centenary of the Gallipoli Anzac landings. It honours all men and women with connections to Lithgow and surrounding districts who served their country during the Great War 1914 to 1918." The memorial garden and the plaque are a great honour to that community. I congratulate Lithgow City Council, Lithgow RSL Sub-Branch, the wider community and the history society on their work.

HIDDEN TREASURES HONOUR ROLL RECIPIENTS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (13:37): I congratulate four volunteers in our community—Dawn Vallance, Margaret Harvey, June Gardner and Christine Ostermann—on being among the latest inductees into the Rural Women's Network Hidden Treasures Honour Roll. They are not hiding themselves very well because their work is amazing. They are all members of the Maitland Country Women's Association [CWA] and help a variety of other local organisations. Dawn Vallance has given many years of service to the RSL Sub-Branch Auxiliary. Margaret Harvey volunteers with Maitland Community Care Services and has delivered for Meals on Wheels. June Gardner has always helped out at the CWA Tea Rooms at Maitland Show. Christine Ostermann has volunteered at many schools around the area. I acknowledge the Country Women's Association for its work all year on drought relief, particularly in Maitland.

DAVIDSON ELECTORATE MEN'S SHEDS

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:38): The Australian men's shed movement plays an important role in our community by encouraging men to access places of social support and camaraderie. In my electorate of Davidson there are two men's sheds. The Forest Community Men's Shed at Belrose is a woodworking shed. It has about 70 members, who utilise a range of saws, planes, lathes and drills to turn out a variety of wooden products. The larger Ku-ring-gai Men's Shed has about 194 members, including 10 women. Its facilities at St Ives Showground provide for both wood and metal work. A recent new extension was partly funded through a State Government grant and officially opened on 26 October this year. It includes metal bending and twisting equipment, a hydraulic press and improved welding facilities. A new multipurpose area provides a clean space for meetings and courses, such as cooking classes for men needing to improve their skills due to personal circumstances. Men's shed researcher Professor Barry Golding once stated:

Men don't talk face to face. They talk shoulder to shoulder.

I commend those people leading the two sheds in my electorate. They are doing a great job.

RISK AND DARE CONFERENCE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (13:39): Social justice is a concept that transcends the divisions of gender, socioeconomic status and colour. It is something that affects us all and, in turn, we must all foster a sense of social justice and integrity. Nurturing this awareness is more integral when it comes to our young people—the leaders of tomorrow who will pave the way for change and advancement. This philosophy has been the driving passion behind the Risk and Dare [RAD] conference hosted by Sister Jan Barnett and the team at Sisters of St Joseph.

I had the pleasure of attending the RAD conference this year and engaging in constructive conversations with young people about active involvement in the political process and how they can be involved in advocacy and structural change. The two-day conference valued young people's important roles in the social justice discussion and helped guide young change-makers embarking on ventures that make a difference. It is important that we give young people a safe space to discuss these issues. I especially commend Sister Jan—a fabulous person whom I know from her work at the Holy Spirit College in Lakemba—and the Sisters of St Joseph for their incredible work. The event was a real success and source of pride for our community, and an opportunity for young people to be heard on matters of social importance.

LAKE ILLAWARRA POLICE DISTRICT AWARDS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (13:40): I recently attended the Lake Illawarra Police District awards ceremony, which recognised the many achievements of Lake Illawarra police officers and non-sworn staff. More than 75 awards were presented on the day, including voluntary service honours to Helen Sorely, Ann Homson, Pamela Dickson, Raymond Kearin, Lorraine Dalby, Beverly King and Colin King, and a 20-year voluntary service pin to Clare Jarman. I congratulate all those involved in the proceedings on such a professional event, and I commend the award winners and volunteers for attaining well-deserved recognition for their tireless work and efforts within the NSW Police Force. I look forward to the next Lake Illawarra Police District Awards ceremony. I commend Dean Smith and all his officers at the Lake Illawarra command for their tireless efforts in service to our community.

UN YOUTH AUSTRALIA PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (13:41): Macquarie Fields High School students Luke Cox and Riona Jaison are future civic leaders in the making. I commend them for their achievement at yesterday's State final of the UN Youth public speaking competition held in the Jubilee Room. To make it to the State finals is a real feat and they were up against other talented young students from all over New South Wales. Our State is certainly in good hands when young, talented students abound.

Luke, who is in year 9, is a debating champion and is articulate and well read. His speech in the senior category about foreign interference and how to prevent it from influencing our democracy—which is certainly a contemporary topic—was well researched and delivered with confidence and maturity. Riona Jaison spoke in the final for the junior category and presented her arguments strongly and clearly. I am delighted to say that Riona did so well that she has made it to the national finals next year. I congratulate Riona on her tremendous effort and on making everyone proud. Luke and Riona are great ambassadors for our school and local community. They are exemplary students and I look forward to their future success.

TWEED HEADS POLICE STATION TIME CAPSULE

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (13:42): Recently I joined the Tweed-Byron Local Area Command Superintendent, Wayne Starling, to lodge a time capsule at Tweed Heads police station. The capsule is to be opened in 50 years time and has a number of items inside, including a roster, a uniform, photographs, radar equipment and a letter to the future commander. It also includes a lock of hair from the police superintendent. Hopefully they will be able to clone more police like him in the future. It is such a great idea, and it will be interesting to know people's thoughts when it is opened in 2068.

ST BASIL'S AGED CARE SERVICES

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (13:42): Recently I visited the lovely aged-care centre at St Basil's in Lakemba, which provides residential care as well as day visits. The centre has secured money through some community sporting grants to provide a gym, which is fantastic and a wonderful way to bring people together. I had a bit of a run with residents on the gym equipment and I have to say that I was outrun by people much older than I am. When we think about people in aged-care centres, we often forget about the skills they have. Not only does St Basil's run strong programs for residents; it also runs daily excursions for people coming to visit. I commend the centre. The value of working together with people from different age groups makes an enormous difference. I hope St Basil's keeps it up, and I promise that I will train a little harder next time to see whether I can win the race.

SEVEN HILLS NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:43): Recently I joined the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Education at Seven Hills North Public School to announce incredible sums of new funds that will benefit all public schools across the State, and in particular those in the Seven Hills electorate. It was a great morning spent talking to local educators, support staff and many students. Whilst there, the Treasurer and I were pleased to see a demonstration of the incredible STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics—team project by senior students. I acknowledge the current school leadership team, including school captains Ekshvaak Manglik and Tijana Bunjevac, vice-captains Brayden Bateman and Charlie Neumayer, and prefects James Dormer, Maya Al Abdulla, Miranda Coleman and Yuvraj Rajput. Seven Hills North Public School is led by new principal Renai Diamond, who, with her teachers and support staff, is doing a fantastic job educating the local community. Last weekend it was a pleasure to join the school leadership team at the commemoration of the Centenary of Armistice at Blacktown.

HUNTER MANUFACTURING AWARDS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:44): On Friday 9 October 2018 the Hunter Manufacturing Awards [HMA] were held at NEX Newcastle. The awards night saw some great competition amongst finalists and the Charlestown electorate, as expected, cleaned up. I congratulate the winner of the HMA Board award, R&R Murphy from Gateshead, which has reinvigorated business with the design of a solar-powered eco coffee cart. R&R Murphy was also the recipient of the Export of Manufactured Goods award for successfully taking Australian manufactured products into the strong, low-cost producer market of China. Warners Bay's very own Catavolt took out the Excellence in Technology award for its autonomous trolley system that utilises space between crossbeams in bridge construction, reduces labour by up to 75 per cent and can take a project from six months to six weeks duration. I congratulate these forward-thinking businesses on their stimulating designs and for solidifying our region's place as a powerhouse in Australian manufacturing.

HORNSBY ADVOCATE LOCAL SPORTS STARS AWARDS

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (13:45): I am excited to acknowledge two incredible young men, Joshua Fishwick and Jonathan Adji, who have taken out top honours in the 2018 *Hornsby Advocate* Local Sports Stars awards. Eleven-year-old Jonathan has been named Junior Sports Star for 2018, while 12-year-old Joshua received the Young Sporting Spirit award. Jonathan, who lives in Pennant Hills, has been competing in State- and national-level karate for the past two years. He recently finished first and second in his division at the Australian Karate Federation Australian Open. Jonathan and his brother Patrick are taking the karate world by storm and I am certain that this will not be the last time we hear of this talented family.

Joshua Fishwick is not only a mate of mine, but also an incredible and inspiring young man. He was born with a condition that resulted in one leg being shorter than the other. Three years ago he had corrective surgery but was left with a limp. Playing sport can leave him in pain but that has not stopped him getting out and having a crack. Once the doctors gave him the okay, he signed up for baseball and soccer and has not looked back since. I am told that Joshua is one of his baseball team's up-and-coming pitchers, with a devastating fastball. I congratulate Jonathan and Joshua; they are doing Hornsby proud.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch): I will now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

*Announcements***BIRTH OF BEATRIX VIOLET MATILDA PARKER**

The SPEAKER: I congratulate Jamie Parker, the member for Balmain, and his wife, Shelley, on the birth of their daughter, Beatrix Violet Matilda Parker, on Wednesday 7 November 2018. Mum, baby and dad are doing well.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I welcome Rhonda Stevenson, guest of the Minister for Education, and member for Pittwater. I welcome students and their teachers from Eastwood High Public School, Northcross Christian School, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Marist College Eastwood, guests of the Minister for Finance, Services and Property, and member for Ryde. I also welcome Bathurst Ladies Probus Club, guests of the Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing, and member for Bathurst. I welcome Liam Smit from Northern Beaches Christian School, who is undertaking work experience with the member for Davidson. I also welcome James Malin and Nicholas Gregory, guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for Education and the Illawarra and South Coast, and member for Kiama.

I also warmly welcome Jill Aplin, wife the member for Albury; their daughter, Kathryn, and her husband, Jean-Francois Rupp; Bruce Holmes, OAM, Moira Stewart and Peter Cerexhe from the Albury electorate office; Justin Clancy, Liberal candidate for Albury; Stephen O'Connell, Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Conservatorium; and Paddy Elworthy, guests of the member for Albury, who gave his valedictory speech earlier today. I welcome Mr Justin Titterton-Smith and Ms Amanda Smith, guests of the member for Wollongong. I welcome members of the South Lakes University of the Third Age, guests of the member for Lake Macquarie. I welcome Val Schache, guest of the member for Ballina. I welcome Kajal Buhagiar from the Gosford electorate office, guest of the member for Gosford.

*Members***REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian, I inform the House that the Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing will continue to answer questions for the remainder of the week in the absence of the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business.

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

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

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (14:24): My question is directed to the Premier. A senior Ausgrid executive has testified under oath that Transport for NSW was given early advice that the cost of managing

Ausgrid's assets on George Street for the Sydney light rail would be in the order of \$600 million to \$700 million. Why was this advice concealed from Altrac, Acciona and other bidders?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:24): I acknowledge the question from the Leader of the Opposition. It is not the first time the Opposition has asked that question. In fact, it has been asked on a number of occasions prior to today. However, it gives me an opportunity to talk about the light rail project. I am very pleased to say that anyone who had the fortune of being in the central business district on Remembrance Day on Sunday would have seen the removal of a number of barricades and large sections of George Street open to the public. It was a wonderful experience, especially to see the poppies in that part of George Street to commemorate a special day.

Government members appreciate that if we want to improve people's lives by giving people public transport options we have to take the decisions to build these major projects. Of course, every major project has its challenges and complexities. That is why they are major projects. But the important thing is to keep your head down and to keep building and delivering for the people of New South Wales. The Labor Party option is to cancel projects and to do nothing. To do nothing is not an option. In relation to public transport, those opposite talk the talk but they do not walk the walk. Our Government has built the north west rail link, the south west rail line, the CBD light rail, the Parramatta Light Rail, the Newcastle Light Rail, and it continues. We take great pride on the issue of integrity when it comes to public transport. Yesterday when I went back to my office I remembered—

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Ms Jodi McKay: It relates to Standing Order 129. The question is about why important advice was concealed from the contractors on the light rail project.

The SPEAKER: The Premier remains relevant to the question. There is no point of order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Integrity in public transport is critical. When I went back to my office I recalled that when I was shadow Minister for Transport the Labor Party had a mini-budget in November 2008. The Leader of the Opposition was in Cabinet at that time. In that mini-budget it had a policy to cut free travel for all students on public transport because it could not manage its finances. It had a policy to cut—

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I have already ruled that the Premier is being relevant to the question. Does the member take a different point of order?

Ms Kate Washington: It is Standing Order 129 again.

The SPEAKER: I have already ruled on relevance.

Ms Kate Washington: I do not see how this relates to light rail—

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens will not debate the matter with me. There is no point of order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The Opposition has raised a question that goes to the heart of our integrity on public transport. I am going to the heart of theirs. In November 2008 the Labor Party said, "Let's cancel all free travel for school students on public transport." It was up to the opposition of the day—the Liberal-Nationals—to campaign for nearly two months so that Labor was forced to backflip on its decision. The reason I raise this is to show that Labor cannot be trusted.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I am continuing to rule that the Premier is being relevant. Does the member have another point of order?

Ms Jodi McKay: It is Standing Order 129. The question—

The SPEAKER: I have just ruled that the Premier continues to be relevant. The member will resume her seat.

Ms Jodi McKay: It is Standing Order 129. The Premier is not speaking about light rail, which was the question.

The SPEAKER: The member for Strathfield will resume her seat. I call the member for Strathfield to order for the first time. Members will resume their seat when they are asked to do so.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Labor had its chance. I note the notice of motion to be accorded priority raised by the shadow transport Minister today and her interjections. She claims that Labor cares about public transport. When those opposite were in government, they announced and cancelled 12 rail lines; they said they would have the Tcard delivered for the Olympic Games.

Mr Gareth Ward: They did not say which Olympics.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: They did not say which Olympic Games, true. We all assumed by the year 2000, but that did not happen. I am incredibly proud of this Government's achievements in public transport. This Government is building the rail lines of the future. It is building Australia's first metro. The Opposition has had inquiry after inquiry and has asked question after question on all of our projects. We welcome the accountability because good governments should be held to account. This Government is building more public transport. When one measures the kilometres of rail and light rail track this Government is building across the State, more track is being built than has ever been built in the history of New South Wales. I am incredibly proud of that record.

The Government also is upgrading existing infrastructure, increasing the number of bus, rail and ferry services and testing new technology, whether it is on-demand buses or the provision of further concessions. I am proud that everybody can travel around the rail network and enjoy the ferries on a Sunday for no more than a flat rate of \$2.50. None of this would have happened if this Government had not built a strong budget and put the State in a strong economic position. In 2008, those opposite were cutting free travel for school students on public transport. The Liberal-Nationals forced them to reverse the decision. Now this Government is contributing in excess of half a billion dollars to support our students. Of course there is always more to be done, but those opposite cannot be trusted when it comes to public transport or anything else.

WESTERN SYDNEY INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (14:30): My question is addressed to the Premier. How is the New South Wales Government working to deliver a stronger and better future for the people of Western Sydney?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:30): I do not know why those opposite moan when the words "Western Sydney" come up but I want to—

The SPEAKER: The member for Londonderry interjects continually every day. I call the member for Londonderry to order for the first time. I call the member for Londonderry to order for the second time. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Madam Speaker, I forgot to wish you happy birthday.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I thank the member for Drummoyne for his question. It was a great pleasure to be joined by him, my ministerial colleague the member for Penrith, and a number of other colleagues in the Chamber, such as the member for Coffs Harbour and the member for Lismore, at the cherry auction at the Sydney Markets this morning. The cherry auction is a much-celebrated annual event but this morning's auction was of particular significance because the New South Wales Government very proudly signed a memorandum of understanding with Sydney Markets. Sydney Markets wants to be one of those wonderful institutions, one of those wonderful brands, to set up shop around the new Western Sydney Airport city, the Aerotropolis. Madam Speaker, I cannot hear myself.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order. There are too many audible conversations in the Chamber.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The Government is proud that the Sydney Markets has now joined other global and local brands to sign a memorandum of understanding to find a strong presence outside the new Western Sydney Aerotropolis, or the Western Sydney Airport city. What is the significance? Our Government is proud of our three cities vision for Greater Sydney. We are in the eastern part of the city around the Sydney central business district but Parramatta is the geographic centre of Sydney and is our second city. For those who do not often have the time or ability to travel to Parramatta, I recommend it. The city is amazing. I still do not understand why the Leader of the Opposition and his party do not support moving the Powerhouse Museum to Western Sydney. I do not understand why they do not support the Parramatta stadium and I do not understand why they do not support—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier does not need any assistance from members. There are too many audible conversations in the Chamber. The member for Rockdale and the member for Kogarah will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I do not understand why they do not support all the infrastructure that is going into Western Sydney. The third city the Government is building, a city from the ground up, is around the new Western Sydney Airport and is called the Aerotropolis. I am so thrilled about that city because it will provide 200,000 brand-new jobs to Greater Western Sydney. Not only that, it will literally be the new port linking that part of New South Wales to the regions and to the many nations that buy our products and services. An exciting feature is that we want it to be the jobs capital of Australia, and we are well on the way to delivering that. I gave my Government the challenge of signing 10 memorandums of understanding before the end of the year. Today's signing with the Sydney Markets brings the total to six. I commend the Minister for Western Sydney, and member for Penrith, for his role in not only locking in those memorandums but also creating those jobs which will serve the people of New South Wales well into the future.

The Western Sydney Airport and Aerotropolis will be the primary destination for many activities. Why not have the space industry capital there? Why not have our defence, logistics and manufacturing capitals there? Why not have our agribusiness export capital there? These are the visions this Government has for that new city, and it is all coming to life. I am pleased to advise the House of today's memorandum of understanding, and I thank the chief executive officer and the chair of Sydney Markets for being so enthusiastic in their support. They said that when they moved from Haymarket to their current location at Flemington they had a vision which took them about 10 to 15 years to deliver. They have a similar vision for this new airport city, and it is exciting to know that they will be part of the future of Greater Western Sydney.

The Government has already signed memorandums of understanding with a number of other organisations. Four of the leading universities in New South Wales will be setting up one shared campus at that site. This is the first place in Australia that will have one campus and four universities. Northrop Grumman, a well-known North American United States-based defence company has already announced that it is setting up its defence business in Western Sydney. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, one of the world's most highly regarded manufacturing companies in a number of different sectors, is also setting up shop there. Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, one of the world's largest banks, will also have a presence there.

It is exciting to see this western city come alive. It is part of our vision to make sure we are not only building for the future but also creating the jobs of the future. People in Parramatta will not be looking east for the best jobs and opportunities; they will be looking west. That is exactly what a good government does. A good government plans for the future, builds the infrastructure, provides the services and makes our cities livable. I look forward to seeing further positive announcements about the new airport city. I also look forward to being involved in creating more jobs. We must take every opportunity to create jobs and develop industries that will keep giving New South Wales the edge into the future. Unlike those opposite, we know that a strong economy does not happen by accident. [*Extension of time*]

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens sounds as though she has an illness. I remind the member for Port Stephens that she is already on two calls to order. She is not showing the Premier much respect.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: A strong economy needs to be sustained and continued. That is why this Government has an eye to the future, to creating jobs, to developing industries and to providing support, so that Greater Western Sydney becomes the jobs capital of Australia and the region. I am incredibly excited by the future and the memorandums of understanding we will be signing. I assure the community that not only are we building the infrastructure to support the airport and airport precinct, we are ensuring that it is a livable city. Livability in cities is as important to the Government as jobs, health and education. I cannot wait to update the House on further important information on this project.

SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT AUSGRID GUIDELINES

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:37): My question is directed to the Premier. Why were the Ausgrid guidelines for underground utilities not provided to Acciona until after the financial close of the Sydney light rail project on 27 February 2015?

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira should reword his question because it is presupposing a fact.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:38): I have got the gist of it.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira should learn English. He should ask his colleague the member for Lakemba.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As those opposite would know, a court proceeding is occurring at this time. I will never, ever apologise for taking the side of the citizen and the taxpayer. If those opposite want to take the side of someone who is making a claim against the Government, which we believe is unreasonable, they can go for it. If they want to support someone who is making an unreasonable claim against taxpayers and against

citizens, that is their decision and their call. I appreciate the fact that those opposite always use my name before that light rail project.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Strathfield to order for the second time. The member will cease interjecting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I am confident that those opposite will be eating their words when the project opens. I am confident because I remember when we announced the inner west light rail extension and those opposite laughed and said that it would never happen. When we built it they said, "You need to provide more services. You are not providing enough services." In Newcastle they said, "Don't build the light rail. We don't want it." Now they are asking us to extend it. When we announced light rail in Parramatta they asked, "Why don't you extend it in Parramatta?"

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 52. Government members are acting in a disturbing and unruly manner. The Premier deserves to be heard in silence.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat.

Mr Greg Warren: And happy birthday, Madam Speaker. I appreciate your support. The Premier deserves to be heard in silence.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time. His behaviour is unruly. There is no point of order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Given that the member for Campbelltown is feeling so generous towards me, he might want to thank me for the new hospital in Campbelltown as well.

Mr Greg Warren: I have worked hard for that.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is interesting that every time this Government does something Labor members oppose it and then when it is built and finished and the public love it Labor wants to take credit for it and tell us to provide more services. Every time Labor does that, it is highlighting its incompetence. I remember Labor announced the north west rail line about a dozen times in different reincarnations—the north west metro, the north west heavy rail, north west this and that. Of course, those opposite did nothing. We came to Government and next year people will be able to go to Cudgegong Road in the north-west and ride the metro all the way to Chatswood. Those opposite talked about this project for years and years, and we have delivered it. I remember when the Government first announced that project, the members sitting opposite in this Chamber were not the same faces as they are today but it was the same old Labor.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira and the member for Fairfield will cease shouting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Labor members criticised the Government for building that rail line. They said it would never happen and that the Government would never be able to do it, but the proof is in our actions. The New South Wales Government will always regard public transport as a priority and it will always put our citizens and taxpayers first. If those opposite do not wish to do that, that is their problem.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (14:42): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the New South Wales Government providing stronger and better leadership when it comes to funding and building infrastructure, and are there any alternative approaches?

The SPEAKER: Members who interject will be directed to leave the Chamber.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:42): I thank the member for Tweed for his question. How are you going, Michael?

Mr Michael Daley: I am well. How is the bishop? He dressed you down.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: A bit of a nervous start yesterday for you, between you and me. Bit of a nervous start.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will return to the leave of the question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: What did Bruce give you out of 10? Three? Did he give you a bit of a rev up?

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Fairfield will resume his seat. The Treasurer will return to the leave of the question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Anyway, good on you, mate. Good on you.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer has the call. He does not need members' assistance.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The Berejiklian-Barilaro Government has worked hard to deliver the infrastructure to make a real difference to people's lives. I will begin with this press release which was issued just before question time. It says that New South Wales wages growth is the highest in four years. This State has just experienced the biggest lift in annual wage growth, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It has risen by 1.2 per cent in the September quarter to be 2.4 per cent through the year. That is once again a strong indication of the work of our great policies in New South Wales.

Everywhere we look in New South Wales there is investment in new road, rail, schools and hospitals. Just last week we were at the Shoalhaven Hospital, a project which the members for the electorates of Kiama, Bega and South Coast have been advocating for a long time. This project can only happen because of our strong financial management. We are delivering 40 new and upgraded hospitals and 170 new and upgraded schools. In fact, never before has so much been invested right across the State—\$87 million over the next four years. Importantly, this is only because of our asset recycling agenda, and that agenda is opposed by those opposite. While the Government is busy building—

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —those opposite are busy running around announcing the projects they are going to cancel. There is no way the Labor Party can invest at the levels we can because they do not manage money well. The Labor Party needs to come clean before the next election about the schools and the hospitals it will cancel because it cannot afford to build them. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition had the gall to come into this place and ask about the amount of investment that was going into regional New South Wales from our Restart Fund. Where does the money come from? It comes from asset recycling. Under Labor's fund, even if it gave 100 per cent of that fund to regional New South Wales, 100 per cent of nothing is still nothing.

The last Labor Government spent more time cancelling projects than delivering them. Who headed up the razor gang back then? Who directed all the cuts and clawbacks when sitting on the Expenditure Review Committee? It was none other than the former finance Minister, the member for Maroubra. He cut free transport for kids, he cancelled the Rozelle metro, he blew out the workers compensation scheme, he had to pay money back to the Federal Government after the Labor Government cancelled the Metro West, he accepted the secret report to shut down 100 schools and to axe more than 7,000 teachers. He left our State with a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog, and he comes into this place and asks us questions about infrastructure—Michael Daley, the member for double standards.

Mr Paul Lynch: Point of order—

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: NSW Labor never wants to do the hard yards of balancing budgets—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Paul Lynch: I have two points of order. The first relates to Standing Order 75. Clearly the Treasurer has breached that fairly clear standing order.

The SPEAKER: That was not clear in my opinion.

Mr Paul Lynch: He said something about Michael Daley being the Minister for something or other. Whatever he said, it was not his electorate nor his proper title.

The SPEAKER: Good try, but there is no point of order. What is the second one?

Mr Paul Lynch: The second relates to Standing Order 73. The Treasurer is now launching a substantive attack upon the member.

The SPEAKER: That was not a substantive attack, as the member knows. I know the member has his instructions.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The issue with the Labor Party is they never do the hard yards of balancing budgets, recycling assets and getting the numbers right. Michael, you left us with a deficit. It was all good when Michael Egan was there, before the other Michael rocked up. Never before has someone like the Leader of the Opposition done so little for so few for so long. What are his alternate policies? He says that he is focused on planning. That is good, but he has been missing in action for the past two years as the shadow Minister

for Planning and Infrastructure. He says that he is focused on the cost of living. This was the guy who was dumped by Luke Foley as the shadow Treasurer. I went back through some articles and I found an article by Andrew Clennell in the *Daily Telegraph* on 16 March 2016. In that article one of those opposite said, "Why should Daley be rewarded for not doing any work?"

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Who was that? They know it. Andrew, who was it? Just give me a hint. It is in the vault. They know it, we know it.

Mr Ryan Park: Where do I start? It is disorderly. I refer to Standing Order 129—

The SPEAKER: What is disorderly?

Mr Ryan Park: The behaviour of the Government. I did not know that the Treasurer could ask questions of the media gallery from the Chamber.

The SPEAKER: Is that it? The member will resume his seat. Members will come to order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I love the colour on that side of the House today. The parliamentary friends of Trump are in full force. [*Extension of time*]

Michael Daley never hits the rest button; he hits the snooze button. He took over the job as the Leader of the Opposition because he is so lazy he knew he would only have to do it for 130 days.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I know this is an attempt to try to curtail the Treasurer's comments. I hope the member's point of order is valid.

Ms Jodi McKay: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: Did you listen to the question?

Ms Jodi McKay: It is also important that Opposition members are always put on—

The SPEAKER: Did you listen to the question?

Ms Jodi McKay: I did.

The SPEAKER: What part of the question was not relevant?

Ms Jodi McKay: Madam Speaker, we are always placed on calls to order.

The SPEAKER: What part of the question was not relevant?

Ms Jodi McKay: What part of the answer is relevant?

The SPEAKER: You did not hear the question.

Ms Jodi McKay: The answer is entirely irrelevant. It is about—

The SPEAKER: You do not even know what the question is. The member will resume her seat. I asked the member to cite the relevant part of the question and she could not. That means the member did not listen to the question. The Treasurer's answer is entirely relevant. Do not try that again. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: What is relevant on leadership is what we heard in the press conference from the alternative leader, the member for Kogarah.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. This is the last time I will take a point of order. These points of order are being engineered to reduce the comments of the Treasurer because the Opposition does not like them. Is it about the Treasurer asking a question of the media gallery or is it something new? Does it relate to an actual standing order?

Mr Ryan Park: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: I just ruled on that.

Mr Ryan Park: He is only doing it for 130 days because we are going to be right there and there.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The Fresh Prince of Kogarah said at his press conference, "We still haven't told people why to vote Labor."

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: They have been in opposition for eight years and with two weeks to go they have not given one reason—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I have already ruled on relevance.

