



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday 7 May 2019

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 7 May 2019

The House met at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to the proclamation of Her Excellency the Governor.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

Members

GENERAL ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Return of Writs

The CLERK: I announce receipt of a list, certified by Her Excellency the Governor, of the names of the persons duly elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales at the General Election of Members held on 23 March 2019, together with the writs on which they had been returned.

The CLERK: I announce further that with Her Excellency's certification the writs have been duly returned prior to the day on which they were legally returnable.

Opening of Session

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from the Commissioners empowered by Her Excellency the Governor to open this session of Parliament requesting the immediate attendance of the members of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Commission for the Opening of Parliament read.

The members of the House, having attended the Legislative Council Chamber, reassembled.

Members

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER THE PLEDGE OF LOYALTY, OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

The CLERK: I inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has issued a Commission under the Public Seal of the State authorising the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, the Hon. Giovanni Domenic Barilaro and the Hon. Dominic Francis Perrottet to administer the Pledge of Loyalty, Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance required by law to be taken or made by members of the Assembly.

The Clerk read the Commission.

PLEDGE OF LOYALTY, OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

All members took and subscribed the Pledge of Loyalty, Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and signed the Roll of the House.

Presiding Officers

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Election

The CLERK: In accordance with the provisions of section 31B of the Constitution Act and Standing Order 10, I call for nominations for the office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

I declare nominations closed.

There being only one valid nomination received, I declare Jonathan Richard O'Dea, the member for Davidson, elected as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Jonathan Richard O'Dea was taken out of his place by Ms Gladys Berejiklian and Mr Rob Stokes and conducted to the chair.

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (11:05): As Speaker-elect, standing on the upper step of the Speaker's rostrum: I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I thank God for his valuable guidance and my family for their enormous support. I am delighted that my wife, Jacqueline, and my sons, Benjamin, Daniel, Matthew and Joshua, are here today, along

with my parents, Michael and Marianne. After some further introductory comments this address will cover three topics: certain traditions relating to this place and the speakership; the importance of respect and how this House should operate; and some potential reforms for how this Parliament is run.

It is a real honour to stand before my fellow parliamentarians as the elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in this Fifty-Seventh New South Wales Parliament. I truly appreciate your expression of trust. I thank Premier Gladys Berejiklian for dragging me here, both psychologically and physically. She was assisted in that tradition by Minister Rob Stokes, another good friend. I entered this Parliament on the same day as Rob in 2007 from a background in the law and in business. Having been dragged to this chair, I intend to run the show in my own style, without fear or favour.

Gladys Berejiklian is the first female Premier to be returned to government in New South Wales history. Gladys deserves enormous praise for her strong leadership in a winning election campaign for the Liberal Party. Likewise, I congratulate John Barilaro, who is leading The Nationals. I note we have a new Father of the House in Brad Hazzard, new leaders of the House on both sides and new office holders, including incoming members of my Speaker's panel from across the political divide. I look forward to serving with all of you and to cooperating closely with the offices of the Clerk and the President in the other place. In doing so, I will be well supported by capable Speaker's office staff led by incoming chief of staff, Paul Blanch.

I warmly greet all families and supporters in the three public galleries who are here in support of our members here today. Some of you will no doubt return for the inaugural speeches of the 13 new members elected to this Chamber. My own words today will revisit some of the themes addressed in my inaugural speech, including the role of both tradition and reform as old and new combine towards building a brighter future. In my inaugural speech I mentioned the need to better safeguard our environment in a sustainable way. While not intending to normally comment on Government policy as Speaker, I am pleased that the Government has identified quality local environments as a high priority for this term of Parliament.

As Speaker, I will be this House's chairperson and its spokesperson and—although not part of the Executive—I will perform Minister-like responsibilities relating to the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services. I honour all past Speakers of this House, particularly Shelley Hancock and Thomas George, for providing outstanding service over the past eight years. I look forward to Minister Hancock's ongoing positive contribution as she no doubt demonstrates exemplary conduct from the floor.

The office of Speaker played a central role in the centuries-long battle in England for supremacy between the monarchy and the Parliament. A statue of former Speaker Sir Thomas Moor, the patron saint of politicians, now sits in the Speaker's Garden of this Parliament. He went on to become Lord Chancellor and ultimately lost his head due to a monarch's displeasure. Indeed, English history records numerous Speakers dying violent deaths after delivering a message to an unreceptive monarch—hence the tradition of your Speaker being dragged to the chair today. But these days we continue to honour a monarch, the incredibly impressive Queen Elizabeth II, as head of our constitutional monarchy. I am sure we all join in congratulating her on the birth of another great-grandchild. Importantly, we also live in a more mature parliamentary democracy in which the office of Speaker fortunately does not entail the same personal peril.

Traditions we will continue with during this term include opening the Parliament with a prayer and regularly acknowledging the traditional Aboriginal custodians of this land. They continue to make a huge contribution to our collective culture and heritage, with its rich diversity and inclusion. We are in Australia's oldest legislative Chamber, with its green colouring adopted from the British lower House tradition. The tradition of a mace at the end of the table goes back to at least 1629 in the British House of Commons. It is a symbol of the authority of the Speaker, with our mace presented to this Chamber as recently as 1974 by the Jewish Board of Deputies. One past tradition of the Speaker wearing a wig will continue—to lie dormant under my speakership. However, you will see me in a black gown on ceremonial occasions and for question time.

My inaugural speech—perhaps prophetically—referenced past Speakers of this House and the importance of enforcing the rules of this House with fairness and balance. In that speech I stated that as parliamentarians we must build a better tradition of rule adherence and integrity to ensure higher levels of public confidence in our common vocation and in the political process. I now have greater responsibility for upholding a high standard and encouraging respect in this Chamber, especially during an often rambunctious question time. I intend to be fair but firm, and I expect all members to demonstrate respect—that is, respect for each other's rights and differing perspectives, respect for the Parliament, respect for its Chair and respect for the public who empower us and whom we represent. That does require some cultural change.

Exchanges on the floor of Parliament can be rigorous and robust but should not be disorderly or disrespectful. We also have rights and privileges in this place that must be respected, not abused. While various institutional protections exist and assist, elevating the standard of parliamentary behaviour is really up to us, not

others. The public seeks leaders with integrity and will likely have greater respect for us and for the Parliament if we demonstrate real respect ourselves. Thus, by showing greater respect, we can restore some of the faith and trust that has been eroded from Parliament and politics in recent times. Presiding Officers in many jurisdictions have tried to lift relevant standards—for example, the search for greater parliamentary dignity was recently described by a Presiding Officer in India as a need to improve the "quality of polity". The challenge is not ours alone.

The Parliament will occasionally hear my thoughts on various matters but in question time itself I intend to play an impartial and restrained role in facilitating an orderly process. As Speaker, I suggest that we all need to speak less and listen more in a respectful way. It is truly embarrassing and unacceptable to have visiting schoolchildren incredulous at the behaviour of their parliamentarians during question time. In addition to a required change from parliamentarians, my experience over the past 12 years has generated a pragmatic belief that some of the rules need to change in order to help cultivate an acceptable environment of integrity and respect.

I now want to suggest some potential reforms relating to the standing orders, improved process and the welfare of members. I share a genuine desire with the Premier to see reform and a lifting of standards in this place, not just for the current term of Parliament but also in the interests of balance and fairness over the long term. Accordingly, the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee will meet soon to start considering reforms, with input from leaders across the Chamber, including the crossbench. Areas to be addressed include the treatment of question time and priority motions, as well as the suspension of calls for divisions and quorums. I also foreshadow proposed changes to the composition of committees, particularly the crucial Public Accounts Committee, which I once chaired. As part of improved process, I believe there is considerable scope for an increased customer service focus in the Parliament. In pursuit of this aim, I will seek some guidance through Minister Dominello, who has a commendable customer focus across the Government generally.

We do need to use better, modern technology and methodologies to improve efficiency, communicate more effectively and engage more meaningfully with the public in a way that enhances democratic decisions. It is important that such improved public engagement extends to people in rural and regional New South Wales. The Parliament should aim to truly connect with people across New South Wales, no matter how remotely they live. Examples of potential projects include having wi-fi properly operating in electorate offices, allowing for e-petitions, having appropriate audiovisual capacity, boosting education and outreach resources, carefully using citizens' juries and introducing a basic app to replace the current paper-based reporting of votes in this House.

The welfare of members will be an important part of my speakership. I am happy to assist all members in reasonably pursuing their interests—for example, I believe it is appropriate to have a modest termination payment arrangement in place for members when they leave Parliament. This is a matter I initially spoke on in 2011 after five first-term Labor Ministers left office without any transitional assistance. I am saddened that the Coalition members of Parliament for Murray and Coogee recently faced the same unsatisfactory situation.

Following the previous Parliament passing reforms to better focus the efforts of the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] on serious misconduct allegations, we now need a mechanism to address allegations of a more minor nature. But there is also scope to revisit the issue of how to better reflect the exoneration of parliamentarians and others following a referral to ICAC. Another planned initiative is to facilitate training or personal development opportunities to assist local members to best serve the public in an ethically sound way. I will have more to say on this matter in the near future.

Colleagues, we will shortly have the privilege of meeting with our wonderful new Governor, Margaret Beazley, and hearing her speak. Her admirable predecessor, former Governor and incoming Governor-General David Hurley, shared some wise words in a function last month. He reflected that, when those of us in Government face difficult challenges in a complex world, we should focus on what delivers the best outcomes for the people of New South Wales. Thank you for listening and for bestowing on me an enormous honour and responsibility as your Speaker. I look forward to our journey together over the next four years, undertaken in the best interests of the people of New South Wales.

The Speaker (The Hon. Jonathan Richard O'Dea) took the chair.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (11:22): Mr Speaker, I will be the first to congratulate you on your election today as Speaker of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales, the oldest Parliament in our nation. I especially want to welcome your family today to witness this historic occasion. Mr Speaker, today you been elected to a position that is rich in history and tradition. It is a position that was first held by Sir Daniel Cooper in 1856. Since that time many outstanding individuals have served as Speaker. I submit to the House that there have been none more outstanding than the member for South Coast.

Today, Mr Speaker, you have been elected with the strong support of your colleagues. You begin your term of service as a Presiding Officer of this Chamber, the Legislative Assembly. However, your commitment to service commenced long before your election to this Parliament. With your experience with local church, school, sporting, charity and other community groups—which I know you still remain actively involved with—combined with the experience you gained as a businessman, lawyer, local councillor and statutory officeholder, the people of Davidson have put their faith in you since 2007.

It was no surprise to see you being re-elected in the most recent election. Mr Speaker, it was clear from your start in this place that you had a deep appreciation and respect for the rules, conventions and traditions of this Parliament and a strong belief that we are here to serve our communities. Today you have the new opportunity to pursue this objective, and we encourage you to do so with all of your experience and energy. I again wholeheartedly congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. We all know you will do a magnificent job. Congratulations!

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (11:24): Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I congratulate you on your election as the Speaker of the oldest Parliament in Australia. I, perhaps more than most, was delighted to hear you focus on the word "fairness" in your first speech as the Speaker. This House does its best work when it focuses on the important issues to the men and women who elected us to this place. It does not work well when it focuses on trivial issues and personalities. Mr Speaker, the Labor Opposition is committed to working with you to make this Chamber the best it can be and we hope that the sentiments you expressed will be followed through. My colleagues and I look forward to working in a better Parliament—importantly, one focused on the issues that mean the most to the men and women in our electorates whom we are fortunate to represent. Congratulations!

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (11:25): Mr Speaker, as the Leader of The Nationals and Deputy Premier, I congratulate you on your election to the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of this great State. It is an honour and a privilege to be elected as the Speaker and today in particular I am sure that your family are very proud of you. It is well known that the families of all members of Parliament pay a high price because we spend so much time away from them. Mr Speaker, as you preside over this Chamber my prayer for you is wisdom, strength and patience. This Chamber, historically known as the "bear pit", is where robust and fair debate should take place. It is important that the integrity of this Chamber and our democracy is protected.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your vision to change the culture within this Chamber—and, indeed, I encourage you to do so. I also congratulate you on acknowledging the impact that spending a lot of time away from our families and electorates has on regional members. In fact, I support the idea of moving the Parliament to Bathurst—I only said that in jest because I knew I would get a bite. It is an impost on those members who travel and I support any reform reflective of that. Congratulations! God save the Queen.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I inform the House that the Governor will receive the House in the Jubilee Room of Parliament House at 12.20 p.m. today for the purpose of presenting the Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Election

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I move:

That Leslie Gladys Williams be appointed Deputy Speaker.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I second the motion.

Motion agreed to.

ASSISTANT SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Election

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I move:

That Mark Joseph Coure be appointed as Assistant Speaker.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I second the motion.

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (PRO FORMA)****First Reading**

Bill introduced on motion by the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, read a first time and printed.

*Opening of Session***MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

The SPEAKER: I report that the House this day attended the Commissioners in the Legislative Council Chamber, where a Commission for the Opening Parliament was read and a message to the Legislative Assembly was delivered. I lay the Commission upon the table of the House and order that it be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

*Members***MINISTRY**

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I inform the House that on 2 April 2019, with a review to reconstructing the Ministry, I submitted to His Excellency the Governor my resignation as Premier and member of the Executive Council. That action involved the resignation of all Ministers. His Excellency then commissioned me to form a new Ministry. On the same day I was sworn in as a member of the Executive Council and as Premier. Twenty-three other members were appointed by His Excellency the Governor as members of the Executive Council:

The Hon. Giovanni Domenic Barilaro, MP
Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade
The Hon. Dominic Francis Perrottet, MP
Treasurer
The Hon. Paul Lawrence Toole, MP
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
The Hon. Donald Thomas Harwin, MLC
Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council
The Hon. Andrew James Constance, MP
Minister for Transport and Roads
The Hon. Bradley Ronald Hazzard, MP
Minister for Health and Medical Research
The Hon. Robert Gordon Stokes, MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
The Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, SC, MP
Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
The Hon. Victor Michael Dominello, MP
Minister for Customer Service
The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning
The Hon. David Andrew Elliott, MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
The Hon. Melinda Jane Pavey, MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing
The Hon. Stuart Laurence Ayres, MP
Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
The Hon. Matthew John Kean, MP
Minister for Energy and Environment
The Hon. Adam John Marshall, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
The Hon. Anthony John Roberts, MP
Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections
The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock, MP
Minister for Local Government
The Hon. Kevin John Anderson, MP
Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation
The Hon. Dr Geoffrey Lee, MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education
The Hon. Anthony John Sidoti, MP
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans
The Hon. Bronwyn Taylor, MLC
Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women
The Hon. Gareth James Ward, MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services
The Hon. Damien Francis Tudehope, MLC
Minister for Finance and Small Business

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I inform the House of the representation of Legislative Council Ministers in the Assembly to the offices indicated:

The Premier representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council

The Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning

The Minister for Health and Medical Research representing the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

The Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Small Business

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I inform the House that on 24 April 2019 the following members were appointed as Parliamentary Secretaries:

Mr Stephen Bruce Bromhead, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport

Mr Kevin Francis Connolly, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Education

Ms Stephanie Anne Cooke, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier

The Hon. Catherine Eileen Cusack, MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Cost of Living

The Hon. Scott Glynn Farlow, MLC

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

Ms Melanie Rhonda Gibbons, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Families, Disability and Emergency Services

Mr James Henry Griffin, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans

Mr Christopher Gulaptis, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads and Infrastructure

Mr Alister Andrew Henskens, SC, MP

Cabinet Secretary

Mr Michael John Johnsen, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture

The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Health

Ms Eleni Marie Petinos, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads

Mr (Geoff) Geoffrey Keith Provest, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Major Events

Mr Mark Taylor, MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Justice

The Hon. Gabrielle Cecilia Upton, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

The Hon. Natalie Peta Ward, MLC

Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General

The Hon. (Ray) Raymond Craig Williams, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Western Sydney

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I inform the House that on 2 April 2019 Andrew James Constance was elected as Leader of the House.

GOVERNMENT WHIP AND DEPUTY GOVERNMENT WHIP

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I inform the House that on 30 April 2019 Adam Sibery Crouch was elected as the Government Whip and Lee Justin Evans as Deputy Government Whip.

LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NATIONALS

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I inform the House that on 29 March 2019 I was re-elected as Leader of The Nationals and Paul Lawrence Toole as Deputy Leader of The Nationals.

THE NATIONALS WHIP

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I inform the House that effective from 31 March 2019 Stephanie Anne Cooke was elected as The Nationals Whip.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, AND OPPOSITION WHIP AND DEPUTY OPPOSITION WHIP

Mr RYAN PARK: On behalf of the Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC, interim leader of the Opposition, I inform the House that I will be acting as the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly until such

time as a new Leader of the Opposition is appointed. I further inform the House that Nickola Lalich and Anna Watson will continue in the positions of Opposition Whip and Deputy Opposition Whip until further advised.