Ms Yasmin Catley: My point of order relates to Standing Order 74. The Treasurer is being terribly quarrelsome at the moment.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat. She would recognise somebody being quarrelsome because she was ejected the other day for just that.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: She will be the deputy under Minns post March. Those opposite have said, "We are not saying it, Minns is saying it." Those opposite are a complete mess and a basket case. In eight years this Government has transformed this State from last to first.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order while the Treasurer is speaking.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Whether it is record investments in schools, hospitals, road or rail—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government will continue to deliver for the great people of New South Wales.

LIBERAL PARTY PRESELECTION

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:52): Did you read Miranda Devine's article today, Dom?

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

Ms JODI McKAY: He just did that to the Leader of the Opposition but because I am doing it, Madam Speaker, you are making me resume my seat.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:52): That is the question. The answer is yes.

The SPEAKER: I will come back to the member for Strathfield. The member will not try tricks like that again. If she has a question she should ask it. The member will resume her seat.

Mr David Harris: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 94. We have rights.

The SPEAKER: I do not expect members to come to the table to ask a question like that.

Mr David Harris: And the Minister did not do that before?

The SPEAKER: I said I will come back to the member for Strathfield. The member for Wyong can leave the Chamber if he wishes to continue to argue.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (14:53): My question is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. How is the New South Wales Government providing stronger, better leadership to improve our State's roads and how would a lack of leadership undermine this important investment?

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Some members just want to leave the Chamber today.

Mr Greg Warren: Standing Order 128 is very clear. The question is designed to incite debate and create argument, which is something that this unruly House, led by those opposite, does not deserve.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. There is no point of order. The question was appropriately worded.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (14:54): I thank the member for Clarence for his question. What a great day we had last week, in 35 degree heat out the back of

Grafton, at the 50 per cent-completed, last 155 kilometres of the dual carriageway of the Pacific Highway. It was an amazing day, which signalled that this has been the greatest civil engineering project in Australia since the Snowy Hydro Scheme. It is something that we are incredibly proud of on this side of the House in collaboration and partnership with the Federal Government. With 80 per cent of that project now being funded by the Federal Government it shows what we can do when we are a good team, when we are doing the work on behalf of the people that we represent.

It would be appropriate to consider the amount of money that we are spending, compare it to the past and highlight that under 16 years of Labor \$4 billion was spent on the Pacific Highway, and thank you. But compare it to the past eight years—\$8 billion. In half the time, we have done twice as much as Labor. In its final 10 years the average road spend in the regions was a measly \$2.4 billion. Let us put that into perspective. We have spent more than that in our time on the Princes Highway alone. There is still much more to do, as you know Madam Speaker, as you and your colleagues fight hard for it. So far we have spent \$2.6 billion and there is more to come.

In 2009 the then Labor Government boasted a record spend of \$4.4 billion on roads across the entire State. In this year's budget alone, we have almost doubled that. This is just another example. Compare and contrast 16 years of Labor inaction, being asleep at the wheel, failing to invest in the infrastructure projects this State desperately needed. It is fair to point out that the Leader of the Opposition was the roads Minister in the previous administration. He was like the rest of them in the Roads portfolio—shovel-shy and scared of a bobcat. The Great Western Highway was another important project. Compare and contrast it. In its 16 years in power, the Labor Party invested \$360 million in the Great Western Highway. The Liberal-Nationals have invested \$100 million more in half that time. When the Leader of the Opposition had his brief stint as roads Minister, he put the brakes on the Blackheath bypass. As the member for Bathurst well knows, in August 2009 when the Leader of the Opposition was Minister he said:

I've spoken at length to the State member for Bathurst and the Blue Mountains who told me what the people want is for us to get on with the job.

But you did not; you buckled. The contrast could not be greater. We have committed to duplicating the 30-kilometre stretch between Katoomba and Lithgow, bypassing those small communities that will no longer have to bear the brunt of heavy vehicles and holiday congestion under our plan. We build and you buckled. The Government is committed to investing half a billion dollars into upgrades on the Newell Highway—the longest highway in New South Wales, stretching over 1,000 kilometres servicing towns and communities throughout western New South Wales. What did Labor do on the Newell Highway when it was in power? Did it upgrade that highway? Did it spend significant money on it? Of course not. Classic Labor—commentary over construction. Sixteen years of Labor, \$80 million; eight years of Liberal-Nationals, more than \$600 million committed—20 times the money invested.

What the Government has delivered is once-in-a-generation projects to regional New South Wales. That is a good legacy that we want to build on. But history is not kind to Labor. Its legacy is cancelled projects, projects that went broke and money wasted on thought bubbles that were never delivered. Yesterday I was excited when the Leader of the Opposition said he was pressing the refresh button. I should have known better. In this Chamber there was not a single policy question because it is the same old Labor—say one thing and do another. As the Treasurer so eloquently put it yesterday, "Not a refresh, rather, a rewind." [*Extension of time*]

In the dying days of Labor's former leader, when the bright lights of the news cameras were rolling, the member for Maroubra did not pull any punches. He said, "I think he should carefully consider his position."

The SPEAKER: The member for Kogarah will cease interjecting.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: And he did not want his predecessor to stay in the party. The member for Maroubra had a conviction for the cameras, but where is that same conviction in caucus? The member for Maroubra said, "If I'm the leader of the Labor Party, I don't want Luke Foley in my ranks", and yet five days later he is still here. The Leader of the Opposition lacks substance. He is interested only in the news cycle, not policy or principle.

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

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: Conviction for the cameras; no conviction in caucus.

The SPEAKER: The member for Kogarah will cease calling out.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: I ask the new Leader of the Opposition, when will he talk the talk and walk the walk, and boot his predecessor out of the party.

SYDNEY CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (15:00): My question is directed to the Premier. The Premier told the House on 10 April 2018 that when it came to the CBD light rail project:

This Government will not be held to ransom by anybody. If somebody has signed up to do a job, they do that job and it is exactly what that Government will deal with.

Why has your Government now agreed to a mediation with Acciona?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:01): Whenever there is a claim, whenever there is legal action, mediation is part of that process.

The SPEAKER: It is up to the Premier to answer the question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: This question demonstrates why, if the shadow Minister for Transport ever became the transport Minister, she would be clueless on how to deal with a major project. Every major project involves major challenges and issues that have to be dealt with. Of course, mediation should always be part of the process. If you have a dispute, you try to resolve it. Our Government will always do what is in the best interests of our citizens and our taxpayers. Opposition members groan when I say that, because it is the truth and they cannot handle it. They do not like the truth because they get out in public and tell mistruths every day of the week and expect everybody to fall for them.

Mr David Elliott: Look, they are not even listening.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Of course they are not listening; they do not care. They ask the question, but they do not like to listen to the answer. Am I to understand from the shadow transport Minister that she would never engage in mediation? Therefore, that means she would never build a major project. She would never do anything that means anything because all major projects have challenges and require mediation between the parties. If the shadow Minister is saying that should not be on the table, she clearly does not know what she is talking about. I say to those opposite: When you get out into the public and talk about public transport or any other matter, please be honest. In the past 48 hours the Opposition has not been honest with the public. It has not been honest in what has been promised, how much it costs or demonstrated where it would get the money from. The people of this State deserve a government that acts on what it says, that builds projects, provides better opportunities for its citizens and does not lead them down the wrong path, as those opposite would.

CBD LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:03): My is directed to the Premier. The light rail inquiry has heard that Transport for NSW blames Acciona and Acciona blames Ausgrid for major problems with this project. Given that she has been responsible for every aspect of this project since its inception, will she now volunteer to appear before the light rail inquiry?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:04): I bring to the attention of the House an article in the newspaper of 24 June 2014, which states:

Maroubra MP Michael Daley calls for more funding for light rail extension to Maroubra.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: It is too early to take a point of order unless it is something of urgency. The Clerk will stop the clock. Ten seconds into the answer and you have a point of order. What is the member's point of order?

Ms Kate Washington: Because the question was very clear and the Premier has not addressed that at all.

The SPEAKER: Ten seconds into the answer.

Ms Kate Washington: It is Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is allowed to contextualise her answer.

Ms Kate Washington: What she has just mentioned has no relevance whatsoever.

The SPEAKER: You are arguing with me. I remind the member for Port Stephens that she is on three calls to order. This my final warning. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I refer the Leader of the Opposition to one of my previous answers. First of all, those opposite say, for example in Newcastle, "Don't build it", and we do build it and then they say, "Extend it. It doesn't go far enough". Then in Parramatta they say, "You shouldn't do it", and we do it and then they say, "Where are stages 2 and 3?" In the central business district we are building the project and behind closed

doors the member for Maroubra wants it to go to his electorate—that is how much he likes light rail. But in public the Leader of the Opposition has double standards.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. Members will come to order so I can hear the point of order.

Mr Michael Daley: It is Standing Order 129. The people of New South Wales are gobsmacked about this project.

The SPEAKER: I do not need a sermon; I need a point of order.

Mr Michael Daley: They would like the Premier to come and give evidence before the inquiry.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member will resume his seat.

Mr Michael Daley: It is an easy thing to do.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As I said, the Leader of the Opposition has double standards—he says one thing behind closed doors and says another thing publicly. We have said from the outset that whether it is this project or any other project, we are proud of our record because if it were not for this Government none of these projects would be built.

The SPEAKER: Members will cease interjecting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We know that the Labor Party would have preferred to see 200 buses parked behind one another in peak hour on George Street rather than have a sustainable mode of public transport. While I am on that topic and the member for Bankstown has interjected, I inform the House that I was at the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce dinner on Saturday evening. The member for East Hills was there, but the member for Bankstown was not there.

Dr Geoff Lee: There was a place set.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: There was a place set for her, but she did not turn up.

Ms Tania Mihailuk: It was a Liberal Party fundraiser. Why don't you admit it?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I raise this because it shows the hypocrisy of those opposite.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Madam Speaker, can I repeat what the member for Bankstown said? There were 450 people in the room, it was a Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce function, and she said it was a Liberal Party fundraiser.

The SPEAKER: I suggest the member for Bankstown ceases interjecting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I hope all the small and medium—

The SPEAKER: The Premier is not being helped by Government members.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I hope all the small- and medium-size businesses in her electorate read that interjection because all the business community and the broader community—

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: So much for standards, member for Port Stephens. I heard what you said.

Mr David Harris: People should have a look at the shambles.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Yes, double standards, there he goes, back to me again. On Saturday night the member for Bankstown decided to not be at the function because the community there supports the metro that is going to Bankstown and the member does not. That is typical Labor. But interestingly, people from the University of Sydney were there and local community organisations were there encouraging and supporting the Government to keep building public transport. I make that point because we know that often when we build projects those opposite will complain about every single thing we do.

But we know that the broader community wants us to keep going, the broader community wants us to get on with the job, the broader community wants us to keep building and we will keep doing that. Those opposite

are hypocrites; they say one thing but then they say another thing. Every time we announce a major project they either want it cancelled or they want to axe it. Every time we want to improve something they oppose it. But we know better. The people of New South Wales want a government in town that is delivering for them and providing them with a better quality of life.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (15:09): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. How is the New South Wales Government providing stronger, better leadership in the areas of policy and infrastructure, and is the Minister aware of any other relevant and related matters?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:09): I thank the member for Kiama for his question because it is an important question. It is a question that goes to the heart of government and will happen in New South Wales over the next five months when the people of this State get to choose their future. I urge caution when it comes to those opposite. I will touch on leadership in a minute.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: When it comes to infrastructure, this Government has got on with the job. It has delivered more than \$110 billion and another \$87 billion will be delivered in the next four years. As result of that, we have seen 78 hospitals redeveloped or built, 760 new classrooms, regional expenditure—a new half a billion dollar pipeline to Broken Hill—water filtration going on town water supplies, the duplication of highways, be it the Princes Highway or the Pacific Highway, and here in the city we have mega projects going on such as five stages of the metro project, three stages of light rail projects and missing motorway links such as the NorthConnex project and the WestConnex project.

That is what you can do if you recycle capital. Unlike those who want to recycle a former Labor Minister, this is how you get on and build infrastructure. You make the tough decisions, you manage your books, you make sure you recycle the capital from assets that could be better managed by the private sector and you take those funds to invest in more and productive assets. I was bemused to hear the Leader of the Opposition say the other day that he is against this. That is how you build up an infrastructure fund to get on and build. We can go back and reflect on the time when the Leader of the Opposition was an infrastructure Minister—a roads Minister for this State.

It is very well known that \$300 million was taken out of the Pacific Highway in 2009, when the crash rates were through the roof—Labor decided to slash funds to a road that needed to be duplicated. What was worse is that Canberra, as a result of that decision, backed another \$50 million out as well. This goes to the heart of good government: you have to be able to manage your finances, manage your books and then get on and build. We have heard a lot from those opposite about leadership over the past few days.

Mr Ryan Park: He got more votes than you, mate.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira will cease interjecting. This is my final warning.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: It is interesting that in July the Leader of the Opposition decided to call for the expulsion of a member from this place. Yet six days on he was still prepared to have Luke Foley in his caucus. Members opposite had a lot to say last Friday about Luke Foley, calling for him to be stood down.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Campbelltown should try to be serious this time because he was not before.

Mr Greg Warren: I am always serious, Madam Speaker. My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. The Minister is imputing the Leader of the Opposition's character with an improper motive. Under Standing Order 129 I also ask you to request that he come back to the question.

The SPEAKER: Up until this time the Minister has been entirely relevant. I will listen further.

Mr Greg Warren: He is clearly trying to impute the character of the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: I will listen further.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: It is interesting who had their heads down when I made that point. A couple of members opposite decided that they wanted Luke Foley out of the caucus. He is still in their caucus. So this goes to the heart of the leadership of the new Leader of the Opposition. In July he calls for the expulsion of a member and today he is not prepared to suspend Luke Foley from his own caucus, but have him sit on the crossbench for what happened. That goes to the test of leadership.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. Did the member for Campbelltown listen to the question?

Mr Greg Warren: I did.

The SPEAKER: Are you going to raise relevance?

Mr Greg Warren: No, Standing Order 73.

The SPEAKER: That is your favourite.

Mr Greg Warren: The Minister's personal reflections are directly intentional to impute the Leader of the Opposition's character. It is inappropriate and I ask that you request that he come back to the question.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is entirely relevant to the question he was asked. Not many members listen to the question.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Just to help you, it is "impugn" not "impute".

The SPEAKER: It is "imputation" and "impugn".

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: There are members of Labor's caucus who do not want Luke Foley in it. The question is, what are they saying to the bloke opposite? There is no doubt when it comes to leadership you cannot call for the expulsion of a member one minute and then not be prepared to suspend Luke Foley and have him sit on the crossbench.

Mr David Harris: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The chorus of interjections from members will cease.

Mr David Harris: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. How is this relevant to transport?

The SPEAKER: Did you listen to the question?

Mr David Harris: I did.

The SPEAKER: Which part of the question is not relevant?

Mr David Harris: What the Minister is talking about is not relevant.

The SPEAKER: The question was asked. Which part of the question is this not relevant to?

Mr David Harris: The question was about infrastructure.

The SPEAKER: You did not hear the question.

Mr David Harris: I did hear the question.

The SPEAKER: You are not explaining the issue to me at all. The answer was relevant.

Mr David Harris: Read the question again.

The SPEAKER: Read the question again because you did not hear it the first time.

Mr David Harris: The Minister is not answering the question.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. The Minister is being relevant to the question he was asked. You did not listen carefully to the wording.

Mr David Harris: So you have open season to say whatever you like?

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I thank the member for Kiama for his question about leadership. This goes to the heart of leadership. On Friday the Leader of the Opposition said he believed a certain statement, but he has not acted on it. Therein lies the point. I was interested yesterday as a member of this place to receive a letter. The Treasurer mentioned this yesterday. I received a letter from Eddie Obeid's lawyer. Everyone on this side, including The Greens, received one. [*Extension of time*]

I notice it was The Greens from the left faction that put up their hands. It was not the little Terrigal over here. What I say to Eddie Obeid's lawyer is that we will not be threatened about raising Eddie Obeid in the election, given his connection to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: My point of order is Standing Order 129. If the Minister wants to hold up Eddie Obeid as an example of leadership that is on him, because that is where he is going.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, it is an argument. It could have been a point of order, but you did not frame it as a point of order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I would not be moving points of order given what you said last Friday. Have you spoken to your leader about booting Foley out of caucus? No, you have not. Maybe you have.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Members are behaving like rabble. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. I will not be lectured to or questioned by that Minister. I will not have my motives impugned.

The SPEAKER: No standing order has been breached. The member will resume her seat. I warn the member for Maitland that this is not the time to argue.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: He is making an allegation about my character.

The SPEAKER: The member has not raised a valid point of order. I direct the member for Maitland to remove herself from the Chamber for a period of two hours.

[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Maitland left the Chamber at 15:19.]

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Big game on radio, but little game in caucus. To this letter: we will not have Eddie Obeid threatening us with defamation from jail. He has a relationship with the Leader of the Opposition that goes back a very long time. I say to the lawyers: We are not afraid of pointing out to the people of this State the connection between the Leader of the Opposition and Eddie Obeid.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: They are telling you to sit down, member for Campbelltown. The Leader of the Opposition is asking you to stop. Do you want to continue?

Mr Greg Warren: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. It is unparliamentary and irrelevant.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Greg Warren: It is a personal reflection making a correlation between the Leader of the Opposition and a convicted felon. It is unparliamentary and has brought this place to a new low.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I am a little perplexed because I did not get this letter when Luke Foley was leader, I only got it when Michael Daley became leader. I did not thank Eddie Obeid in my inaugural speech for bringing me in here. It is same old Labor, same old danger and we have a recycled Labor Minister. It is not the fresh start that the member for Kogarah wants or those in caucus who want the dream team. We have recycled Labor. It is not how you build infrastructure and it is not how you deliver services. To Eddie Obeid's lawyer: We will raise it during the election campaign, don't worry about that.

TENANCY LAW NO-GROUNDS EVICTIONS

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:20): My question is directed to the Premier. Given that most of the Cabinet Ministers own multiple properties—

Mrs Melinda Pavey: David Shoebridge!

The SPEAKER: Government members will come to order. That was entirely inappropriate behaviour from Government members. I warn the member for Kiama to cease interjecting. If there is a repetition of that behaviour from Government members I will call them to order. The member for Newtown will be heard in silence.

Ms JENNY LEONG: David Shoebridge actually took the opposite position to what this Government took.

The SPEAKER: The member for Newtown will ask her question.

Ms JENNY LEONG: Given that most of the Cabinet Ministers and, I imagine, most members of Parliament in this place, as we are all on very large salaries, own multiple properties—I am not one of them—

The SPEAKER: Government members will come to order. I cannot hear the question. Government members can be outraged all they like, but they will cease interjecting.

Ms JENNY LEONG: —with one Minister owning 12 properties and another Minister owning 15 properties, will the Premier inform the House if any of the Ministers declared a conflict of interest when Cabinet made the decision to keep unfair no-grounds evictions in New South Wales that clearly benefit landlords over people who rent in this State?

The SPEAKER: Government members will cease interjecting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:22): I am one of those humble members who has one property with a big mortgage. I say this, there is nothing wrong with people working hard and making something of themselves. I place on the record that there is nothing wrong with working hard. We want everybody in New South Wales to have an opportunity to work hard and make something of themselves. We recognise the fact that we need to make housing affordable. We are the only State Government in the nation that has a social and affordable housing fund. It is a \$1.1 billion fund that is building thousands of homes across the State for those who will never be able to afford their own home. We are the only Government, Liberal or Labor, in the history of Australia that has set up such a fund. I commend the Minister for Family and Community Services for her homelessness strategy, for her social housing strategy and for the Government strategy in supporting both tenants and landlords.

Ms Jenny Leong: Point of order. My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, relevance. I did not ask about the Government's housing affordability strategy. I asked specifically whether or not any of the Ministers declared a conflict of interest when considering the unfair no-grounds evictions.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Premier will address that part of the question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I can say proudly that on all occasions all Ministers declare any conflict of interest, but they have to be outside a particular class of interest. They cannot say, "I'm a public transport user; therefore, I can't make a decision on public transport."

Ms Jenny Leong: Point of order: I draw your attention to comments being made by Government members that are truly offensive.

The SPEAKER: If that is the case, certain members will be called to order. There is no need to make offensive comments.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I assure the member for Newtown that this Government appreciates that there is an increasing number of people who, by choice, want to rent. We have strengthened their rights, especially the rights of those who suffer domestic violence and other serious experiences in life. We have made sure that we protect tenants' rights when they experience unanticipated life events. We are striking the right balance to protect tenants in every possible way. But, in fairness, we must ensure that landlords have rights as well. That is what makes good government. We have to make sure that we have balanced policies that give everyone commonsense rights to live happily and have a good quality of life.

Given that the question was asked by the member for Newtown, I cannot help but point out that the Leader of the Opposition has been the shadow Minister for Planning for some time. We tried to find out whether he had any policies on planning or housing affordability. He has a lot to say about planning matters, but he does not have any policies—except one. I urge his colleagues to read the speech he gave last year to the Fabian Society if they have not already done so. He said that the reason the Government was not doing better on housing affordability was because it did not have enough middle managers in the Department of Planning. That was his response.

Mr Michael Daley: Table that.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: You should table the speech. It is on the public record.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will come to order. He will cease interjecting.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: In all the time that he has been the shadow Minister for Planning he has not articulated one policy to support tenants, to support new entrants into the housing market or to support communities. Instead, his one contribution was to say that we need more middle managers in the Department of Planning. Members do not need to believe me. All they have to do is read his speech to the Fabian Society in 2017. I think it was in August, but I stand to be corrected. If they want to know how the Leader of the Opposition has failed as shadow planning Minister they should just read that speech.

WESTERN SYDNEY AEROTROPOLIS

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (15:27): My question is addressed to the Minister for Western Sydney. How is the New South Wales Government providing stronger, better leadership to ensure that the Western Sydney Aerotropolis and enabling infrastructure will help to deliver more jobs for Western Sydney?

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (15:27): I take this opportunity to thank the member for Camden for his contribution not just in this place but also as a public representative, particularly for people in south-west Sydney. He has served them with distinction for a long time. The member for Camden knows more than most about the importance of the long-term future of outer Western Sydney to the future of New South Wales and the country. In its very early days this Government set out a vision for a growing Sydney. It established the Greater Sydney Commission, which started to redefine the way we thought about how Sydney worked and functioned. We created a city of three cities. We recognised that Western Sydney had evolved from being just around Parramatta to include the important growth area west of the M7. This Government has taken on that mantle and vision and has continued to drive it.

We established the city deal structure through which we are working with eight councils across the outer Western Sydney area. Off the back of the city deal we established the aerotropolis precinct, which is a key driver in making sure that the airport in which the Commonwealth Government is investing is not just about tourists coming to Western Sydney and then leaving the area. It will be about making sure that we generate jobs in local communities and jobs that are closer to home. Recently, we also established the Western City and Aerotropolis Authority, which will have a master planning and development role. It will be a place-maker and have a precinct activation and precinct management role as well as an infrastructure planning, prioritisation and coordination role. Uniquely, it will also have an investment attraction role. This is the first time that we have put a place-making agency at the forefront of investment attraction. I am delighted to announce that Sam Sangster will be the inaugural chief executive officer of the Western Sydney and Aerotropolis Authority. Many members would be familiar with Sam's work for Infrastructure NSW.

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

Mr STUART AYRES: He has been at the forefront of the health infrastructure revolution happening across New South Wales. I can speak for my own community, where he was overseeing the \$1 billion redevelopment of Nepean Hospital. Along with the rest of the authority as well as the board that will be put in place by the end of the year, Sam will work closely with the Greater Sydney Commission to ensure that we get the area around the airport right. The 11,000 hectare space surrounding the airport is a key driver in making sure that we can generate more than 200,000 new jobs for people across Western Sydney.

We heard from the Premier today that we are taking Western Sydney international—we are taking it to the world and providing an investment opportunity. Knowledge-based businesses such as Northrup Grumman and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries have already signed memorandums of understanding stating that they want to call Western Sydney home, and the aerotropolis in particular. We know that to create a knowledge-based economy we have to connect to good universities and good research opportunities. It is fantastic to see that a new alliance is being created made up of the University of New South Wales, the University of Newcastle, the University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University. They are coming together because they believe in the future of the aerotropolis and the future of a knowledge-based economy in Western Sydney. The multi-university campus will be a game changer for people across Western Sydney.

Organisations such as Celestino have invested in the Sydney Science Park, once again showing that companies want to embed research and development into the long-term development opportunities that exist across Western Sydney. Today we signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with Sydney Markets because we recognise that agribusiness opportunities around the airport will be critical. There is a long history of agricultural produce in Western Sydney. Whilst the types of agribusinesses may change over time, for example by becoming more intensive, we want to ensure that we can honour the area's historic roots. There is no better partner to walk with us on the journey than Sydney Markets—a New South Wales institution. For it to vote with confidence and sign an MOU with the Government shows that we are putting Sydney Markets at the forefront of agribusiness opportunities. We know that we need to connect the area properly to other parts of Sydney through strong freight and logistics connections. The airport will provide one such opportunity. *[Extension of time]*

There is no doubt that the strong connectivity that the precinct offers is attractive to organisations such as the Sydney Markets, but we also know that people need to be able to get to and from jobs. That is why, through the Western Sydney City Deal, the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments have committed to developing a north-south rail line. It will link the T1 western line to the airport site and then further south to ensure that south-west Sydney—the area for which the member for Camden has been such a passionate representative—finally receives the connectivity it deserves.

As the Greater Sydney Commission identified, the Western Parkland City is structured differently from the rest of Sydney. It is built on the north-south corridor, linking the north around the Hawkesbury and Hills District through greater Penrith to the airport site and into the south-west and Macarthur regions. There needs to be a strong transport connector, which is why this Government is fundamentally committed to a north-south rail line in Western Sydney. It will ensure that the airport not only generates tourist opportunities for people to come to Sydney but is also a jobs driver across Western Sydney.

Since the announcement of the city deal, the commitment to the airport and the establishment of the memorandums of understanding, we have seen time and again that businesses all over the world want to come and play in Western Sydney. We said that we would generate jobs in Western Sydney and we have done so. Youth unemployment in Western Sydney is the lowest it has ever been. There has never been a lower youth unemployment figure on record. For the first time, Western Sydney youth unemployment is in single digits. We are achieving outstanding economic results because we are generating jobs closer to where people live. The Western Sydney Aerotropolis will send that into overdrive. We want to make sure that people across the west get the full benefit of our infrastructure agenda that is driving economic and social opportunities in a fantastic growth corridor in Sydney.

Committees

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL

Reports

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: As Chair: I table report No. 3/56 of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General entitled "Twelfth General Meeting with the Valuer General", dated November 2018. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

Public Services

Petition calling on the Government to stop the sell-off of public services and instead invest in public services, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Pet Shops

Petition opposing the sale of animals in pet shops, 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**.

Sydney Metro Pitt Street Over-station Developments

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

Affordable Housing

Petition requesting legislation mandating a percentage of all new residential developments be set aside for affordable housing received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Leppington Railway Station Car Park

Petitions calling for the construction of a multi-level commuter car park at Leppington railway station and the provision of temporary car parking in the interim, received from **Mr Paul Lynch**.

Inner West Goods Line

Petition calling for the creation of a living museum to commemorate the role of the inner west goods line, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Inner-city Ferry Services

Petition calling on the Government to fast-track project work for ferry wharves and services at Glebe Point; Johnstons Bay, Pyrmont; Woolloomooloo; and Elizabeth Bay, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Globe Wilkins Preschool

Petition calling on the Government to stop the closure of the Globe Wilkins Preschool, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Anti-discrimination Guidelines

Petition calling on the Government to adopt Commonwealth Government guidelines that protect citizens from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Tertiary Campus Sexual Assault Reform

Petition calling on the Government to deliver sexual assault reform on New South Wales university and TAFE campuses by introducing mandatory training for residential college residents and staff, a standard sexual assault reporting model and specialised campus services for sexual assault victims, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Mental Health Services

Petition requesting increased mental health support for people with a mental illness who are tenants of Housing NSW and community housing, 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**.

Sydney Harbour Bridge Aboriginal Flag

Petition requesting that the Aboriginal flag fly permanently on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge alongside the Australian and New South Wales flags, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

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**.

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:

Central Coast Railway Stations

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

Cowra Hospital

Petition calling on the Government to fund the upgrade of Cowra hospital, received from **Ms Steph Cooke**.

Riverwood Estate and Community Centre

Petition requesting that the Government consult with the Riverwood community on the redevelopment of the Riverwood estate and continue to fund the Riverwood Community Centre to support local social housing tenants, received from **Mr Jihad Dib**.

*Business of the House***YOUTH PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT****Reordering**

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:37): I move:

That the General Business Notice of Motion (General Notice) given by me this day [Youth Programs and Support] have precedence on Thursday 15 November 2018.

My motion should be reordered to put on record the barriers and challenges that young people can sometimes face in our community and acknowledge the work that the New South Wales Government is doing to address those concerns. It is essential that we leave our society in better shape than when we inherited it so we can ensure that future generations can enjoy the fruits of previous generations. This Government is doing just that. The New South Wales Government understands the great importance of young people and their role in our diverse communities as future leaders with unique interests, talents and skills. It is critical that the right supports and services are provided to young people to ensure that they do not fall through the cracks. It is essential that we bring this motion forward to throw light on the programs available to young people and organisations that assist in supporting our youth.

Young people in lower socioeconomic conditions or those who may not have a stable family home or parents need to be supported and mentored to have the best opportunities in life. From 2018 to 2020 more than \$6.5 million will be invested in the Youth Frontiers program, which is open to young people aged 12 to 16 years and aims to broaden their opportunities for community engagement and provide mentorship from community leaders. The New South Wales Government is also investing \$4.5 million in the Youth Opportunities program, which supports local youth-led and youth-driven projects. That funding will be delivered from January 2018 to 2020.

Another initiative targeted at our diverse young people is COMPACT—or Community in Partnership Taking Action—which will receive \$9.2 million in total funding from 2016 to 2020 to support an alliance of community partners who share a commitment to Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life. It is aimed at promoting social cohesion and addressing issues impacting community harmony in this State. Initiatives such as the National Rugby League Youth Advocate Program, the Police Citizens Youth Club Savannah Pride program and Youth Off the Streets are all brilliant ways to target youth and help to ensure that young people are engaged and active citizens in our society. Ultimately, the issues facing our youth—from crime and delinquency to cohesion and inclusion—need to be acknowledged, especially by members of this House. We also need to consider the actions that the Government is taking to support inclusion of young people in our society and how we can help to give young people the best start possible.

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (15:40): My motion deserves precedence tomorrow because the Labor Party is unashamedly and unapologetically all about public transport. We know that the community wants public transport over toll roads; they have told us that and we have listened. This week Labor made a bold and brave policy announcement that is not about an arbitrary line on a map. Schoolchildren should be given free public transport, and that is what Labor promised this week. The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—grumbling Andrew—came out and criticised a policy that is about families and fairness and cost of living. We want a culture in which young people value public transport. Labor has indicated that it will have a flat \$5 fare on the airport line and those who work at the airport will travel by public transport for free. Labor has said that it will invest \$1 billion in commuter car parks and improve stations through upgrades. Labor has said that if a train is late due to an avoidable delay, passengers will receive their money back. We have seen chaos and confusion since this Government's timetable was introduced in November.

Labor has said that it will prioritise the western metro. It has said that it will not build toll roads such as a northern beaches tunnel, the Western Harbour Tunnel or the F6. Instead, it will investigate a southern metro and invest \$2.4 billion in improving transport in south Sydney, on the South Coast and in the Illawarra. Labor has said that it will not destroy a workable rail line such as the Sydenham to Bankstown line. Instead, it will invest in a \$13.5 billion transport acceleration fund because the communities that we proudly represent want public transport. This is about the cost of living. These decisions are bold and brave but we will keep making them because we listen to our communities and we know that they want better. They have had enough of the leadership of the Liberal-Nationals Government. They want public transport and we will deliver that. We will keep making announcements on public transport. We will keep abandoning toll roads. We will not build toll roads because we do not support a toll on a road that is not new, such as the M4. We want transparency in tolling arrangements. Most of all, we want public transport.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the motion of the member for Holsworthy have precedence on Thursday 15 November 2018.

Motion agreed to.

Motions Accorded Priority

PACIFIC HIGHWAY

Consideration

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:44): My motion should be accorded priority because the people of New South Wales need to know the track record of the newly elected Leader of the Opposition. Together with my North Coast colleagues I have spoken many times in this House about the Pacific Highway, which is a piece of critical transport infrastructure for communities up and down the North Coast. Sadly, it is also a death trap. In the past the member for Lismore, the member for Oxley, the member for Clarence and I had to stand by as local members and as parents while sons, daughters, grandchildren, mothers and fathers were senselessly lost on the highway.

Those fatalities could have been avoided if the highway had a dual carriageway. That is why my North Coast colleagues in The Nationals and I are unapologetic about our focus, determination and passion for the duplication of the Pacific Highway. Sadly, that has not always been the case. When members opposite were in government and the current Leader of the Opposition was at the helm as the former transport Minister there was not that same passion and determination. His Government did not focus on the duplication of the Pacific Highway. It was not a priority. I just do not think the former Labor Government understood the impact of the loss of life on our local communities. Otherwise, why was it not a priority?

We know that the current Leader of the Opposition is not the leader of a fresh-faced Labor Party. We have a return to the same old disastrous team that led this State and the same old team that did not prioritise the duplication of the Pacific Highway. We know very well that former transport Minister Michael Daley simply did not commit to the 80:20 funding split agreement for the Pacific Highway. Over the years under Labor the State budget Pacific Highway commitment was slowly wasted. It went from 20 per cent— [*Time expired.*]

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Consideration

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:48): My motion should be accorded priority because members on my side of the Chamber believe in the credibility of Ministers of the Crown. Over the past few days I have listened very carefully to a number of statements made by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the member for Bega—who does not like Bega, does not live in Bega and does not visit Bega—about our budget and our financial position. My motion should be accorded priority because the credibility of the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure needs to be questioned.

Members on this side of the House remember that this Minister ordered trains that did not fit the tracks. This Minister delivered a disastrous new rail timetable. This Minister thought it would be a good idea to hold a public competition to name a ferry. Out of that competition we got the very eloquent, appropriate and critically important name of *Ferry McFerryface*. This Minister helped to deliver arguably the worst public transport project in this nation's history. It is only a couple of blocks from Parliament House and we get to see it regularly. That project is now in court and the taxpayer may well have to foot a bill in excess of \$1 billion, but this is a Minister who talks about economic credibility. But it gets better. My favourite one was when the Minister claimed recently that the expected metro conversion of the line from Sydenham to Bankstown would cost less than \$1 billion.

I asked an independent body, the Parliamentary Budget Office, to check the figures. I thought I would just get an unconnected, random person to check it over. The Parliamentary Budget Office stated, "Not proceeding with the project would create a saving" for the shadow Treasurer "of \$1.626 billion". The Minister was out only by about \$600 million, so let's not worry about it. In the space of two comments he was out in excess of \$1 billion, yet he wants to lecture me, the Leader of the Opposition and everyone else about economic credibility. Keep trying.

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

The House divided.

Ayes44

Noes32

Majority..... 12

AYES

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

NOES

Atalla, Mr E	Bali, Mr S	Barr, Mr C
Car, Ms P	Catley, Ms Y	Chanthivong, Mr A
Crakanthorp, Mr T	Dib, Mr J	Donato, Mr P
Finn, Ms J	Harris, Mr D	Harrison, Ms J
Haylen, Ms J	Hoenig, Mr R	Kamper, Mr S
Lalich, Mr N (teller)	Lynch, Mr P	McDermott, Dr H
McGirr, Dr J	McKay, Ms J	Mehan, Mr D
Mihailuk, Ms T	Minns, Mr C	Park, Mr R
Piper, Mr G	Scully, Mr P	Smith, Ms T.F.
Tesch, Ms L	Warren, Mr G	Washington, Ms K
Watson, Ms A (teller)	Zangari, Mr G	

PAIRS

Barilaro, Mr J	Cotsis, Ms S
Berejiklian, Ms G	Daley, Mr M
Fraser, Mr A	Doyle, Ms T
Johnsen, Mr M	Foley, Mr L
Roberts, Mr A	Hornery, Ms S

Motion agreed to.**PACIFIC HIGHWAY****Priority****Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:57):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Condemns the Opposition for cutting \$300 million of funding for the Pacific Highway when in government.
- (2) Notes that the roads Minister responsible for this cut was the member for Maroubra.
- (3) Recognises that the former Federal Government withdrew \$50 million in Federal funding for the Pacific Highway in response to the member for Maroubra's cut.
- (4) Acknowledges that the Government is committed to fully fund and complete the duplication of the Pacific highway.

As I mentioned in my earlier comments, I and many North Coast members—including the member for Oxley, who I know is going to support the motion—have spoken in this House about the importance of the Pacific Highway: what it means to our local communities and what it means as a transport link. Sadly, we have also had to speak in this House on many occasions about the impact that tragedies on the Pacific Highway have had on our

local communities. As I said, we make no apology for being passionate about this important infrastructure project. We will continue to be so as we move ever closer to seeing the project completed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as a member from the North Coast, you well know that we are doing great things on the North Coast of New South Wales, and in fact across the Roads budget. We have seen the Roads budget double and, importantly, we have seen record investment in regional New South Wales roads—investment that was never made before. We are transforming the roads network across the State. Importantly, we have been working hard with the Federal Liberal-Nationals Government to ensure that we jointly upgrade the Pacific Highway, which, as I said, is the major connecting link between the Queensland border and Sydney.

It is important that we deliver major projects like this not only because it is an important transport link but also because it is about road safety. We are jointly upgrading the highway to a four-lane, divided road from Hexham to the Queensland border. This work has been going on since 1996, with full duplication targeted for opening to dual carriageway by 2020. By the time the Pacific Highway upgrade is complete, \$15 billion will have been invested in the upgrade program by Liberal-Nationals governments federally and in New South Wales. For the people we represent on the North Coast and throughout the Hunter and the Central Coast, it means travellers who are already saving about two hours will save even more time as we open each section. It also means the journey between Hexham and the Queensland border, which used to take nine hours in the mid-1990s, will take about 6½ hours once the duplication is completed.

But what is most important to us as North Coast members and to our local communities is that road fatalities have declined since the upgrade began, with 18 fatalities in 2017 between Hexham and the Queensland border. This compares with the previous five-year average of about 23 fatalities per year. Mr Deputy Speaker, you and I know that one fatality is one too many, but we also know that when we duplicate the highway and divide the road the number of fatalities will decrease—as we have already seen. Through this project we are not only improving connectivity across the State; importantly, we are saving lives.

As I mentioned earlier and as this motion clearly highlights, this commitment from the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is in stark contrast to that of the Labor Party when it was in government. The member for Maroubra, and former roads Minister, slashed \$300 million from the Pacific Highway project. Yet just this week he has tried to convince communities across New South Wales that he is a man of the regions. Mr Deputy Speaker, you and I, along with the members for Oxley and for Tweed, know very well that he does not care about the regions. We need only look at Labor's record not just on roads but on health and education. As the member for Oxley said, under those opposite it was just "cut, cut, cut" when it came to funding for the regions. Under the Liberal-Nationals Government we have seen investment, investment, investment—in schools, in hospitals and in roads—and we know very well that that will continue.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:03): There is one thing about which I think we can all agree in this House: The Pacific Highway upgrade is a very important road project. I begin by offering my condolences to all the families who lost loved ones on that road while we unfortunately had to wait for the upgrade. Last week I drove up that way, to Kempsey and Nambucca in the electorate of the member for Oxley. There have been vast improvements along the highway. But it is clear there was a problem when New South Wales Labor was in government, and that was the big anchor around its neck that was the Federal Liberal Government under John Howard. I know the Government likes to rewrite history, but in October 2007 John Howard said:

The Coalition Government is willing to provide our share of the additional funding needed to fully duplicate by 2016, if the NSW Government will match our funding commitment ...

During the term of the Howard Government, New South Wales Labor more than matched Federal funding, spending twice as much as the Federal Coalition's \$1.3 billion. At that time, in 2012, the loudest calls to match New South Wales' funding came from then New South Wales roads Minister Duncan Gay. When Federal Labor committed \$4.1 billion more than the former Howard Government, which committed \$1.3 billion, it started the major duplication of the highway. If the Howard Government had kept its promise and made a similar commitment to that of Federal Labor, the Pacific Highway would be a modern, duplicated road today.

When Government members point their fingers at the former Labor Government, they must recognise that they are operating on the back of Federal money provided by Labor and that the Federal Liberal Government under Howard was clearly the anchor around the project's neck. Government members always want to forget this point, but the bulk of the money that has gone into the Pacific Highway is Federal money. In government, New South Wales Labor put in double what the then Federal Government committed. Let us be honest in these debates. Everyone wanted the highway duplicated but at the time the Howard Government did not want to pull its weight. It changed the funding formula from 50-50, which is when things started to go wrong. Let us be honest. Yes, both Federal and State governments could have done things better, but let us not just use this issue for political pointscoreing.

Michael Daley was Minister for Roads for one year. During that time we were hit by the greatest financial crisis the world had even seen. Under that administration public service jobs were saved and we kept our triple-A credit rating. In all the time Labor was in government, we went into deficit once. We had 15 budget surpluses. If the mob opposite ever have to face the same conditions I hope they have the gumption to recognise how good a job we did back then in the circumstances—which included the Federal Liberal Government deserting the State of New South Wales, particularly on the Pacific Highway. Let us point the finger exactly where it needs to be pointed.

The Pacific Highway needed Federal money then and it needs Federal money now. The Government has said how much Federal money is going into the project. Some \$971 million has been promised for the Coffs Harbour bypass but only \$270 million-odd will actually be delivered over the next four years. We all know there are forecasts and there is reality, but it is the absolute truth that New South Wales Labor put in double the money the Federal Government did back then. The Federal Government broke the agreement and held back the project. Federal Labor came to the rescue as the current Coalition Government came to power, so the State Government is running on the back of Federal Labor.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (16:08): It is a privilege to speak to this important motion. The most important part of my title is that I am the member for Oxley. I join the member for Port Macquarie in talking about the facts surrounding the Pacific Highway project and the construction agenda. The people who deserve the most credit for this project are, sadly, not with us today. The people who lost their lives, particularly around Clybucca and in the first crash at Cowper just east of Grafton, are the reason this road is being built. Good people like former Coroner Frank Waller made recommendations and gave power to our arms as local representatives of all political persuasions to get the upgrade done.

I cannot tell members what a privilege it is to be the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and a member of Parliament from the North Coast. I did not grow up on the North Coast; I moved there when I was 12. That goat track has always been an inhibitor to our communities, safety, trade and opportunities. Yes, a lot has been said about the funding, but my remarks in question time today stand true and firm. Two governments working in collaboration have created this funding environment and enabled us to double the amount that we were spending over half the period. That is why the road is finished. It could have been done earlier—I think everyone would rather have seen Kevin Rudd put money into the Pacific Highway than into pink batts, just as Costello and Howard could potentially have been more open with their chequebook. But that was not their style; they left the books of this country in an incredible place, which enabled expenditure to follow.

This project is also the result of capital recycling. Then Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner ensured the recycling of money from leasing the ports in New South Wales. We have given those opposite an example of what they can do if they manage the books, keep public sector wages at 2.5 per cent above inflation and manage their money. They can upgrade the Pacific Highway, the Newell Highway, the Great Western Highway and the Princes Highway. Those opposite could fix roads and infrastructure across New South Wales. Let us not forget that when Labor was in office and the Leader of the Opposition was Minister for Roads, he cut funding to this project. That is a matter of record. Yes, there are a lot of complicated circumstances around this issue, but if those opposite had had the discipline and the courage of their convictions, the Pacific Highway could have been completed sooner. I am proud we are doing it, and proud for those people who deserve this legacy.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:11): I welcome this motion, which allows me to talk about the Pacific Highway and to focus on that part of the Pacific Highway in my region, the Central Coast, and in my electorate of The Entrance. On the subject of priorities, let us be clear that when those opposite talk about the Pacific Highway their priorities begin north of Hexham. The Government's record on the Central Coast is nothing to boast about. Stage 3A of the project on the Central Coast has just been completed. This was a bipartisan commitment by both parties at the last State election and it could not have come sooner for the people in my electorate. It has taken those opposite eight years to deliver half of stage 3. The former Labor Government delivered stages 1 and 2 through Ourimbah in half that time, just before the 2011 election.

Let us talk about priorities and realities on the ground. When those opposite talk about the regions, they are not talking about the Central Coast region and their commitment locally is less than ideal. This is a backward-looking motion that seeks to place the blame 16 years ago instead of looking at what the Government is doing now. The Government is doing a cut-price job on the Central Coast. At the 2015 election both sides committed to upgrade the Pacific Highway and allocated \$100 million for that purpose. The Government has only spent \$70 million of that \$100 million commitment. It has cut \$30 million from the budget. Reduced funding has resulted in cut corners on the design and led to disputes with people along the verge of the Pacific Highway. For example, the owners of the Tall Timbers Hotel lost their parking because of road widening and design changes.

The Government's priorities are less than ideal for people in my electorate. When we talk about our commitment to the Pacific Highway, let us talk about the entire length of the Pacific Highway—not just the parts

north of Hexham. Let us talk about the Central Coast as well. We can do better on this. I look forward to both sides of politics committing to funding the Pacific Highway on the Central Coast as well as the stretch north of Hexham, and ensuring that we deliver what our constituents expect: a decent outcome for everybody—commuters and constituents—in a decent time frame.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:14): In reply: I thank the member for Wyong, the member for The Entrance and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and member for Oxley, for their contributions to this debate. The Minister understands not only the record current and future investment in the duplication of the Pacific Highway but also its history. When the member for Maroubra was the Minister for Roads some \$300 million was slashed from the State's contribution to the Pacific Highway upgrade, and in response the Federal Government's contribution was reduced by \$50 million—one-third of \$1 billion was taken away. We all acknowledge that this duplication needs to be completed as soon as possible. Why? It is not only about the road being an important link; it is about saving people's lives. Holidaying families, mums and dads trying to get home to their loved ones, and young people who had great potential—many of whom members knew personally or knew of in their electorates—never had a chance because of the dire condition of this road.

The Pacific Highway must be duplicated urgently to the Queensland border. Yet when those opposite were in office the funding for this project was cut. Indeed, if the Liberal-Nationals had not been elected in 2011 the upgrade would have been doomed. But in restoring full funding to this project, the Government has sent a very clear message to the people who live on the North Coast that their lives and those of their loved ones matter. Last week the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight joined the member for Clarence and the Federal member for Page to announce that the final link in the Pacific Highway upgrade from Woolgoolga to Ballina is now more than 50 per cent complete.

Yesterday the Minister told us that the construction of that section of the highway has created more than 3,300 jobs for people across the North Coast community. She said that Roads and Maritime is working with northern New South Wales training providers, including TAFE, in a fantastic initiative to support training to about 250 certificate III in civil construction and civic pathways students. I again thank the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight for her ongoing commitment. I acknowledge also the previous roads Minister, the Hon. Duncan Gay, for his work on the Pacific Highway upgrade. This amazing infrastructure project is being delivered faster than would have occurred under those opposite. I commend the motion to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the motion as moved by the member for Port Macquarie be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes44
Noes32
Majority..... 12

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Constance, Mr A
Crouch, Mr A
Elliott, Mr D
Goward, Ms P
Gulaptis, Mr C
Humphries, Mr K
Marshall, Mr A
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 L.J.
Grant, Mr T
Hazzard, Mr B
Kean, Mr M
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
Gibbons, Ms M
Griffin, Mr J
Henskens, Mr A
Lee, Dr G
O'Dea, Mr J
Perrottet, Mr D
Rowell, Mr J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Mr R

NOES

Atalla, Mr E
Car, Ms P

Bali, Mr S
Catley, Ms Y

Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A

NOES

Crakanthorp, Mr T	Dib, Mr J	Finn, Ms J
Harris, Mr D	Harrison, Ms J	Haylen, Ms J
Hoenig, Mr R	Kamper, Mr S	Lalich, Mr N (teller)
Leong, Ms J	Lynch, Mr P	McDermott, Dr H
McGirr, Dr J	McKay, Ms J	Mehan, Mr D
Mihailuk, Ms T	Minns, Mr C	Park, Mr R
Piper, Mr G	Scully, Mr P	Smith, Ms T.F.
Tesch, Ms L	Warren, Mr G	Washington, Ms K
Watson, Ms A (teller)	Zangari, Mr G	

PAIRS

Barilaro, Mr J	Cotsis, Ms S
Berejiklian, Ms G	Daley, Mr M
Evans, Mr A.W.	Doyle, Ms T
Fraser, Mr A	Foley, Mr L
Roberts, Mr A	Hornery, Ms S

Motion agreed to.*Bills***GOVERNMENT SECTOR FINANCE LEGISLATION (REPEAL AND AMENDMENT) BILL 2018****Consideration in Detail****Consideration of Legislative Council's amendments.***Schedule of the amendments referred to in message of 7 June 2018*No. 1 **GRN No. 1 [c2018-060]**

Page 13, Schedule 2. Insert after line 19:

[36] Section 54

Omit sections 54–56. Insert instead:

54 Constitution of Public Accounts Committee

- (1) On substitution of this section by the *Government Sector Finance Legislation (Repeal and Amendment) Act 2018* and as soon as practicable after the commencement of the first session of each Parliament, a joint committee of members of Parliament, to be known as the Public Accounts Committee, is to be appointed.
- (2) The Committee is to consist of 8 members, of whom:
 - (a) 4 are to be members of, and appointed by, the Legislative Council, and
 - (b) 4 are to be members of, and appointed by, the Legislative Assembly.
- (3) The appointment of members of the Committee is, as far as practicable, to be in accordance with the practice of Parliament with respect to the appointment of members to serve on joint committees of both Houses of Parliament.
- (4) A person is not eligible for appointment as a member of the Committee if the person is a Minister of the Crown or a Parliamentary Secretary.
- (5) Schedule 1B contains provisions relating to the Committee.

No. 2 **GRN No. 2 [c2018-060]**

Page 13, Schedule 2. Insert after line 24:

[37] Section 58 Evidence

Omit the section.

No. 3 **GRN No. 3 [c2018-060]**

Page 14, Schedule 2. Insert after line 22:

[51] Schedule 1B

Insert after Schedule 1A:

Schedule 1B Public Accounts Committee

1 Definition

In this Schedule, Committee means the Public Accounts Committee.

2 Vacancies

- (1) A member of the Committee ceases to hold office:
- (a) when the Legislative Assembly is dissolved or expires by the effluxion of time, or
 - (b) if the member becomes a Minister of the Crown or a Parliamentary Secretary, or
 - (c) if the member ceases to be a member of the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly, or
 - (d) if, being a member of the Legislative Council, the member resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the President of the Legislative Council, or
 - (e) if, being a member of the Legislative Assembly, the member resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, or
 - (f) if the member is discharged from office by the House of Parliament to which the member belongs.
- (2) Either House of Parliament may appoint one of its members to fill a vacancy among the members of the Committee appointed by that House.

3 Chair and Deputy Chair

- (1) There is to be a Chair and a Deputy Chair of the Committee, who are to be elected by and (subject to subclause (2)) from the members of the Committee.
- (2) The Chair must not be a member of a party that has been elected to Government
- (3) A member of the Committee ceases to hold office as Chair or Deputy Chair of the Committee if:
- (a) the member ceases to be a member of the Committee, or
 - (b) the member resigns the office by instrument in writing presented to a meeting of the Committee, or
 - (c) the member is discharged from office by the Committee.
- (4) At any time when the Chair is absent from New South Wales or is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of Chair or there is a vacancy in that office, the Deputy Chair may exercise the functions of the Chair under this Act or under the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*.

4 Procedure

- (1) The procedure for the calling of meetings of the Committee and for the conduct of business at those meetings is, subject to this Act, to be as determined by the Committee.
- (2) The Clerk of the Parliaments is to call the first meeting of the Committee, and the first meeting of the Committee in each Parliament, in such manner as the Clerk thinks fit.
- (3) At a meeting of the Committee, 4 members constitute a quorum, but the Committee must meet as a joint committee at all times.
- (4) The Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair (or, in the absence of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair, a member of the Committee elected to chair the meeting by the members present) is to preside at a meeting of the Committee.
- (5) The Deputy Chair or other member presiding at a meeting of the Committee has, in relation to the meeting, all the functions of the Chair.
- (6) The Chair, Deputy Chair or other member presiding at a meeting of the Committee has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, also has a casting vote.

- (7) A question arising at a meeting of the Committee is to be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
- (8) The Committee may sit and transact business despite any prorogation of the Houses of Parliament or any adjournment of either House of Parliament.
- (9) The Committee may sit and transact business on a sitting day of a House of Parliament during the time of sitting.
- (10) Except as otherwise provided by this Act, the practice and procedure of the Committee is to be in accordance with the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council regulating the committees of the House.

5 Reporting when Parliament not in session

- (1) If a House of Parliament is not sitting when the Committee seeks to furnish a report to it, the Committee may present copies of the report to the Clerk of the House.
- (2) The report:
 - (a) on presentation and for all purposes is taken to have been laid before the House, and
 - (b) may be printed by authority of the Clerk, and
 - (c) if printed by authority of the Clerk, is for all purposes taken to be a document published by or under the authority of the House, and
 - (d) is to be recorded in the Minutes, or Votes and Proceedings, of the House on the first sitting day of the House after receipt of the report by the Clerk.

6 Evidence

- (1) The Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records.
- (2) Subject to clause 7, the Committee must take all evidence in public.
- (3) If the Committee as constituted at any time has taken evidence in relation to a matter but the Committee as so constituted has ceased to exist before reporting on the matter, the Committee as constituted at any subsequent time, whether during the same or another Parliament, may consider that evidence as if it had taken the evidence.
- (4) The production of documents to the Committee is to be in accordance with the practice of the Legislative Council with respect to the production of documents to committees of the Legislative Council.

7 Confidentiality

- (1) If any evidence proposed to be given before, or the whole or a part of a document produced or proposed to be produced to, the Committee relates to a secret or confidential matter, the Committee may, and at the request of the witness giving the evidence or the person producing the document must:
 - (a) take the evidence in private, or
 - (b) direct that the document, or the part of the document, be treated as confidential.
- (2) If a direction under subclause (1) applies to a document or part of a document produced to the Committee:
 - (a) the contents of the document or part are, for the purposes of this clause, to be regarded as evidence given by the person producing the document or part and taken by the Committee in private, and
 - (b) the person producing the document or part is, for the purposes of this clause, to be regarded as a witness.
- (3) If, at the request of a witness, evidence is taken by the Committee in private:
 - (a) the Committee must not, without the consent in writing of the witness, and
 - (b) a person (including a member of the Committee) must not, without the consent in writing of the witness and the authority of the Committee under subclause (5),

disclose or publish the whole or a part of that evidence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

- (4) If evidence is taken by the Committee in private otherwise than at the request of a witness, a person (including a member of the Committee) must not, without the authority of the Committee under subclause (5), disclose or publish the whole or part of that evidence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

- (5) The Committee may, in its discretion, disclose or publish or, by writing under the hand of the Chair, authorise the disclosure or publication of evidence taken in private by the Committee, but this subclause does not operate so as to affect the necessity for the consent of a witness under subclause (3).
- (6) Nothing in this clause prohibits:
- (a) the disclosure or publication of evidence that has already been lawfully published, or
 - (b) the disclosure or publication by a person of a matter of which the person has become aware otherwise than by reason, directly or indirectly, of the giving of evidence before the Committee.
- (7) This clause has effect despite section 4 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975*.
- (8) If evidence taken by the Committee in private is disclosed or published in accordance with this clause, sections 5 and 6 of the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* apply to and in relation to the disclosure or publication as if it were a publication of that evidence under the authority of section 4 of that Act.