Announcements

ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The SPEAKER (11:32): I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of representatives of the Stolen Generations Council. I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Gadigal People of the Eora nation. I pay my respects again to their elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to any Aboriginal people in the room. In June 2016 General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 inquired into, and reported on, Reparations for the Stolen Generations in New South Wales. The report, *Unfinished business*, made 35 recommendations that seek to address the enduring effects of past government practices in relation to the Stolen Generations. The Government's response was developed in consultation with Stolen Generations organisations to ensure that it was properly informed and reflected survivor expectations.

The Government accepted the majority of the report's recommendations and committed that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council would acknowledge and promote Aboriginal culture and heritage at the commencement of each new Parliament. The Government response acknowledged that in New South Wales the Aborigines Welfare Board had wideranging control over the lives of Aboriginal people, including the power to remove children from their families and place them into care under a policy of assimilation. The children removed by the board suffered an enduring loss of culture and belonging, with many suffering severe abuse and neglect. Child removals had individual and widespread impacts on families and communities, and this trauma has been passed down to their descendants and continues to be felt today.

Today, as a Parliament, we again acknowledge those events. We also acknowledge the steps already taken by this Parliament in response to those events. In 1983 this Parliament enacted the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act to enable Aboriginal people to claim land and to support Aboriginal communities' social and economic development. In 1997 this Parliament was the first in Australia to formally apologise to members of the Stolen Generation, recognising the injustices of the past. In 2010 this Parliament amended the New South Wales Constitution Act to formally acknowledge and honour New South Wales Aboriginal people, their ongoing connection to their traditional lands and waters and their contribution to the identity of New South Wales. In 2017, in another Australian first, the New South Wales Parliament enacted the New South Wales Aboriginal Languages Act, recognising the importance of Aboriginal languages.

Still today we acknowledge there is more to do. As members of this Parliament we have the opportunity and the responsibility to shape our State's future, a future in which Aboriginal culture and heritage continues to thrive, strengthened and enriched with each new generation. Let us mark this historic opening of our Fifty-Seventh Parliament with a renewed commitment to support Aboriginal people in their efforts to strengthen and share their culture and heritage and to create a future that celebrates and values every person in New South Wales.

[The Speaker left the chair at 11:40. The House resumed at 12:19.]

Presiding Officers

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Presentation

The members of the Legislative Assembly proceeded at 12:20 to the Jubilee Room, there to present the Speaker to Her Excellency the Governor.

The House resumed at 14:30.

The SPEAKER: I report that today the Assembly proceeded to the Jubilee Room at Parliament House where I informed Her Excellency the Governor that immediately after the opening of Parliament the Legislative Assembly, in the exercise of members' undoubted rights, had proceeded to the election of their Speaker and that the choice had fallen upon me. I presented myself to the Governor as their Speaker, whereupon the Governor was pleased to offer me her congratulations. I then, in the name and on behalf of the House, laid claim to all members' undoubted rights and privileges, particularly to freedom of speech in debate, to free access to Her Excellency when occasion should require, and asked that on all occasions the most favourable construction should be put upon their language and proceedings, to all of which the Governor readily assented.

*Opening of Session***OPENING OF SESSION BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from Her Excellency the Governor requesting the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber.

The members of the House, having attended the Legislative Council Chamber, reassembled.

Governor

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The SPEAKER: I have to report that the House today attended the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, when Her Excellency was pleased to deliver an Opening Speech to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy of the speech, which I lay upon the table of the House and order that it be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Members

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF WOLLONDILLY**Resignation**

The SPEAKER: I advise the House of the receipt of a letter on 17 December 2018 from Jai Travers Rowell resigning his seat as member for the electoral district of Wollondilly.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF EPPING**Resignation**

The SPEAKER: I advise the House of the receipt of a letter on 22 February 2019 from Damien Francis Tudehope resigning his seat as member for the electoral district of Epping.

Presiding Officers

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH COAST**Resignation**

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that on 2 April 2019 Her Excellency the Governor received a letter from the Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock resigning from the office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Members

DEATH OF MILTON ARTHUR MORRIS, A FORMER MINISTER OF THE CROWN

The SPEAKER: It is with regret that I have to inform the House of the death of former member of the Legislative Assembly Milton Arthur Morris on 27 February 2019, a former Minister of the Crown, who served as the member for Maitland from 3 March 1956 to 29 August 1980. On behalf of the House I extend to the family the sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained. His death will be the subject of a motion of sympathy on a future day.

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

DEATH OF WILLIAM PETER COLEMAN, A FORMER MINISTER OF THE CROWN

The SPEAKER: It is with regret that I have to inform the House of the death of former member of the Legislative Assembly Peter William Coleman on 31 March 2019, a former Minister of the Crown, who served as the member for Fuller from 24 February 1968 to 12 September 1978. On behalf of the House I extend to the family the sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained. His death will be the subject of a motion of sympathy on a future day.

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

Presiding Officers

TEMPORARY SPEAKERS

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 19, I nominate the following members to act as Temporary Speakers whenever requested to do so by, or in the absence of, the Deputy Speaker and the Assistant Speaker:

Lee Justin Evans

Sonia Kathleen Hornery
Gregory Michael Piper
Gurmesh Singh
Felicity Lesley Wilson

Bills

GOVERNMENT SECTOR FINANCE LEGISLATION (REPEAL AND AMENDMENT) BILL 2018

SAINT PAUL'S COLLEGE BILL 2018

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT (ENFORCEMENT) BILL 2018

2018

CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION OF SENTENCES) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

CONVEYANCING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

COMBAT SPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 2018

RETIREMENT VILLAGES AMENDMENT BILL 2018

**BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SECURITY OF PAYMENT AMENDMENT BILL
2018**

FAIR TRADING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2018

**PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS AMENDMENT (ASBESTOS WASTE)
BILL 2018**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (CARE AND PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (WORKER CHECKS) BILL 2018

CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

CRIMES (DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

MENTAL HEALTH (FORENSIC PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT (VICTIMS) BILL 2018

VICTIMS RIGHTS AND SUPPORT AMENDMENT (MOTOR VEHICLES) BILL 2018

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO 3) 2018

CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICTIMS) BILL 2018

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

SURVEILLANCE DEVICES AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2018

**ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (NATIONAL FACIAL BIOMETRIC MATCHING
CAPABILITY) BILL 2018**

TERRORISM (POLICE POWERS) AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2018

WORKERS COMPENSATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FIREFIGHTERS) BILL 2018

COMMUNITY PROTECTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

SNOWY HYDRO CORPORATISATION AMENDMENT (SNOWY 2.0) BILL 2018

Assent

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

Governor

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages regarding the administration of the Government.

*Senate***SENATE VACANCY**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from His Excellency the former Governor regarding a vacancy in the Senate following the resignation of Senator the Hon. David Leyonhjelm on 1 March 2019.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I move:

That:

- (1) The House meet in the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold a place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator David Leyonhjelm.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council of the resolution and requesting the Legislative Council to fix a time and place for the joint sitting.

Motion agreed to.

*Governor***ASSUMPTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of the following message from Her Excellency the Governor:

MARGARET BEAZLEY
Governor

Government House
Sydney, 2 May 2019

The Honourable Margaret Joan Beazley, AO, QC, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased, by Commission under Her Royal Sign Manual and the Public Seal of the State of New South Wales, bearing date at Saint James's the tenth day of January 2019, to appoint her to be the Governor in and over the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia; and that this day she took the Oath of Allegiance and the official Judicial Oath before the Honourable Thomas Bathurst, AC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and assumed the administration of the Government of the State accordingly.

*Documents***FORESTRY AGREEMENTS AND INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVALS****Revocation**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 69H of the Forestry Act 2012, I announce receipt of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval for the Coastal Region accompanied by a Statement of Reasons regarding the revocation of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals for the Upper North East, Lower North East, Southern and Eden Regions, received out of session on 22 November 2018 and authorised to be made public this day.

INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 16 of the Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2012, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of Custodial Services entitled "Use of force, separation, segregation and confinement in NSW juvenile justice centres", dated November 2018, received out of session on 23 November 2018. I order that the report be printed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 142 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the reports of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled "Operation Carlow", dated January 2019 and "Operation Ramberg", dated January 2019, received out of session on 16 January 2019. I order that the reports be printed.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 78 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, I announce receipt of the report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled "Investigation into the conduct of a Department of Finance, Services and Innovation ICT Project Manager", dated January 2019, received out of session on 16 January 2019. I order that the report be printed.

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the Government Information (Information Commissioner) Act 2009, I announce receipt of the report of the Information and Privacy Commission entitled "Report on the Operation of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009: 2017-2018", received out of session on 28 February 2019. I order that the report be printed.

NSW OMBUDSMAN**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled "Oversight of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, Annual Report 2017-2018", dated 28 February 2019, received out of session on 28 February 2019. I order that the report be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS ADVISER**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with clause 6 of the resolution of the House relating to the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser, I table:

Copy of correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser enclosing advice provided to the Honourable Pru Goward, former Minister, dated 12 April 2019.

Copy of correspondence from the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser enclosing advice provided to the Honourable Troy Grant, former Minister, dated 12 April 2019.

VARIATIONS OF RECEIPTS AND PAUMENTS ETIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS 2018-19**Tabling**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of:

Variations of the Payments Estimates and Appropriations for 2018-19 under section 24 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, flowing from the transfer of functions from the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation to the Department of Planning and Environment; and from the Department of Planning and Environment to the Department of Premier and to the Cabinet to the Department of Industry, dated 20 November 2018, received out of session on 27 November 2018 and authorised to be printed.

Variations of the Payments Estimates and Appropriations for 2018-19 under section 24 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, flowing from the transfer of functions from the Crown Finance Entity to the Department of Premier and Cabinet; and from the Department of Industry to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, dated 12 February 2019, received out of session on 22 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.

Variations of the Payments Estimates and Appropriations for 2018-19 under section 24 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, flowing from the transfer of functions from the Crown Finance Entity to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, dated 21 February 2019, received out of session on 22 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.

Variations of the Receipts and Payments Estimates and Appropriations for 2018-19 under section 26 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, arising from the provisions by the Commonwealth of Specific Purpose Payments in excess of the amounts included in the State's receipts and payments estimates—Ministry of Health, the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Industry, and the Department of Planning and Environment, dated 21 February 2019, received out of session on 22 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.

The CLERK: In accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following reports of the Auditor-General:

- (1) Financial Audit Report entitled "Transport 2018", dated 28 November 2018, received out of session on 28 November 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Financial Audit Report entitled "Central Agencies 2018", dated 29 November 2018, received out of session on 29 November 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (3) Financial Audit Report entitled "Family and Community Services 2018", dated 4 December 2018, received out of session on 4 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (4) Financial Audit Report entitled "Industry 2018", dated 11 December 2018, received out of session on 11 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (5) Performance Audit Report entitled "Unsolicited proposal process for the lease of Ausgrid", dated 11 December 2018, received out of session on 11 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (6) Performance Audit Report entitled "Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Program", dated 12 December 2018, received out of session on 12 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.

- (7) Financial Audit Report entitled "Health 2018", dated 12 December 2018, received out of session on 12 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (8) Financial Audit Report entitled "Planning and Environment 2018", dated 13 December 2018, received out of session on 13 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (9) Performance Audit Report entitled "Government Advertising 2017-2018", dated 18 December 2018, received out of session on 18 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (10) Performance Audit Report entitled "Property Asset Utilisation", dated 18 December 2018, received out of session on 18 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (11) Financial Audit Report entitled "Education 2018", dated 19 December 2018, received out of session on 19 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.
- (12) Performance Audit Report entitled "Supply of secondary teachers in STEM-related disciplines", dated 29 January 2019, received out of session on 29 January 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (13) Performance Audit Report entitled "Transport Access Program", dated 19 February 2019, received out of session on 19 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (14) Special Report entitled "Compliance of expenditure with section 12A of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, Law Enforcement Conduct Commission", dated 21 February 2019, received out of session on 21 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (15) Performance Audit Report entitled "Firearms regulation", dated 28 February 2019, received out of session on 28 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (16) Report entitled "Report on Local Government 2018", dated 28 February 2019, received out of session on 28 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (17) Special Report entitled "Members' Additional Entitlements 2018", dated 28 February 2019, received out of session on 28 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (18) Performance Audit Report entitled "Governance of Local Health Districts", dated 18 April 2019, received out of session on 18 April 2019 and authorised to be printed.
- (19) Performance Audit Report entitled "Workforce reform in three amalgamated councils", dated 1 May 2019, received out of session on 1 May 2019 and authorised to be printed.

Committees

COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 3/56 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled "Inquiry into Zonal Taxation—Final Report", received out of session on 30 November 2018 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 4/56 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled "Support for Start-ups in Regional New South Wales", received out of session on 25 January 2019 and authorised to be printed.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 7/56 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Examination of the Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports February 2016—September 2016", received out of session on 18 December 2018 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION AND THE CRIME COMMISSION

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 4/56 of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission entitled "2018 Review of the Annual Reports of oversight bodies", received out of session on 24 January 2019 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Further Government Response to Report 3/56 of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "2017 Review of the Annual Reports of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Children's Guardian", received out of session on 14 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 5/56 of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "Prevention of Youth Suicide in New South Wales", received out of session on 15 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION**Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 3/56 of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission entitled "Review of the Health Care Complaints Commission Annual Report 2016/17", received out of session on 27 February 2019 and authorised to be printed.

*Business of the House***DAYS OF MEETING**

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I move:

That unless otherwise ordered, the House meet during the 2019 autumn and spring sittings as follows:

Autumn Sittings: May 8, 9, 28, 29, 30; June 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 20.

Spring Sittings: July 30, 31; August 1, 6, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22; September 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26; October 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24; November 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and November 26, 27, 28 as a potential reserve week.

Motion agreed to.

SESSIONAL ORDERS

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: By leave: I move:

That the following sessional orders be now adopted:

BELLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 35 shall read as follows:

35. The timing for bells is as follows:

Tuesdays

Bells are rung at 11.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 11.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.

Wednesdays

Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.

Thursdays

Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.

After lunch

Bells are rung at 2.00 p.m. for 20 seconds and at 2.13 p.m. for 60 seconds.

Division

First bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; second bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; third bell 20 seconds. The doors are locked four minutes after the bells are first rung.

Quorum

One long continuous bell (for up to four minutes until a quorum is present in the Chamber).

House adjournment

Two short bells.

One long bell

A continuous bell rung at the discretion of the Chair.

RESTRICTION ON QUORUM CALLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 45 shall read as follows:

45. Members shall not be permitted to call attention to the want of a quorum:

- (1) During Private Members' Statements or Community Recognition Statements;
- (2) During Matters of Public Importance or the Discussion on a Petition signed by 10,000 or more persons;
- (3) During the establishment of and debate on a Motion Accorded Priority;
- (4) During the take note debate on reports from committees; or
- (5) Before 10.30 a.m. on any sitting day, other than Thursday when a quorum call cannot be made before 10.10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT MOTION AND NEXT MEETING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 46 shall read as follows:

46. Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements.

INAUGURAL OR VALEDICTORY SPEECH

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 63 shall read as follows:

63.

- (1) A motion may be moved without notice, amendment or debate for the business to be interrupted at a specified time (but not so as to interrupt a Member speaking) to permit a Member to make an inaugural speech or a valedictory speech without a question being before the House. Any interrupted business shall be resumed on the completion of the speech.
- (2) The time limit for inaugural speeches or valedictory speeches will be 20 minutes.

REPLY

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 66 shall read as follows:

66. A Member may speak in reply if the Member has moved:

- (1) a substantive motion or
- (2) a motion "**That this bill be now read a second time**" or
- (3) a motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**".

MATTERS NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE NOR AMENDMENT

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 80 shall read as follows:

80. The following matters are not open to debate nor amendment:

- (1) Adjournment of debate.
- (2) Adjournment of the House.
- (3) Extension of time.
- (4) Leave of the House.
- (5) Motion that a Member be suspended.
- (6) Motion that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council.
- (7) Motion that leave of absence be granted.
- (8) To withdraw or postpone an order of the day.
- (9) Personal explanation.
- (10) "That inspection of the paper be restricted to Members only and that no copies or extracts thereof be permitted".
- (11) "That visitors be ordered to withdraw".
- (12) "That the bill be considered an urgent bill".
- (13) "That this bill be read at a later time".
- (14) "That the Order of the Day be discharged and the bill be withdrawn".
- (15) "That the Committee report be printed".
- (16) "That the Member for ... be further heard".
- (17) "That the Member for ... be not further heard".
- (18) "That the Member for ... be now heard".
- (19) "That the petition not be received".

- (20) "That the question be put as separate questions".
- (21) "That the question be now put".
- (22) "That the question be not now put".
- (23) "That the Member's speaking time be extended".
- (24) Motion to permit a Member to make an inaugural speech.