Note. The *Defamation Act 2005* makes provision for 2 defences in respect of the publication of defamatory matter that is contained in evidence taken by, or documents produced to, the Committee in private, but only if the evidence or documents have been disclosed or published in accordance with this clause.

Section 28 of the *Defamation Act 2005* (when read with clause 8 of Schedule 2 to that Act) ensures that such documents attract the defence relating to public documents in defamation proceedings.

Section 29 of the *Defamation Act 2005* (when read with clause 17 of Schedule 3 to that Act) ensures that proceedings in which such evidence is taken or documents produced attract the defences relating to fair reports of proceedings of public concern in defamation proceedings.

8 Application of certain Acts

For the purposes of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* and the *Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975* and for any other purposes:

- (a) the Committee is to be regarded as a joint committee of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and
- (b) the proposal for the appointment of the Committee is to be regarded as having originated in the Legislative Council.

9 Validity of certain acts or proceedings

Any act or proceeding of the Committee is, even though at the time when the act or proceeding was done, taken or commenced there was:

- (a) a vacancy in the office of a member of the Committee, or
- (b) any defect in the appointment, or any disqualification, of a member of the Committee,

as valid as if the vacancy, defect or disqualification did not exist and the Committee were fully and properly constituted.

No. 4 **GRN No. 4 [c2018-060]**

Page 15, Schedule 2 [53]. Insert after line 7:

Dissolution of existing Public Accounts Committee

- (1) On the substitution of section 54 by the *Government Sector Finance Legislation (Repeal and Amendment) Act 2018*:
 - (a) the Public Accounts Committee as constituted immediately before that substitution (the existing Committee) is dissolved, and
 - (b) each member of the existing Committee ceases to hold office as such.

- (2) Subclause (1) does not prevent a member of the *existing Committee* being appointed as a member of the Public Accounts Committee (as constituted after the substitution of section 54) if otherwise qualified for appointment.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations)
(16:24): I move:

That the House disagree with the Legislative Council amendments.

The Legislative Assembly, having considered the message dated 7 June 2018 in which the Legislative Council requested the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly with amendments to the Government Sector Finance Legislation (Repeal and Amendment) Bill 2018, informs the Legislative Council that the Legislative Assembly disagrees with the proposed amendments because it is persuaded by the views of Professor Anne Twomey, Professor of Constitutional Law, on the financial prerogative of the Legislative Assembly, which is based upon, one, history, tradition and inheritance; two, representative government; three, responsible government; and, four, accountability. As advised by Professor Twomey, the Legislative Assembly has constitutional primacy in relation to the financial matters and has scrutinised the public accounts of the State through its Public Accounts Committee since 1902.

It is important that the Legislative Assembly retain control of the committee, given its significant and longstanding role in relation to the scrutiny of public finance and the part it plays in the Legislative Assembly's constitutional functions with respect to public finance. The proposed amendments could not achieve the intended objective of an effective joint committee. The existing Public Accounts Committee's statutory functions are retained under the proposed amendments. These functions refer only to the Legislative Assembly and would not provide for the necessary powers, jurisdiction and reporting structure of a joint committee. For example, the proposed joint committee would report to and receive referrals from only the Legislative Assembly. Joint committees must be able to receive referrals from either or both Houses and report to both Houses. The amendments are outside the scope of the bill.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (16:26): The Labor Opposition supports the Treasurer in disagreeing with these amendments. We believe that the Public Accounts Committee should be controlled and operated within the purview of the Legislative Assembly. Importantly, we believe that this is the House that represents the men and women of New South Wales and that the members of this House should be on that committee to investigate, interrogate and review the finances and the budgets of the government of any persuasion of the day. That is why we have the Public Accounts Committee. As a member, I know the importance of the work that is done by that committee. For many years it has been an important committee. The Treasurer has provided me with the advice from Professor Anne Twomey. I have looked at that advice and agree with it. As the most recent Opposition members on the Public Accounts Committee, both the Leader of the Opposition and I agree with the Treasurer's position.

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

Motion agreed to.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I move:

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council advising of the Legislative Assembly disagreeing with the Legislative Council's amendments.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT (ENFORCEMENT) BILL 2018

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (16:28): I continue my contribution from an earlier hour on the Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018. As I said previously, the basic element of the bill is to, one, ensure that the New South Wales Supreme Court is the body that deals with concerns, problems or issues raised with regard to procurement in New South Wales and, two, that agencies of New South Wales are responsible. Currently, actions, directions and policies that come from the NSW Procurement Board are not enforceable. The NSW Procurement Board issues directions and policies, even Premier's memorandums, but none is enforceable. For various reasons, some agencies have sought to abide by the policies and recommendations of the NSW Procurement Board and others have gone outside those directions and policies.

I note that as a way of stating fundamentally what the bill is about. Then we go off on a tangent, as can be seen from the contribution of the Government spokesperson in the other House when the bill was introduced. The Hon. Catherine Cusack, in the second sentence of her contribution, emphasised—not in error—that the bill

is introduced as a result of the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP], or TPP-11 as it is known because there are now 11 nations involved in the TPP. It has been signed and ratified by six of those nations and five others are still to ratify. The TPP at the Federal level has been a contentious issue, as TPPs typically are. It is not a settled position at all in Canberra.

The Federal Labor Government, while voting for the TPP, indicated it would seek to change a number of matters in the TPP. One change would be around the movement of labour markets across the different countries because in its current form the TPP has fairly free and unrestricted movement. Another change would be around the capacity for foreign corporates to sue a democratically elected government within Australian shores, be that at a State or Federal level, if a legislative position were taken which a foreign corporate deemed to be materially impacting on its business model. As an example, in Australia a few years ago a decision was made around the requirements for cigarette packaging. The decision was made to discourage people from smoking by making the cigarette packet look far less attractive, indeed, confrontational. Under the currently proposed TPP, it would be possible for corporates such as Philip Morris to take action for compensation against an Australian government for doing that. That is allowable under the bill before the House.

There is nothing in the bill that limits compensation. That means essentially that while the bill is primarily authorising the New South Wales Supreme Court to deal with these matters, the flow-on effect is that foreign corporates could take the New South Wales Government to court for decisions made in the running of the State. In about July this year, the current Minister for Finance, Services and Property, to his credit, decided on a procurement policy that if a company had a questionable reputation and a history that brought into question the ability of that company to deliver, then that should be a policy direction of the NSW Procurement Board. If a foreign corporate were struck from procurement in New South Wales, under the rules it would be able to seek compensation in the New South Wales Supreme Court.

To give another example, it is unclear whether or not drought relief would be seen to be an impact on the market. A foreign corporate that grows mandarins, tomatoes or olives might suggest that a government providing drought relief funding is interfering with the market, and that foreign corporate might seek compensation from the New South Wales Government at an uncapped level of compensation. These are the types of things that, while they are already possible under Investor-State Dispute Settlement [ISDS], this legislation will clearly articulate are possible and the New South Wales Supreme Court will have to hear those matters.

The naysayers out there, essentially from the corporate world and the voice boxes that speak on behalf of the corporates are going to suggest that to not have this trade principle in place will cost jobs and that it will squash employment opportunities that might otherwise be possible. That is another iteration of trickle-down economics. What the people of my electorate want, and I believe the people of most electorates want—and this issue has been pursued at recent State government elections in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland—is to see their governments, by and large, spending money locally to put local people to work and to procure local content.

A few years ago we had an issue around Australian steel in projects. I personally met with a number of small- and medium-sized enterprises from the Illawarra area. They were frustrated that they were unable to match the pricing that was being put forward in the procurement process because of employment conditions within Australia, the expectations of a fair wage, job security and being safe at work and the quality of product. They felt very much that it was an uneven playing field for a small business located in the Illawarra competing with businesses that were importing in some cases products of a lesser quality or products produced under less stringent workforce conditions in other countries.

At that time, Labor introduced a policy that would ensure Australian steel in future products. On occasions, I have heard Government members speak quite proudly about how much Australian steel is used in some of its procurement. That is a good thing because it is providing Australian people with work for that purpose. We must understand that this bill, while it fundamentally deals with the ability for the New South Wales Supreme Court to hear these matters and for the policies and directions of the NSW Procurement Board to be enforceable, in fact this is a doorway to a much bigger issue—a Federal trade deal that the Federal Government has embarked on. I do not believe that we in New South Wales should be waving through that trade deal, just as I do not believe that we in New South Wales should be waving through immigration numbers or education harmonisation at a Federal level without having a seat at the table.

In this instance, we are talking about procurement and New South Wales taxpayers' money where we have the choice and opportunity to provide people in New South Wales with work, to give New South Wales businesses the opportunity to procure on reasonable and fair grounds and to help them build, grow and develop their businesses so as to ensure that taxpayers' money goes back into the New South Wales economy—either it is spent in the New South Wales economy or it comes back to government as taxes and then goes back into the New South Wales economy. The position the Labor Opposition takes today is to oppose this bill. We are going to

fight for the opportunity for New South Wales to create jobs here in New South Wales. We are going to fight for the ability of the New South Wales Government, elected by the people of New South Wales, to make decisions. We are going to fight for the opportunity for us to be an independent, democratically elected people who can spend the money how we choose. We are going to seek to provide New South Wales people with work in full-time, meaningful, purposeful jobs and allow our small, medium and large businesses to flourish here in this State.

We look forward to a future Federal Labor government making the changes that have been indicated by Labor movements across the nation around restrictions on the ability of foreign corporates to sue this State for its decisions. To give a final example of how that might work, on 30 January 2014, from memory, this House was recalled to deal with two pieces of legislation. One was legislation known as the "one punch law", which was introduced as a result of the violence that was happening on our streets. The other was legislation to deal with the Doyles Creek mining licence. This Government made a decision at the time to withdraw the Doyles Creek mining licence, which affected a considerable number of people in my community and a considerable number of investors.

In that legislation it was clearly written and prosecuted by then Premier Barry O'Farrell, and subsequently proven in the courts of law, that despite the fact that the mining company had investors in America, Japan, Spain and other countries and right across Australia, the Government would not be responsible for compensation for a decision made by the New South Wales Government at that time. As a result of that decision, international investors have lost hundreds of millions of dollars and the Government, it has been proven in the courts, is not liable. Under this legislation, that matter would have been heard by the Supreme Court and, in the language of this bill, would have fundamentally given confidence to the foreign corporates to seek compensation against the Government as a result of the decision it made.

I did not agree with the decision at the time. I voted for it but I knew that people were going to be hurt, and I have spoken previously about some of those people in this Chamber. But the decision was made by the government of the day and the government of the day had the numbers in the House. The then Government had the numbers in the House because the people of New South Wales had put it in that position. The people of New South Wales had the confidence that that Government would be able to make the decisions that were needed to run this State. The legislation on that day carried through the courts and no compensation has been payable.

I am concerned that if there is a change of Federal government there will be changes to the bill in its current form. I am concerned that we are the only State in Australia that is seeking to pass this legislation. I am concerned that by introducing legislation like this it will be more difficult for a future Federal government of any persuasion to change or unwind the conditions contained in the legislation. I am concerned that the government of New South Wales might lose its ability to make decisions unless it gets the green light from the corporates that would be impacted. I am concerned that we might be forced to spend more of our money against our will in foreign countries.

This is a very significant and serious bill. Should we just wave it through or should we oppose it? I do not want anybody to make a song and dance about the idea that State Labor is at odds with Federal Labor. That is petty politics in the big scheme of things. Our Federal Labor colleagues have said that they will vote for the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP] but they will seek changes. Those changes are in line with the concerns I have outlined today. The Government can play petty politics but in real terms we are basically in sync. I refer to a former Liberal Prime Minister whom members may have heard of—John Howard. John Howard throughout his entire career refused to sign a trade deal where a foreign corporate had the ability to seek compensation from an Australian democratically elected government. I do not agree with John Howard on much but tonight I do. The Labor Opposition opposes the bill.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:44): I speak in opposition to the Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018. The thrust of this bill is clear. This Government will no longer stand up for local jobs, for local manufacturing or for local workers. My colleague in the other place was firm in his position to this bill and the shadow Minister, as he eloquently outlined, has been firm in his opposition to the bill. That is because NSW Labor will always stand up for the workers of this State. We have always and we will always make it our priority to protect local jobs, local manufacturing and local businesses.

I am worried for our State and for the people who live here. We should not introduce legislation that will seek to remove jobs and money from our local economies and place our government at risk of legal action from foreign corporations. In my hometown, local manufacturing is important. On a number of occasions I have spoken in this place of the devastating effect that offshoring our Waratah train manufacturing to China had had on the community. The previous Waratah build had occurred in the Hunter at Downer and in Cardiff and Broadmeadow with UGL. The \$2.2 billion inner-city fleet will be built in South Korea. It is a devastating blow to our manufacturing workers.

The Government will now legislate to continue the practice. It is a disgrace. The Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018 will provide for the enforcement of federally negotiated international trade deals, that is, the TPP-11, which will be enforced by the New South Wales Supreme Court. In practice, this means that an international entity, either a corporate or government entity, will have the right to suspend and/or seek compensation for a procurement deal in our State if it feels it is being prevented from a fair opportunity to participate and be successful in a procurement process. Workers in manufacturing regions in this State feel they are left out without a fair opportunity.

This Government's legislation will make it worse. Make no mistake, this will have a devastating effect on local economies. For example, we will not be able to give priority to Australian steel for New South Wales manufacturing. I am pretty sure I know what the people of the Illawarra might think about that. The member for the Illawarra is present in the Chamber. He will have to explain to his community why he is not supporting their industry and local jobs. We will no longer be able to give priority to local produce. Recently this Parliament was buying butter from the Netherlands and had to be forced to purchase locally manufactured butter from Norco. Supporting local industry is an important function of this place.

It is not a coincidence that the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP] has met with fierce opposition from both the right and the left of politics. Members know that it is problematic and that it will have a very real impact on jobs for everyday Australians. In particular, I want to stand up for those workers in my community. This bill will cause the loss of potential and the loss of opportunity to support local industry, local agriculture and local jobs. This bill makes it plain that this Government prioritises big international businesses over local jobs and local providers.

We only need to look at the consequences of actions in other jurisdictions; the picture is rather sobering. I point to the European Union's experience and its free trade agreement between nations. In instances where a nation seeks to implement a change to a law or policy that affected foreign corporate entities, the governments won only one-third of the court cases—36.5 per cent to be accurate. On more than one in four occasions the corporate entity won the court case. One-third of the time agreements are negotiated, compensation is settled or the matter is withdrawn. Guess what? The taxpayers are the losers. The statistics bring into question a government's right to make decisions on policy, legislation and contracting, which impact the daily lives of local people, local jobs and local industry.

Some Government members will use this as an opportunity to say that NSW Labor is at odds with its Federal colleagues. Nothing could be further from the truth. I firmly do not believe this to be the case. In fact, by rejecting this bill we will be endorsing the position of our colleagues in Canberra, who do not believe that the TPP in its current form is at all acceptable. The New South Wales Liberals are trying to be too smart by half. They are legislating to offshore local jobs, all in the name of giving their embattled Federal colleagues a helping hand. Let me say, they are wasting their time. They are out of time. The Federal Liberals are a basket case and will not be in office following the next election.

Ultimately this is about local industry and local jobs. More importantly, it is about the local people that we represent, those who earn a living every day through jobs created by this State and our government. Government has an important role to play in fostering the local economy. It is blatantly clear that this bill undermines the efforts to protect and encourage local jobs and local industry. It is also clear that NSW Labor will support and prioritise local industry, and the Berejiklian Government will not. Today we are drawing a line in the sand. Labor will support local jobs, local industry and products built here that we can be proud of, and the Government will not. The Liberal-Nationals do not support local jobs. Furthermore, we will protect the right of the New South Wales Government to make laws without facing legal action from foreign corporate entities. To suggest such a process is an embarrassment. I do not commend this bill to the House.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (16:52): I endorse the comments made in opposition to the Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018. As indicated by the shadow Minister, Labor will oppose the bill. The bill provides for the enforcement via the New South Wales Supreme Court of certain directions and policies of the NSW Procurement Board concerning affected international parties. The previous two speakers have covered this subject. I will speak to the bill from the point of view of my role as shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I acknowledge the Minister in the Chamber who is a well-respected former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. When I talk to people in the community they remember the member fondly. I am more than happy to say that.

The Government, with the support of the Opposition, has an Aboriginal Procurement Policy [APP]. That policy states that by 2021 Aboriginal businesses will be awarded 3 per cent of the total number of domestic contracts for goods and services issued by New South Wales government agencies. By 2021, in conjunction with the existing Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy, the APP will aim to support an estimated 3,000 full-time equivalent employment opportunities for Aboriginal people through New South Wales procurement

activities. I ask the question, is there an ironclad guarantee that under this legislation and under the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP] operation that procurement policy will not be placed at risk? Both sides of Parliament have had regard to Aboriginal affairs and apprentices when setting targets to support the growth of local skills and jobs.

Yesterday I was at the NSW Aboriginal Land Council State conference with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell in the other place, and the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Nigel Scullion, whose speech was about how well the Federal procurement policy was going and that it is creating great opportunities. I am concerned that if we support the bill it could end up in court with overseas companies claiming that they do not have an equal opportunity to bid for contracts. It may not be through State legislation, but through loopholes in the Federal legislation that allow those corporations to do such a thing. I do not want to labour that point too much, other than to say that I want those questions answered. We have a responsibility to the First Nations people to ensure that when we set policies down the track they do not undermine the guarantees we have given them. That has happened far too many times in their history. I hope that in his reply the Minister will draw attention to the Aboriginal Procurement Policy.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:55): On behalf of The Greens I speak in debate on the Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018. I support the comments made by my colleagues in the other place Mr Justin Field and Mr David Shoebridge. The Greens oppose the bill because it has serious concerns about it. I support the issue that was raised by my colleagues in the other place, which is how easy do we want to make it for companies to take legal action against governments? We do not know what is meant by enforceable procurement provisions. Will the bill allow companies to sue the Government for awarding tenders as it sees fit even though they are not necessarily the cheapest ones? Another key issue is whether the bill allows international companies to sue the New South Wales Government? The Greens oppose the equivalent Commonwealth legislation and what we are seeing here.

The bill establishes a process for a person or company supplying goods and services to a government agency to complain or seek a review for any contravening procurement provisions, which is as a result of the Federal Government signing the Trans-Pacific Partnership [TPP] in March this year. All States must now establish an independent review of the process for government procurements. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a bad deal for consumers and workers. It lines the pockets of big multinational corporations that already take Australia for a ride. I remember when I was first elected to this place that I went to a briefing by After Net that related to the TPP. Médecins Sans Frontières was at the briefing giving its perspective on the challenges that the TPP would have on the accessibility of certain types of medication and the ensuing costs as a result of the changes to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The TPP gives countries the ability to introduce challenging issues, making it easier for big multinational companies to profit and trade, which is not in the interests of the communities that we represent in this place.

It is important to note that there has been community opposition to the TPP and free trade agreements over the years because it removes the powers of communities and local governments to make decisions that are in the best interests of the people. Instead, those priorities sit with the big multinationals that will benefit. It is heartening that the Labor Opposition is opposing the bill. I appreciate it has had a difficult time dealing with the TPP, but I can give a commitment that The Greens' position in this place and the Federal Parliament is that it will oppose any moves that seek to benefit big multinational corporations making profits ahead of our local communities.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (16:59): In reply: I am pleased to deliver a reply on the Public Works and Procurement Amendment (Enforcement) Bill 2018. I thank members for their contribution, particularly the member for Cessnock, the member for Swansea, the member for Wyong and the member for Newtown. First, I thank the member for Wyong for his generous and kind words. My time as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was one of great affection, much learning and, more importantly, very deep gratitude to the Aboriginal community, which taught me a lot about how much more we need to do and how to go about doing it. I appreciate the words from the member for Wyong and will address his concerns first.

We must ensure that we have certain protections in place. I note the concerns of the member for Cessnock relating to local job opportunities for New South Wales citizens. It is important to note that those arrangements do not apply to measures designed to preference or support small to medium enterprises as well as to effect the Aboriginal Procurement Policy [APP] and the Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy [APIC]. Both of those items are exempt from application under the Trans-Pacific Partnership. I was cognisant of that when I brought the policy forward because we must ensure preferences relate to the APP and APIC because they are transformational.

As the member for Wyong pointed out, if we hit our targets on the APP alone, based on our procurement expenditure on goods and services in New South Wales of approximately \$20 billion, that means \$600 million—

which is 3 per cent—goes to Aboriginal businesses. That means Aboriginal businesses are more likely to employ Aboriginal people, which breaks the cycle of disadvantage. That is done through a positive lens of employment, which is a great thing. I am sure all members on both sides of this Chamber would agree this is the right thing to do. I assure the member for Wyong, who I know has a deep interest and love for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, that I share his view and those protections are in place.

The member for Newtown raised concerns about what can be prosecuted in the event that somebody who provides the cheapest price is not awarded the contract. The member for Newtown should know that price is not the only determining factor relating to procurement contracts. Contracts obviously address price, which is the quantitative element, but they also address the qualitative element. They look at the corporate history, the capacity to deliver on the contract, quality and such things as the return to value in the community such as Aboriginal procurement, environmental factors, and the like. A whole range of things are considered; it is not just price.

Only suppliers whose interests are affected by an alleged contravention can apply for an injunction to the Supreme Court. While the Supreme Court may award compensation, the compensation amount is limited to the cost of participating in a procurement process, making a complaint and the reasonable costs in attempting to resolve the complaint. For example, it does not go to loss of business opportunity. In many ways, it is the money that is thrown away as a result of an actualised breach of process or procedure. It is not a general head of damages that one would typically see in a contract case in the Supreme Court. The damages are limited and it does not apply in the event that somebody provides the cheapest price and somebody else provides a higher price but a better quality.

As members have heard, this bill will establish a system in which suppliers can seek redress from the Supreme Court if they consider that a government agency has failed to comply with internationally agreed procurement rules. The bill complies with international trade obligations to maintain an impartial, independent body to which suppliers can bring complaints about government procurement processes. It will give Australian businesses the opportunity to access the benefits of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, also known as TPP11 or TPP-11. Free trade agreements such as the TPP open up new opportunities for New South Wales businesses to access wider global markets.

Supporting the Australian Government's accession to the TPP will give New South Wales citizens, farmers and businesses access to more markets, greater opportunities for their businesses, more jobs and increased investment. The TPP will significantly increase market access for our exporters of goods and services into a regional free trade area with a gross domestic product worth approximately AUD \$13.7 trillion. This area accounts for approximately 36 per cent of the New South Wales exports and 24 per cent of all New South Wales trade.

During the debate, the highly educated member for Parramatta and I were discussing the benefits of this reform and the proposals put forward. As the member for Parramatta astutely pointed out, we do not want to be the food bowl for New South Wales or Australia only; we want to be the food bowl for Asia-Pacific and indeed the world. The TPP opens up those opportunities because there are a lot more people outside Australia than inside Australia and indeed New South Wales. Australia is a trading nation. While our population remains where it is in comparison to the rest of the world and in particular to Asia, we will continue to be a trading nation. That is why it is good for Australia, good for businesses, good for jobs, good for people and good for our citizens.

The TPP will yield the economic benefits of making Australian exports more competitive, increasing access to global markets for Australian businesses, and encouraging investment in Australia. It will lower costs for Australian businesses by reducing tariffs and import restrictions. Examples of exports include sheep meat, cotton, wool, seafood, horticulture, wine and industrial products; the list goes on. Other economic benefits include introducing new technologies and enabling innovation to flourish—two things I am passionate about—and homegrown companies to become or remain more competitive. The Peterson Institute for International Economics has calculated that the TPP will lead to an increase in Australia's national income by 0.1 per cent by 2013.

All parties to the TPP will establish or nominate equivalent independent review bodies that Australian and New South Wales businesses can access. Australian businesses will have the right to fair, honest and open procurement processes in other countries. Our local businesses will get legally enforceable rights to participate in government procurement opportunities across all TPP parties. They will have a clear pathway for resolving issues, boosting business confidence and growth. This also provides an important safeguard to protect local businesses: New South Wales businesses can take action under this bill to ensure that government agencies are treating all suppliers equally. The TPP opens Australia to trade with other nations. This ensures that local suppliers are given the same opportunities as international suppliers.

The bill provides that the Supreme Court can provide an independent review mechanism for government procurement. The courts are independent of the executive arm of government and can deal with challenges to government procurement processes. I am confident that the Supreme Court satisfies all of our obligations for

establishing an impartial and independent review mechanism in accordance with the requirements of international procurement agreements. I thank members for their contributions to this debate and I commend the bill to the House.

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

The House divided.

Ayes47

Noes30

Majority..... 17

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Constance, Mr A
Crouch, Mr A
Donato, Mr P
George, Mr T
Grant, Mr T
Hazzard, Mr B
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
Elliott, Mr D
Gibbons, Ms M
Griffin, Mr J
Henskens, Mr A
Lee, Dr G
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Pavey, Mrs M
Piper, Mr G
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G
Wilson, Ms F

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

NOES

Atalla, Mr E
Car, Ms P
Crakanthorp, Mr T
Finn, Ms J
Haylen, Ms J
Lalich, Mr N (teller)
McDermott, Dr H
Mihailuk, Ms T
Smith, Ms T.F.
Washington, Ms K

Bali, Mr S
Catley, Ms Y
Daley, Mr M
Harris, Mr D
Hoenig, Mr R
Leong, Ms J
McKay, Ms J
Park, Mr R
Tesch, Ms L
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Dib, Mr J
Harrison, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
Lynch, Mr P
Mehan, Mr D
Scully, Mr P
Warren, Mr G
Zangari, Mr G

PAIRS

Barilaro, Mr J
Berejiklian, Ms G
Evans, Mr A.W.
Fraser, Mr A
Johnsen, Mr M

Cotsis, Ms S
Doyle, Ms T
Foley, Mr L
Hornery, Ms S
Minns, Mr C

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

*Matter of Public Importance***CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE**

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (17:16): I have pleasure in speaking on the matter of public importance, being the Centenary of Armistice. The First World War, also known as the Great War or the war to end all wars, took place from 1914 to 1918. A total of 416,809 brave Australians served. Tragically more than 60,000 sons, fathers, uncles and brothers died in the conflict, with a further 156,000 being wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. To this day the First World War remains our most costly. It is important to remember that at the time we were a nation barely 14-years-old with a population of fewer than five million people. Nearly 10 per cent of our nation enlisted.

The gallantry of the Australian men is evident in the 66 Victoria Cross citations. The first significant Australian action of the war was the landing of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force [ANMEF] at Rabaul on 11 September 1914. The ANMEF took possession of German New Guinea at Toma on 17 September 1914 and of the neighbouring islands of the Bismarck Archipelago in October 1914. On 25 April 1915 members of the Australian Imperial Force [AIF] landed on Gallipoli in Turkey with troops from New Zealand, Britain, and France. This action began the ANZAC legend. The New South Wales Government has concluded a four-year Centenary of Anzac Commemorative Program that ran from 2014-2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War and a century of service. The four-year program included ceremonial, educational and cultural activities, with a focus on encouraging community participation in local commemorations and projects.

More than \$1 million has been spent on memorials in New South Wales for the centenary. The Community War Memorials Fund supports projects that conserve and revitalise existing war memorials across New South Wales. Applications for amounts up to \$10,000 can be made by veterans groups, community organisations and councils. In fact, \$42,925.74 was spent in the Clarence over the four years on upgrading and renovating a number of Cenotaphs at South Grafton, Maclean, Copmanhurst, Chatsworth Island and Lower South Gate.

The Government introduced a Veterans Employment Program. Between 1,200 and 1,500 personnel separate from the Australian Defence Force [ADF] in New South Wales annually. Often veterans encounter difficulties securing suitable civilian employment. In March 2015 the New South Wales Government committed to employ an additional 200 veterans in the government sector by 2019. I am proud to say that the program has now helped to employ 824 veterans across the public sector. The Veterans Education Program will provide free TAFE education to veterans deploying into New South Wales. Courses to be undertaken by veterans will be chosen from the Smart and Skilled list. There are 1,400 courses ranging from certificate I through to an advanced diploma. It is believed a Certificate III or a certificate IV would be satisfactory for most veterans to obtain meaningful employment.

The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarships were established to give New South Wales students the opportunity to travel to Australian battlefields in Europe to learn about the Anzac legacy. The State War Memorials Register and website are administered by the State Library, with \$50,000 funding support from the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is estimated that New South Wales has more than 3,000 war memorials with some 2,904 currently listed on the register. The website has a search function for names of veterans inscribed on memorials in New South Wales. Approximately 243,360 veterans are currently registered and more are being added each year.

The day before Remembrance Day this year I attended the Grafton Aged Care Home in South Grafton to look at their preparations for the next day's service. I met residents Dottie and Joan, who still speak of the impact of the Great War on them 100 years on. The impact on our young country was enormous then and is still felt today, with amazing stories of family members who did their duty and served their country. On Sunday I attended the Remembrance Day service at Casino, which was by far the largest Remembrance Day service I have attended. Maybe it was because it was on a weekend or because it marked the Centenary of the Armistice, but it was a very solemn and moving affair. It was very encouraging to see the great number of school students participating in the service. If we want it to be the war to end all wars then we want our young people to fully understand the cost to our families, our communities and our country.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (17:21): Experienced, grimly determined, and well led by its own Australian commanders, at last, to the great satisfaction of all Australian soldiers, Victorian John Monash became commander of the Australian Corps in June 1918. Though savagely reduced in numbers, the Australian Imperial Force battalions won some remarkable victories in 1918 at Villers-Bretonneux, in the Battle of Amiens, at Hamel, Mont St Quentin and Peronne. Exhausted, the Australians were withdrawn from the line in October, after months of continuous fighting, and the war ended on 11 November 1918 when the Germans submitted to the

signing of an armistice. The war had cost Australians dearly. It had damaged political and social harmony at home because of the bitterness of the conscription campaigns, and introduced deep religious and social divisions.

Sixty thousand Australians had been killed in the war. Many of them, because of the might of the artillery, lay buried in unknown graves. As many as 150,000 men returned home badly wounded in mind or body. From my electorate of Campbelltown 250 young men were sent to war, which proportionally would be considered a massive number today in this city of 150,000, heading towards 170,000. In 1914 our rural population was 2,000. Today it would be like sending 20,000 of our young people, each of whom would be a treasured son, brother, husband or father. Some had gone to school and hunted yabbies together, enlisted together and all too often died together. Losing one such life was devastating to any bush community, but imagine tiny Campbelltown in World War I losing 40 such lives, as happened in so many country towns throughout the bush. Local historian Jeff McGill has managed to track down 23 local men who served on that bloody Gallipoli peninsula. Of those 23, only seven were left standing, unwounded or free from illness at the evacuation. The randomness of it all stood out.

There was Bill Oyston, a railway porter from Campbelltown station, who landed at Anzac Cove 100 years ago this morning. He first heard the screams on the beach through the early darkness, before scrambling over the side of the boat and getting to shore as fast as his wet pack would allow. Bullets whizzed by. Men fell in front of him and behind him. It was chaos. Then it happened. He was shot in the leg, and hauled off to a hospital ship offshore. His war was over within minutes; a Turkish bullet in his leg for the rest of his life. He was very different from Percy de Reitz, a real estate agent from Queen Street, who landed on Anzac Cove with him. A stretcher bearer, he was protected only by the red cross on his arm and was constantly under fire as he dragged wounded men back to shore. He survived not only Gallipoli but also three years of hell on earth in the trenches of France until 1918 when he returned safely to Australia and Campbelltown with his war bride.

Then there was Basil Williamson, a keen local sportsman, who enlisted and served at the capture of German New Guinea in 1914 and then went to Gallipoli. Reinforcements usually arrived at night, shells bursting overhead as they passed harassed medics and a stream of ammunition and supplies being unloaded. As Basil made his way up crags with names like Shrapnel Gully, he looked in surprise at the sight of unshaven and half-naked veterans firing over parapets and throwing bombs. But in that sort of environment it did not take long for newcomers to become veterans. Nowhere was safe, and poor Basil fell dead with a bullet to the head only six days after his arrival. Hilton Nicholls, a mere boy who had enlisted underage wrote to his sister back home in August 1915, saying:

I have been in the trenches about six times since I have been at Gallipoli [and] been lucky enough to come out each time, in fact I want to come out of this war without a scratch if I can.

He was killed a few days later. Let us not forget Sister Elizabeth McRae of Minto, who appeared on the front page of the *Advertiser* at the beginning of the time of the centenary, patching up the wounded from Gallipoli and up to her elbows in blood as a surgical nurse. She then escorted them home, moving from one digger to another, sharing their pain and looking at family photos of a man she knew might not make it. Indeed, the blood from the war soaked into the social fabric of our towns and cities for generations. The Anzacs were exceptional people who in extraordinary circumstances created a legend that is ingrained within the fabric of our great nation and the good character of our people. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. Lest we forget.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:27): I make a contribution to the discussion on the centenary of Armistice Day as the matter of public importance. This year Remembrance Day services were held at a number of centres in my electorate of Myall Lakes including Oxley Island Hall, which Warwick Murray organised. At the service one digger who made the ultimate sacrifice from each of the small communities was chosen to be honoured. Those honoured were Clifford Mudford of Mitchells Island, George Ernest Weiley of Oxley Island and Raymond Jordan of Bohnock-Pampoolah. I was able to attend the service at Wingham Town Hall. I congratulate the organisers: Terry Gould, RSL club president; Tony Ryan, the master of ceremonies; Brian Willey, parade commander; Lincoln Harrell, bugler; and Graeme Clarke and Tom Kile, pipers. Stephen Smith, the captain of Wingham High School, gave a commemorative address.

For the service at Tuncurry Lone Pine Memorial Park I thank Cecil Miller, the president of the Forster Tuncurry RSL Sub-Branch; Graeme Kernick, the master of ceremonies; Peter Hall, wreath marshal; Nicholas Parsons, bugler and also Myall Lakes Young Person of the Year; the Great Lakes Band; and Warwick Mitchell, the piper, with whom I had the privilege of serving in the Police Force, in particular at Taree police station. From Taree RSL Club I thank Charles Fisher, president of the Taree RSL Sub-Branch—I also served with him at Taree; Ted Hill, secretary; Paul Allen, master of ceremonies; Mayor David West, who gave the commemorative address and is also a former police officer; and the Catafalque Party 317 Squadron Air Force Cadets. At Nabitac I congratulate Brian Penton, Nabitac RSL Sub-Branch president; Joanne Penton, master of ceremonies; Catafalque Party 44 Wing RAAF Williamtown; Mark Rowe, squadron leader, who gave the commemorative address; and Helen Quinn, chaplain.

This year a number of young people from my electorate represented our area and Australia. For example, the Manning Valley 28 Army Cadet Unit represented Australia at the Armistice Day commemoration in Christchurch. More than 1,200 people attended the ceremony, including Captain Georgina Blanch, Senior Sergeant Kenneth Loftus, Clifford Fitness, Edward Nolan, James Stewart, Sarah McDonald, Liam Croker, Cheyenne Cowan, Callum Jones, Tina McCarthy, Andre McKay, Conner McPhillips and Brynn Garry Webber. The Manning Valley Historical Society put on a wonderful display this year. In my area more than \$64,000 has been spent on war memorials. Other grants of more than \$50,000 have also gone to those memorials. That is an example of the Government's contribution to the Centenary of Anzac over the past four years.

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (17:30): In reply: I thank the member for Campbelltown and the member for Myall Lakes for their contributions to the matter of public importance. No other matter could be as important as the end of the Great War. The cost of the war on families, communities and countries was on a scale never before seen. It was mechanised warfare on an assembly line scale and the impact was felt in every corner of the world. Recruitment for the Australian Imperial Force got underway in New South Wales on 11 August 1914 at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. At the time, New South Wales was Australia's most populous State. A greater percentage of its population enlisted than any other State. Over the course of the war 164,030 New South Welshmen enlisted, representing 39.8 per cent of all males aged between 18 and 44. For Australia the First World War remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted.

When the call went out for volunteers to fight in World War I, men from the upper reaches of the Clarence Valley answered the nation's call, riding their horses across the rivers and through the bush to sign up at the Copmanhurst hotel before riding on to Grafton and heading off to battle. The ride has become legend. To mark the historic event of 100 years ago, up to 100 horses and riders re-enacted that patriotic ride in the lead-up to the Anzac centenary. The re-enactment was funded by the Federal member for Page, Kevin Hogan, who joined some of the riders from Copmanhurst to Grafton. The re-enactment was a huge success, with riders coming from all over the Northern Rivers region to participate. Kevin Hogan was quoted as saying, "The spirit of these riders was the spirit of the Anzac." The ride has become legend, and the young men who went on to fight so valiantly did their community and their nation proud.

Tuesday 31 October 2017 marked a century since the famous mounted charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade, which concluded the all-day Battle of Beersheba. The famous World War I event was also commemorated at Tabulam, the home of the Light Horse, with Tenterfield's Major J. F. Thomas Troop well presented in proceedings. Desperate for water, the brigade stormed through the Turkish defences and seized the strategic town of Beersheba, enabling British Empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza and advance into Palestine. Tent pegging skills came into play as the mounted soldiers worked to entangle the Turkish soldiers in their collapsed tents. Thirty-one Australians died in the charge of Beersheba, another 36 were wounded and 70 horses died. The men captured more than 700 prisoners. The Desert Mounted Corps was under the command of Tabulam-born Lieutenant General Sir Harry Chauvel, so Tabulam racecourse was chosen as the starting point for the Grafton RSL Sub-Branch Beersheba memorial ride to honour Chauvel in 2017.

In the aftermath of World War I, we console ourselves by recognising the extraordinary bravery of the likes of Harry Chauvel and the Desert Mounted Corps. It helps us to overcome our grief at the massive loss of life we suffered—60,000 killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. The very best of a generation were eradicated from our history in the most brutal way. World War I was called the war to end all wars. Sadly, it has not lived up to that ideal. The best we can hope for is that young people who attend Remembrance Day services take heed of the futility of war and draw a line in the sand.

Members

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I welcome the member for Dubbo's family, Toni, Hamish and Taylor. I welcome also Troy's dad, Ken, and his sister Kim. I extend a warm welcome to everyone else who joins us in the gallery this afternoon.

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (17:34): Some 30 years and 14 days ago I drove through the gates of the New South Wales Police Force Academy in Goulburn and began my career in public service. Only 22 years later I stood in this historic Chamber in the Fifty-fifth Parliament of New South Wales to deliver my inaugural speech as the thirteenth member for the electoral district of Dubbo. Tonight in this Fifty-sixth Parliament I give my 406th and final address. I stand here as humbled for the final time as I was for the very first time. I stand here proudly, having served the Dubbo electorate in two very different incarnations. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together for our community. I stand here reflective, having recently revisited my inaugural speech when I outlined my intentions,

the courage of my convictions to right many wrongs, and my determination to ensure that my electorate was no longer out of sight nor out of mind.

I have reflected on what has been a most rewarding and not unremarkable parliamentary career. I have reflected on it all—the good, the bad, the great, the ugly, the loyalty and the betrayal, the triumph and the tragedy. Most of all, I stand here grateful. I am grateful for the many wonderful opportunities I have been afforded to serve the people of the Dubbo electorate and New South Wales. During the past eight years I have had the privilege to serve in many different capacities and on many varied issues. I am truly grateful to everyone in the community, the many stakeholders I have worked with, my parliamentary and Cabinet colleagues, ministerial and electoral staff, and my family and friends, who have all supported and guided me. I am grateful to them all because I am acutely aware of and eternally grateful for their support, knowing that I have not been here alone. Tonight will not be a speech about me; it will simply give me an opportunity to say thank you to them.

Eight years can feel like a lifetime or it can be gone in the blink of an eye. For me, my service in Parliament has been a little of both. Starting at the beginning, I offer my sincere thanks to those who got me here—the Hon. Duncan Gay and the Hon. Thomas George. On the recommendation of a former commander and on the back of a coffee and a chat in April 2010, I could never have imagined that, having been coerced by two giants of the New South Wales Nationals to run for Parliament against a popular sitting Independent, I would be here today. It was the Hon. Thomas George and then State Director Ben Franklin who gave Toni and I the confidence to put my name forward to serve. Last week the Leader of the Opposition said that we need a reset button for parliamentary behaviour. Some certainly do, but I submit that if the 93 members of this Chamber simply followed Thomas George's lead and demonstrated his character, the political standing of parliamentarians in New South Wales would be far superior than it currently is. Thomas, I cherish your friendship and guidance to me during both the good times and the tough times.

Peter Bartley was my campaign manager for both elections, and he is without peer. Our team included Peter Tremble, Pauline and Trevor McAllister, the wonderful Judy Jakins, Kevin Sinclair, Nathan Quigley, Matty Goodwin, Stuart Davies, the Hon. Ian Armstrong, Chris, Shibli, Peter and Narelle Walsh, Roger Fletcher, Bob Berry, hundreds of wonderful members of The Nationals and supporters, and family and friends—too many to name. I thank them all for their outstanding commitment and support. In 2011, I had 63 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. In 2015, I had 70 per cent. That was a just reward for everybody's dedication and hard work.

I thank former Premier Barry O'Farrell and former Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner for their support and faith in me and for appointing me as Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources upon my arrival in this place. It is a day I will not soon forget. Immediately after being sworn in, I had a two-hour Chamber duty and was sitting up on the back benches. I was told that that was my seat—and that is exactly where I sat for about six months. During that Chamber duty my new colleagues kept coming up to me and saying congratulations. I said congratulations back to them, and they looked at me strangely. That went on for a while and I thought, "What a friendly place this is!" After completing my duty I headed to the office on level 12. Along the way a few more congratulatory offerings were made. I gave the same answer and received more quizzical looks.

I arrived upstairs to my patient wife and two really bored kids. Toni said my phone, which I had left in the office—a practice I have maintained for eight years—had been ringing off the hook. I checked the messages. The first was from my new boss saying, "Troy, congratulations. You have been appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources. Keep it quiet for about half an hour and a media release will go out shortly." It seemed this place did not operate like the cops. When it came to promotions and many other things I certainly had a fair bit to learn. I was initially daunted at being thrown in the deep end, but ultimately I was grateful for the opportunity to travel all over the State and learn so much about so many uncontroversial issues in the portfolio—like native vegetation, water management and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, forestry, coal seam gas, catchment management authorities and Crown lands.

I will always be grateful to the Minister's team and to the departmental staff for their support, guidance and friendship during those three years. Together we made great headway and did the groundwork and grunt work to provide pathways to resolve many perennial legacy issues through the Land and Water Advisory Panel and the Forestry Industry Taskforce, both of which I proudly chaired. I am the patron of Landcare NSW and I am proud of the great strides the organisation has taken for our natural environment. I acknowledge Tim Scott, Kerryn Richardson, Samantha Day, Ilse van de Meent, Anna Ferguson, Mitchell Isaacs, Tim Ferraro, Tom Gavel, Alex Anthony, David Dawson, Tara Black, Renata Brooks, many others from Landcare NSW, Paul Wells and David Harris, just to name a few.

Over the past eight years or so much has changed in the political landscape, both positively and negatively. The landscape we work in now is vastly different to what it was in 2011. There is the rise of the anti-establishment movement influenced by Brexit and the Trump effect, a declining quality and capacity in the media and the rise of far too toxic social media platforms. To the nation's great shame, the rotation of Prime Ministers

and the undermining of political leaders has devalued the standing of parliamentarians in the eyes of the community. On a positive note though, much has improved. As always, there is much more to do.

One major positive event in which I played a small role occurred in mid-2012. After serving for just over 12 months in this Chamber, I was urged by my colleague Adrian Piccoli to raise the issue of child sexual assault and its cover-up by the Catholic Church. That followed my publicly calling on Cardinal George Pell to fall on his sword after an ABC *Lateline* story highlighted serious misbehaviour and aired allegations that church leaders, including the cardinal, covered up the sexual assault of altar boys in the Armidale diocese. I spoke at the time of my own experiences as the investigator in charge of a similar type of offence in the Maitland-Newcastle diocese and of the dire need to hold those responsible to account. While I will not recount those details as they are all a matter of record on *Hansard* and in many media publications, I will thank Suzanne Smith from the ABC, Paul Murray from Sky News and Adrian for encouraging me to find my voice on those issues.

I was incredibly reluctant to talk about the subject matter if only for fear of bringing further attention and unwanted focus to the 30 victims in my investigation. However, with their blessing and with Adrian's encouragement I spoke long and loud about the need for the institution to be held accountable for its past crimes and the need for the victims to be heard. I thank then Premier O'Farrell for calling a special commission of inquiry into the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, which complemented the subsequent national Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and for appointing me as Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Sentencing of Child Sexual Assault Offenders. I am incredibly proud of the progress that has been achieved since that time.

I will never forget the time when I was sitting in The Nationals party room ready to do yet another interview with the *7.30 Report* and the reporter said, "Hang on. Gillard's on TV." We watched together as she made that historic announcement. There are many advocates responsible for the establishment of the royal commission. I give Prime Minister Gillard great credit, and the others, for the enormous outcomes it has stimulated, including the recent apology in the Federal Parliament. In particular, the members of the royal commission—and tonight I welcome Commissioner Bob Atkinson—and Hetty Johnson from Bravehearts. I thank them all for their work. It has been my privilege to play a small role in righting some of those wrongs and working beside you.

I thank Premier Berejiklian and Attorney General Mark Speakman for their leadership. New South Wales was the first State to embrace the National Redress Scheme. We have introduced many legislative and court reforms to increase penalties and ease some of the burden on victims. We have also introduced the opportunity to chemically castrate those offenders. No-one, particularly the Premier, will forget my own personal preference, which I articulated at the press conference on live television. Do not worry, Premier, I will not be repeating that sentiment tonight. Much good has been achieved since mid-2012 on the issue, yet there is still more to do.

Despite the anti-government rhetoric and purported dishonesty, neither regional New South Wales nor my electorate has ever in its history received as much State government investment in infrastructure and services than it has right now. This investment has transformed my region into a genuine powerhouse of our State's economy. The Dubbo electorate is described as being in a golden age of jobs, historically low levels of unemployment, investment and infrastructure growth, falling crime rates, and record police, nurse and teacher numbers. That is absolutely true, yet my political and local opponents will claim that we have failed.

We have not failed. There is simply much more to do. The truth is that we had a hell of a lot to do when we inherited the government reins because of a decade and a half of neglect, debt and deficit. For example, a decade ago Dubbo's unemployment rate was between 6 per cent and 7 per cent; now it is 2.7 per cent. Youth unemployment was 15 per cent; now it is 6 per cent. But it is equally true that too many of our citizens are doing it tough or living in despair. I agree that more effective measures are needed in our social justice sector, particularly increased cooperation across government agencies, and an inversion of the investment paradigm where the greatest level of funding goes to crisis management; the least to prevention. It simply cannot be groundhog day all over again. Over the next decade government must finally address the investment models, insist on a new way of delivery and support those most in need.

Dubbo and Kempsey have been trialling a Family Investment Model [FIM] project, which I initiated under the Justice Department. It is being oversighted by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The FIM has representatives from all social justice agencies that work daily side by side with those in our community facing the greatest life challenges. Amazing outcomes are being achieved. To Kate Connors, Narelle Jeffrey and the two teams, I know how tough the gig is. I am proud of you all: Please keep going. I am confident that your work as pioneers in this area has the potential to reshape our State's social justice effort, and consequently achieve much-needed policy and funding reform. The prize will be better outcomes for those who are in broken situations and who are living in misery.

I do not intend to go through each of the electorate investments or projects that have been achieved in the past eight years, other than to say that as I leave this place every single election commitment I made has been delivered or is well into the process of being finalised. The quantum of investment for projects above and beyond core State Government funding, for the seven years to date for the Dubbo electorate, is \$1.191 billion and counting. I should take this opportunity to table the Grant report. Vitally, this money has paid for the bricks and mortar of four new hospitals and two multi-purpose services, an integrated cancer centre, roads, schools, police stations and community infrastructure, particularly sporting and cultural facilities. But it is not the bricks and mortar that counts; it is the change and impact on community and people's lives.

People in western New South Wales no longer have to choose whether to stay at home and die rather than travel to seek treatment for cancer. They will soon have the ability to be diagnosed, treated and accommodated nearer to home in Dubbo. Those achievements I do not claim to be my own; they are a very real example of the strength of the partnerships that I wish to acknowledge. First, I acknowledge my Federal colleague Mark Coulton, the member for Parkes, the most decent of men, for his work by my side on so many ventures. He shares the successes. I acknowledge former Premier O'Farrell, former Premier Baird and Premier Berejiklian, and each of the former and current Treasurers and Cabinet Ministers who have backed me in and my communities. The triumph of the Dubbo electorate from 2011 to 2019, and well into the future, is theirs to share.

In particular, I acknowledge former Ministers Duncan Gay, Jillian Skinner, Mike Gallacher, Adrian Piccoli and Leslie Williams, and Ministers Brad Hazzard, Niall Blair, Rob Stokes, Adam Marshall and my little mate Paul Toole for their specific and sizeable contributions to my electorate and their strong support for me. The Dubbo Regional, Mid-Western, Parkes, Narromine, Forbes and Cabonne local governments are now the custodians of much of this investment, which will underpin the ongoing growth and prosperity of their communities. The strength of their future partnership with the new member for Dubbo will be vital in continuing the success, and I believe it is their most important endeavour. I thank and acknowledge the following mayors: Mathew Dickerson, Des Kennedy, Ken Keith, Bill McAnnally and Craig Davies, Phyllis Miller and Ian Gosper for their support and friendship during my tenure. I thank the following general managers: Mark Riley, Brad Cam, Kent Boyd and Jane Redden, and in particular Administrator Michael Kniepp and former Dubbo Regional Council Director Murray Wood. Their work, and that of their teams, has been exceptional. They have left a lasting legacy in the areas they served and they should all be enormously proud.

This place is described as the Bear Pit and on too many days—and too many lately—that is true. But I leave this place with more fond memories than poor. Across the Chamber, I thank many from all sides for their friendship, support and words of encouragement when I needed them. I will not name them all in fear of missing someone, but they know who they are and I wish them all the very best whether they continue in this place or venture down another path. I thank the Clerks and the parliamentary and committee staff who I have worked with over the years for their support and their endeavours in service to this Parliament. That is probably only acknowledged annually, but it is appreciated daily. I thank the Special Constables, cleaners, catering and administrative staff. In particular, I thank Beck, Annie and Tass Miroforidis for their assistance to my electorate office team. It will always be remembered and appreciated.

In eight years in Parliament, all going well, I will have been privileged to have served my entire term in the Executive, and five of those eight years in the Cabinet. To do so has been enormously humbling, despite the huge toll my long absences from home have taken. I was about to tuck into some magnificent mud crabs at a family dinner on Easter Monday 2014 in Bundaberg, Queensland, and I had been mostly oblivious to frantic political machinations at home. I got the call-up to the Ministry—and a request to be at a media event by lunchtime in Sydney the next day—as the first crab claw cracked open.

Have you ever driven from Bundaberg to Sydney or, for that matter, attempted to fly? It simply was not happening. We left early the following day and said goodbye to the family for the 14-hour drive to Dubbo. In hindsight, that was quite a peaceful affair due to the many mobile phone black spots that hindered an avalanche of media and congratulatory calls. Toni, the kids and Buster, our family dog, arrived home late that night. We threw the bags out and bundled the kids into bed for a quick nap. We were then up early for a 6.30 a.m. flight and dash to Sydney to make it in time for a swearing-in ceremony at Government House. What a frantic start to my career—and in all honesty it has not slowed down one bit. I have endeavoured in each of my 10 portfolios to give my very best. I have dedicated myself absolutely to overcoming the challenges and embracing the opportunities that each portfolio has brought. I hope I left each portfolio in a better position than it was when I started in it. I have always prided myself on hard work, integrity and honesty, and I hope I have demonstrated that to all I have worked with in these endeavours. I thank the Hon. George Souris, whom I succeeded in the portfolios of Hospitality, Gaming and Racing, and the Arts. Despite his obvious disappointment in losing the ministry, he and Vassy could not have been more supportive—and that continues to today. Thank you, George.

Inheriting the controversial lockdown laws and rollout of ID scanners to manage, a proposed restricted gaming facility at Barangaroo to digest and approve, three racing codes screaming out for support and a desperate need for organisational reform in the regulatory agencies, a drought of funding and massive demand for investment in the arts, from day one I knew I had a fair bit to do. I immediately set about building strong and genuine relationships across the great divide of opinion and interests in this portfolio, and I hope I was able to achieve pragmatic and merit-based outcomes for both community and industry. There were increases to the Responsible Gambling Fund, departmental reform, legislative reform and holding properly to account those who not only let their communities down but also let their industries down. As an example, I imposed the first ever lifetime ban for an operator—and that is just a snapshot of our work.

To Peter V'landys, John Messara, Russell Balding and the Racing NSW team, wow—what a transformation for Sydney, provincial and country racing we have achieved together. Racing NSW is now number one in Australia. You all have much to be proud of. I wish to thank sincerely so many stakeholders I worked with across three years, and much was accomplished—Peter Newell, Anthony Ball, Josh Landis in ClubsNSW, Scott Leach and John Whelan, Neville and Joanne Blair, Arthur Laundry in the Australian Hotels Association and Phillip Crawford from ILGA. We achieved the most historic arts infrastructure investment, which continues today for our State cultural institutions—the Sydney Opera House, Australian Museum, State Library of New South Wales, Art Gallery NSW, Walsh Bay precinct, but also regionally and, importantly, in Western Sydney. Program funding directed by the first ever Cabinet-endorsed arts and culture strategy, Create NSW, for the regions of New South Wales, including Western Sydney, provided scholarships and arts organisations with some surety and direction.

Made in NSW, a \$20 million film fund, has provided significant industry and economic returns and two Oscars. Stronger and genuine partnerships between the Government and the sector have put New South Wales back in the game. My sincere thanks go to secretary Mark Paterson, Paul Newson, the brilliant Samantha Torres, Courtney Gibson and the wonderful chairs and chief executive officers of the institutions and advisory committee members, many of whom are here tonight. To John Symond, Nicholas Moore, David Gonski, Catherine Livingstone, Simon Mordent, Barney Glover and Kim McKay, Professor Rebecca Johnson, Louise Herron, Liz-Ann McGregor, Lisa Havelah, Gretel Packer, John Kaldor, Steve Found, Chris Freeland, Brett Clegg, Ashley Damer-Dawson and Dan Rosen—and there are others—my sincere thank you to you all. You apparently inherited a "flatfoot cop" as arts Minister and I know many of you had concerns. I hope I did okay.

The ministries of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, Tourism and Major Events followed, but I had them at the same time—by circumstance not by choice—and I was proud of the many accomplishments we achieved during my short tenure in these roles. The International Convention Centre team, the Tourism & Transport Forum and members Margy Osmond, Margaret Jack and many others, John Hartigan, Sandra Chipchase and team at Destination NSW, thank you. We designed a regional tourism focus, world-first Fast4Tennis, revamped Australia Day celebrations program, major soccer matches featuring Chelsea and Liverpool, and major funding streams developed for Taronga and regional conferencing—just some of the great work we achieved with great outcomes in quick time.

Obviously, being co-opted by my team into the role as Leader of the NSW Nationals and seventeenth Deputy Premier of New South Wales—apparently the youngest man to have done so and after just 3½ years in Parliament—was a tremendous honour. Getting the gig just six months out from a general election and a suite of brave but important policy issues to tackle during that election was an honour, but no small task. Every member of the NSW Nationals who stood for re-election was re-elected, two of the three seats with retiring members were won and we welcomed three new members into the team. As leader, I promised the party room we would leave no-one behind and, defying history—working my guts out—that is just what we did. To the State executive and campaign teams, the leadership team, Duncan and Adrian, party elders and dear friends, I thank you.