MAXIMUM TIME LIMITS FOR DEBATES AND SPEECHES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 85 be amended in part as follows:

Bills (SO 188-239)

Second Reading:

(i) Introduced by a Minister

Mover	- unspecified
Leader of the Opposition or one Member deputed, next speaking	- unspecified
Any other Member	- 10 minutes†
Reply	- unspecified

(ii) Appropriation Bill

Mover	- unspecified
Party Leaders	- unspecified
Any other Member	- 15 minutes†
Reply	- unspecified

(iii) Introduced by a Private Member

Mover	- unspecified
Premier or one Minister deputed	- unspecified
Leader of the Opposition or one Member deputed	- unspecified
Any other Member	- 10 minutes†
Reply	- unspecified

Bill be now read a third time after consideration in detail (SO 217)

All Members	- 10 minutes†
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Committee, reports from – take note debate (SO 306)

Chair or Member tabling the Report	- 6 minutes
Any other Member	- 4 minutes

(Question being put after 22 minutes)

Community Recognition Statements (SO 108A)

Member making statement	- 1 minute each.
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Consideration in detail of a bill or other matter (SO 240-242)

Minister	- unspecified number of periods limited to 15 minutes each;
Leader of the Opposition or one Member deputed	- unspecified number of periods limited to 15 minutes each;
Any other Member	- three periods each on any one question not exceeding 5 minutes each.

Motion Accorded Priority (SO 109)

Statement establishing priority	- 3 minutes
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Debate:

Mover	- 5 minutes
Member next speaking	- 5 minutes

Two other Members	- 3 minutes each
Reply	- 3 minutes

General Business notices of motions or orders of the day (not for bills) (SO 107)

In each debate:

Mover	- 7 minutes
Member next speaking	- 7 minutes
Four Members	- 4 minutes each
Reply	- 4 minutes

Inaugural Speech or Valedictory Speech (SO 63)

Member making inaugural or valedictory speech	- 20 minutes
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Matters of Public Importance (SO 110)

Mover	- 5 minutes
Member next speaking	- 5 minutes
One other Member	- 3 minutes
Reply	- 3 minutes

Petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons (SO 125A)

First speaker	- 5 minutes
Member next speaking	- 5 minutes
Two other Members	- 3 minutes each
Total	- 16 minutes

Private Members' Statements (SO 108)

Member making statement	- 5 minutes
Replies by Ministers	- 1 minute

Re-ordering General Business (SO 106)

Member in charge of the bill or notice of motion	- 3 minutes
One other Member	- 3 minutes

† A Member may request and the Speaker shall put, without debate or amendment, a question that the Member be allowed to continue that speech for a further period of up to 5 minutes.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DEBATE (GUILLOTINE)

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 90 shall read as follows:

90. The Premier, or a Minister acting on the Premier's behalf, may at any time state in the House the intention of the Government to deal with any business to a certain stage at a specified time at the next or a subsequent sitting.

Written notification must subsequently be given to the Speaker and the Party Leaders and the notice shall be published in the Business Paper.

To give effect to the notification a Member shall move at the specified time on the date given or at a later time at the same sitting the motion "That the question be now put".

The carrying of this question is an instruction to the Speaker to put to the vote every question necessary to give effect to the notification. No further debate, amendment or reply is permitted.

After the carrying of the closure, the Speaker shall put to the vote any amendments proposed by a Minister provided that the amendments were lodged with the Clerk and printed and circulated by the Clerk at least 2 hours before the specified time.

The closure may not be moved on any question contained in a notification of allocation of time under this Standing Order.

If the closure under this Standing Order is agreed to during the second reading stage and there have been no Minister's amendments circulated, the Speaker shall forthwith put to the vote the third reading of the Bill.

PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT SUDDENLY ARISING IN THE HOUSE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 91 shall read as follows:

91.

- (1) A Member may rise on a matter of contempt or a breach of privilege suddenly arising relating to the proceedings then before the House. In order to move a substantive motion immediately or to request the Speaker to have a notice placed on the Business Paper with precedence, the Member must satisfy the Speaker that:
 - (a) the matter is one suddenly arising, relating to a matter then before the House which should be dealt with at the earliest opportunity;
 - (b) there is a prima facie case; and
 - (c) the Member has prepared a notice of motion.
- (2) When a matter of contempt or a breach of privilege suddenly arising relating to the proceedings then before the House is raised, the business before the House is suspended until the Speaker:
 - (a) determines that there is no matter of contempt or breach of privilege; or
 - (b) defers the matter and either continues or adjourns the business under consideration; or
 - (c) determines that a prima facie case exists and allows a notice of motion to be moved forthwith or to have precedence for the next sitting; or
 - (d) takes some other form of action.
- (3) The maximum time available to a Member to satisfy the Speaker in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Standing Order is 10 minutes. The Speaker may determine the matter prior to the expiration of the 10 minutes.
- (4) If the Speaker determines that a prima facie case exists the Member must move a motion seeking either:
 - (a) the declaration of the House that a contempt or breach of privilege has occurred; or
 - (b) the referral of the matter by the House to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics for consideration.

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE NOT SUDDENLY ARISING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 92 shall read as follows:

92. Except as provided in Standing Order 91 and in paragraph (5) of this Standing Order, a matter of privilege or contempt shall be brought before the House as follows:

- (1) A Member desiring to raise a matter of privilege or contempt must inform the Speaker of the details in writing.
- (2) The Speaker must consider the matter within 14 days and decide whether a motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics (the Committee) is to take precedence under the Standing Orders. The Speaker must notify this decision in writing to the Member.
- (3) While a matter is being considered by the Speaker, a Member must not take any action or refer to the matter in the House.
- (4) If the Speaker decides that a motion for referral should take precedence, the Member may, at any time when there is no business before the House, give notice of a motion to refer the matter to the Committee. The notice must take precedence under Standing Order 118 on the next sitting day.
- (5) If the Speaker decides that the matter should not be the subject of a notice of referral, a Member is not prevented from giving a notice of motion in relation to the matter. Such notice shall not have precedence.
- (6) If notice of a motion is given under paragraph (4), but the House is not expected to meet on the day following the giving of the notice, with the leave of the House, the motion may be moved at a later hour of the sitting at which the notice is given.

ROUTINE OF BUSINESS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 97 shall read as follows:

97. The House shall conduct its business in the following routine:

Tuesdays

1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Private Members' Statements up to 1.15 p.m.
4. Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair
5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
6. Ministerial Statements
7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)
8. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority
9. Question Time
10. Ministerial Statements

11. Papers
12. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements
13. Petitions
14. Placing or Disposal of Business
15. Motion Accorded Priority
16. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any
17. Government Business
18. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

Wednesdays

1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Government Business up to 1.15 p.m.
4. Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair
5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
6. Ministerial Statements
7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, and General Business Notices of Motion to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)
8. Giving of Notices of Motion to be Accorded Priority
9. Question Time
10. Ministerial Statements
11. Papers
12. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements
13. Petitions
14. Placing or Disposal of Business
15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)
16. Motion Accorded Priority
17. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any
18. Government Business
19. Matter of Public Importance
20. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

Thursdays

1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Government Business for up to 30 minutes
4. General Business Notices of Motions for Bills for up to 20 minutes
5. General Business Orders of the Day for Bills for up to 60 minutes
6. General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills) up to 1.30 p.m., then the Speaker leaves the Chair
7. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
8. Ministerial Statements
9. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)
10. Question Time
11. Ministerial Statements
12. Papers
13. Committees – Tabling of reports and announcements
14. Petitions
15. Placing or Disposal of Business

16. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any
17. Committee Reports – Take note debates for a period of up to 30 minutes
18. Matter of Public Importance
19. Community Recognition Statements
20. At 4.30 p.m., Business of the House – Petitions
21. Community Recognition Statements (if not completed)
22. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

FRIDAY SITTINGS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 98 shall be suspended.

GENERAL BUSINESS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 105 shall read as follows:

105.

- (1) General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day shall retain their relative places on the Business Paper and be considered in the order in which they are given or set down.
- (2) General Business interrupted by the operation of the Routine of Business shall stand adjourned and be set down as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of all other notices and orders, except any General Business Order of the Day or Notice of Motion accorded precedence for that day in accordance with Standing Order 106.
- (3) General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day not commenced or completed 6 months from the date given shall lapse.

RE-ORDERING GENERAL BUSINESS ORDERS OF THE DAY (FOR BILLS) AND GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICES OF MOTIONS (GENERAL NOTICES)

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 106 shall read as follows:

106. At the re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) in the Routine of Business:

- (1) Any two Private Members may move to re-order an order of the day for a bill of which they have carriage, to give precedence to the resumption of the debate over other orders of the day listed for the following sitting day.
- (2) Any two Private Members may move to re-order a general business notice of motion standing in their name, to give the notice precedence over other notices on the following sitting day.
- (3) The carrying of one motion in (1) or (2) above prevents another Member moving a subsequent motion.
- (4) On a motion for re-ordering, the Member in charge of the bill or notice of motion shall be permitted to make a statement of up to 3 minutes and one other Member may reply for up to 3 minutes.

DEBATE ON GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICES OF MOTIONS OR ORDERS OF THE DAY (NOT BEING BILLS)

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 107 shall read as follows:

107.

- (1) At the time listed in the Routine of Business, the House will consider General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills).
- (2) In each debate the following time limits shall apply:

Mover	- 7 minutes
Member next speaking	- 7 minutes
Four Members	- 4 minutes each
Reply	- 4 minutes.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 108 shall read as follows:

108. The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.
- (2) Up to 75 Private Members' Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.
- (3) Private Members' Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.
- (4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members' Statements.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following Sessional Order be adopted:

108A. The procedure for Community Recognition Statements is as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker will ask if there are any Community Recognition Statements.
- (2) Members may make Community Recognition Statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 30 minutes.
- (3) Members may not give consecutive Community Recognition Statements.
- (4) Community Recognition Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.
- (5) Community Recognition Statements must not contain:
 - (a) Matters of policy;
 - (b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or
 - (c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.
- (6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Community Recognition Statements.

MOTIONS ACCORDED PRIORITY

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 109 shall read as follows:

109. The procedure for consideration of Motions Accorded Priority shall be as follows:

- (1) Prior to Question Time on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Speaker shall ask if there are any written notices of motions to be accorded priority over the other business of the House.
- (2) No more than two notices shall be accepted at any one sitting of the House.
- (3) The notices shall be set down for consideration later in the sitting in accordance with the Routine of Business.
- (4)
 - (a) The Members giving the notices shall each be permitted to make statements of up to 3 minutes as to why their notice should be accorded priority. No points of order regarding the scope or substance of the notice, or a quorum call will be entertained during the 3 minutes provided for the statement.
 - (b) At the conclusion of the 3 minute statements the Speaker shall put the question on the first notice **"That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority"**.
 - (c) If the motion to accord priority is carried the Member may proceed to move their motion.
 - (d) If the first motion to accord priority is not carried, the Speaker will then put the question on the second motion **"That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority"**.
- (5) When the motion for priority is determined and the motion is moved, the following time limits shall apply:

Mover – 5 minutes

Member next speaking – 5 minutes

Two other Members – 3 minutes

Reply – 3 minutes

Total – 19 minutes
- (6) No quorum call will be permitted during the time set aside for a Motion Accorded Priority.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 110 shall read as follows:

110. The procedure for Matters of Public Importance within the daily Routine of Business, is as follows:

- (1) The matter, which must be definite, shall be handed in writing to the Speaker no later than 12.00 noon and immediately published.
- (2) The Speaker shall determine whether the matter is in order. In the event that more than one matter is submitted, the Speaker shall determine which matter is of the greatest public importance.
- (3) There shall be no dissent from the ruling of the Speaker in relation to the operation of this Standing Order.
- (4) At least 30 minutes prior to the time for Question Time –
 - (a) The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the responsible Minister in the House, Members submitting matters and the Independent Members shall be informed in writing of the matter determined by the Speaker to be discussed.
 - (b) The Speaker, by placing a notice on notice boards, shall inform Members of the matter.

- (5) As provided in the Routine of Business the Speaker shall call the Member concerned to proceed with the matter. The matter cannot be amended.
- (6) The following time limits shall apply:

Member submitting matter	- 5 minutes
Member next speaking	- 5 minutes
One other Member	- 3 minutes
Reply	- 3 minutes
Total	- 16 minutes
- (7) At the conclusion of the discussion no question shall be put.
- (8) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Matters of Public Importance.

PETITIONS – PROCEDURE FOR LODGEMENT AND PRESENTATION

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 123 shall read as follows:

123. The procedure for the lodging and presentation of a petition is as follows:

- (1) The Member must be acquainted with the contents of the petition.
- (2) The Member must ensure that the petition is in conformity with the Standing Orders.
- (3) The Member must sign the front sheet and, if applicable, certify that the petition has been signed by 500 or more persons.
- (4) The petition may be lodged for presentation with the Clerk.
- (5) In the House the Clerk shall announce that petitions have been received.
- (6) The terms of the petition presented shall be printed in Hansard and in the Votes and Proceedings.
- (7) No discussion upon the subject matter of a petition shall be allowed, except in accordance with Standing Order 125A or by way of substantive motion.

PETITIONS DEEMED TO HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 124 shall read as follows:

124. Petitions shall be deemed to be received by the House unless a motion, moved on the next sitting day, is agreed to, without debate or amendment, that a petition be not received.

DISCUSSION ON PETITIONS SIGNED BY 10,000 OR MORE PERSONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following Sessional Order be adopted:

125A.

- (1) The subject matter of every petition received by the House and certified by a Member and announced by the Speaker as having been signed by 10,000 or more persons, shall be automatically set down as an Order of the Day for discussion on a future day.
- (2) The Order of the Day shall take place at 4.30 p.m. on the Thursday of the next sitting week.
- (3) Any further petitions received before the first Order of the Day is disposed of shall be set down on succeeding Thursdays in the order in which they are presented.
- (4) The following time limits shall apply:

First speaker	- 5 minutes
Member next speaking	- 5 minutes
Two other Members	- 3 minutes each
Total	- 16 minutes
- (5) If a Member does not seek the call when the Order of the Day is called on, the Order of the Day will lapse.
- (6) The Order of the Day cannot be amended and at the conclusion of the discussion no question shall be put.
- (7) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during discussion of the Order of the Day.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 132 shall read as follows:

132. The procedure for written questions is as follows:

- (1) Questions shall be handed to one of the Clerks-at-the-Table or lodged in the Table Office by 12.00 noon on a sitting day for publication in the next sitting day's paper.
- (2) A question containing argument, unbecoming expressions or otherwise not conforming with the practice of the House may:

- (a) Under the authority of the Speaker, be amended by the Clerk or divided if it contains matters that are not relevant to each other.
- (b) Be ordered not to be printed by the Speaker or removed from the Questions and Answers Paper.
- (3) The number of questions able to be lodged over one sitting week are:
 - (a) Members – Nine questions per sitting week;
 - (b) Leader of the Opposition – Twelve questions per sitting week.
- (4) Ministers shall lodge answers to written questions within 35 calendar days after the question is first published. On sitting days answers must be submitted by 12.00 noon on the due date, to be published in the next sitting day's paper. Any answers lodged after this time will be published at a subsequent time. Answers must be signed and lodged in hard copy and also electronically.
- (5) If an answer to a written question is not received within 35 calendar days the Speaker, at the next sitting day after the expiry date, shall forthwith inform the House and the Minister shall immediately explain to the House the reason for non-compliance.
- (6) If the Minister, after explanation in the House, has not submitted an answer within 3 sitting days the Speaker shall again inform the House and the Minister shall again be called to explain. The Minister will continue to be called each sitting day until a written answer is submitted.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 133 shall read as follows:

133.

- (1) A notice of motion for:
 - (a) A bill;
 - (b) Government Business;
 - (c) No confidence in the Government, Minister or Speaker, or censure of Member or Speaker;
 - (d) Business with precedence (SO 118) with the exception of motions of condolence and the printing of papers; and
 - (e) A General Notice to be the subject of a motion for re-ordering must be given verbally at the time prescribed in the Routine of Business.
- (2) General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices):
 - (a) May only be given when called for at the time prescribed in the Routine of Business each day;
 - (b) The period for giving General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) is limited to a maximum of 10 minutes. The Speaker has discretion to allow the giving of notices to exceed this 10 minutes period.

POSTPONEMENT OR WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICES OF MOTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 141 shall read as follows:

141.

- (1) A notice of motion shall be postponed or withdrawn at the direction of the Member who gave the notice, or by another Member with the written authority of that Member, during the placing or disposal of business or when called on.
- (2) On any day when General Business is being considered by the House the Speaker has discretion to postpone any notice of motion if the Member is absent from the Chamber.

PREVIOUS QUESTION

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Orders 149 and 150 shall be suspended.

RESTRICTION ON DIVISIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 187 shall read as follows:

187. The House shall not conduct a division on any question before 10.30 a.m. on days when the House meets at an earlier time, or before 10.10 a.m. on Thursday, during Private Members' Statements, Community Recognition Statements, Matters of Public Importance, or the discussion on a petition signed by 10,000 or more persons. If a division is called prior to 10.30 a.m. on such days, the division shall be deferred and conducted at 10.30 a.m. and any business then before the House shall be interrupted and recommenced after the division(s).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 188 shall read as follows:

188. The procedure for the introduction and the passage of a bill up to the mover's second reading speech is as follows:

- (1) The title of a bill must agree with the notice of intention to present it, and every clause must come within the title. It shall not be necessary to specify in the long title every Act which it is proposed to amend.

- (2) A notice of motion shall be given: **"I give notice of motion to introduce the [short title of the bill]"**. It is sufficient for the mover to read the short title.
- (3) The motion to introduce the bill may be moved on the same day notice is given and shall include the long title.
- (4) The question **"That this bill be now introduced"** shall be put without debate or amendment and the bill shall be taken as read a first time without question put.
- (5) The bill as introduced shall correspond with the notice of motion.
- (6) Three copies of the bill shall be handed to the Clerk.
- (7) The bill shall be printed, with an explanatory note if applicable, without motion put.
- (8) The motion **"That this bill be now read a second time"** may be moved forthwith or set down for a later time.
- (9) Immediately following the mover's second reading speech the debate shall be adjourned.
- (10) The mover shall ask the Speaker to fix the resumption of the debate as an Order of the Day for a future day which shall be at least five clear days ahead.
- (11) On the reading of the Order of the Day a motion may be moved **"That this bill be now read a second time"**, or **"That the order be postponed"** or, on a motion without notice, **"That the order be discharged and the bill be withdrawn"**.

PROCEDURE FOR URGENT BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 189 shall read as follows:

189. The procedure for the consideration of a bill as an urgent bill is as follows:

- (1) Sufficient copies being available to Members, the Member in charge of the bill, after making a second reading speech, may declare a bill to be an urgent bill.
- (2) The question **"That the bill be considered an urgent bill"** is put forthwith, no debate or amendment being allowed.
- (3) If agreed to, the second reading debate and other stages may be proceeded with forthwith or at any time during that or any future sitting of the House.

COGNATE BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 193 shall read as follows:

193. The procedure for two or more bills to be dealt with as cognate bills is as follows:

- (1) The notice of motion for the bills shall state that the bills are cognate.
- (2) One motion may be moved and one question put in regard to, respectively, the introduction, the second reading, the consideration in detail stage and the third reading of the bills together.
- (3) The bills may be considered together in detail.

SECOND AND THIRD READING OF COGNATE BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 194 shall read as follows:

194. An amendment may be moved to a question on the second or third reading of cognate bills to leave out one or more of the bills from the question.

SEPARATE QUESTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 195 shall read as follows:

195. In respect of cognate bills, a Member may move a motion for the question to be put on the second or third reading of cognate bills as separate questions.

AMENDMENT – REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 198 shall read as follows:

198. Amendments may be moved to the question "That this bill be now read a second time" to leave out all words after the word "That" and adding words to refer the bill to a committee (as specified).

DISPOSAL OF BILL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 199 shall read as follows:

199. An amendment may be moved to the question "That this bill be now read a second time" to leave out all words after "That" and adding "this bill be disposed of". No amendment may be moved to this amendment.

AMENDMENT – DEFERRAL OF QUESTION

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 200 shall read as follows:

200. An amendment may be moved to the question "That this bill be now read a second time" to leave out the word "now" and adding a later time.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF SECOND BILL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 202 shall read as follows:

202. An Order of the Day for the second reading (or any subsequent stage of a bill) having been discharged and the bill withdrawn, the House may direct on motion for another bill to be brought in.

PROCEEDINGS AFTER THE SECOND READING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 203 shall read as follows:

203. After the second reading, the Member in charge of the bill shall move forthwith, without debate or amendment, **"That this bill be now read a third time"** unless:

- (1) A Member requests consideration of the bill in detail; or
- (2) The Member in charge of the Bill:
 - (a) moves a motion for consideration in detail pro forma; or
 - (b) requests the Speaker to set down consideration of the bill in detail as an Order of the Day for a later time.

PRO FORMA CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 204 shall read as follows:

204. The procedure for dealing with a pro forma consideration in detail is as follows:

- (1) After the second reading, the Member in charge of the bill shall move **"That the House consider the bill in detail pro forma"**. The question shall be put without amendment or debate.
- (2) The proposed amendments, which have been previously printed, shall be put in one question, without amendment or debate, **"That the amendments as printed be inserted in the bill"**.
- (3) If the motion is agreed to the bill shall be reprinted in its amended form, set down for reconsideration and, on reconsideration, be dealt with as if considered for the first time.
- (4) If the question for the pro forma consideration, or for the inclusion of the amendments is negatived, the bill shall be proceeded with in consideration in detail in the usual manner.

RECONSIDERATION IN WHOLE OR PART

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 217 shall read as follows:

217. After consideration in detail a bill may be reconsidered in whole or in part by amendment to the motion **"That this bill be now read a third time"**.

BILL PASSES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 218 shall read as follows:

218. After the third reading no further question shall be put, and the bill shall have passed the House.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 220 shall read as follows:

220. A bill having been read a third time, the Clerk shall certify, at the top of the first page **"That this public [or private] bill, originated in the Legislative Assembly and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Council for its concurrence."**

PROCEDURE IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR COUNCIL BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 229 shall read as follows:

229.

- (1) When the message from the Council forwarding a bill for concurrence is reported, the bill shall be introduced and read a first time without motion put.
- (2) A message forwarding a private Member's public bill or a private bill from the Council cannot be reported until the Speaker is advised which Member of the Assembly will have carriage of the bill. Once reported the bill will be set down as an Order of the Day.
- (3) A motion **"That this bill be now read a second time"** may be moved forthwith or made an Order of the Day for a later time. Except in the case of a private Member's bill which can only be moved when it is called on in accordance with the Routine of Business.
- (4) A truncated second reading speech may be given if the bill is received in the same form as introduced into the Council.
- (5) Immediately following the mover's second reading speech, the debate may be adjourned or proceeded with forthwith.
- (6) If adjourned, the resumption of the debate shall be set down as an Order of the Day for a later time.
- (7) The bill shall then be proceeded with in the same manner as a bill originating in the Assembly.

PROCEEDINGS AFTER CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 238 shall read as follows:

238. After consideration in detail, the Member in charge of the bill may:

- (1) Request the Speaker to set down the motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**" as an order of the day for a later time; or
- (2) Move the motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**" forthwith.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 246 shall read as follows:

246.

- (1) On a motion of a Minister, during the second reading debate on the Appropriation Bill, the House may appoint Estimates Committees.
- (2) The Estimates Committees shall examine and report on proposed expenditures from the Consolidated Fund for each organisational unit for each Minister listed in the Tabled Estimates, and the corresponding clauses and schedules in the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill which shall stand referred to the appropriate committee.
- (3) The report of each Estimates Committee shall state whether the votes of each organisational unit in the Estimates and the corresponding clauses and schedules in the Appropriation Bill are recommended or otherwise. The failure of an Estimates Committee to report on any part of the votes shall be deemed to be a report recommending the proposed expenditure.
- (4) The Chair of each Committee or a Member deputed by the Chair shall, after the committee has concluded its deliberations and after the question on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill has been agreed to, present the Committee's report to the Speaker in the House. The Speaker shall set down consideration of the reports in detail with the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill respectively as an Order of the Day.
- (5) Consideration of a report in detail shall be deemed to be consideration of those clauses and schedules of the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill referred to that Estimates Committee.
- (6) When considering a report in detail:
 - (a) The Speaker shall put the question in respect of each Committee report, "That the report of the (name of the Committee) be adopted".
 - (b) A Member may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes and the Minister in reply may speak for a maximum of 15 minutes on each of the questions.
 - (c) Those clauses and schedules of the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill not referred to an Estimates Committee shall be considered as one question, "That the remaining clauses and schedules of the Bill be agreed to".

MEMBER REMOVED FROM THE CHAMBER

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following Sessional Order be adopted:

249A. The Speaker may direct a Member who is grossly disorderly to leave the Chamber for up to three hours. The direction shall not be open to debate or dissent.

SUBSTITUTE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following Sessional order be adopted:

- (1) Where a Member of a Portfolio or a Specialist Standing Committee finds they are unable to continue to sit on the Committee temporarily they may stand down for a period of time, or for a particular inquiry, and a Member may be appointed by the House as their substitute for the period concerned.
- (2) If the House is not sitting, the Member unable to attend a meeting of the Committee may, in writing to the Chair of the Committee, nominate a Member to act as a substitute Member at that meeting.
- (3) If the Member is incapacitated or unavailable, a letter to the Chair of the Committee nominating a Member to act as a substitute Member of the Committee may be signed on behalf of the Member by the office holders responsible for nominating Members to the Committee.
- (4) The substitute Member has all the rights of a Committee Member, including to participate in all Committee proceedings and to vote on any question before the Committee.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 282 shall read as follows:

282.

- (1) At the first meeting of a committee, or if a vacancy occurs, a Chair and Deputy Chair shall be elected.
- (2) The Speaker, upon being advised, shall report the appointments of a committee Chair and a Deputy Chair to the House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, TABLING IN THE HOUSE AND DEBATE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 306 shall read as follows:

306.

- (1) The report and associated documents of any committee (not being a legislation committee or the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee) shall be presented at the time provided in the Routine of Business, or at any other time with the leave of the House.
- (2) The Member presenting the report may move **"That the document be printed"**. This question shall be decided without debate or amendment.
- (3) Reports from committees (not being reports of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee) shall stand in the order in which they are presented (or reported by the Clerk when received during an adjournment) as Orders of the Day **"That the House take note of the Report"**.
- (4) Such Orders of the Day may be considered at the time allocated in the Routine of Business on Thursday for a period of up to 30 minutes. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.
- (5) Debate on an Order of the Day may be adjourned and the resumption of the debate set down as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.
- (6) When the Order of the Day is called on and not proceeded with, consideration of the report shall be postponed until the next Thursday sitting when reports are considered. If the Order of the Day is called on at that subsequent sitting and is not proceeded with, the question shall be put.
- (7) If a committee has more than one report on the Business Paper, the Chair or Member who tabled the report may move a motion without notice, amendment or debate to facilitate the consideration of two or more of the committee's reports together.
- (8) The Member tabling the report may speak for up to 6 minutes and any other Member may speak for up to 4 minutes to the question **"That the House take note of the Report"** with the question being put after 22 minutes. No reply is permitted.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 323 shall read as follows:

323.

- (1) Immediately after a motion for a bill to be read a second time has been agreed to, any Member may move without notice **"That the (name of the bill) be referred to a legislation committee for consideration and report"**.
- (2) A legislation committee shall consider and report to the House on amendments to the clauses and schedules of the bill which it considers could be proposed for consideration in detail, together with a schedule of amendments which should be proposed.
- (3) A committee shall have a maximum of six Members – three shall be Members representing the Government and three shall be non-Government Members.
- (4) The Chair and Deputy Chair shall be elected by the committee and shall be Government Members.
- (5) A quorum shall be four Members.
- (6) The Chair shall exercise a deliberative vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, a casting vote.
- (7) A committee may meet during the sittings or any adjournment of the House and shall have power to take evidence and call for persons, papers, exhibits and things and to report from time to time.
- (8) In all other respects a committee shall be conducted in accordance with the general provisions relating to committees.
- (9) A committee shall not travel.
- (10) The Minister having portfolio responsibility for the bill shall provide the committee with such drafting and support services as requested by the committee.
- (11) A committee shall table its final report no later than 6 months from the date of the committee's establishment.
- (12) When the Chair tables the final report of a committee the Speaker shall set down its consideration in detail as an Order of the Day with the bill.
- (13) If the House is not sitting at the time of report the Chair shall forward such report to the Clerk for report at the next sitting of the House.

PRIVATE BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 358 shall read as follows:

358. The procedure for the passage of a private bill on petition is as follows:

- (1) At least 3 months prior to the presentation of the petition, a notice of intention to introduce a bill containing a true statement of the general objects of the bill shall be published once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in the Government Gazette, in at least one major newspaper published in Sydney and in the district affected by the bill.
- (2) The petition, with a printed copy of the proposed bill attached and signed by one or more of the parties applying for the bill shall be presented and received by the House.
- (3) The petition must contain:
 - (a) proof of the publication of the notice in the Government Gazette and the newspapers.

- (b) a true statement of the general objects of the bill.
- (c) a request to introduce the bill.
- (4) When the petition has been received, notice of motion for the introduction of the bill shall be given, and such bill shall be brought in within 30 days.
- (5) The motion for the introduction of the bill cannot be objected to and the motion cannot be amended or debated.
- (6) Before being introduced and read a first time, the bill shall be printed and sufficient copies shall be delivered to the Clerk.
- (7) Before being introduced and read a first time, and from time to time thereafter, the Clerk shall be entitled to claim such expenses from the promoters of the bill as the Clerk deems reasonable.
- (8) After the first reading, the bill by motion on notice shall be referred to a select committee.

SPECIAL RULES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 360 shall read as follows:

360. In the select committee:

- (1) The committee shall require proof of the allegations contained in the preamble.
- (2) The Chair shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.
- (3) Every petition in reference to the bill shall be deemed to be referred to the committee.
- (4) After taking evidence a question shall be put from the Chair – **"That the preamble be agreed to"**
 - (a) If the question passes in the negative, the committee shall not proceed further with the bill and report accordingly.
 - (b) If the question is resolved in the affirmative the committee shall consider the clauses of the bill and any amendments may be proposed.
- (5) The committee having reported in favour of the bill, it shall be proceeded with as in the case of public bills, and a later time set down for the second reading.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 366 be amended in part with the removal of "251 (1) Suspension of Member".

Motion agreed to.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: By leave: I move:

That for the current Parliament, unless otherwise ordered, the following Code of Conduct for Members be adopted:

That this House adopt, for the purposes of section 9 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 the following Code of Conduct

PREAMBLE

The Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council have reached agreement on a Code of Conduct which is to apply to all Members of Parliament.

Members of Parliament recognise that they are in a unique position of being responsible to the electorate. The electorate has the right to dismiss them from office at regular elections.

Members of Parliament acknowledge their responsibility to maintain the public trust placed in them by performing their duties with honesty and integrity, respecting the law and the institution of Parliament, and using their influence to advance the common good of the people of New South Wales.

Members of Parliament acknowledge that their principal responsibility in serving as Members is to the people of New South Wales.

THE CODE

- 1 Disclosure of conflict of interest
 - (a) Members of Parliament must take all reasonable steps to declare any conflict of interest between their private financial interests and decisions in which they participate in the execution of their office.
 - (b) This may be done through declaring their interests on the Register of Disclosures of the relevant House or through declaring their interest when speaking on the matter in the House or a Committee, or in any other public and appropriate manner.
 - (c) A conflict of interest does not exist where the Member is only affected as a Member of the public or a Member of a broad class.
- 2 Bribery

- (a) A Member must not knowingly or improperly promote any matter, vote on any bill or resolution or ask any question in the Parliament or its Committees in return for any remuneration, fee, payment, reward or benefit in kind, of a private nature, which the Member has received, is receiving or expects to receive.
- (b) A Member must not knowingly or improperly promote any matter, vote on any bill or resolution or ask any question in the Parliament or its Committees in return for any remuneration, fee, payment, reward or benefit in kind, of a private nature, which any of the following persons has received, is receiving or expects to receive:
 - (i) A Member of the Member's family;
 - (ii) A business associate of the Member; or
 - (iii) Any other person or entity from whom the Member expects to receive a financial benefit.
- (c) A breach of the prohibition on bribery constitutes a substantial breach of this Code of Conduct.

3 Gifts

- (a) Members must declare all gifts and benefits received in connection with their official duties, in accordance with the requirements for the disclosure of pecuniary interests.
- (b) Members must not accept gifts that may pose a conflict of interest or which might give the appearance of an attempt to improperly influence the Member in the exercise of his or her duties.
- (c) Members may accept political contributions in accordance with part 6 of the Election Funding Act 1981.

4 Use of public resources

Members must apply the public resources to which they are granted access according to any guidelines or rules about the use of those resources.

5 Use of confidential information

Members must not knowingly and improperly use official information which is not in the public domain, or information obtained in confidence in the course of their parliamentary duties, for the private benefit of themselves or others.

6 Duties as a Member of Parliament

It is recognised that some Members are non-aligned and others belong to political parties. Organised parties are a fundamental part of the democratic process and participation in their activities is within the legitimate activities of Members of Parliament.

7 Secondary employment or engagements

Members must take all reasonable steps to disclose at the start of a parliamentary debate:

- (a) the identity of any person by whom they are employed or engaged or by whom they were employed or engaged in the last two years (but not if it was before the Member was sworn in as a Member);
- (b) the identity of any client of any such person or any former client who benefited from a Member's services within the previous two years (but not if it was before the Member was sworn in as a Member); and
- (c) the nature of the interest held by the person, client or former client in the parliamentary debate.

This obligation only applies if the Member is aware, or ought to be aware, that the person, client or former client may have an interest in the parliamentary debate which goes beyond the general interest of the public.

This disclosure obligation does not apply if a Member simply votes on a matter; it will only apply when he or she participates in a debate. If the Member has already disclosed the information in the Member's entry in the pecuniary interest register, he or she is not required to make a further disclosure during the parliamentary debate.