The Hon. John Howard, the Hon. Tim Fischer and the Hon. John Anderson, I especially thank you. You have always been available to me with a word of advice or a hand in support, a quick phone call or visit away. To say the least, to have had and to still have you in my corner is not just humbling; I still pinch myself at how lucky I am. To the Hon. Jenny Gardiner, Christine Ferguson and other party faithful, the leaders task force that I initiated and you delivered has already borne fruit and hopefully will continue to provide actual outcomes on party and member diversity and equity. When others talked endlessly about quotas and targets, we talked a plan and delivered—and it is of enduring credit to you.

I pay tribute to Premier Mike Baird. The two of us have been much maligned by some sections of the community. There are plenty who like to rewrite history and that is all part of the "game"—fair enough. Nevertheless, I was and remain proud to have served alongside you and I am confident that history will adjudicate our time favourably. I believe we truly achieved your vision and transformed the State of New South Wales after Barry and Andrew's reconstruction of the finances. We shared stewardship of some of the most prosperous and

successful times in our State's history. It has been a game changer for New South Wales, especially the regions, but, more importantly, people's lives. We laid the platform for many successes that we are currently experiencing and that will continue to follow. Were we perfect? No—but we never claimed to be. Did we make mistakes? Yes, we did, but we are human and I believe we got way more right than we ever got wrong. Is New South Wales better off for having us? That is for others to judge, but I am proud of the Baird-Grant Government and always will be. I thank you, Mike and Kerry, for your friendship and support and the special bond we will always have travelling that shared journey.

To the many organisations and groups I have had the opportunity to work closely with, I thank you for letting me be part of your world. To my mate Glenn McGrath and the McGrath Foundation, I am so proud of you. To the Royal Far West organisation, we achieved historic investment together and new facilities await to be opened. The Taronga Zoo Foundation—Sydney and Dubbo—Cameron Kerr, Matty Fuller and now Steve Hinch and your teams, I get pretty chuffed when I am referred to so often as the "member for the zoo", and I am proud to see how much you have achieved. To the Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW, your ambition to be the pre-eminent youth organisation in Australia, if not already secured, will not be far away in its recognition.

The New South Wales Rugby League, Country Rugby League and Men of League Foundation are doing such great work. I have been the vice-patron of NSW Police Legacy and ambassador for the BACKUP for Life program. I am in awe of your work. I thank Bravehearts for my ThankShoe Award. The Royal Flying Doctor Service and Rotary Club of South Dubbo—what an incredible partnership. To the Parliamentary Lions Club and the many other groups and organisations I have had the privilege to work with over the years, thank you one and all.

To be the Minister for heroes is an incredibly humbling calling. As Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services, I see each day the dedication, bravery and service before self displayed in the most confronting of environments, circumstances and conditions. I am proud, especially of those on the front line and those who do so much work behind the scenes under ever-increasing demand and scrutiny. It has been the greatest professional privilege of my life to represent you. Having the opportunity to work with exceptional people is inspiring. I have also had the great opportunity to work with international police forces and law enforcement bodies right across the world. It certainly was a cool and great professional highlight to meet and work with the Director Cybersecurity Policy in the National Security Council of the Obama Administration in the West Wing of the White House.

I have had many highs over the course of my political career, but there are also those moments that will continue to stick in my mind and continue to have a profound impact on me as police Minister. This is not just as an elected representative but also as a husband, a father and a member of our community. The annual Police Remembrance Day commemorations, when we pause to remember those officers killed in the line of duty, is one clear example. The men and women in blue go to work in the morning not knowing if they will come home to their families at night. It is a terrible privilege to honour that sacrifice and bravery each year.

Being there throughout the Lindt cafe siege and the moment we learned that Curtis Cheng had been killed outside Police Headquarters in Parramatta is also etched in my and, I believe, in our collective memories as a community forever. In these moments we despaired as a community and later grieved alongside the family members who had lost their loved ones under the most tragic of circumstances. It was in these moments of anguish, however, that I also saw the very best of our humanity. It was in these moments when it seemed that those who wished to do us harm and tear us apart in fact only succeeded in making us stronger, more united and abundantly defiant. I stood in St Marys Cathedral as the Cheng family laid Curtis to rest. It was one of the worst days of their lives, yet they spoke eloquently of the need for kindness, compassion and love in our community.

That is a moment I will never forget and it is a lesson I believe we should all carry with us. The Cheng family, I honour you—you continue to inspire me daily. I offer a special thankyou to the Commissioner of Police, Mick Fuller, APM, and his executive team, deputy commissioners Worboys, Loy, Hudson and Milkins. They have done an outstanding job with the 20-years-in-the-waiting re-engineering of the organisation. Police now operate within a more relevant and dynamic structure and they are better connected to New South Wales' diverse communities and the changing crime and community safety landscape. With historic resourcing having been delivered and on the horizon, I am confident that our State will be safe and secure under your leadership.

To emergency service commissioners Shane Fitzsimmons, Mark Smethurst, Paul Baxter, Stacey Tannos and Mark Gibson and your deputies, and Surf Life Saving NSW Chief Executive Officer Steve Pearce and the team at Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter, I am so proud of each of you. It has been an amazing privilege to work with you and achieve some amazing outcomes with some very special volunteers. We are a more resilient and prepared State, historically never better resourced and better functioning than at any time in our history. Whatever Mother Nature throws our way in the future, as a State I believe we are very lucky to have each of you.

Everyone here and anyone who knows me knows that I wear my heart on my sleeve and have been genuinely passionate to contribute to better outcomes for stakeholders in each portfolio. There have been achievements, and plenty of them, and I share them with many—especially my brilliant ministerial office team. To that team, supported by a wonderful group of departmental officers who quickly embraced my team ethos, I thank you for your dedication, loyalty and hard work. I cannot mention you all but you are all special to me. I thank executive directors Adrian McKenna and Fergus O'Connor and your teams for some simply outstanding work—historic, innovative and major reform and, most importantly, helping achieve life-saving differences in our community.

My current staff is a small but exceptional group: Chief of Staff Greg Dezman, decent, honest and thorough; and Deputy Chief of Staff and policy guru Edward W. Clapin—despite his embarrassment, I always introduce him as I believe the smartest man in the building. I have so much admiration for you, mate—thank you. My media team, the determined Ally Power and dynamic Brooke Eggleton, thanks for all your hard work and patience with me, especially my reluctance to do any media. Nishita, thanks for keeping me organised. To Steve Ylonen, my driver since day one, we have done a lot of kilometres together across this State. Thank you for looking after me and the family and for the many confidences we have shared. Thanks also to Bill, Gerry, Colin and David for steering me around in Steve's absence.

To my former staff—and, given the roles I have had, I have had a few—I look forward to catching up and sharing some wonderful memories. You all made such a contribution and a small reference tonight does not do justice to your contribution. You all deserve more than that, and I hope you are all proud of our achievements. I hope I did not let any of you down. My senior advisers, Tom Callahor and Sean O'Connell, and former Deputy Chief of Staff Darren Bark remain great personal friends. I thank also Tracie-Lee Cullen, Fiona Dewar and Justin Pliess. My media team members, Tess Salmon, Kara Lawrence, Vikki Campion, Jarrod Schwark, Lizzy Bold—now Lizzy Dart—and Douglas Martin, you all had your work cut out for you with my butchering of the English language, my tendency to make up words, and my overuse of colourful language often making the news. But mostly my "pro-noun-ciation" remains as my greatest challenge and most endearing feature: "I rooly appreciate your fulsome help, especially my ridi-ki-lous pro-noun-ciation of rhino-saurus."

My arts adviser, Sharne Hiscocke, and policy and public liaison officer Alexander Byrne, what a contribution you made. To our sweet Bonnie Hageman, we all miss you. Nicholas "The Toooh" Santucci, you brought such a unique team-building quality to our diverse group. I cannot thank you enough for your outstanding work, support and absolute loyalty. To my Chief of Staff, Alex Bruce, who is watching in Darwin, your contribution was simply immeasurable. You have never been given due credit for the successes of this Government. More often than not, in your own style—a bit weird and not everyone's cup of tea, but necessary to force the right outcome—you sacrificed your own standing and took the heat for the good of others and for the outcome.

You knew better than most that The Nationals never got the credit they deserved for the successes of government. You knew that too often the Nats were on the end of undeserved and unwarranted criticism for the failings of government. You helped give us a far greater and more influential voice than ever before. Your dedication and loyalty to me was unquestioned and your leadership of the team was outstanding. You have so much to be proud of and I will be eternally grateful to you and Bronwyn for your service.

Finally, to my former Deputy Chief of Staff, every boss would be blessed to have a staffer as loyal and dedicated to them as Rachael Hayes was and remains to me. Your drive, professionalism and dedication is without peer and your contribution to the New South Wales Government and the many ministries I have held has been immense. It is amazing, when I first met you I did not like you much because you worked for Andrew Gee—and nobody likes him. Now I do not know what I would have done without you. Thank you so much, kid—you are the best.

Those who share most significantly in the successes of the Dubbo electorate are my electorate office team. It may be my name on the door but, given my significant absences from the electorate on executive duty, you have carried forward constituents' and communities' issues on my behalf—more often than not successfully—and have been instrumental in much good being achieved. Ministers' electorate staff and regional Ministers particularly will concur with how vital it is to have a team like mine. Honest, loyal, dedicated and hardworking, possessing the highest integrity and often bearing the brunt of disgruntled constituents for decisions made by Government that were not of their doing, my office, more than most, copped more than its fair share during 2016.

To past employees Belinda Strahorn, Aaron McDonnell, Briony Ferguson, Harry Edmonson, Blake Watmore and Sophie Plasto, I also say a big thankyou. To the wonderful temporary staff who have stepped in to help out and have contributed plenty—Kirby Dunlop, Andrew Innes, Kathryn Wheeler and the late Helen Babbington—I acknowledge your contribution. To Darren Borger, my senior electorate officer, I thank you

from the bottom of my heart for your contribution and representation of our electorate office in the Parliament with Ministers' offices and, most importantly, with the electorate. Your contribution has been enormous; you are clearly acknowledged by your peers as a leader in your role and you have much to be proud of.

Jane Diffy, you inspire me with your passion and commitment to our community, and our new School for Special Purposes—thanks to Minister Stokes—is a fitting tribute to your contribution. Stay strong in your role on Dubbo Regional Council. I know it is tough being surrounded by elected representatives who only have selfish agendas and their own interests at heart. You will prevail and, in time, they will each simply fade and fail. To new recruit Ben Walker, you have already left your imprint and I will be looking on fondly as you continue to serve past my tenure. I hope that you will assist Dugald Saunders as he represents the electorate.

Pauline McAlister—our "Duchess of Bumblegumbie"—eight years ago you turned up to help me out when I did not know which way was up, saying you would be able to help for a week or two. Well, eight years later and all this time has passed. Your contribution as our "minister for congratulatory messages" has been enormous. I know you often lament that you do not contribute as much as you would like, but I assure you that your role is potentially the most important and meaningful in our operations. The steadfast and loyal support by you and Trevor to Toni and the kids will never be forgotten.

In conclusion, the most important thankyou is to Toni, Taylor and Hamish. Thank you for giving up so much to allow me to serve. Thank you for the many sacrifices you have each made. I have just a couple of examples: To my kids, leaving you to celebrate Father's Day together but without me. Not being there, Taylor, when you were dancing in a community event and you dislocated your knee and just needed your dad—I do not even remember what I was doing that day that was so important that I was not there for you. Not seeing you, Hamish, kick the winning goal in your soccer grand final and take out man of the match—I got the news from your coach in a text as a heads-up of what you had just done while I was somewhere else doing something else. Again, I have no recall as to why I was not there.

Then there is the unacceptable trespass into your lives and personal safety because of decisions I made—people wanting to get at me through you by menacing, threatening and harassing you. I will never forgive those individuals for what they did to you for their own benefit; I will never forgive myself. I love you and will spend the rest of my life making up for all those things and being away from you for four years of the eight years I have served. To Toni, despite all of that, and being imprisoned in your own home, you successfully sustained our family home and raised two incredible kids largely alone. There are not enough words to thank you sufficiently or to talk about how amazing you are. We have two great kids. School is done, now on to uni—the first Grants in my family to attend university. On top of that you are now a twice-published author, selling your books in the United States and the United Kingdom. I am so proud of you.

To each of you, I know that politics was never your thing but you always believed in me. It was always another aeroplane, another place and exciting event or famous person to meet. I was often surrounded by a million people but more often than not I felt lonely and alone, and missed you dearly. I often felt like I was living someone else's life, such was the privilege of much of what I got to do. But I just want to be near you and I want to come home. I do not know what the next chapter of our lives will bring. I know, being honest about my nature, it will involve making a contribution to my community in some form or another. That is simply in my Scottish DNA and is unavoidable. But I can assure you that I am done.

I look forward to anonymity and being out of the public eye. That is very appealing after 30 years living under intense scrutiny and expectation. I do know our lives will be dominated with me repaying my family for the sacrifices they have made and for being away from them for 200 nights a year. I will always be a son of regional New South Wales no matter where I go in the world. I started here as an idealist without illusions and leave as a realist with some reservations but still with the entrenched belief that to whom much is given much is required. I leave this place knowing that I will not miss the circus; I will only miss some of the clowns. When it is all said and done, I am done. I am simply grateful to have served. I thank the House.

Members stood in their places and applauded.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Toni, Hamish, Taylor and the former Deputy Premier, Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services, I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone in asking that God continue to bless you all as a family. Well done to have given a valedictory speech that will stand as an outstanding speech in the history of this Parliament.

*Private Members' Statements***PORT OF NEWCASTLE CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL**

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:23): On 26 September 2016, after many years of requests, Premier Mike Baird visited our magnificent city. With much fanfare, he announced that the Government would be building a permanent cruise ship terminal in Newcastle. He said that from 2018 large cruise ships would have a dedicated home in the city. It would encourage some of the greatest cruise liners from around the world to stop right there in the heart of Newcastle. He said that more than \$13 million would be spent in creating a great cruise terminal, which sounds fantastic. But it is now 2018 and not one sod has been turned on the proposed lot for the Port of Newcastle facility. When meeting with the Port of Newcastle I asked the question: Why? I was met with the response that it is very hard to build a great cruise terminal for only \$13 million. Apparently the figure needed for an adequate cruise ship terminal would be closer to double that amount.

When the Port of Newcastle met with the Government, it was pushed to the point that bit by bit its terminal was reduced to nothing more than a tin shed. There was no air conditioning, no proposed iconic roof and a reduced car park. It sounds like another structure announced for Newcastle that was more like a tin shed without a roof. After a redesign, it is better known as the Newcastle Interchange. What happened to the great cruise terminal that would encourage cruise liners to stop in Newcastle? The Port of Newcastle then asked the Government for more than the \$13 million it was offered but was met with a resounding no. This Government has handed Newcastle only a fraction of the profits of the \$1.75 billion sale of the Port of Newcastle and it has sold off more than \$870 million worth of properties in Newcastle since coming to power. Loudly and proudly it has boasted profits every time a budget has been handed down.

It is 2018, the cruise ship season has begun and yet again tourists are disembarking to a vacant car park and a temporary marquee as the entrance to our magnificent city of Newcastle. I compare this to a very small town and tourism destination called Eden. The State member for Bega, Andrew Constance, happens to be the local member of Parliament for this area. Earlier this year he was happy to announce that his town had secured a total of \$44 million for its harbour projects. This Government is pumping money into this small town to make it a working harbour so that it can welcome cruise ships. Although Newcastle is already a working harbour and already welcomes cruise ships, it received only \$13 million—a fraction of Eden's money bucket. Does anyone else smell pork? This sounds like a massive pork barrel to me. Why has Newcastle been left with a discounted budget for a cruise ship terminal? The Port of Newcastle has been working to diversify its operations since the Government placed an anti-competitive cap on the number of containers that can be shipped and a cruise ship terminal seemed like an easy win.

The Government also seems to be confused about its messages. On 7 June this year, the Parliament Secretary for the Hunter, Scot MacDonald, spoke to the *Newcastle Herald* about the proposed cruise ship terminal. He said he was working with the private port operator on the funding issue. After four months of working with it, is the Government willing to comment on the outcome? What is the outcome, Mr MacDonald? Tell us. The *Newcastle Herald* quotes Mr MacDonald as saying that, although a solution would be found to the impasse, the terminal would not be ready for the forthcoming summer cruise season, which in 2016 was the expectation. We can all see that, Mr MacDonald.

Government sources were also quoted as saying it was not unusual for tenderers to come back to Government to say that costs had blown out and that funding should be increased, but it may depend on the wording of the funding deed signed by the two sides. If it is a common occurrence that costs will blow out, for which this Government has more experience with than most—the Newcastle Interchange is an example—and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter is willing to work toward a solution with the Port of Newcastle, can the Government explain to the people of Newcastle why, two years after the announcement, it is yet to see building crews on this site?

HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (18:28): For the past four years it has been my honour to represent the people of the Holsworthy electorate. Together the community and I have worked to achieve some amazing things. I thank our locals for the trust they have placed in me to stand up and fight for what we deserve. We have had many wins. Together we have been able to fight for and secure a \$470 million upgrade for Liverpool Hospital. The upgrade will deliver a comprehensive cancer care centre, expanded capacity for ambulatory care services, expanded neonatal intensive and maternity care, expanded day surgery, interventional radiology capacity and expanded critical care capacity. Over the past years we have opened many facilities at the hospital, including a car park with extra spaces, new endoscopy suites and an extensive cancer research facility for prostate cancer.

Another project the community and I have been fighting for is the duplication of Heathcote Road between Infantry Parade, Holsworthy and The Avenue, Voyager Point. Together we have been able to secure \$173 million in upgrades along Heathcote Road, including this section of road, which will include a pedestrian and cyclist path to connect Voyager Point to Holsworthy train station. This will ensure a safer and more convenient drive for commuters who use Heathcote Road. Together we have been able to deliver 462 new parking spaces at Holsworthy station and more than 100 spaces at Liverpool station. We have provided additional transport options for the residents on the western side of the electorate with the new on-demand buses and the construction of the South West Rail Link. This project provided two new stations at Edmondson Park in Leppington with more than 1,250 commuter parking spaces supporting those stations.

Although this great result was delivered, I continue to stand with the community to demand more parking spaces at Edmondson Park. I am pleased to have secured funding for investigations and planning to help make it a reality. I stress that we are doing the groundwork to get it right. I refuse to make random announcements just to sound good to win votes. We are going to make it happen. In addition to the previously mentioned projects, in this term of Government we have widened Alford Points Road, adding a northbound and southbound lane between Georges River and Brushwood Drive. We have opened two new rural fire service stations at Sandy Point and Barden Ridge. We have constructed a new state-of-the-art police station in Liverpool.

We have opened the Liverpool super ambulance station, providing space for an additional 80 paramedics and an additional 35 ambulances compared to the previous Liverpool ambulance station. We have built and opened the Liverpool courthouse and secured funding for new classrooms at Prestons Public School and Liverpool West Public School. We have delivered two new buses for students travelling between Holsworthy station, Lucas Heights Community School and Aquinas College, saving valuable time for those kids and their parents. We have constructed a new bridge over Deadmans Creek on Heathcote Road to assist with safety and we have added the extra lane on the M5. Importantly, we have ensured support for our community groups, especially those that look after our multicultural community or people with disabilities.

I have used the term "we" many times in this speech. "We" is the Premier, Ministers and their advisers and, importantly, our community members who share with me what the community wants and needs to make it a fabulous place to live and work. One of the changes I made when I moved into the electorate office in Hammondville almost eight years ago was to remove the tint from the front window glass and have the front door usually ajar. I want our locals to feel welcome to share their concerns or needs with me. "We" is also my electorate office staff. I use this opportunity, in what is possibly my last private member's statement this term, to thank my staff for all their help and support. They share the same ideals as I do to go the extra mile to make a positive difference for our area.

Tomorrow Jeff Page will be recognised for serving this Parliament for 30 years. Almost eight of those years have been with me in the electorate office. Jeff's knowledge of Parliament, our area and, importantly, our defence connection is unparalleled and very much appreciated. Daniel Nicholls has been with me officially for three years but helped out for a long time before that. He is a young man who is wise beyond his years and I have come to rely on his counsel. Faith Perryman, Annelie Thatcher and Sophie Carlton, who share a position, are an incredibly talented trio and I thank them for all that they do.

I note that this term has been different to the 2011-15 term. This term my partner, Kent Johns, and I have welcomed two little girls into our lives. Audrey is now two and Ellie is eight months old. They are the light of our lives. I thank Kent, my parents, Scott and Rhonda Gibbons, and our team of family and friends, whom I lovingly refer to as "our village". They help me juggle my role as a member of Parliament and as a mum. I hope our girls grow up understanding why I do what I do and why I might be away from them at various times. I am trying to make our area and our State a better, safer place for us to live and enjoy for many years to come.

MAMBO WANDA WETLANDS

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (18:33): On 2 June 2016—nearly 30 months ago—I stood in this place and called for the then Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, to stop the Government's sale of the precious Mambo Wetlands site in my electorate of Port Stephens. Earlier that day, I had handed the Minister a petition signed by thousands of local residents who were strongly opposed to his sale of the publicly owned land—a six-hectare site consisting of core koala habitat and home to a number of other threatened species.

The week prior the Minister had been invited to attend a community meeting at which more than 200 residents came together to express their clear and unambiguous opposition to the sale. Unfortunately, the Minister declined my invitation and did not attend. Likewise, the then Minister for the Environment, Mark Speakman, was invited; he also chose not to attend. In contrast, the shadow Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe—now Deputy Leader of the Labor Party—and the shadow Minister for Education, Jihad Dib, did make the journey to Port Stephens to hear from my community on this important issue.

It was clear to anyone who cared to listen that the Government's proposed sale of this precious land was seriously flawed and not supported by anyone in the community. I sent urgent letters to the Minister for Education, the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Finance, Services and Property urging them to stop the sale. Community members also sent letters and made contact with the Ministers' offices. All of this was ignored and the sale went ahead. As members of this House are well aware, the six-hectare parcel of land was sold in an online auction to a property developer for a measly \$250,000. I was shocked, my community was furious, and it did not take long for the Government's Hunter spokesperson, Scot MacDonald, to admit that the sale had been a mistake.

Liberal member of the Upper House the Hon. Catherine Cusack, who coincidentally has taken a particular interest in Port Stephens in the lead-up to the next election, has declared that it was my fault Mambo Wetlands was sold off. Apparently I spoke to the wrong Ministers and I did not advocate nearly enough for my community. Everyone involved in this saga knows how wrong Ms Cusack's claims are. If she had any decency or integrity whatsoever she would own up to the community, as Scot MacDonald did, and work harder still to buy the land back. But Ms Cusack has no interest in the truth about this matter—in fact, local community group Mambo-Wanda Wetlands Conservation Group recently received one of Ms Cusack's famous late-night emails in which she demanded that the group stop contacting her, her office and the local Liberal candidate. Obviously her job as the Government's duty member of the Legislative Council only extends to dealing with people who agree with the Government and support its wrong priorities. Ms Cusack clearly has a job to do: It is all about politics, not our community. The community can see through that every day.

Given the election is now approximately four months away, it is very unlikely that this Government will be able to fix its mistake before we go to the polls. My community should never have been put in this situation. When it comes to March next year, the decision should be clear. I opposed this sale from day one. I supported the community, campaigned against the sale and involved my shadow ministerial colleagues from day one. I have secured a commitment from Labor that the Mambo Wetlands will be returned to public hands either by negotiation or compulsory acquisition. That is our commitment. Unlike this Government, I did not choose to ignore the community and push ahead with an unjustifiable sale only to turn around afterwards and be forced to try to buy it back. It is an indictment on this Government and its attitude and the disrespect it has shown towards my community.

In the end, the residents of Port Stephens and the taxpayers of New South Wales will have to foot the bill to fix this Government's mistake. The Premier and Catherine Cusack can boast all they like about winning back Port Stephens but my community knows that there are 30 months of history that will not be forgotten any time soon. The land never should have been sold off in the first place. Instead of fixing the mess, the Government continues to put politics before a resolution. This is the seventh time I have updated the House on the Mambo Wetlands debacle. I hope that next time I update the House it will be from the Government benches with the precious land back in public hands.

WESTERN SYDNEY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (18:38): Tonight I use my final private member's statement in the Fifty-sixth Parliament to highlight the extraordinary transformation that my community is experiencing under the Coalition New South Wales Government. Over the past eight years in government, the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals have delivered real change for people across New South Wales. Across the State we are seeing a record infrastructure boom to the tune of \$87 billion to ensure everyone in New South Wales, no matter where they live, gets their fair share.

Western Sydney is witnessing a boom in investment in our roads, hospitals and schools such as we never had under Labor. The Liberal-Nationals New South Wales Government is leading a transformational change to our State and my local community. While we are building massive infrastructure projects, we are also looking after our families and retirees by establishing 40 cost-of-living measures. As a member of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government, I am proud to have fought and delivered so many projects in my electorate of Mulgoa.

In health we have delivered an unprecedented \$5.7 billion hospital blitz to redevelop Western Sydney hospitals. At Nepean Hospital, \$1 billion worth of improvements include a new and expanded emergency department, a new clinical services tower, at least 12 new operating theatres, 18 new birthing suites, a new multistorey car park and rooftop helipad and an additional 800 full-time staff, including 119 more doctors and nearly 300 more nurses. At Liverpool Hospital, \$740 million will deliver a new world-class health, research and education precinct, including an expansion of the emergency department, neonatal intensive care, maternity and critical care capacity, as well as day surgery and radiology capacity. A \$400 million redevelopment of Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital is now complete.

In addition to large infrastructure projects, the Government is funding local health initiatives, including \$17 million in community health funding to build a new HealthOne NSW facility at Orchard Hills and a HealthOne NSW facility in the refurbished community health centre at St Clair. In 2010 I campaigned for the closure of the St Marys Methadone Clinic to ensure that it could be re-established in a purpose-built facility at the Mount Druitt Hospital campus. This was delivered in my first term in government and has completely revitalised St Marys. The Government has also built ambulance superstations for Penrith and Liverpool.

In education I have fought hard to deliver the St Clair High School rebuild after a fire tore through the school. The rebuild consists of a brand-new \$24.6 million innovation centre, including 16 new teaching spaces, a research area, a lecture hall, learning commons, a kitchen and cafe, and a tiered outdoor leaning area. Cecil Hills High School will benefit from New South Wales Government's record \$6 billion school building infrastructure budget to meet the future needs of the Cecil Hills community. The Cecil Hills Public School upgrade, which is already underway, will provide 15 new permanent teaching spaces to allow the school to accommodate an extra 160 students.

Two years ago, the \$17 million Fernhill School opened in Glenmore Park to accommodate 160 students from kindergarten to year 12 with moderate to severe physical disabilities. All public schools in Glenmore Park, Regentville, Mulgoa and Wallacia will be air-conditioned as part of the Government's \$500 million air-conditioning fund—an achievement that I first called on our Government to deliver in my inaugural speech in this place in 2011. In roads and transport the investment continues: \$300-odd million for building and upgrading connections to support the Western Sydney airport, including the M12 motorway; \$3.6 billion for the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan; \$55 million for the Erskine Park Link Road; \$200 million in the Local Roads package to improve road access across Western Sydney and particularly to upgrade intersections along Erskine Park Road; \$470 million for the M4 Smart Motorway project; and \$55 million for the Werrington Arterial Road project.

The most significant, region-shaping and visionary change was the bold announcement by former Prime Minister Tony Abbott to commit to building Sydney's second international airport at Badgerys Creek—ending decades of indecision. Following that announcement, our Government has worked diligently every day to ensure that the airport and surrounding aerotropolis will bring opportunities for employment, industry, entertainment, research, education and innovation for my community both now and for generations to come.