This resolution has continuing effect unless and until amended or rescinded by resolution of the House.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

CITIZEN'S RIGHT OF REPLY

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: By leave: I move:

That during the current Parliament, unless otherwise ordered, the following Citizens' Right of Reply be adopted:

- (1) That where a submission is made in writing by a person who has been referred to in the Legislative Assembly by name, or in such a way as to be readily identified:
 - (a) claiming that the person or corporation has been adversely affected in reputation or in respect of dealings or associations with others, or injured in occupation, trade, office or financial credit, or that the person's privacy has been unreasonably invaded, by reason of that reference to the person or corporation; and
 - (b) requesting that the person be able to have consideration given to an appropriate response being published by the Legislative Assembly or incorporated into Hansard,

and the Speaker is satisfied:

- (c) that the subject of the submission is not so obviously trivial or the submission so frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character as to make it inappropriate that it be considered by the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee;
 - (d) the submission was received within 6 months after the relevant comments were made in the House unless the applicant can show exceptional circumstances to explain the delay; and
 - (e) that it is practicable for the Committee to consider the submission under this resolution, the Speaker shall refer the submission to that Committee.
- (2) That the Committee may decide not to consider a submission referred to it under this resolution if the Committee considers that the subject of the submission is not sufficiently serious or the submission is frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character, and such a decision shall be reported to the Legislative Assembly.
 - (3) That if the Committee decides to consider a submission under this resolution, the Committee may confer with the person who made the submission and any member who referred in the Legislative Assembly to that person or corporation.
 - (4) That in considering a submission under this resolution, the Committee shall meet in private session.
 - (5) That the Committee shall not publish a submission referred to it under this resolution of its proceedings in relation to such a submission, but may present minutes of its proceedings and all or part of such submission to the Legislative Assembly.
 - (6) In considering a submission under this resolution and reporting to the Legislative Assembly the Committee shall not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the Legislative Assembly or the submission.
 - (7) That in its report to the Legislative Assembly on a submission under this resolution, the Committee may make either of the following conclusions:
 - (a) that no further action be taken by the Committee or the Legislative Assembly in relation to the submission; or
 - (b) that a response by the person who made the submission, in terms specified in the report and agreed to by the person or corporation and the Committee, be published by the Legislative Assembly or incorporated in Hansard by the Speaker.
 - (8) That a document presented to the Legislative Assembly under paragraph (5) or (7):
 - (a) in the case of a response by a person or corporation who made a submission, shall be succinct and strictly relevant to the questions in issue and shall not contain anything offensive in character; and
 - (b) shall not contain any matter the publication of which would have the effect of:
 - (i) unreasonably adversely affecting or injuring a person or corporation, or unreasonably invading a person's privacy, in the manner referred to in paragraph (1); or
 - (ii) unreasonably adding to or aggravating any such adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy suffered by a person.
 - (9) That a corporation making a submission under this resolution is required to make it under their common seal.
 - (10) The provisions of Standing Order 306 do not apply to any report made by the Committee to the Legislative Assembly under this resolution.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ROUTINE OF BUSINESS

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to provide for the following routine of business for the remainder of this sitting:

- (1) The moving and seconding of the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, after which the debate will be adjourned on motion.
- (2) Private members' statements
- (3) The House to adjourn without motion moved at the conclusion of private members' statements.

Motion agreed to.

Governor

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (15:30): I move:

That the following address be adopted by this House in reply to the Speech which Her Excellency made to both Houses of Parliament:

"To Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, Officer of the Order of Australia, Queen's Counsel, Governor of the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency—

We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech, and to express our loyalty to Australia and to the people of New South Wales.

We assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us, and that we will faithfully carry out the important duties entrusted to us by the people of New South Wales.

We join Your Excellency in the hope that our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community".

It is an honour and a privilege to speak in debate on the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. It is also an honour and a privilege to stand here as the re-elected member for Oatley, a role I do not take for granted. I was born and raised in the St George area. I love the community and I do not take lightly the opportunity to serve it and to give something back to an area that has given so much to me over many years. The Governor's Speech outlined the Government's election commitments to the people of New South Wales, including locking in the State's strong economy, keeping the budget in surplus and helping businesses continue to create jobs; taking the pressure off families by helping ease the cost of living and delivering better services; fixing our roads and transport networks, easing congestion and therefore making it quicker for people to travel around; investing more than ever in health so that every person has high-quality care when they need it most; and investing more than ever before in schools, giving all children in New South Wales the best possible start in life.

These commitments are achievable only under strong economic and political leadership, which the Coalition has continuously demonstrated. First, I congratulate the Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian; the Treasurer, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet; the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro; and the recently elected Deputy Leader of the National Party, the Hon. Paul Toole. Our parties were able to provide the people of New South Wales with an option for strong economic management and getting on with the job of delivering for them, across all platforms in our communities. I congratulate Premier Gladys Berejiklian on her outstanding and historical achievement in not only leading our party to victory but also on becoming the first elected female Premier of New South Wales.

Ms Gladys Berejiklian: Saying that will get you far.

Mr MARK COURE: Thank you, Premier. On election night the Premier said, "Someone with a long surname, and a woman, can be Premier of New South Wales." This highlights the opportunities available in New South Wales—a State where anything and everything is possible. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, on his economic leadership and management. As noted during the Governor's Speech, New South Wales is on track to deliver consecutive budget surpluses over the next four years and currently leads the nation on key economic indicators, including our record low unemployment rates.

Under this economic management our State is experiencing unprecedented improvements in infrastructure across all areas, including transport, roads, education, health, law and order, and the environment. This effort has resulted in a record \$89.7 billion program for New South Wales, which will continue to deliver tens of thousands of jobs in New South Wales. This investment extends across New South Wales. Residents in western and regional New South Wales will continue to have excellent representation from The Nationals members in this Parliament, whom I congratulate.

Leadership is an important role—one not taken lightly—and I wish all Ministers successful terms in their new roles. Furthermore, I congratulate all newly elected members on both sides of the political spectrum. While the job of representing a local community is extremely rewarding it can be extremely demanding and, at times, it can appear thankless. I thank each and every one of you, now, for your dedication to the people of New South Wales, especially to the people in your electorates. I wish all members the very best in representing their communities in this the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales.

During this election our Government put to the people of New South Wales our plan for getting on with the job and delivering for them. One area where this could not be more evident is across our public transport network. Our Government has delivered train station upgrades across the network, including in my electorate at Oatley and Narwee. Making public transport more accessible is a priority for this Government as patronage of our rail network is at a record high. In the past five years the number of trips has increased by over 100 million to 400 million a year, representing a 40 per cent increase in patronage. As a result, we are not only delivering station upgrades across the network but also making access to our rail network easier than ever before. Commuter car parks are being built across New South Wales. I am proud to have delivered commuter car parks for Oatley station, and to have secured much-needed funding for the same at both Beverly Hills and Riverwood stations. In total, this Government has added more than 6,000 spaces, with another 6,000 in planning or under construction.

Our record level of infrastructure investment since coming to Government in 2011 is already delivering other significant boosts to our rail services. Earlier this week the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Roads announced that services on the new Sydney Metro Northwest rail line will commence later this month. The Sydney Metro is Australia's biggest public transport project and is the first fully automated railway in Australia. The Sydney Metro Northwest is just the first stage of this project. I congratulate everyone involved.

This is a Government that continues to deliver. As we delivered the Opal card system in our previous term of government, this Government will now deliver projects such as the light rail in Newcastle and the recently announced More Trains, More Services program, which will extensively transform our rail network, particularly on the Illawarra line. This investment in our public transport network is to ensure residents across New South Wales are spending less time commuting, and more time with their families and friends. This is only achievable, however, in conjunction with our record investment in our road network.

Across my electorate we are seeing investment in the widening of King Georges Road, a project that has been talked about for generations. For too long motorists have experienced significant congestion along this road corridor, particularly during week-day peak periods. Our Government has recognised this, and acted. The proposed improvements are designed to deliver a faster, more reliable journey. It is time to ease congestion across our road network. Furthermore, the F6 extension will also ease congestion across our network, connecting President Avenue at Kogarah to the new M5 motorway at Arncliffe. This project will remove more than 2,000 trucks a day from surface roads, returning local streets to local communities. For us, it is about creating an integrated transport solution across New South Wales. The integrated network includes the M5 widening, the M4 extension and the construction of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link—to name just a few—and will result in the creation of thousands of quality jobs and reduced travel times across our great State. Those projects, along with localised road projects, are also aimed at improving road safety to ensure that motorists return home from their destinations.

Perhaps my proudest achievement over the past eight years of this Government is our record spend on health infrastructure, frontline health services and staff. As the member for Oatley, I made it my mission to campaign and advocate for much-needed upgrades and the redevelopment of St George Hospital. The Government is ensuring that communities throughout New South Wales will have access to first-class health services, with state-of-the-art maternity, birthing, newborn care and paediatric facilities being delivered as part of the rebuild. My son, James, was born at St George Hospital five years ago. My wife and I are currently expecting our second, who will be on the way later this year. St George Hospital is now a hospital I feel confident in and one that we in the St George region can be proud of after 16 years of neglect.

The record \$8.4 billion statewide health infrastructure building boom—on top of the nearly \$10 billion invested since 2011—has been possible only because of our strong economic management. That is on top of a record 16,000 frontline staff who have been delivered since 2011, the current recruitment of an extra 8,300 frontline hospital staff and the building of another 100 new and upgraded hospitals and other health facilities in addition to the 100 already delivered. That is great news. St George Hospital is now up to stage three of its redevelopment, resulting in over \$700 million in investment, including for a new acute services building, a birthing suite, an emergency services department and a car park. I look forward to updates on the \$1.3 billion redevelopment of the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in addition to the millions of dollars being invested at the Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick and Westmead, at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and at Ryde and Sutherland. Once again, our record spending on health infrastructure is providing jobs by the thousands, including up to 26,000 direct annual jobs in western Sydney alone.

A cornerstone of this Government is making life easier for the people of New South Wales, and that includes the rollout of Service NSW centres across our great State to deliver much-needed access to government services in a timely, friendly and helpful manner. With more than 98 per cent of residents already being reached by a Service NSW centre, we are determined to reach every corner of the State. No matter what part of New South Wales people live in, we want to make sure that all residents are able to access the rebates on offer to ease the cost of living. In 2013 the Government introduced Service NSW as a one-stop shop for vital services such as getting a birth certificate, Seniors Card or driver licence or renewing a vehicle registration. I have witnessed firsthand the amazing work of Service NSW at Hurstville. I welcome the election announcement by the Minister for Customer Service about a new centre at Roselands and at nine other locations across the State.

During the election campaign, the cost of living was raised continually as one of the single most important issues that people face. Under the directive of this Government, residents can now access over 40 rebates, including for free registration, Energy Switch and the Active Kids and Creative Kids vouchers. As a result, our Government has given back more than \$200 million to people across New South Wales over the past year alone. I look forward to what Minister Dominello has planned in his continued efforts to reduce red tape and paperwork while also increasing the rebates available through Service NSW centres. [*Extension of time*]

As noted in Her Excellency's speech, we are a government that is focused on providing the children of New South Wales with the best possible start in life. This is why we as a government have invested \$6.5 billion in education, including the rollout of 190 new and upgraded schools across the State. These include two schools in my electorate: Penshurst Public School and Penshurst West Public School. I look forward to following the progress of these redevelopments and ensuring that local students have access to state-of-the-art learning facilities. In this year alone, 17 new and upgraded schools opened for the first day of term one, providing almost 400 new classrooms for students across our great State. I am sure that I speak for all members of this Parliament who currently have a school being upgraded or redeveloped in their electorate when I say that the excitement on the faces of students—and their parents for that matter—and the gratitude of the teachers and parents speaks volumes.

The New South Wales Government's record investment in new and upgraded schools is on top of the \$1.3 billion to wipe the existing school maintenance backlog to zero and the \$500 million for the Cooler Classrooms Program to provide air conditioning in more classrooms than ever before. As previously mentioned, our Government is focused on easing the cost-of-living pressure on families, which will include access to before- and after-school care. We aim to reduce the cost of before- and after-school care by up to \$225 per child per year via a capped rental subsidy. The \$120 million strategy over four years includes \$50 million to help schools buy new equipment and expand their facilities. Investing in education invests in our children's future, and our investment stretches across all stages of education from early childhood education to primary and secondary through to our TAFE network.

Our plan to expand and boost funding to TAFE across New South Wales is bold and ambitious. It will include 700,000 free TAFE courses over four years; eight new TAFE campuses in regional locations that have never experienced a major TAFE presence before; a new super campus in western Sydney; and an additional \$227 million in new funding for TAFE over four years. On a personal note, my son, James, started his first year of school in January and my wife is a high school teacher. Education is therefore a huge passion of mine. I am proud to stand on this side of the Chamber representing a government that is continuing to invest in every facet of our education system across this State. While I am speaking about family, I feel it is a perfect time to bring up our Government's continued investment in protecting our communities.

I attended my local area command's monthly community safety precinct meeting and it is always encouraging to hear the great news that the New South Wales police continue to keep the community safe, with crime statistics continuing to show that all major categories are either stable or falling. Police men and women across the State continue to deliver time and again, putting their personal safety on the line to ensure that our communities are safe and protected. I am proud to be part of a government that recognises this incredible work and is investing accordingly to allow officers to continue this daunting task. For example, in last year's budget the Government announced \$29 million to upgrade and redevelop Hurstville Police Station. My local community was thrilled with this announcement, as I am sure were many other communities across the State with similar announcements.

Last week the Premier and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, along with Her Excellency the Governor, welcomed Class 337 to the NSW Police Force—which includes 261 new probationary constables, 16 of whom are in my electorate. With only 2½ minutes of my speech remaining, I once again thank Her Excellency for her address to both Houses. I wish Her Excellency every success in her new role—a role she will approach with the same grace, dignity and excellence as she has approached her numerous previous roles. I also take this opportunity to once again congratulate everyone who has been elected to the Fifty-Seventh Parliament—particularly the new faces who join this family we call the New South Wales Parliament.

Like any family, we are going to disagree, debate, fight and argue but the diversity in this room is reflective of the great State of New South Wales that we are here to represent. Each member has had their own path to walk which has shaped the ideas and perspectives they bring today to this Chamber. We are all here to ensure that New South Wales is the best possible version of itself it can be. I thank the people of New South Wales for placing their trust in our Government as we get on with the job of delivering for them. My commitment to my electorate and to this side of the Chamber is that I will continue to fight for what my community needs. I want to ensure that the community that raised me continues to be what I believe is the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (15:50): I second the motion to adopt the address-in-reply. I address the House in support of this motion most humbly and I am deeply honoured to follow the member for Oatley in reply to the address of the Governor of New South Wales. While Her Excellency's term as Governor may have just begun, her service to New South Wales throughout an extraordinary legal career speaks for itself. The Governor spoke about respect. Respect from our constituents is not a given; it does not come tied up with a bow and a tag attached with "member" written on it. Over the next four years we must work for it at a grassroots level; and we must work hard.

The member for Oatley has painted for us today a stunning picture of progress, and nowhere is that image sharper than in regional New South Wales. Never before have our people—country people—seen the level of investment in their towns and villages as they are seeing now. This investment is a result of the dogged determination of individual members and an overarching policy platform with the vision and economic know-how to get things done. Among my Nationals colleagues are the hardest working members in the State. They cover vast distances and they deliver for their people, and their people have delivered impressive victories in return. The Nationals represent nearly half of the State's 30-odd rural, regional and coastal seats. We are their voice, and their voice is loud. Our people delivered for us a third term in government for the first time in 50 years. It is a loud vote of confidence in our vision—a vision that has grown over a century, as this year the Nationals celebrate our 100th year in representing the interests of the bush.

As one of the newer members in the ranks, to be bestowed the honour of serving as The Nationals Whip is a surprising and immense privilege. I thank the member for Myall Lakes, who has kept this motley crew in line for four years, and acknowledge all those who have come before me. Beyond the personal honour, I believe this appointment truly demonstrates that we are not a party afraid of change or new perspectives. Built on the legacy of our forebears, we are a party for today and for the next 100 years. All of our members should take great pride in that. The Governor eloquently outlined today the Government's vision, and it begins with people who have been liberated and enabled by a strong economy to achieve and strive for greatness.

Our economy matters, not because we like sitting in a tower counting our coins but because it allows us to invest in our people and in building and supporting communities young and old. As a result of the strength of our economy, in two years The Nationals are delivering more than 1,300 community infrastructure projects in rural and regional New South Wales through the \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund. Today, shoulder to shoulder, we form a majority government that has been built on the back of delivering on our commitments. In my 18 months as the member for Cootamundra, Temora Hospital has gone from a vital facility on the brink of closure to the joyous opening of a \$2.3 million brand new operating theatre at the hospital.

We have opened a \$1 million fisheries research centre in Narrandera and announced a \$60 million upgrade to the Junee to Griffith rail line. This is in an electorate without a major regional centre. Those milestones were made possible because of a government that does not measure value by population density. The decentralisation of the Department of Primary Industries [DPI] to Orange—back to the country where it belongs—is generating a \$98 million boost for the local economy, with 40 jobs created in planning and 130 direct jobs in construction.

In January this year the Government announced 14 new overtaking lanes for the Newell Highway between Narrandera and Parkes. This improvement is desperately needed and has long been called for. Since 2011 the Government has invested a historic \$523 million in the Newell Highway and \$31.9 billion in regional roads. In February the Deputy Premier launched a visionary set of policies tied to The Nationals 20-year economic vision for regional New South Wales. Many of our opponents ran on a dull political platform of making electorates marginal; but when faced with record-smashing investment all across the State, that becomes hard to justify.

The truth is that irrespective of whether an electorate is marginal, a safe seat or held by the Opposition, The Nationals care about the prosperity and the future of regional New South Wales. We live in regional areas of New South Wales and we care about our communities. Among The Nationals team will not be found career political hacks, celebrity candidates or wealthy wildcards looking to further their own private agendas. What unites us is geographical disadvantage and a determination to level the playing field. Of course, building a stronger future starts with our children. The Government is building or upgrading upwards of 170 schools to ensure that distance is not a barrier to the best education. In Cootamundra students are lighting up Bunsen burners in brand new, \$630,000 upgraded science laboratories. These facilities are part of the historic, statewide, \$6 billion school building program.

The Government is cooling all public schools with a mean maximum temperature of more than 30 degrees—that would have to be close to every single school represented by a Nats member—and will clear the schools maintenance backlog by July 2020. That represents a \$12.7 million spend in my electorate alone. Since 2017 The Nationals have delivered 14 new or upgraded TAFE campuses across rural and regional New South Wales. Eight additional new campuses are planned for Byron Bay, Cobar, Hay, Jindabyne, Nambucca Heads, Griffith, Bega and West Wyalong. Amazing facilities create an environment that is conducive to learning. But even more important, as the Governor put it so well, are our teachers. The Government continues to boost our teacher numbers across the State and will ensure a full-time counsellor and mental health support worker at every one of our public high schools.

While we put our younger generation on the path to success, we need paths made of dirt, gravel and tar that are safe and ready for the freight demands of tomorrow. It is important to note that The Nationals are investing an additional \$1.54 billion to fix rural roads and bridges. Over the next 10 years, the Government will duplicate

the Great Western Highway from Katoomba to Lithgow, complete the Muswellbrook bypass, continue to seal the Cobb and Silver highways and complete the Coffs Harbour bypass. As I announced on a blustery Thursday, the Government will flood-proof the Newell Highway between Forbes and West Wyalong. Previous flood events, such as the one in 2016 that closed the highway for six weeks left locals stranded and unable to get to work and schools and to access basic services. This \$200 million upgrade will help to safeguard against that ever happening again.

The Nationals live where we live because we want to. No-one knows that better than our constituents. We live where we live because we love our communities, take pride in our industries and relish the superior quality of life. And we can make it so much better. The legacy of the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Scheme will be invested solely in generational projects for regional, rural and remote New South Wales. What a coup for the people of the Cootamundra electorate that the first major project to benefit from that funding is in our own backyard. I am talking about the \$650 million investment to raise the Wyangala Dam. The project is logistically difficult but fundamentally vital to secure water for towns in the Lachlan Valley, including Cowra, Forbes and Condobolin. Environmental and economic studies will begin this year. We are already investigating new and replacement weirs at Walgett, Gin Gin and Wilcannia, and new pipelines, including from Lake Rowlands to Carcoar. These dams are about futureproofing our rural communities, but I am also incredibly proud to be a part of a government that recognises the extreme challenges and, for many, the pain of the present.

Drought is felt nowhere more acutely than in regional New South Wales. During the election campaign my Labor opponent criticised me for "only caring about farmers". That demonstrates, quite beautifully, the problem with Labor. Labor just does not get it. Labor does not understand that supporting our farmers through drought will ensure that food remains on tables in the inner west, job cuts at abattoirs in my electorate will be limited, cafes in Armidale will stay open and local schools will attract quality teachers to the bush. The election may be over; the drought is not. This Government's commitment to its unprecedented \$1.5 billion drought support package is unwavering. We will also introduce an Agricultural Commissioner to ensure that the integrity of those working on the land is protected. Three new Doppler weather stations at Parkes, Brewarrina and Hillston-Ivanhoe—covering almost 30 per cent of the State—will deliver real-time data and improve our ability to plan during challenging times on the land. We will never hang our farmers out to dry.

We cannot talk about infrastructure without acknowledging this Coalition Government's record on health. Across the State more than 50 regional hospitals have either been built or upgraded. In February this year construction of the new renal unit at Dubbo hospital got underway, which proves that progress does not pause for elections. This was the latest stage in the \$241 million project to make the hospital a major rural referral centre. In last year's budget \$202.6 million was allocated to continue the investment at Albury, Broken Hill, Bulli, Gosford, Goulburn, Lismore, Muswellbrook, Port Macquarie, Shellharbour, Wagga Wagga and Wyong hospitals; \$108 million was pledged for ongoing builds at Macksville, Maitland, Mudgee and Tweed; and there is \$67 million to continue investment at Coifs Harbour, Cooma, Grafton, Inverell and Manning hospitals. As of the election, country seats have continued to be supported by this Government, with funding of \$70 million for the redevelopment of Cowra District Hospital, \$140 million for Manning Base Hospital and \$80 million for Moree Hospital.

Finally, I thank the Governor for digging through the Government's various policies to identify what should be our guiding star: equality. I am also incredibly proud of the first actions of the Deputy Premier as we commence our third term in office. In July last year a youth forum was held at Henry Lawson High School, Grenfell. The students who took part in that forum were engaged and expressed electric optimism. They discussed their lives, their worries and what makes them happy. That youth forum, and others held across the State, put the power back into the hands of our kids. Sadly, for many young people in regional New South Wales optimism fades as opportunity and support seem to dwindle, and disparate unemployment, suicide and substance abuse rates tell that story in cold numbers. But what really drives the message home is the slow feeling of a town that our kids have fled, the call of condolence to a family who will not get to celebrate a member's eighteenth birthday or a 15-year-old with promise and spark who is driven to drugs out of boredom. We have to do more.

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor has been appointed as this State's first dedicated Minister for regional youth to tackle these issues head-on. I am thrilled at her appointment. I know she will bring to the role the profound compassion and impressive expertise for which she is so respected and loved. We will create the first regional youth strategy in this State and continue our investment in policy to tackle regional homelessness and underemployment, mental health and the scourge of crystal methamphetamine, known as "ice", in our country towns. Indeed, it is our duty and obligation—as the Governor so rightly said—to not put it in the too-hard basket.

No, it is our duty to shine a light on it, to be ambitious, to be brave and to make our communities safer, more inclusive and more productive for everyone who lives in them. I know I speak for The Nationals when I thank the people of New South Wales for trusting the Coalition Government with a third term. It is the first time

we have been honoured with such an opportunity in 50 years, and we intend to continue to earn the place we are now privileged to hold in this House. I hope those who ran on a platform of "holding the Government to account" will also turn the mirror upon themselves, ensuring that the many promises they made during the campaign are met. Once again, it is an honour to speak on this motion today, reflect on the term past and mark the beginning of an exciting four years ahead for the great people of regional New South Wales. We have just begun.

Debate adjourned.

Private Members' Statements

PRINCES HIGHWAY

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (16:05): I note that the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads is present in the Chamber and recognise that the community of the far South Coast is wanting to see not only continual investment in the Princes Highway but also the duplication of that investment all the way to the Victorian border. In recent years there was a coronial inquest into deaths along the Princes Highway. The Deputy State Coroner made some major recommendations, which this Government took action on. It was pleasing to see that, during the recent election break, upgrades at Dignams Creek came to fruition, fulfilling one of the Deputy State Coroner's recommendations.

During the course of the election campaign the Liberals and The Nationals committed to duplicating the highway. Given the duplication that has already occurred on the road, I believe there is real potential to have crash and fatality rates on par with the Pacific Highway, particularly once this duplication work is completed to the Jervis Bay turn-off. The highway will continue to wind its way down to the Victorian border. The highway was built to the 1940 standard—there were no shoulder widths provided. It was a very dangerous road. We are going to see an incredible increase in the volume of traffic on the road in the years ahead.

I was pleased that as part of the election campaign I was able to announce the planned duplication of the Moruya Bypass. Whilst it is a significant choke point, one of the great benefits of building the duplication through there is that it will give commuters to the new regional hospital in the Eurobodalla more options to get to the facility faster. Work on the Batemans Bay Bridge replacement has commenced. That is also a duplicated section of road. During the campaign we also committed to the duplication of the section of the highway south of the Jervis Bay turn-off to the Sussex Inlet turn-off. That is an important section of development for the member for South Coast, but it is also relevant to my constituents because ultimately they are dependent on a safer Princes Highway. Unfortunately, sections of the highway have had incredible crash rates over the years. It will be great to get on with that work.

Also very pleasingly, in recent weeks the Federal Government has announced half a billion dollars to work alongside the approximate \$1 billion that we announced during the State election campaign. My colleague and I will be talking to the Federal Government about how that funding should be spent. There is a lot of community work to do for the Milton to Ulladulla bypass to be built, with a price tag of approximately \$450 million. We will talk to the Federal Government about that. The Government at the State level has now, for the first time, committed to the people of New South Wales that we will duplicate the Great Western Highway and the Princes Highway, which will save lives. This is Road Safety Week and the regional roads Minister and I, along with victims of road trauma and their loved ones, have been advocating the need for people to be more mindful of what is happening across the region on State roads. Unfortunately, this year to date, the road toll stands at about 137 people. As the Minister said, these are not just numbers; these are people who will not be around for their birthday, for Christmas and for their loved ones this year.

As part of our message we have also made a very important change to drink-driving laws, which will particularly affect people in country areas. As of 20 May motorists caught drink-driving, even low range, will lose their licence on the spot for three months and will receive a fine of \$561. Our main reason for introducing this penalty is that analysis shows that some 56 per cent of people who appear before a court receive a non-conviction and are allowed to go scot-free, yet 55 deaths have occurred on roads in regional New South Wales in constituencies like mine, like that of the member for Bathurst and in many other areas—terrible alcohol-related road trauma. This is an important week and it is an important investment that the Government will continue.

LAKEMBA ELECTORATE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (16:11): Tonight, firstly, I give thanks to the people of Lakemba for once again entrusting me to be their representative in this, the peoples' house. I have, for the past four years, stood with them and I have shared their stories, hopes and aspirations, and I will continue to do so in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. Sharing stories is what we, as politicians, are expected to do. This leads me to my second point, one that impacts not only my electorate but also the good people across this State and nation.

The people in my electorate, like those in the electorate of the member for Canterbury, who is in the Chamber, have more than 150 different cultural heritages that can be traced back 60,000 years and to every part of the world. We are a proud example of modern Australia, a place where we respect one another because of who we are, not because of the colour of our skin, our cultural background or faith. Yet we often find ourselves the example right-wing ideologues use when talking down Australia's great success stories in multiculturalism. Indeed, one right-wing group recently popped down to Lakemba because it wanted to "make it Aussie" again. Another group marched down local streets but had no idea why they were there. To them it did not matter; it was to "take back our land". For goodness sake.

Against this backdrop I must speak about the things that have an enormous impact on my electorate. The rising tide of hate speech and the increasing normalisation of it is not something that we can simply dismiss as free speech; it works to divide the nation that we are. Free speech is a luxury, but with it also comes a responsibility. Whether it is the actual or the aspiring politician, the media or social commentator, the high-profile person or anyone of influence, language that is couched in terms that distinguish the "other" only serves to create an "us" and "them", and it cannot be like that. As a nation, language can only be couched in the context of "us ... together ... one".

When some common groups of people have their loyalty to this nation continuously questioned, when particular colours, cultures or faiths are demonised, when we stand and watch, when we see the very fabric of our nation—the greatest migrant nation on Earth—being unpicked we must stand for the very thing we believe in: an inclusive Australia where everybody belongs and each person's story is considered just as important as anybody else's. A streak of racism in Australia is nothing new, but in my life I cannot think of a time when it has been as bad as this—so blatant

The rise of the once far Right is not in the distance anymore; it is here and we have to look it straight in the face. Apparently they have become more sophisticated: They wear fancy clothes and they sit in our parliaments. But it is still the same hatred; it is just spewed out in a different manner. The recent incarnation plays out in unadulterated language of hate and division, pitting one against the other. Worst of all, it is designed to create a nation where some people feel that they belong and others do not.

I have never shied away from expressing my disdain for those who seek to divide us in this place. I have a record of voicing my concern and my opposition to this sort of behaviour. I have seen many members across all parties and the crossbench do the same here because, like me, they know that we are a better nation when we are together, when we embrace and accept that we are all Australian; and they know that although our personal stories may vary, we share the same hopes, dreams and aspirations. As legislators, therefore, we must do whatever we can to stop this rising tide of hate—this normalisation of hate—because it feeds on opportunism, marginalisation and blame. It is not enough to just call it out and to be outraged. We need to consider whether, in the place of rules that govern this State, we need to look at those rules more closely. Why do we need to do this? Because if we let it drift, it becomes normal.

There is nothing normal about racism. There is nothing casual about racism. It is in the use of invented facts and races, and using symbols such as the Australian flag or the Southern Cross, not as something that unites us but rather something that excludes certain people. It is in the inability or unwillingness of social media giants to stamp out hatred. How does it play out? It plays out in the defacing of corflutes of people running for parliament, in somebody of the Jewish faith being defaced with anti-Semitism, and in kids being teased in the playground. It is happening to the member opposite me. All of these things point to a concern. We cannot just let it drift along. We cannot pretend it does not exist. The trickle-down effect plays out in our schools and shopping centres; it plays out for individuals. We are better than this and we must do whatever we can to ensure that we stop the rise of hatred.

MONARO ELECTORATE

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (16:16): The election campaign that we ran, and our agenda and vision were embraced by the good people of Monaro. I am humbled by my re-election. Our agenda was one of a positive narrative for the people of Monaro: investment in education, roads and community. That was at the forefront of the election campaign. I am excited by the opportunity to deliver on that vision over the next four years. I believe it is in partnership with and derived by the community. As the local member, my job is to make sure that I stand up in this place fighting for and delivering for the people of Monaro.

Monaro is a diverse electorate, with a major centre in Queanbeyan representing the largest population in the electorate. But just as important are areas such as Bungendore and Braidwood, Araluen and Majors Creek; up the Monaro Highway in places like Bredbo, Cooma, Berridale, Aaminaby, Jindabyne and the Snowy Mountains; down to the Victorian border and places such as Bombala and Delegate. I was humbled by the result, booth by

booth, community by community. Putting politics aside, I am humbled by the way the people of Monaro have embraced the vision that I have put forward for them on behalf of the Government.

The exciting announcements during the election campaign, which we will deliver during this term of government, include the new Jerrabomberra high school. The area of Jerrabomberra has experienced growth with the approval of developments at South Tralee and Jerrabomberra South. There is now an opportunity to build a Jerrabomberra high school for a community and region that has seen approximately 3,500 to 4,000 students cross the border into the Australian Capital Territory for educational opportunities. For far too long, governments in New South Wales have neglected their responsibility to deliver the services that a growing area such as the Monaro and, most importantly, Queanbeyan, have needed over the past decade or two. We have an exciting development at Googong, where many first-home owners are moving across the border to New South Wales because of our more attractive first home owner grant.

We have seen an explosion in population within the Queanbeyan-Palerang local government area, making it the fastest growing regional area in the State. This Government has committed to invest in the Googong public school, a high school in Bungendore, and the separation of Jindabyne Central School. It was at the core of my re-election and it is my vision for the Monaro. In regional New South Wales there is the tyranny of distance and we rely heavily on our roads. The Monaro electorate has benefitted from significant funding packages for road upgrades. Captains Flat Road has received \$10 million for an upgrade. The Snowy Monaro Regional Council has received \$17.5 million to deliver on important local road projects, including the road connecting Canberra to Adaminaby.

With Snowy Hydro's Snowy 2.0 project commencing the region will see increased traffic flow and population growth. Bobeyan Road, connecting Adaminaby to the mountains, will receive a \$20 million upgrade. These are significant investments. But do not underestimate the small announcements, such as \$750,000 to support respite care in Queanbeyan. It was great to see the Federal Labor member for Eden-Monaro, Mike Kelly, commit \$750,000 to deliver that project. The Queanbeyan Tigers Australian Football Club will receive \$590,000 in funding to upgrade its facilities. It is exciting to see that there has been increased participation of women in the sport.

The Braidwood swimming pool will receive a \$1 million investment. Learning to swim is just as important in a cold climate. Regional kids live near dams, rivers and creeks. Therefore, for them knowing how to swim is not just a pastime, a sport or a leisure-time activity but necessary for their survival. The investment in that pool will be an investment in those kids. I refer to other significant electoral announcements, including the upgrade of Jindabyne Police Station, further investment in Jindabyne TAFE and the Country Universities Centre. This is the start of an exciting four years for the people of Monaro—a challenge I take on and am humbled by.