The Government is delivering real change for the people of Mulgoa and investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in the local projects that matter most to our communities. I will continue to fight hard to deliver the infrastructure, services, opportunities and community amenities that my community needs and deserves. Under those opposite, the people of Mulgoa were neglected and taken for granted. Only the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals are delivering the funding and have the vision to support my community. I thank my electorate office team: Angela Maltese, Katheryne Bratusa, Brian Cartwright, Maria Martinovic, Jordan Briffa and Meagan Skinner. I especially thank my husband, Mark, who supports our young children, Laura and Harry, while I am away. I also thank my parents, Paul and Zenona Pogmore, and my mother-in-law, Laraine Davies, who also help bear the load.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (18:43): Before I begin, I acknowledge Justin Titterton-Smith, who is here from Canada with his wife, Amanda, and their two boys. Justin has been a great mate of mine since year 7 when we were at high school together. No-one needs to get the stories out of him that he would be willing to tell. He is also a good friend of the member for Keira. It is great to see him in the gallery today and back in the country for a brief time. There is a view that if you repeat something often enough people will come to believe it is true. Clearly that is the approach of Government members, who think that people will suspend disbelief when they trot out the claim that the Liberal-Nationals Government is the party of the workers. When I heard it the first time I thought it must have been a joke, but they have repeated it. People do not believe it because for nearly eight years decisions of the Liberal-Nationals Government prove that it is anything but the party of the worker.

One need not take my word for it; let us have a look at the Government's record. A genuine party of the worker would be conscious of cost-of-living pressures and try to put downward pressure on prices. Instead, over nearly eight years this Government has pursued a privatisation agenda that has resulted in higher prices, not lower, and higher profits for the big electricity companies, not lower. The Treasurer has described privatisation as the golden key that unlocks opportunity. It is the golden key that has unlocked higher electricity prices, with a 60 per cent increase since 2011 and 20 per cent in the past financial year alone. Incredibly, the Government took the regulator to court so that electricity generators could charge more.

This Government says it understands business, but it does not understand markets. It only understands monopolies and duopolies, not competition. Its record makes a mockery of its election promise that power prices would not rise as a result of privatisation. Ministers of this great alleged party of the workers have written opinion

pieces about the offshoring of jobs. It is ironic that information technology [IT] jobs prompted the opinion piece, given that Transport for NSW a couple of years ago established a new IT service desk with more than 100 jobs in Wollongong—not offshore—at the University of Wollongong Innovation Campus. That was another investment delivered by a Labor government. A party representing workers would never accept offshoring as a part of life.

Wages growth has been stagnant, with the annual wage price index growth rate in New South Wales falling to among the lowest rates recorded. Once again, the self-proclaimed party of the worker in New South Wales is presiding over rapidly rising household expenses on the one hand and stagnant wage growth on the other hand. That is hardly pro worker. Then there is its record on tax. Under this Government, total revenue as a proportion of gross State product [GSP] has increased from 12.9 per cent in the last budget under the former Labor Government to 13.3 per cent in this budget. The Treasurer claims it is a low-taxing government, at the same time as taxation revenue has risen from 4.6 per cent of GSP to 5.1 per cent since 2010—an increase in the State's tax bill of more than \$10 billion a year. I do not think anyone thought, when the Government wanted to make New South Wales number one again, that it would be the number one taxing State in the country.

Under this Government major road projects are followed by an announcement of tolls that go on and on. The greatest example is the M4 road widening which will be fully paid for by mid next year. Yet, just like the M5, the toll will be in place until 2060. The F6 Extension starts 30 kilometres from the F6 and, yes, there is another toll on the way. Paying more in tolls than for petrol to get to work is hardly a pro-worker policy. But it does not stop there. Since the late 1800s TAFE has provided technical education and skills training, but since 2011 we have seen fewer students enrolled, fewer teachers employed, butchery courses without meat and campuses like Dapto replaced with access points where there is not even access to a toilet.

This is the Berejiklian Government's approach for the future of workers: fewer courses delivered by fewer teachers at fewer locations but, as always, with higher fees and charges. It is hardly pro-worker. The bottom line is that this self-proclaimed party of the worker has introduced the most anti-worker policies of any New South Wales government. With this Government, we have seen cuts to workers compensation, higher taxes, massive electricity price increases, tolls, tolls, tolls, cuts to TAFE, longer elective surgery waiting times, a rejection of a plan to support the steel industry and the privatisation of more than \$50 billion worth of public assets.

If the Liberal-Nationals want to be a party for the workers they should start by matching Labor's commitment on the M4 cashback. They should get serious about investing in the future of growth areas and potential areas like the Illawarra by matching my \$225 million Illawarra Jobs Action Plan, including funding for lifts at Unanderra station. They should match Labor's commitment to upgrade the South Coast rail line with \$2.4 billion, which Labor is prepared to put towards it. They should air-condition schools and end wage theft. The only party of the worker is on this side of the Chamber.

SHOALHAVEN DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (18:48): Residents across the South Coast have a personal connection to our local hospitals. That is because it is where they or their children were born, received treatment, cared for loved ones or visited family. Residents have a right to expect their hospitals to be world class, with quality facilities and adequate staff. The Berejiklian Government has undertaken a significant amount of work at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital, after many years of neglect. The work includes the new Cancer Care Centre, the Sub-Acute Mental Health Unit, the redeveloped emergency department and a new aged care unit, and a new multistorey car park is currently under construction. These works have been welcomed. However, now is the time for a major redevelopment of Shoalhaven hospital, and it is the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals who will deliver it.

Recently I was joined by Premier Gladys Berejiklian and the member for Kiama, Gareth Ward, to announce funding of \$434 million to significantly redevelop Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital to improve healthcare services for residents of the South Coast. The redeveloped Shoalhaven hospital will see significant community benefits, which are likely to include: expanded elective surgery, more surgical, acute medical and aged care beds, expanded maternity services, more operating theatres, increased capacity in the emergency department and the expansion of outpatient and ambulatory care zones. This amazing commitment—so far unmatched by Labor—has been overwhelmingly welcomed by the South Coast community and is the result of the efforts of hardworking doctors, nurses and allied health professionals and members of the community, who worked with me for a couple of years on a master plan and then to secure this significant investment.

The \$434 million investment will deliver new and upgraded health facilities so that residents on the South Coast no longer have to travel for some services. Planning for the new facility was announced in the recent budget, so the district is well advanced in determining the range of health services needed as part of the redevelopment. The Government wants to ensure this facility and its staff can continue to deliver first-class care for patients well into the future. Whilst this massive investment in Shoalhaven hospital is welcomed, we as a government must

continue to invest in health services across our community. This includes Milton Ulladulla Hospital, where my three children were born.

Together we secured funding to construct the new Renal Unit and Palliative Care Unit at the hospital and work is underway to return birthing services to Milton, with level one maternity services, including prenatal and postnatal services for local families restored to a full seven-days-a-week service and work underway to return to level two service provision. I continue to advocate for a dedicated in-house computer tomography [CT] scanner for the Milton Ulladulla Hospital. It is unacceptable for patients, particularly older patients, to be forced to travel to a private provider in Ulladulla to have a simple scan. Worse, patients who are unable to access bulk billing and require a public service are forced to travel one hour away to Shoalhaven to undertake necessary scans. I have received advice from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District [LHD], which indicates the demand:

... does not constitute the critical mass required to maximize efficiency for a dedicated CT scanner at Milton Ulladulla, and does not warrant the expenditure in technology, physical emergency department re-configuration and expert staffing.

It is a typical bureaucratic response. However, clinicians who work day in and day out with patients say this is completely wrong. Clinicians tell me the LHD's figures are incorrect and do not take into account patients who undertake scans at private providers and at Shoalhaven. I will always take the word of and trust in the expertise of local clinicians and health staff who each and every day dedicate themselves to saving lives and caring for our community. Recently the Premier heard directly from health staff who say this essential piece of equipment is required for Milton Ulladulla Hospital. Today and at other times I have met with Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard and Treasurer Dominic Perrottet to put forward the case for the need to purchase a dedicated CT scanner for our local hospital.

Our commitment as a government to health care on the South Coast is clear: new facilities, additional staff, increased budgets and a \$434 million commitment that will change the face of health care on the South Coast with a redeveloped Shoalhaven hospital. From the Labor Party we get empty or no promises, photo opportunities that are few and far between and offensive statements from Labor candidates who simply do not understand the provision of healthcare services in our community and how we arrived at this point after a long time working on our master plan. As a community we have proven time and again that, when we want something, we work together to achieve it. Along with local clinicians and health staff, the community and the local health district, I will continue to advocate for improved health services within our communities, including a return of birthing services to Milton Ulladulla Hospital and a dedicated public CT scanner for southern Shoalhaven patients.

RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (18:54): Over the past 3½ years I have spoken on a number of occasions about the Riverwood Community Centre, located in my electorate and serving as the community's focal point for more than 40 years. The area nearest the centre is one with 1,000 or so reasonably high-density social housing units. Over the past few years there has been a change in the area through the redevelopment of social housing units, community housing and private dwellings. There is also some consideration of redeveloping the housing estate to potentially increase the density by another 5,000 dwellings made up of a mix of social and private dwellings. I have had a great deal to do with this centre, not only in my time as the local member of Parliament but also in my previous life as a principal of a neighbouring school. This is a centre that is very much the beating heart of the community.

Today I lodged a parliamentary petition of over 500 signatures from local residents, which asks for greater consultation regarding the redevelopment of the Riverwood estate as well as continuation of funding to support social housing tenants. Only recently, after receiving funding under programs dealing with tenant participation, resource service and housing communities, the centre was unsuccessful in its grant application. It seems that a new approach has seen the funding awarded to a national provider instead. This is of major concern and is difficult to justify. I do not wish to be critical of the national provider as I know it has a strong record of supporting people in distress. However, I share the sentiments of the signatories in requesting financial support for the centre. I recently attended a community meeting which more than 300 people attended to voice their concerns.

While I understand the decision has been made, I have major concerns that this will become the model of funding for future grants that are better served through a more localised approach. The concerns expressed by residents and the centre relate to all future funding, including the Community Building Grant that is due in 2020. When I visited the centre last week I had a touching conversation with a local social housing resident, whose name I will not mention, who shared with me these specific words, "This centre is my family. They have saved my life. When I first came here, I could not speak English and this centre helped me. Now I like to give back and I volunteer with everything I can. I have no-one other than the beautiful people of this centre. Please help us." Sometimes we may look for ways to make grants fit into specified boxes without taking into account the variances of individual

circumstances, the positive impact we can make on peoples' lives or the ways in which localised approaches are often the most powerful in building stronger communities, especially for those most vulnerable and those in need.

I will tell the story of another person whose name I will not mention. A lady who has been living in the estate for a number of years, and who had been to the centre regularly, visited the centre 17 years after her child was born. She wanted the centre to help find her child, who had been taken away from her when she gave birth. The centre helped her find her child because she thought that at 17 years of age he would like to see her, but they discovered that the child had died of cot death three months after he was born. That lady had nobody else to turn to. A couple of years later the centre was contacted by the same lady's doctor to ask them to take her to get a breast screen because she refused to go out of fear. The people from the centre took her and they discovered she required some treatment.

These are among the things centres do, and it only gets to that point if a local approach is taken, because there is trust. We are talking about an estate with more than 1,000 social housing units where people require this type of assistance. They do not like to ask for help, but they know there is someone to trust. These are vulnerable people—people who may not have had the opportunity to finish their education, people who do not have a job, people who do it tough every day, people who we say in this place we are fighting for. And it is the little things that we do not know about, whether it is the two individual stories I have spoken about or all the different programs they run or the out-of-hours care, the excursions, the health, the celebrations they share, the cultures, the wellbeing events they hold, the late night drop-in for young people, the music and story workshops, the community garden where I help every now and then, the seniors dance, the parenting skills, the work with people with disabilities, or the social groups in community languages.

We have to ask ourselves this question: What is it that we see when we look at neighbourhood centres? These are the beating hearts of communities. It is all well and good for whatever economic reason to look at major providers and national providers, but they do not have that localised contact or approach that builds resilience, confidence and trust that is needed in a community centre. I hope this is not the new approach. I hope the approach will always be to look at each individual case and ensure that the most vulnerable are well and truly protected.

TAMBAR SPRINGS REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (18:59): On Sunday 11 November 2018 my wife, Anna, and I had the pleasure and the honour of attending the historic Tambar Springs War Memorial for the centenary of the end of the Great War and 100 years since the completion of the Tambar Springs War Memorial. It was a special centenary of Anzac Armistice Day on this site. On this day a special ceremony was coordinated by the Gunnedah Shire Council Centenary of Anzac Working Group, assisted and supported by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Tambar Springs Progress Association and the Gunnedah RSL Sub-Branch. On this day we honoured and remembered with pride all those Australians who served our nation, and we remembered the countless Australians whose lives were changed forever by their experience of war.

The commemoration began with piper Heather Martin leading the official party into position. The official party included Mr Mark Coulton, MP, Federal member for Parkes; Mr Peter Kannengiesser, President, Gunnedah RSL Sub-Branch; Councillor Jamie Chaffey, Mayor, Gunnedah Shire Council; me, representing the New South Wales Government; Ms Fiona Simpson, President, National Farmers' Federation; and Ms Carol Lees, Tambar Springs Chapter, Gunnedah RSL Sub-Branch. The introductory address was by the master of ceremonies, Councillor Owen Hasler, and the welcome to country was by Ms Marlie Thomas. The mayor gave the official welcome and there were outstanding musical performances by the Gunnedah Shire Band and Ms Tammy Clark. Mr Ron McLean gave an address on the history of Tambar Springs Cenotaph.

The Great War was raging on the other side of the world when a group of Tambar Springs residents petitioned the Federal Government for permission to erect a memorial to those from the district who had enlisted for service. The village has a special place in Australian war history. It was the first centre in Australia to erect a memorial after the war's end. It is also believed to have had the largest number of men per capita enlisting for war in the whole of the British Commonwealth over both world wars. The first public meeting to set the stage for the village memorial took place on 3 March 1917, 20 months before the guns fell silent.

The fundraising committee was led by village identity Harry Howard, with local farmer Thomas Turner, of The Folly, the hardworking secretary. The application to the Federal Government struck a sympathetic chord and villagers immediately began raising funds for the memorial. Their efforts were eventually crowned with success and the committee buying a slice of land on the slight rise in the centre of the village at the current site for the memorial. The land was purchased and the erection of the memorial eventually cost £400.

Five years ago the New South Wales Government granted \$10,000 to the local community for the restoration of the site bolstered by fundraising from the villagers and topped up by the Gunnedah Shire Council

to bring the total amount of restoration to \$20,000. The Tambar Springs Progress Association, the Gunnedah Shire Council Centenary of Anzac Working Group and the Gunnedah RSL Sub-Branch were all involved in arrangements for the centenary celebrations of the memorial on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2018. Close to 200 people witnessed, acknowledged and paid their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of this land.

We remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but we also remembered those current serving Defence Force members. Many at the memorial centenary on Sunday 11 November had family members currently serving in the forces, whether army, navy or air force, and we thank them for their service. The Country Women's Association, as always, provided the beautiful lunch and fed the crowd there. There was also a display of original army uniforms from the descendants of those from the Tambar Springs village. I pay special tribute to Councillor Owen Hasler and the Tambar Springs Progress Association for their outstanding work. It was indeed an honour to be at the centenary function memorial in Tambar Springs.

PENRITH ELECTORATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (19:04): This has been a massive year in Penrith with a number of achievements, some of which have been worked on for a very long time. Without doubt, the signature achievement this year is the opening of the fantastic Yandhai Nepean Crossing, a safe pedestrian crossing over the Nepean river. This was the first commitment I made when I first asked the people of Penrith to vote for me back in the 2010 by-election. We have now delivered a marvellous piece of engineering—a wonderful bridge well beyond many people's expectations, which has been embraced by the community.

I knew from the beginning that we needed to provide a safe crossing over the river, but I also recognised the almost spiritual connection my community has with the Nepean River. It gives me immense pleasure to see families, young people, elderly people and people of all abilities able to make their way across the Nepean River and see the beautiful vista to the south along the river. To be there on the weekend, see rowers on the river and see the community really enjoy the river is something that fills many people around Penrith with pride. It was fantastic to have the Premier and a conservative estimate of 5,500 people attend the opening of the bridge.

This sits alongside a number of other achievements in Penrith over the course of 2018. Recently I announced the awarding of the contract for the first stage of the widening of Mulgoa Road between Museum Drive and Union Road underneath the rail line. This will start the widening of that important road that links north and south Penrith. We also opened traffic lights at the intersection of Ross Street and the Great Western Highway in Glenbrook, a project that has been incredibly well received by the people of Glenbrook. They finally have safe access to the Great Western Highway and improved access for people coming in and out of that village. This issue was brought up with me time and again when I attended the Glenbrook Spring Festival on the weekend.

We have started construction on the \$1 billion redevelopment of Nepean Hospital, something our community has desperately needed. It is incredibly disappointing to know that those opposite want to cut this hospital's budget by more than \$600 million. That will cause a significant reduction in hospital theatres, in the capacity of the neonatal intensive care unit and in the number of beds. This is simply not acceptable and I will fight against it every day all the way to the election. I was pleased to be able to purchase the Fernhill historic property and bring it back to public hands. I am happy to say that we are working closely with the Office of Strategic Lands to reopen Fernhill after we have made the site safe and accessible for people.

It has been a significant year in making sure that the people of Penrith get the infrastructure and the support they deserve. On top of that, we have also been able to significantly improve the quality of infrastructure around a number of our transport hubs. The Penrith train station has had a massive upgrade and redevelopment. We have also opened a new car park there. A couple of other signature events have occurred in Penrith in 2018. We welcomed the Matildas back to Penrith this year through a fantastic initiative between Penrith City Council and Destination NSW. We also had the Australian Ballet at Penrith Lakes, showing that Penrith has both a strong arts and cultural community and a strong sporting community.

One of the other things we were able to do this year is open The Haven, a domestic violence refuge. It is fantastic to see the work that has been undertaken by Pru Goward, who has supported women's community shelters by directly funding the development of this new women's shelter. I thank everyone on the board of The Haven. There is no doubt that the work they are doing will save lives. The many users of the river can see the construction of new boat ramps underway along Tench Reserve, which will significantly expand the capacity for people to access and utilise the river. People only have to turn off the M4 at The Northern Road to see that that bridge is finally being upgraded into one of the largest bridges in the Sydney road network. That is also part of the \$1.6 billion redevelopment and widening of The Northern Road. There is no doubt that 2018 has been a year of delivery, and there is a lot more to come.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (19:09): The core tenet of public education is that every child should have access to the highest standard of quality education and be able to reach their full potential. In most cases we succeed in that noble goal. However, for some kids we can and should do much more to make sure our education system is as inclusive as possible. I am exceptionally proud of the public schools in my electorate and I am in awe of the extraordinary work of educators and teachers, especially those who work with students with developmental disability. However, a 2016 Auditor-General's report revealed that 25 per cent of parents have been told by school staff that there is no place at their local school because of their child's developmental disability. This is simply unacceptable. This week Kurt Fearnley was named the 2019 New South Wales Australian of the Year. I do not think we could find a better representative. In his Australia Day address in 2013 he described his childhood as follows:

My family never told me what I couldn't do or what was off limits. They just sat back and found out what was possible. Growing up with a disability doesn't bring with it a sense of shame or self-doubt; it's only when we learn to interpret the faces of the people around us, or when our environment offers no chance of interacting on an ordinary level, that we learn such things.

We fail people like Kurt when one in four people with disability is not welcomed into our education system.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with parents and carers from my local electorate whose children have a developmental disability. Yolande's daughter, Zoe, was born with Down syndrome. When Zoe was ready for school, Yolande did what every inner west parent does and enrolled her daughter at the local public school. Zoe was enrolled in a support unit with the promise that she would access all the opportunities of a mainstream education while receiving specialist care. Despite the best of intentions, it did not work out that way—Zoe was blocked from enrolling in after-school care and the only opportunities she had to work with her peers in the mainstream school were in sport and art.

By the time Zoe was in year 2, Yolande made the difficult decision to withdraw her from the special unit and enrol her in the mainstream school. Yolande faced fierce resistance from all sides, but she stuck to her guns, even lodging an official complaint with the Department of Education and the NSW Ombudsman. It was a bumpy first year, but Zoe's teachers and parents worked together to provide her with an inclusive education. Zoe was no longer separated in the classroom; each week, her peers took turns supporting her in class. Throughout their journey, Yolande and Zoe found support and strength with Family Advocacy, an organisation that works to promote and defend the rights and interests of children with developmental disability, including those with intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, autism and any combination of physical, intellectual or sensory disability. The organisation seeks to act as an agent of positive social change, including by advocating for inclusive education.

So, what does inclusive education really look like? Inclusive education means merging parallel special and mainstream education into one holistic system. It means affirming the human rights of each student and accommodating their needs through personalised learning in the classroom. An inclusive education system has been implemented in many places around the world, such as New Brunswick, Canada. It has also found traction here in Australia, with the Queensland Government moving to initiate inclusive education practices. The Queensland Government has established a set of nine principles that I believe the Government should hear and consider. The principles define inclusive education to be when students:

... can access and fully participate in learning, alongside their similar-aged peers, supported by reasonable adjustments and teaching strategies tailored to meet their individual needs.

After meeting with parents and carers, I am convinced that inclusive learning is the best way to support and nurture children with developmental disability.

Thanks to the Gillard Labor Government, parents of children with disability have greater choices and autonomy when it comes to finding the right support for their kids. This should also be true of their child's education. Our public education system must also transition to give families that same degree of choice and autonomy. If Zoe's story teaches us anything it is that we can achieve inclusive education if we act together with boldness and conviction. Access to inclusive education is a fundamental human right. It is set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and it must now be considered because we are failing to protect that right. I recommend we consider Zoe's story and the stories of many kids from around New South Wales. We need to act, and act now.

CENTRAL COAST CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE COMMEMORATIONS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:14): Often the Central Coast community comes together to reflect on events that have shaped our history. The spirit of remembering and commemorating the sacrifice of all servicemen and servicewomen is very strong. Just a century ago thousands of locals enlisted at enlistment stations

at Davistown, Terrigal, Matcham, Erina and Kincumber in the electorate of Terrigal. Last Sunday was Remembrance Day. On that day we momentarily pressed pause on our lives to stop, remember and reflect on those who defended our country. Remembrance Day 2018 marked the Centenary of the First World War Armistice when, after four brutal years of warfare, a peace settlement was reached. At 11.00 a.m. on 11 November 1918 fighting was suspended, and there were huge celebrations across the world.

The First World War remains Australia's most devastating war. It resulted in 60,000 deaths, and 156,000 soldiers were wounded, gassed or captured. On Sunday, to mark the centenary of the armistice across the Terrigal electorate, local services were held at the Breakers Memorial Country Club, Copacabana Surf Life Saving Club, Davistown RSL Club, Empire Bay Cenotaph, Forresters Beach Retirement Village, and the new memorial at Terrigal Beach. I had the privilege of attending the Davistown service and I pay tribute to Mal Brian, Gary Dowling, Mike Fletcher, Paul Osborne and Chief Executive Officer Ben Bradley—a tireless worker for his community. The club did an amazing job in putting on a fantastic service. The catafalque party consisted of young recruits and a young lady from Brisbane Public School read a very good poem. They were all standing in the heat but never missed a beat.

In June this year I joined the Premier to announce funding of \$10,000 for the Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch to relocate the World War One Erina War Memorial from Woodport to Terrigal. That funding is part of a \$130,000 statewide investment to revitalise local war memorials as a legacy of the Centenary of Anzac. In September I announced additional funding from the State Government to the relocation project for this memorial. I thank the Minister for Racing, Mr Paul Toole, for providing an additional \$80,000 through the Infrastructure Grants program, which brings the State's contribution to \$90,000 for this project. Thanks to the very hard work of Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch, the relocation was completed just in time for last weekend's Remembrance Day.

I inform the House that the memorial is a stunning sight, especially at night. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Peter White, President of Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch, for working hard to gather community and government support for this project. Peter said:

The relocation is a significant task and has been necessitated by the redevelopment of its current location ... Completing this important community task ensures we can properly acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.

I thank also Mike Tabone, a tireless member of Terrigal Wamberal RSL Sub Branch, who oversaw the relocation as project manager. His commitment to working with local businesses, the community and me as the State member has helped to make it a reality. I am only too happy to support our local RSL clubs. I thank them all for both their past service and continuing work for our community. As I have said, this memorial has significant heritage value and it is well recognised on the Central Coast. The memorial was first unveiled in 1923 and I am very proud that 95 years on it holds pride of place on Terrigal Beach. I am sure the new armistice war memorial will become a focal point of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies on the Central Coast. Indeed, I look forward to hosting a re-dedication ceremony with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr David Elliott, in a few weeks from now. I also look forward to future Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorations in my electorate of Terrigal.

I take this opportunity to highlight the great work being done by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. I recently toured the Anzac War Memorial in Hyde Park where I saw the soil samples that were collected from across my electorate, in Erina, Davistown and other locations. Those soil samples have been permanently enshrined at that war memorial. I encourage all of my constituents to visit the Anzac War Memorial to see that the permanent dedication to Central Coast servicemen and servicewoman.

SERVICE TO TENNIS AWARD RECIPIENT JOAN NICOLLS

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (19:19): Tonight I inform the House of a very significant local resident in my electorate of Tweed. Joan Nicolls was recently honoured by Tennis NSW for her commitment to the sport of tennis. Tweed tennis stalwart Joan Nicolls was recognised by Tennis NSW with a prestigious Service to Tennis award—a huge ace! At a gala awards night held at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Joan was presented with her award by former Australian champion doubles player Todd Woodbridge, OAM, in front of a star-studded crowd, including legendary tennis player Ken Rosewall. The accolade came as a surprise for Joan who was attending the function in her capacity as a representative of the Tweed. She had no idea the honour was coming her way. She said:

I knew something was up as club president Rob Nienhaus rang to make sure I would be attending ... I thought there would be an award for the club, given what we had been through, but I never thought it would be for me.

Joan, who is a very humble person, was ably supported by her husband, Graham. In front of more than 340 people, representing clubs from across the State, master of ceremonies Todd Woodbridge read out Joan's long list of accomplishments and her successful tennis career, which even had the guest of honour surprised. She said:

When the list of what I had done was being read, I thought to myself "Wow, I've done all that?"

Joan started playing tennis at an early age in western Queensland and went on to represent the Sunshine State at the age of 12. Her prowess on the court saw her win the Queensland under 14s, under 15s and under 17s singles championships, the doubles championships in the under 14s, under 15s, under 16s and under 17s, and then in the senior divisions she was State champion in 1957 and 1958—the secret is out—the year I was born. Joan and her husband moved to the Tweed about 40 years ago and in 2017 the Tennis Terranora complex was named after her. The complex has a number of artificial courts, as well clay and grass courts. A partnership with Lindisfarne Anglican College was recently entered into to give children the opportunity to play on all surfaces, particularly grass courts—in fact, many of their proteges have gone on to greater things across this nation.

Tennis is a very important sport—for example, I acknowledge that a number of senior people live in the electorate of Port Macquarie. Tennis is not only a sport for the young and fit, who are very competitive, but also for those who are more senior. In my electorate many people, particularly ladies, including some in their eighties, play tennis. I note that the member for Gosford is in the Chamber. People with disabilities, including those in wheelchairs or with other forms of disability, can also actively play tennis. Tennis NSW and Tennis Australia should be applauded for their great work. Unfortunately, one night about 18 months ago the tennis facility in the Tweed was burnt down, but it is well and truly on the way to being repaired. The resilience of the people of the Tweed should not be underestimated. The tennis community has recognised Joan and her husband, Graham. The importance that sport plays in the wider community, particularly in regional New South Wales, should be applauded. I commend Joan and Graham Nicolls to the House.

GRANTS

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (19:24): I place on the record my thanks and support for some of the most deserving community groups and organisations in the electorate of Manly and, perhaps most importantly, the people behind them. These organisations have been successful in securing funding through the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program. This State Government funding goes directly to the organisations that serve our community. From parents and citizens associations to surf clubs, we are investing in our community at levels never seen before, because this is a State Government that has its economy in order and the right priorities.