PROFESSOR MARK COMPTON, AM, GCSTJ

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (16:21): Members may recall that last February in my private member's statement I recognised the unparalleled level of dedication and kind-heartedness of Professor Mark Compton, AM, GCStJ. Professor Compton was decorated by St John Ambulance Australia to Bailiff Grand Cross, the highest title in the Order of St John. He is the fifth Australian priory member to hold this honour. There are 20 other esteemed members across the world. Today I inform the House that on Thursday 3 January 2019 it was announced Her Majesty the Queen had accepted the nomination of Mark as the next Lord Prior of the Order of St John. He will be succeeding Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Walter Hugh Malcolm Ross, GCVO, OBE, GCStJ, when his present term as Lord Prior concludes in June this year.

Mark will also assume the role as chairman of the board of trustees of St John International. Mark's appointment is remarkable amongst Lords Prior as the only Lord Prior who has been a member of St John without interruption or gaps since joining as a young cadet. Four generations of Mark's family have served as St John members. Mark has voluntarily served for an extraordinary 45 years, was a grand prior cadet, and is currently national chairman and chancellor of the Order of St John in Australia. In addition to his board role he has frequently volunteered at a uniformed operational level, mentored up-and-coming leaders through the national leadership and women's mentoring programs and contributed to the promotion of international strategy for the global movement through his membership on the international board of St John.

Indeed, Mark's devotion to the order, his diligence and his eagerness to ensure St John sustains its noble-minded service to make first aid a part of everybody's life is without parallel. Mark assumes the responsibility of Lord Prior on St John Day, 24 June 2019. I am pleased to note that the order recently revisited and revised its statutes with Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council approving the new rules last December. St John International has a presence in more than 40 countries and more than 400,000 volunteers and staff. Mark will work with leaders across the St John world to set the direction for the order as it enters the second decade of

the twenty-first century. In addition to his impressive repertoire of achievements and humanitarianism, Mark is also a successful businessman. The term Renaissance man is a suitable description of Mark as it encompasses his passion for the advancement of business and education.

Mark is an experienced non-executive director and chief executive officer, principally in healthcare and life sciences organisations, including for Australian Securities Exchange-listed companies. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Services Management, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a Fellow of the Royal Society (NSW). Mark is an adjunct professor in management at Macquarie University, the first public research institution in Australia to fully align its degree system with the Bologna Accord. He spent eight years on the board of Macquarie University Private Hospital, where he made himself indispensable to the establishment of MQ Health, Australia's first academic health sciences centre.

Mark is chairman and non-executive of Sonic Healthcare Limited, a comprehensive medical diagnostics and healthcare corporation. Sonic is a Top 50 Australian Securities Exchange-listed company and the third largest pathology operation globally. He is also a non-executive director on the board of Next Science Limited, an Australian-based medical technology company; Chairman of St Luke's Care, a non-denominational not-for-profit organisation that has delivered excellence in health and aged care for 90 years; and an active volunteer firefighter with the NSW Rural Fire Service in the Southern Highlands.

It is, therefore, long overdue and well deserved that Mark was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Commonwealth of Australia for services to the community, and appointed a member of the Order of Australia in January 2010 for services to health, hospitals, medical research and St John Ambulance. While Mark has expressed how deeply honoured and humble he feels to be appointed to the role of Lord Prior, the second Australian to be appointed to this role, I pay tribute, in effect, to his significant contribution to his community and the nation, which has made him an example to all in business and learning.

On behalf of his many friends and admirers, I can think of no better gift than to wish Mark sustained good health and continued success as he embarks on the next chapter of his life to lead a much-needed order that has so many good people doing so much good for those in need around the world. I alert new members of the House that I will invite them to meet the Commissioner and Chairman of St John Ambulance (NSW) at a reception I will host in the Parliament at the end of this month.

SHELLHARBOUR ELECTORATE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (16:26): Madam Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the role of Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I am sure you will do a fine job.

Today I use my first private member's statement in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales to pay my thanks to my incredible supporters and reaffirm my commitment to the great people of Shellharbour. Whilst the recent State election did not end in the result I and the rest of the members on this side of the House were hoping for I could not be prouder of the resounding victory we achieved in the electorate of Shellharbour. Back in 2015 I received almost 27,000 first preference votes, or over 52 per cent of the formal votes. In 2019 we managed to increase this margin by 5 per cent, up to a total of 57.5 per cent—that is, a total of more than 31,500 first-preference votes.

I owe this incredible result to the tireless efforts of all of my supporters, and for that I am truly grateful. To all my branch members, friends and family who gave up their time on pre-poll or on election day to hand out how-to-votes, I say thank you. This victory belongs to all of us, and I will do everything in my power to ensure I deliver for our community. There are countless people who deserve to be thanked, but I would like to make specific mention of a few. I thank Mr Eli Harris and Mr John Williamson, my pre-poll champions, who were there every single day. I also thank the absolute legends from the Shellharbour branch of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, Glenn, Nadia and Chevonne. I thank Mr Graeme Kelly, OAM, and the University of Sydney Union team for their ongoing support. I thank Arthur Rorris and the South Coast Labour Council along with my supporters from the Maritime Union of Australia and the Transport Workers Union.

I thank the Southern Youth and Family Services team, the Shellharbour Sharks and Mr Aden David. I thank my fellow Shellharbour Labor colleagues: Stephen Jones, MP, Mayor Marianne Saliba, and councillors Rob Petreski, John Murray and Moira Hamilton. I thank the member for Keira, the member for Wollongong and their campaign teams. I thank the girls in my office, Sandra, Louise, Jessica and Alex. I thank my campaign team, Lou Stefanovski and Stuart Geddes. I apologise if I have forgotten to thank anyone, but to each and every one of you who played a role in this election, I say thank you. I could not have done it without you. As we stand on the cusp of another four-year term, I would like to take a moment to take stock of my community's achievements and create a new focus for our energy moving forwards.

In my last term there were two major accomplishments I am particularly proud to have played a role in. First, my community and I fought tooth and nail to stop the New South Wales Government's proposed public-private partnership attack on Shellharbour Hospital. The strength of people power was proven yet again when my community came together to force another backflip and saved Dapto from the Liberal Government's ridiculous Kembla Grange jail proposal. It will come as a surprise to absolutely no-one in this House that my priorities for Shellharbour over the next four years will continue to be education, health and transport. On top of that I intend to push for more apprentices within local government across New South Wales. We all know that local government in each and every one of our communities plays a huge role in providing apprenticeships. I will use this term to continue to fight to see this Government finally match Labor's commitment to our State's education, specifically for the children of Dapto.

Prior to the election I stood with my parliamentary colleagues the shadow Minister for Education and the shadow Treasurer to announce that, if elected, we on this side would spend \$60 million on a new school for West Dapto—one of the fastest-growing regions in the State outside Sydney. Likewise, we promised to finally get the ball rolling on a new high school for the Flinders-Shell Cove area. We are willing to listen to the community; we always have and we always will. It is time the New South Wales Government did the same and matched those commitments.

I will also continue to fight to see that Shellharbour Hospital's redevelopment is delivered to the highest possible standard, with mandated nurse-to-patient ratios. Those opposite must concede that the health of our State's citizens should be a priority above all else. We need ratios, and we need them now. I want to see the New South Wales Government match Labor's commitment to our public transport system by improving the rail corridor between Sydney and the Illawarra, and making the entire network more accessible and affordable for all. I thank members of the House for their indulgence.

OXLEY ELECTORATE

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (16:31): Madam Deputy Speaker, what a thrill to have you in the chair. Congratulations on a fine honour for the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. What a wonderful day it has been—a day to reflect on what our plans are going forward for the people of New South Wales. In particular, I will focus on my electorate of Oxley. At the outset I thank my campaign team, ably led by my electorate council chairman, John Simon. I single out the efforts of Brian and Kay Irvine, Clancy Irvine, Susan and Barry Ramke, Rex and Carolyn Fowler and those in my electorate office team, ably led by David Dawson and Jody, Hollie and Alice Burnett.

It has been an exciting four years and an exciting election campaign. I cannot wait to get the commitments delivered. One of the finest achievements will be connecting and sealing Maria River Road between Port Macquarie and Crescent Head. It is an exciting project that will create opportunities and jobs. Another project is the Kempsey to Armidale road, which will be the responsibility of the State—as it should be. It is an important road and the project will help Armidale Regional Council, in particular. Another commitment is to Nambucca TAFE and a learning centre for Nambucca Heads. Other commitments include the basics, such as connecting sewerage into Bellingen so that the communities of Repton and Mylestom and the growth areas of Urunga have the modern sewerage and wastewater system they deserve. There have been many announcements and a lot of support. Other exciting projects include the sports fields at Verge Street, work at Bowraville sporting precincts and grounds, and HealthOne for Bowraville. I cannot wait to get my teeth into supporting and delivering those projects with this Government.

Today in her speech the Governor made the point that government is about creating opportunity and breaking the cycle of poverty for many in our communities. I am dedicated to doing that not only as the member for Oxley but also as the Minister for Water, Property and Housing. Combining the Property portfolio, Crown Lands and the Land and Housing Corporation creates a unique opportunity to look at communities and ask how the Government can help to deliver housing, standing beside those communities and breaking cycles that have continued possibly over several generations. The Government needs to do that, and communities need it. The Government made a strong commitment to Port Macquarie social housing during the election campaign, and it will deliver on those commitments throughout the North Coast, the mid North Coast and across regional New South Wales.

It is an exciting time; I am delighted to be part of a government with a record third term. We will be working hard every day for the people of Oxley, as well as for all those in New South Wales. As we finished our election cycle I entered my beautiful show cycle. In the past week I have attended the wonderful Wauchope Show, with Neil Coombes, president of the show society, and Nikki Gibbs in her final role as Sydney Royal Easter Showgirl 2018. It was wonderful day—as it always is. In the middle of the week I attended the Kempsey Show run by the fabulous Donna Lee, my good friend, and her incredible band of volunteers in the cakes, poultry and cattle sections. High school students filled many of the entries across the show circuit. I finished with the

Macksville Show on Friday and Saturday. Its incredible president, Lee Laverty, is a young man who, together with his partner and his whole team, dedicates hundreds of hours every year to create a beautiful show that everybody should be proud of.

School students from Kempsey High School, Melville High School, St Paul's school, Bellingen High School, Macksville High School and Wauchope High School were involved in the agricultural sections. They are the future of agriculture in our region, and their numbers keep growing. The quality of their cattle keeps improving and they are very much a part of life on the mid North Coast. From an election cycle to a show cycle, it is full steam ahead in the electorate of Oxley. I particularly thank my beautiful husband, Warren, for helping on the campaign and for his incredible support. It is wonderful to see Soph, the member for Canterbury, in the Chamber. It is a great time to be in this place and we have great work to do.

MYUNA BAY SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (16:36): Madam Deputy Speaker, I too congratulate you on your wonderful elevation to the role and I look forward to working with you. It is great to see the member for Canterbury. I wish I could congratulate all members who either are newly elected or have been returned to this House. But I have a very pressing matter that I need to bring to the attention of this House—that is, the closure of the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre on 29 March. Today I tabled a petition signed by more than 18,000 people who are shocked, angered and bewildered by a decision to evacuate and close the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre on 29 March, while the Government was in caretaker mode. Myuna Bay is operated by the Office of Sport and over the past 70 years it has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors from throughout New South Wales and overseas. Just days earlier I had welcomed visitors from around the State and New Zealand to Myuna Bay for a five-day international water skiing event. But days later, midway through the event and on the day that our Premier was in Christchurch for a memorial service, people were ordered off the site and the entire Myuna Bay complex was shut down.

This order came from the then chief executive officer [CEO] of the Office of Sport, Matt Miller, who had responded to a report prepared by Origin Energy, which owns and operates the Eraring Power Station to the west of the Myuna Bay site. I note that Mr Miller has since retired. The report was an Origin Energy risk assessment of its own site that suggested a magnitude 5.7 seismic event—an earthquake—could damage the wall of the power station's ash dam, causing fly-ash slurry to inundate parts of the sport and recreation centre. Origin Energy actively pushed for and encouraged Mr Miller to close the Myuna Bay site. There was no discussion with the community, the council, Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] or me, nor with the Office of Premier and Cabinet. There was no discussion or consultation at all and no thought apparently that advice should be sought from the public works department or the New South Wales Dams Safety Committee.

It needs to be remembered that there was no immediate risk that a dam wall was about to collapse and nothing to suggest that it could do so any time soon. The basis for the decision was that the wall might be compromised if a large earthquake was recorded within a 100-kilometre radius of the Myuna Bay site. Geoscience Australia, the pre-eminent authority on seismic events, states that the likelihood of such an earthquake is a "one-in-5,000-years or longer" event. I am totally aware that that does not mean it could not happen tomorrow, but it does mean that the risk is so infinitesimally small that the Office of Sport's decision could only be regarded as a gross overreaction. Yet the Office of Sport's CEO made a decision to immediately close Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre at the urging of a company that produced a report that had not even been peer reviewed. On the back of this non-peer-reviewed report, everyone at an international sporting event was told to pack up and evacuate the site immediately; thousands of bookings were cancelled and the lives of employees were turned upside down.

There was no public announcement from the CEO or the department, and there has been none to this very day. Very interestingly, last year Origin Energy applied to extend the size of its ash dam at Eraring. Notwithstanding the fact that many believe Origin should be reducing and recycling this fly ash, it is seeking to store more. Worryingly, at the time Origin was wanting to increase the size of its ash dam, it was in possession of initial risk reports that indicated that the existing dam could have catastrophic impacts on the community and the environment if there were a major earthquake. While Origin was behind closed doors asking the Office of Sport to close down the Myuna Bay centre because a one-in-5,000-year earthquake might break its ash dam wall, it was contemporaneously applying to increase the volume of the very same ash dam.

As previously mentioned, Origin Energy had not spoken to the RMS about the threat posed to the users of Wangi Road, it had not spoken to anyone about the fact that such a catastrophe would absolutely destroy the ecology of Lake Macquarie and it had not spoken to the Government, the Minister or other experts. But somehow it managed to close down a valuable and very much-loved community facility without warning. Apparently it had spoken only to Mr Miller and NSW Sport and Recreation staff. It was an outrageous decision and the people in

my community—including more than 18,000 of them who signed a petition within just two weeks—agree. They are livid, and so am I.

To their credit, the Premier and her new Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans, Mr Sidoti, have been quick to establish an independent review of the Origin Energy report and the decision taken by the Office of Sport. We are hopeful that the review brings some common sense to this entire fiasco. I have faith in the New South Wales Dams Safety Committee to do so. Regardless of the outcome, the way in which the decision to close the recreation centre was made has disrespected staff, the community, our New Zealand guests, the local council, the Premier and Ministers. I hope Origin Energy fixes this mess very quickly.

NORTH KELLYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (16:41): I take this opportunity on the first day of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament to thank the good people of Castle Hill for placing their faith in me once again and electing me as their member of Parliament. The Castle Hill electorate is one of the fastest growing regions in New South Wales. It is an area where people can walk through quiet, tree-lined streets and yet be 30 minutes from the thriving metropolis of Sydney. Sydney will be made even more accessible by the opening of the Sydney Metro Northwest on 26 May. The \$8.3 billion Northwest Metro line will revolutionise the way in which residents of the north-west move around our great city. The Hills will continue to grow but, importantly, it will remain an attractive area as a result of the continued investment by the Liberal-Nationals Government in services, open spaces and infrastructure.

The second stage of the \$60 million upgrade of Showground Road will commence in a few weeks' time, with the removal of the current single-lane merger at Pennant Street. This will complement the \$45 million stage one, which provided a connecting road network in The Hills area. The new NorthConnex tunnel, which will take 5,000 trucks off Pennant Hills Road and bypass 21 sets of traffic lights between the M1 and M2, will open next year. Once that is open, The Hills residents will no longer have to sit in a three-kilometre traffic jam on Pennant Hills Road when they return from a weekend up the coast.

Educational facilities in my electorate have received more than \$80 million since 2011 for new schools, upgrades, maintenance and recurrent funding to ensure every school-aged child in Castle Hill has access to the best quality facilities. Our Government's strong economic management has enabled us to deliver new and upgraded schools for communities around New South Wales. In February this year the Premier and I proudly opened North Kellyville Public School, the newest school in our area. Stage one of this amazing \$44 million project offers cutting-edge educational experiences and state-of-the-art facilities and technology. The school has 40 classrooms, with three support classes for students with disabilities. Each classroom features a 75-inch interactive panel, desktop computers, notebooks and tablets. This new school has a school hall, two outdoor amphitheatres, a soccer field, a netball court, a basketball court, group study rooms, learning nooks and maker spaces. As well, all classrooms are air conditioned as part of the New South Wales Government's \$500 million Cooler Classrooms program.