I thank the following people and outline some of the wonderful projects being funded. The Surfrider Foundation will be purchasing a machine called a "shruder", which is a low energy consumption machine that recycles single use plastic waste by shredding and converting it into saleable products. I thank Jude Furniss and her team for their advocacy on behalf of the Surfrider Manly team. The Manly Marlins Rugby Club, in particular President Anthony Bergelin and his team, has been instrumental in securing funding for a brand-new scoreboard for Manly Oval. This will undoubtedly project winning scores for the Marlins and Manly cricket teams all year long.

North Curl Curl Surf Life Saving Club, headed by David Wymer and his team, in particular Laura Snyder, has worked tirelessly on a variety of new projects including digital signage that I am proud to support. I know that this funding will go a long way in helping with further renovations to the club. Chris Kelly and the parishioners of Christ Church Northern Beaches in Manly Vale will receive funding for new landscaping. The fantastic Harbord Harlequins Rugby Club, whose open day I attended recently, will be creating new change rooms and upgrading their facilities. I sincerely thank Wayne Reeve and the team.

The Harbord Devils Junior Cricket Club will benefit from funding for a new storage shed, and I thank Kevin Davies and Ian Edgell for their application. What a fantastic club it is. My good friends the Friends of Freshwater, who over the weekend held one of the most moving services to commemorate the century of Armistice, will receive funding for a bronze sculpture of a First World War nurse to commemorate their service. Peter Harley and his team are custodians of Freshwater. Community Northern Beaches has secured funding to purchase its car to provide driving lessons to the disadvantaged in our community. I am thrilled that this funding is on the way to John Kelly and the team.

St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School in Balgowlah will receive funding for a new sunshade. Having recently toured the school and attended the assembly, I know how important this sunshade will be. I congratulate the P&C on its ongoing efforts. The wonderful team at Lifeline Northern Beaches will be able to upgrade its reception and waiting rooms, allowing it to help more people. The team of Maryann Novakovic and Dave Thomas do so much and I am grateful for their service. To my friends at Manly Village P&C, in particular Ben Streckenisen and Leslie, thank you for your ongoing advocacy on behalf of the school. Having seen the state of the canteen, I know how much this funding will help as better ventilation is installed.

This funding will make a difference in our local communities. From Curl Curl to Manly Vale and Harbord, more than \$300,000 will go straight to fantastic community organisations and projects. These funding

announcements come off the back of an unprecedented level of funding in the Manly electorate—whether it is the \$100,000 to clean up Curl Curl Lagoon, the \$100,000 to upgrade the Kangaroo Street childcare centre, the \$150,000 for Bear Cottage, the \$95,000 for Community Northern Beaches, the saving of three beautiful homes on North Head for community use, the opening of assisted living homes at Sunnyfield in Curl Curl, funding for the Vissla Sydney Pro, two new schools being rebuilt in Manly Vale and Curl Curl, or the new commuter car park about to open in Manly Vale. The list goes on.

I will proudly get up every day in this place and advocate for my community, but no matter how significant the funding I am indebted to people such as Jude Furniss, Anthony Bergelin, Peter Harley, Sean Rout, Hendrik Visser, Doug Miller, Susie Morgan, John Kelly, Noni, Andrea Hogan, Carmel McCarney, Julie Rigoni and Frank Traugott. They are the real reason I am here and why our community is as strong as it is.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE COMMEMORATIONS

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) (19:28): As the House is certainly aware, on Sunday 11 November our country recognised the centenary of Armistice Day, marking the end of the First World War. This year I attended the official Remembrance Day ceremony at the Rocky Hill War Memorial and Museum in Goulburn. The large number of attendees certainly made me proud to be part of this strong local Goulburn community. Gordon Wade, long-time president of the Goulburn RSL, presided with great dignity.

Next it was the Park Road Memorial Avenue rededication in Eastgrove. This rededication was again well attended. It included members of the army and air cadets, many distinguished guests and community members. Speakers included Mayor Bob Kirk, Mr Gordon Wade of the local RSL branch and Mr Keith Weston, a long-time resident of East Grove. The common theme was gratitude—gratitude to those who gave their lives, those who were maimed, those families who were forever changed because they chose to fight for the values the young nation of Australia believed in.

The Park Road Memorial Avenue has an interesting backstory. In 1919, 70 eucalypts were planted along Park Road to honour soldiers who attended East Goulburn School or resided nearby who were enlisted to serve in the First World War. The contribution of the residents of what was then a tiny and somewhat isolated community exemplifies the contribution made by Australia, particularly rural Australia. Of the 82 households in Eastgrove, 86 young men joined up over the four years of that war—the war to end all wars, they were told. What an extraordinary contribution those families made: 86 men from 82 families. The grief of those who lost their sons and brothers, and perhaps husbands, is unimaginable. They poured that grief into the holes they dug to plant those 70 trees less than a year after the war had ended. The rededication on the weekend was a newly planted avenue of oak trees to recreate that original avenue of honour.

Eastgrove's sacred gift to the war effort was matched by the entire Goulburn community. As a side note, it should be recorded that the great war historian, Charles Bean, worked his way around the battlefields of the war gathering items to bring the war home to Australians. He determined communities who had given many men would receive more. That is why the Rocky Hill War Memorial and Museum contains such an extensive and remarkable collection of artefacts from the battlefields—a small but significant gesture of thanks to the Goulburn community for those they gave. Following this event, there was a community barbecue held in honour of those who served. I commend those involved, but particularly Goulburn Mulwaree Council and the school students of Goulburn East Public School for their efforts.

The dedication of the William Leggett memorial wall at Goulburn High School on the previous Friday, marking the contribution of this young man to the war effort, was another significant part of the centenary celebrations in Goulburn. William Leggett, a former student of Goulburn High School, was the first Australian killed in France and Goulburn has made several dedications to him over the years. The school's metalwork was crafted by the industrial arts faculty, as well as years 9 and 10 metalwork classes, under the supervision of Mr William Dunn. For those Goulburn High School students, not much different in age to those who went to war a century ago—indeed, not much different to William Leggett—this was a solemn commemoration of their gratitude to him and to all others who served. Congratulations to Goulburn High School. Lest we forget.

CENTRAL COAST WATER SUPPLY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:32): Tonight I commend the work of community groups who contribute so much to their local areas across New South Wales. I also thank elected representatives and employees of local government across New South Wales who work to protect our community, improve lives, care for the environment and create a better future for all who live in New South Wales. I thank and applaud the work of the Mountain Districts Association and local community members who have worked tirelessly, and continue

to do so, to protect our environment and the water storage facilities of the entire Central Coast. I thank the Central Coast Council for the creation of the Mangrove Mountain and Spencer Advisory Committee. I thank the team involved for advising council on all matters relating to Mangrove Mountain landfill site. I encourage residents from across the Central Coast to support the campaign to protect our region's water supply by opposing the reopening of the Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club & Golf Course landfill as a request goes to the Land and Environment Court to expand dumping.

The Mangrove Mountain landfill has a troubled history punctuated by financial corruption and cronyism in RSL NSW. The Mangrove Mountain RSL sub-branch was one of the oldest in Australia, founded in 1919 and serviced most of the northern districts of New South Wales for a long time following the First World War. Over time, the local Mangrove Mountain residents helped build the club as it became the local social and community hub. However, in 2013, seemingly out of nowhere, and against the wishes of local sub-branch members, the State Council of RSL NSW determined that local members of the sub-branch be removed and an administrator be appointed to the board.

It was not much later that NSW RSL notified Mangrove Mountain RSL Sub Branch that it was also taking control of its trust, and in 2014 NSW RSL sold the sub-branch's land for \$750,000 to Mangrove Mountain Properties NSW Pty Ltd—land that had been gifted in perpetuity to the Mangrove Mountain community and local residents all those years ago. Since then, more than 800,000 cubic metres of waste has been dumped onto the site, most of which does not have an effective lining underneath to prevent the escape of toxic leachate into our groundwater. Despite a recommendation from the energy from waste technology parliamentary inquiry to the New South Wales Government to launch an independent inquiry into the matter, the Minister for the Environment has so far refused Labor's call for a special commission of inquiry,

There are only two potable water storage facilities for the entire Central Coast, and Mangrove Creek Dam is the primary reservoir, supplying 93 per cent of the coast's water. There is the potential that toxic leachate from Ourimbah Creek can enter that water catchment. The Environment Protection Authority [EPA] has publicly acknowledged that the landfill represents a potential human and environmental risk and that its own compliance and enforcement was not conducted consistently. Whilst the EPA has continued to approve extensions for dumping, for the first time the EPA refused an application from Verde Terra in August to vary the company's environmental protection licence [EPL]. The matter is now before the Land and Environment Court, where Verde Terra has appealed the decision of the EPA. If the application made by Verde Terra to have EPL 11395 varied is successful, it will mean an additional 1.318 million tonnes of new waste will be added to the existing mound.

We cannot let the Land and Environment Court allow any further expansion of the landfill area. The Environment Protection Authority, under instruction from the Land and Environment Court, has invited the public to make submissions on this issue. The EPA will then pass those submissions on to the court and the landfill operator, Verde Terra. I applaud and support the Mountain Districts Association, which is encouraging our community to have a strong voice to stop the expansion and ongoing dumping at the Mangrove Mountain golf course. I commend the action of spokesperson Stephen Goodwin, who continues to be at the forefront of this fight.

I urge all local residents to go to the Mangrove Districts Association website and make submissions to the EPA on this issue. These submissions will be passed on to the court. The closing date for submissions is 20 December this year. I thank members of the public for understanding this issue. It is a very important fight to protect our environment and our waterways on the coast. It is imperative that we protect the waterways of New South Wales and the waterways of the Central Coast.

PORT MACQUARIE ELECTORATE SCHOOLS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (19:37): As the year draws to a close, I highlight to the House the local schools in my electorate of Port Macquarie. I particularly underscore their outstanding contribution to education and the development of each of our students as they prepare them for success in their future chosen paths. As many of us in the House will testify as parents or carers of young children, a quality education is paramount in providing assurance and peace of mind about their future lives. We depend on our great teachers to deliver learning outcomes that will set young people on a pathway to successful and rewarding employment and to be valuable contributors in their communities.

As we draw to the close of the school year and as we as local members have the opportunity to attend school graduations, award ceremonies and final assemblies, I formally record on *Hansard* my appreciation for our dynamic, dedicated and passionate school leaders—the principals who go above and beyond their defined areas of responsibility to ensure that every child receives a high quality education and reaches their potential. I thank Margaret Hutchinson from Camden Haven High School, Janne Morgan from Coopernook Public School, Sam Small from Hannam Vale Public School, Phil Lillehagen from Port Macquarie Adventist School, Lisa

Kirkland from Harrington Public School, Jodie Paterson from Hastings Public School, Lorraine Haddon from Hastings Secondary College—Port Macquarie Campus, Ian Ross from Hastings Secondary College—Westport Campus, Geoff Brisby from Heritage Christian School, Nikki Hines from Herons Creek Public School and Lenonie Cosgrove from Kendall Public School.

I also acknowledge and thank Jock Garvan from Lake Cathie Public School, Wendy Stanborough from Lansdowne Public School, Grant Timmins from Laurieton Public School, Leanne Hedt from Lord Howe Island Central School—and I look forward to catching up with that school at the weekend—Anne O'Brien from Mackillop College, Paul Jeffers from Moorland Public School, Stephen Pares from Newman Senior Technical College, Christine Wild from North Haven Public School, Brett Thurgate from Port Macquarie Public School, Ginaya Yarnold from St Agnes Primary School, Terry Muldoon from St Columba Anglican School, Lisa Fisher from St Joseph's Primary School, David Hughes from St Joseph's Primary School, Jim Dempsey from St Joseph's Regional College, Geoff Leary from St Peter's Primary School, Phil Harris from Tacking Point Public School, Duncan Adams from Telegraph Point Public School, and Tony Johnston from Westport Public School.

As a former school teacher I make no apology for recognising each and every one of the school principals in my electorate because I know very well the incredibly important role they play, particularly in rural and regional communities. Every child should have access to the best education possible and I am proud to be part of a government that has seen record school funding achieved for every school across New South Wales. We were the first State to sign up for Gonski and now, as a result of our strong budgetary position, we can announce a record \$1.18 billion distributed to more than 2,200 public schools across New South Wales, which is \$100 million more than was secured in last year's budget. As a former school teacher I also understand the importance of funding our schools so no child is left behind. The Resource Allocation Model [RAM] funding announced by the New South Wales Minister for Education will give school principals the freedom to spend their allocated funds on delivering the best outcomes for their students.

In my electorate of Port Macquarie, 22 public schools will reap the benefits of RAM funding with an astounding \$8,685,857 in total injected into their budgets in 2019, which will provide important educational resources to meet the needs of their student cohort. The additional funding will be provided through an increase to every school's per-student allocation, increased funding to students from low socio-economic backgrounds and additional support for small schools with teaching principals. Our commitment to a strong educational system in New South Wales continues, with more than 170 new or upgraded schools at an estimated cost of \$6 billion over four years. In my electorate this will mean Lake Cathie Public School will benefit from the replacement of 10 modular classrooms, with 17 permanent, state-of-the-art learning spaces emulating a modern workplace, which are set to be completed by 2020.

This record funding is only possible because of the strong fiscal management that distinguishes the Liberal-Nationals Government. I once again thank our dedicated and committed school leaders, who work diligently each and every day to ensure our children receive a quality education. I also acknowledge and thank each and every one of the teachers who support the principals—the ancillary staff and the support staff. From the bottom of my heart and most sincerely, on behalf of the electorate of Port Macquarie, I say thank you.

MAITLAND ELECTORATE AMBULANCE STATIONS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (19:41): Today I speak about an issue that is really impacting on my community: ambulance stations. As I have said many times since 2015, the Liberal-Nationals Government has failed to properly plan for one of the fastest growing regional areas outside of Sydney in this State—my community of Maitland. Since I was elected to this place I have worked tirelessly with our community, our unions and others to force the Government to ensure that our new Maitland Hospital will be a public hospital rather than a public-private partnership or a not-for-profit partnership hospital. However, I have also advocated very strongly for ambulance services. I tried to have communications with the former Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, and finally—after 13 attempts—I got to have a meeting one day with her chief of staff. I asked the Government about its long promise to build a new ambulance station in Maitland. At that meeting I was told, I think four times, that funding for it was in the budget.

Eventually, after I produced questions on notice where the responses had been very much less than respectful to my community, it was admitted that there was no money in any of the budgets at that time for the ambulance station. After Minister Skinner was replaced I made the same representations to Minister Hazzard. It has been an ongoing discussion. I have put questions on notice to the Minister about this issue and I have given him representations from my community—from people such as Michael Johnson from Rutherford who was told, when his wife was in bed with terrible symptoms that he thought indicated a stroke, that he should drive her to the hospital. Another fellow whose mother was gravely ill called an ambulance, only to have a truck arrive that was not able to take any patients.

Recently my office obtained some statistics around ambulances in Maitland. Members will be shocked to know that in my community we have one ambulance for 80,000 people. Other communities nearby with populations of 50,000 have up to three ambulances. Another neighbouring electorate has 71,000 people and six ambulances. Maitland has just the one. It is a huge issue for my community. Highly trained ambulance officers are deeply concerned by the pressure that is placed on them when they are called to an emergency and cannot transport the patient. This is not what we expect for our ambulance service. I am very concerned about it. There has been no increase in the number of ambulances in my electorate since this Government came to power, despite the population growing by 15 per cent since the last census to more than 81,000 people.

I challenge the health Minister to tell the House how many representations I have made to him about the matter. When the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter had a bodgie turning-the-sod event in my electorate he told my community, through a secret Facebook group which purports to be a community group, that I had done nothing to advocate for more ambulances. That is disgusting politics and I am not going to accept it. I want it on the record that I have advocated for an ambulance in Maitland just as hard as I advocated for the hospital that the Government promised eight years ago.

The promise for another ambulance was made during the last election campaign. I ask the Government to deliver upon that promise and ensure that all of the health services promised to our community, including the services that it promised at the new hospital, are delivered. The \$3.8 million facility promised to my community for the ambulance station cannot be left to house one truck. That is a disgrace. The ambulance service must have been able to take people to hospital in an emergency. This Liberal Government just does not care.

KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (19:46): As this four-year term of the New South Wales Parliament approaches its conclusion, I make some reflections on a busy and rewarding period. In 2015 I joined a Coalition Government that four years earlier was handed the reins of what was then the worst performing State in Australia on most economic measures, even behind Tasmania. The Coalition made the promise in 2011 to make New South Wales number one again, and it has. A strong economy has allowed the Government to embark upon a once-in-a-generation infrastructure program of more than \$80 billion in capital works over the next four years. The capital works include record expenditure that will increase Sydney's rail capacity by 60 per cent, the building of new major roads to ease congestion and the building of more than 2,000 new classrooms and installation of air conditioning in 1,000 schools as part of a more than \$6 billion spend on schools. Seventy-eight new or upgraded hospitals and healthcare facilities have been completed and a further 40 hospitals are to be upgraded or redeveloped at a cost of \$8 billion.

The Government's success is exemplified in my area where the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital is receiving a \$320 million upgrade. The stage one works for new surgical wards have already been completed. Stage two, which is expected to be completed in 2021, will deliver a refurbished and expanded emergency department and a new clinical services building. These new health facilities in our State will be complemented by the 950 extra nurses and midwives, 300 new doctors, 120 allied health professionals and 260 new mental health workers announced in this year's State budget. Other major local projects completed or announced include: the NorthConnex tunnel, which will take 5,000 trucks per day off Pennant Hills Road; an \$800 million upgrade to capacity on the North Shore train line capacity to allow more services; the spending of \$30 million to remove some of the bottlenecks on the Pacific Highway between Gordon and Wahroonga; a new \$23 million car park and bus interchange at Gordon station; and about a \$20 million upgrade at Wahroonga railway station.

There are 36 schools in Ku-ring-gai, including public, independent, Catholic, special needs primary and preparatory schools, comprehensive public high schools, selective public high schools and Catholic, Independent and special needs secondary schools. I am a frequent visitor to those schools and I am continually inspired by the high quality of the State's next generation. Every single one of Ku-ring-gai's 19 public schools has been the recipient of at least one and in most cases several Government grants during the last four years. Funding has been provided for new playgrounds, upgraded halls, sunshades, outdoor learning environments, new science labs, upgraded kitchen facilities, toilet upgrades, fencing and after school care facilities.

In Ku-ring-gai eight new state-of-the-art teaching spaces have been completed at Killara Public School and the construction of 37 new teaching spaces, a hall and other associated infrastructure is under way at Waitara Public School. In addition to meeting the teachers, students and parents of our schools, since my election in 2015 I have made my very best endeavours to meet as many of Ku-ring-gai's amazing local individuals and groups as possible. I have met them in places including retirement villages and Probus clubs. I have met the art society, the philharmonic orchestra, the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir, the Pymble Players, and the Marian Street Theatre for Youth. I have met with ethnic groups, religious bodies and small businesses. I have met with people at pre-schools, new citizenship ceremonies, universities, the Ku-ring-gai Community Workshop as well as at street stalls, railway stations and in my Wahroonga electorate office.

I have also been greatly impressed by the selflessness of volunteers at our local sporting clubs, service clubs, Meals on Wheels, the Rural Fire Service, the State Emergency Service [SES], the St John's Ambulance, Fire and Rescue NSW, Lifeline, the RSL, the National Servicemen's Association, our community radio and the PCYC, to name but a few of them. Along the way, I have made every effort to assist them with their work or mission, whether it be through grants for repairing or renovating damaged or aged roofs, bathrooms, kitchens or decks or for purchasing necessary vehicles and equipment, such as everyday equipment for the SES, a refrigerated van for Meals on Wheels or a 12-seater bus for the PCYC.

I have been pleased to be able to facilitate the improvement of the facilities and capabilities of our local sporting clubs, including by providing funding for club house upgrades, electronic scoreboards, uniforms and equipment, coaching and defibrillators. In conjunction with the West Pymble Football Club, the Federal Government and the Ku-ring-gai Council, more than \$1 million has been provided to give the club a field with a synthetic surface, the consequence of which will be a tripling of its use and a massive reduction in maintenance costs.

I thank my parliamentary colleagues, the staff at Parliament House, my family and especially my incredible electorate office staff, without whose willing and outstanding assistance I could never hope to achieve my objectives. My electorate office staff are often the first point of contact for someone seeking advice, help or information and almost daily I am asked to pass on to one or more of them the gratitude of a constituent. Since 2015, both Ku-ring-gai and New South Wales have taken great leaps forward. I am very grateful to the people of Ku-ring-gai who have given me the great honour of representing them in this Parliament over the past four years.

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (19:51): I congratulate the member for Ku-ring-gai on the work he is doing as a great local member. His story is not uncommon among Government members across the State. There is so much infrastructure being built. The member for Ku-ring-gai's comments highlight that if you have a strong economy you have money to spend on infrastructure. While driving through his electorate recently I saw the works on the NorthConnex. That will be a game changer in that neck of the woods. Moving the trucks underground and reducing congestion will make it a more pleasant trip for others. The member is doing an outstanding job. It is not limited to the road projects; it also includes public transport initiatives across New South Wales. I commend the member for Ku-ring-gai for his work.

CHARLESTOWN ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (19:53): This is likely to be the last private member's statement I am able to make in this parliamentary term in the Fifty-sixth Parliament. Hopefully I will be back in this place after the election on 23 March next year. Be that as it may, I will take the five minutes I have available to me now to raise the most pressing issues being faced by the community in my electorate. The people who live in my electorate of Charlestown love where they live. We have the lake, we have the ocean and we have the bush. Most importantly, we have real, down-to-earth people. I love being their elected representative. But the feeling of frustration in my community is real. Charlestown residents are feeling the pinch. They are sick of living with the rising cost of power bills, limited access to public transport and inadequate health services while this Government obsesses over Sydney stadiums.

I will start with the rising cost of energy prices. Many constituents have contacted my office to show me a comparison of their electricity rates between 2017 and 2018. A comparison from John showed an increase of 89 per cent in off-peak rates between May 2017 and July 2018. John has not changed providers. He is conscious of his usage and he has even installed a smart meter. John's example is one of many. It is a widely known fact that the big electricity retailers are benefiting from high-cost standing offers and confusion in the market. Average household power prices across New South Wales have risen by 60 per cent since 2011, including up to 20 per cent since Gladys Berejiklian became Premier. But the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government is still refusing to support the re-regulation of electricity to force power bills down. We were told by the Liberal-Nationals that electricity privatisation would put downward pressure on electricity prices; my constituents are experiencing anything but. Instead, higher prices are punishing Charlestown families like John's.

I move to health. I have a constituent who reported a wait of eight months for a post-assessment appointment at the nearest Parkinson's clinic. I have another constituent who has had to wait 3½ years to see our local ear, nose and throat specialist. A constituent who needed a hip replacement ended up travelling more than 300 kilometres to Armidale for surgery rather than put up with immense pain while waiting for years for surgery in our local public hospital. She was in tears in my office because of the constant pain. The outrageous waiting times are leaving people in needless pain. The Berejiklian Government would prefer to knock down and rebuild Sydney stadiums in the years it takes for a Charlestown constituent to see a specialist. It is disgraceful.

I am sure members remember the Newcastle buses debacle that unfolded earlier this year when the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure privatised the Charlestown bus network. We are still experiencing fallout from that. In January, new timetables with much shorter routes and limited operating hours left constituents across my electorate stranded. Those passengers included children and the elderly who were left waiting in the heat for buses that never arrived. People with disabilities working at the House with No Steps and Access Industries had to learn how to catch two or three buses instead of one. Commuters in Redhead, Dudley and Whitebridge are now locked in their suburb after 6.00 p.m. if they do not have private transport.

Here are the facts: Opal data for this September quarter shows the Newcastle bus network is attracting significantly fewer seniors, students and pensioners than it did last year before the private operator overhauled the timetables and routes. The network is not adequately providing for the non-full-fare paying commuters who are most reliant on it. The bungled privatisation of the network has left the most vulnerable people in my community without sufficient transport options. The ongoing impacts of the sale of the electricity poles and wires, the anti-competitive nature of the privatisation of the Newcastle port and the disastrous sale of our buses has further proven to the Charlestown community that this Government has an ideological obsession with privatisation without a care for how it will affect the livelihoods of people.

Charlestown constituents are sick of this Government that continually panders to the big end of town rather than to the community. Every day I have people in my office saying exactly that. More than \$50 billion worth of public assets have been sold in this State and yet the cost of living for Charlestown residents is still rising. Clearly, this Government has the wrong priorities. The people of Charlestown—indeed, the people of New South Wales—deserve so much better. I will continue to fight until they get it.

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (19:58): I like the member for Charlestown; I think she is honourable. But I make the observation that she does herself no justice when she sells the party line that we are spending money on stadiums when we could be spending money on something else. It is like me saying that if Labor had not spent \$500 million on a wasted metro in Rozelle we could have solved all the problems. The reality is that we can chew gum and talk at the same time. That is not the way to address an issue. My electorate has privatised bus services. It has a zone that is a lot larger than Charlestown and it is working extremely well. Are there problems? There are always problems when reforms take place, but we learn from them. I think this Government has done that. Electricity prices are another story. If people want higher electricity prices they should vote for Bill Shorten.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (19:59): This will be my last opportunity to deliver a private member's statement in this term of Parliament. I want to talk about something that affects us all—the creation of what I call vanilla or plastic politicians in this place. Over the past seven years I have watched as the media, the community and members on both sides of this House have urged politicians to become authentic reflections of our community. Yet the moment a member on either side makes a human mistake, they are hung out to dry. A couple of days ago Michael Daley, the Leader of the Opposition, said something very profound and important. It was about a member on the other side who lost their driver licence. I am not justifying that behaviour, but we are human beings. We spend a lot of time in cars. We make mistakes and we pay the penalty, as everyone does. The member for Maroubra drew a line in the sand. He said exactly that: We make mistakes, we own up to those mistakes and we move on.

I do not want to be in a Parliament with members who simply deliver speeches prepared by a central office and who do not engage in debates as we robustly contest our ideas and fight for things that are important to us. In our inaugural speeches we all said that we wanted to improve the community. None of us said that we were perfect, that we do not have challenges in our lives, or that we were stellar role models in our past in the decisions we made—in fact, many of my colleagues are here because they are different. They challenge the norm while reflecting the views of their communities. This Parliament must reflect on itself. Before all members return next year, we must ask ourselves if we want perfect politicians or people who are a reflection of the communities that they represent. No-one in our community is perfect, no-one does everything right every day of the week or lives up to the high moral standard that all of us would like to bestow on ourselves every day. That does not mean we hang people out to dry.

I say to all members, regardless of what side they are on, to spend more time in the next term of Parliament debating issues that are important to men and women in our community. Let us spend less time on personal attacks like who has received a speeding fine in the last week, who may have problems in their personal life or who might be a new leader because someone might be unwell. Let us spend less time focusing on what I would call the individual and more time on what the community expects of us. We come to this place for a short time. In that time our community expects all of us to represent them. I do not think anyone thought we were

perfect or that they voted for us because of that. People voted for us because they thought we could make a difference for them.

I would like the members in the next Parliament to focus on debating the issues that are important, contesting those ideas and spending less time on our individual failings—and we all have many. Let us spend more time focusing on what the men and women who are in dining rooms, lounge rooms and community halls this evening expect of their elective representatives. As we head towards the election, I hope that is what we have learned from not only from the last four weeks but also the last four years.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Anna Watson): That was very well said. It is common sense and I am sure that all members in this place would agree with it. I congratulate the member for Keira on his private member's statement.

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (20:04): I totally agree with the sentiment expressed by the member for Keira. Unfortunately, people can have brain snaps sometimes. I profoundly recall when I was attacked this year under parliamentary privilege and made out to be something I was not. Those comments were never, ever repeated outside this place but were publicised on Channel 7 and by a number of news outlets. It was totally fabricated and never investigated; I never even had a chance to reply. It does have an effect on individuals and their families. It really is poor. First, you do not throw rocks in glass houses; second, you do not have a sudden attack of morality. If it is genuine, everyone should address it genuinely in a bipartisan way and be truthful and honest. We are all human. As much as we like to think that we do not make mistakes, everyone does.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:06
until Thursday 15 November 2018 at 10:00.**