North Kellyville Public School is led by principal Tom Moth, who is already known within our area having been a foundation teacher at Sherwood Ridge Public School and an assistant principal for three years at Glenhaven Public School. I recently attended the school's first Anzac Day commemoration service. The school created a wonderful video of the service, and I encourage everyone to visit my Facebook page to see it. The video, which was done with sincere sentiment, encapsulated the importance of young people learning about the sacrifice that our diggers made for the freedoms we now experience. The school is already engaging in the wider community, with the school captains, alongside leaders from other local schools, attending The Hills dawn service to lay a wreath.

No leader can achieve without an amazing team. I make special mention of assistant principal Kasey-Lea McGill, school administrative manager Alison Broome and first P&C president Alison Nicolson. I also mention Emma Kriketos, director educational leadership, who has been so supportive to the school and has provided the staff with strong leadership. The Government is making the largest investment in public school infrastructure of any State government in the history of this country. More upgrades are coming for Castle Hill, with work underway at Samuel Gilbert Public School and a future upgrade planned at Castle Hill Public School.

The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is investing \$6 billion over four years to deliver more than 170 new and upgraded schools to support communities across the State. In addition, a record \$847 million is being spent on school maintenance over four years. That is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of New South Wales. I congratulate everyone at North Kellyville Public School. I thank this Government for making public education an important priority and ensuring that future generations of children within the Castle Hill electorate have the very best in educational facilities. I also place on record my great appreciation of the high-quality principals, teachers and support staff in all schools across my electorate. They are absolutely outstanding and do a wonderful job. They deserve our commendation.

FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:46): On 23 March 2019 communities throughout New South Wales took to the polls for the State election. I stand here today because the people of Fairfield have bestowed upon me the honour and privilege of representing them for another term in the oldest Parliament in Australia. Labor holds a strong legacy in Fairfield, having represented that community in this Parliament for 66 continuous years. Our local community is ingrained in the very essence of what Labor stands for. The wider Fairfield community is very well known for its diversity, strong work ethic, sense of community and desire to help those who cannot always help themselves. I am proud to say that Labor retained the seat of Fairfield with an overwhelming show of support from the local community, holding a 17.9 per cent margin. I am incredibly grateful to have been given the opportunity to continue representing and advocating for the people of Fairfield. I will do my best to ensure that this Government is held to account for its actions, promises and service delivery to our local community.

Each member in this House can attest that without earnest volunteers and the support of those standing behind them none of this would be possible. I extend my sincerest appreciation to my campaign team, the Labor Party branches of Cabramatta, Fairfield, Guildford West and Smithfield, and each and every volunteer who dedicated so much time and energy to ensure a landslide Labor victory in Fairfield. From early morning starts to street stalls and doorknocking in the blistering heat, we did it all. I also thank my wife, Melissa, and our four children and the extended family, friends, supporters and community groups who have played a pivotal role and have been a driving force in everything that I have been able to accomplish.

Throughout the campaign it was abundantly clear that the Fairfield community is fed up with the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government's inaction and inability to support the needs of our incredibly diverse community. Since the Liberal-Nationals came to government in 2011, the residents of Fairfield have suffered year upon year as the Government has handed down lacklustre budgets and provided insufficient resources to essential community and government services throughout our area. We have endured through the decimation of TAFE, the revocation of our ambulance at Carramar and the loss of our Roads and Maritime Services centres. All the while, Government members have been patting themselves on the back as our community does it tough. The residents of Fairfield deserve far better than this.

It is time we received the resources and services our community so desperately needs. Priority issues in Fairfield have never been more evident. One does not have to go far to see how health, education, transport and support services are feeling the pinch under a government that has failed to support them. Despite the ever-increasing population in our region, Fairfield Hospital has yet to receive the resources it needs to keep up with demand. Hospital staff remain under tremendous pressure to do more with less, while being provided with abysmal and insufficient resources to meet the needs of our growing community. The Liberal-Nationals Government neglect continues as the maintenance backlog in our local school has not only blown out but also left our educational facilities in a horrendous state of disrepair and urgent need of support.

Mobility access at Canley Vale, Carramar, Yennora and Villawood train stations remains an ongoing issue after eight long years of neglect. Local residents who are mobility impaired, the elderly and parents with prams continue to be left stranded or having to make onerous detours to simply access or change platforms at their local train stations. The demands placed on non-government organisations and community support group services in our community are rapidly increasing; however, funding for these services is diminishing and Government involvement appears to be almost non-existent. So much needs to be done to rectify the issues affecting our local community. After eight years of neglect for the people of Fairfield, it is about time that this Government put its money where its mouth is and provided our community with the services and resources we so urgently need. I look forward to working with local residents, businesses, community groups and community leaders over the coming years to ensure the people of Fairfield receive the support and advocacy they so rightly deserve.

EXTINCTION REBELLION

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:51): I thank the good people of the electorate of Newtown for returning me to this place and allowing me to continue to represent them. I acknowledge that this place and the electorate of Newtown sits on Gadigal land and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. Excuse me for skipping the detailed thankyou, the niceties and formalities that may be protocol when a member is re-elected to this place, but my constituents know that we no longer have time to follow the usual protocols. We cannot wait for current or future governments to take the warnings seriously when it comes to the climate crisis that we all face. It is time for us to stop waiting for weak oppositions that continue to disappoint us and for governments to take the action we need on climate. Now is the time to act. We have lost the chance for an orderly transition on climate action, and the good people of the electorate of Newtown know this all too well. They know that this is an emergency that can no longer wait.

Those in power for decades knew they were creating a catastrophe, yet they have continued to approve the opening of coalmines and the building of more polluting toll roads and failed to show the leadership to move us beyond zero emissions. We simply do not have the luxury of ignoring the climate crisis any longer. We do not need to slow emissions; we need to stop them. This means we cannot burn more coal, drill for more gas and clear more forests. Those with the power to act have not listened. It is time to listen to the true leaders in our community. It is time to listen to the voices on the streets and the communities who are leading the fight, breaking the rules and forcing those in power to finally listen to the experts and act. It is time to follow the lead of the student climate strikers, the seed mob and the climate activists who occupied Federal Parliament. It is time to follow the lead of the Knitting Nannas and all of those who have taken non-violent, direct action to stand up for their local communities, for our humanity and for our planet.

To those who have engaged in civil disobedience and put climate crisis front and centre on the agenda I say join the extinction rebellion, because we can no longer wait for governments to act to address the serious climate change crisis that has emerged. To all of those people who have been shouting in the streets and standing there in protest, I hear you and The Greens hear you, and we will continue to give you a voice in this place. Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg began walking out of school on Fridays and sparked a global movement. She said to the British Parliament: Around the year 2030, 10 years 252 days and 10 hours away from now, we will be in a position where we set off an irreversible chain reaction beyond human control, that will most likely lead to the end of our civilisation as we know it. That is unless in that time, permanent and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society have taken place, including a reduction of CO2 emissions by at least 50%.

Just yesterday a United Nations biodiversity report said that one million species would be lost, many in the coming decade. Children and teenagers are not protesting and striking from school because they think it is fun; they are doing it because they need us to act so that they have a future. I appreciate that to many people this might sound extreme and scary, and like something that is better to ignore, but if we ignore the irreversible damage of climate change it will mean that we, as a species, will no longer be able to function as we can function now. To the Extinction Rebellion movement and the amazing, brave activists who are standing up and using non-violent direct action to disrupt our society to make the people in power listen, I say, "All power to you. Whether you are a student striker or a part of the Extinction Rebellion, I will be in this place, standing up for you, putting your voice in this Chamber and making sure that we say that it is time to face our fears, time to rebel and time to take the action we need to take on climate change." To all of those members who think that it is fun to support coal mines but take a selfie with a student striker, I urge you to heed the words of Greta:

We children have not taken to the streets for you to take selfies with us, and tell us that you really admire what we do. We are doing this to wake the adults up. We children are doing this for you to put your differences aside and start acting as you would in a crisis.

HEATHCOTE ELECTORATE

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (16:56): I thank the Deputy Speaker and congratulate her on her ascendancy to the role. I am beyond humbled by the support that my constituents have given me over the past eight years, without which I would not be standing here today. I thank them for once again trusting me to represent the Heathcote electorate, this time in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales. I also thank the Heathcote campaign team and those who made themselves available, spending many hours outside the pre-poll offices at Sutherland and Menai and manning one of the 27 booths on election day. That was a mammoth task, and I am eternally grateful for their commitment and support to achieve my re-election. I am proud to be a part of the Berejiklian Government, which has worked hard to repair our economy and managed the budget to enable delivery of vital infrastructure and world-class services.

Since first being elected in 2011 I have worked tirelessly to achieve my pre-election commitments and deliver for the people of Heathcote. In my inaugural speech I promised—and achieved in my first term—stopping coal seam gas mining in water catchment areas in my electorate, installing a pedestrian bridge over the Princes Highway at Heathcote and delivering a co-located ambulance and fire and rescue station at Bundeena. To this day I continue to work hard for the people of Heathcote for those achievements and many more, such as funding for a new police station in Helensburgh to ensure that police are fully resourced as per their requirements; a \$10 million upgrade to the track from Garie Beach to Otford in the Royal National Park and a range of improvements to visitor facilities and infrastructure; completion of the first stage of the Grand Pacific Walk; completion of upgrades to the majority of train stations in my electorate; and the Heathcote Road Bridge upgrade, with the first sod turned last year and the initial investigation work undertaken with community consultation for the imminent bridge upgrade.

Works at the Heathcote Road intersections have also been completed. My other achievements include commuter car parks at Sutherland and Engadine stations; \$153 million for Sutherland Hospital to deliver a new emergency department, a new car park, eight new operating theatres and two endoscopy suites that were announced in February; \$3.9 million for the great southern walk to upgrade visitor facilities in the Royal National

Park and \$2.5 million for ongoing Royal National Park walk improvements; funding to convert Otford Tunnel No. 6 to a cycle path; and \$300 million for the Gateway to the South Pinch Point Program, addressing critical pinch points to ease congestion and improve journey reliability.

A number of projects have been completed and further projects currently are underway or are scheduled to commence. Those projects include improvements to the Princes Highway, Heathcote Road, New Illawarra Road and Alford's Point. I am proud to have delivered election commitments, and I will continue to work hard to deliver the following vital infrastructure and projects for the people of Heathcote: a new Service NSW centre in Engadine, an additional 210 new commuter car spaces in Engadine, Heathcote Road and Bridge upgrades, a new Helensburgh police station, a new Helensburgh town centre, a Linden Street Sutherland upgrade, a new nuclear medicine and technology hub at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation [ANSTO], improved access to the Royal National Park that was announced in February as part of the new national park announcement, and the \$300,000-plus refurbishment of the Burning Palms Surf Life Saving Club clubhouse.

The \$880 million investment in More Trains, More Services that was announced in 2018 will deliver a state-of-the-art digital signalling system. This will significantly boost the capacity of trains and their reliability, and the first beneficiary will be the T4 Illawarra Line. Additionally, in February this year new carriages and extra seats on the South Coast Line were announced. I will continue to advocate for improvements to ensure that commuters in my electorate receive the best services available. The F6 extension has long been a priority for the Heathcote community after years of neglect by previous governments. I am pleased that my Government identified this vital infrastructure as a matter of importance. This project is finally off the ground with the announcement in June last year of stage one being fully funded.

Over the years, principals and Parents and Citizens Associations [P&Cs] of schools in my electorate have approached me and I am pleased to have worked closely to assist with a wide range of issues including power upgrades, new amenities, upgraded furniture to support special learning, support for fundraising efforts such as donating prizes and waiving national park fees, securing funding to assist special school programs and new multipurpose school halls at the Engadine High School and the Stanwell Park Public School. At the end of each year I offer every principal and students the opportunity to receive a Heathcote Parliamentary Award. This prestigious award is made at their presentation ceremonies. I am delighted that local schools benefit by having a morning tea and a guided tour of Parliament. I thank the House for its indulgence. I look forward to the next four years and beyond. [*Time expired.*]

CANTERBURY ELECTORATE

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I welcome back to this Chamber the member for Canterbury.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (17:01): Mr Assistant Speaker, thank you for your good wishes and congratulations on your election to the position of Assistant Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I must say that I am very, very happy to be standing in this House today because, as all members know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer along with 18,000 Australian women and men. I am very happy to have returned to this House and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing doctors, pathologists, nurses, community nurses and all health workers across not only New South Wales but also Australia for the extraordinary work they do. I have so many people to thank. At a later time, when I can talk about my experience more extensively, I will mention the many people who reached out and helped me.

Today I thank all members who have been elected or re-elected and those who are no longer here for reaching out last year not only to me but also to my family. Many of my colleagues helped me out so much. I also thank my extraordinary family—my husband, Arthur; my two children, Cassandra and George; my parents, Angelo and Maria; and my father-in-law—and many other people who helped me during this very difficult and very traumatic time. But most of all I thank the amazing people of Canterbury for the extraordinary honour they have given me by re-electing me as their representative. Over the next four years I will work tirelessly to honour the faith that the people of Canterbury have placed in me.

I was first elected to represent Canterbury at a by-election in 2016. Prior to that I was a member of the New South Wales upper House. That by-election came about when my predecessor, Linda Burney, ran for the Federal seat of Barton. Linda left an impressive legacy from her time as the member for Canterbury. Now as the member for Barton she is building on that legacy and she will build an even more impressive legacy when she becomes a Minister in a Shorten Federal Labor government. I thank Linda and those Labor branch members who helped me in my campaign and who are now helping Linda in her campaign for the Federal election.

The electorate of Canterbury is one of the oldest in New South Wales. It was first established in 1859 and is now one of the most vibrant and diverse electorates in New South Wales. Almost half of the people who live in my electorate were born overseas and more than three-quarters of them have at least one parent who was

born overseas. The population of Canterbury continues to grow. Between 2011 and 2016 its population grew by 8.4 per cent. At the last election I fought for greater investment in local services to meet the needs of our community. Over the next four years my top priority will be to improve local health services, particularly Canterbury Hospital. It has been a long campaign. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Minister for Health and Medical Research. Improvements are being made to the emergency department but the hospital needs to be redeveloped. In fact it is my vision for a fully-fledged health precinct to be created.

A number of health services are already located near the hospital but a master plan needs to be developed to guide long-term investment at the hospital. I urge those who have land holdings in the area to help create a precinct, including specialist rooms, pathology services, mental health services, allied health care, and facilities for scientific, medical and technological research. In a multicultural community such as mine cancer services are vitally important. For example we need to increase the number of people who undergo screening for breast and other gynaecological cancers. I will have a lot more to say about holding this Government to account in following through on its promises in the future but I am honoured to have been returned as a member of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales.

ANZAC DAY

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (17:06): Since its inception Anzac Day has been one of the most significant days on the Australian calendar. In 1916, 25 April was officially named Anzac Day, just 12 months after the ill-fated expedition to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. Since 1927 every State has observed some form of public holiday on Anzac Day. The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps [the Anzacs] landed early on 25 April 1915 under heavy gunfire but they dug in. The Australian War Memorial quotes Sir Ian Hamilton issuing an order during the first day to "... dig, dig, dig until you are safe". Their actions earned them the nickname—which is still used today—of "digger".

There is perhaps a touch of irony that one of our nation's most significant dates marks a failed military objective, but it is the extraordinary circumstances surrounding that operation that has left a powerful legacy and has helped to shape two young nations. The operation highlighted the bravery, self-sacrifice, tenacity and ingenuity of the Anzacs under exceptional circumstances. They held on to the Gallipoli peninsula for eight months and by the time they withdrew more than 8,000 Australian soldiers had lost their lives. Former Turkish leader Ataturk is often attributed with a moving quote regarding those who lost their lives at Gallipoli:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives ... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours ... You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well. As the years have passed Anzac Day has transformed, yet maintained, its integrity. It initially honoured those who had fallen in the Gallipoli campaign. As World War II took its toll, along with subsequent conflicts, it has encompassed those fallen in all theatres of war, as well as in peacekeeping operations. The veterans of World War I have gone, but in their place stand and march new generations, honouring those who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and our way of life. There have been fears the ranks of returned service men and women would become so thin that the future of Anzac Day could be jeopardised. However, widespread community support has ensured the day has continued as one of the most important in our national calendar.

Prior to Anzac Day this year I attended commemorative services at the Belrose Country Club, the Glenaeon Retirement Village at Belrose and the Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club, with a planting of a descendant of the famous Gallipoli Lone Pine. On Anzac Day I attended the dawn service at the Roseville Club and then the Northern Beaches Council Anzac Day commemoration at the Manly War Memorial on the Corso. There was another commemoration by the Lions Club of St Ives at the St Ives War Memorial. The following Sunday the Killara Uniting Church and the St John the Evangelist Anglican Church at Gordon both held commemoration services, again highlighting the significance of the Anzac legacy.

Anzac Day provides an opportunity to consider the present and the future. More than 3,000 Australian Defence Force personnel continue to protect our national interests, serving in 12 current operations within Australia and overseas. Their service can come at great cost. Sadly just last Friday *The Australian* reported that at least three, and possibly five, returned service personnel have taken their own lives since Anzac Day. Anyone feeling vulnerable in this regard is encouraged to contact Lifeline on 13 11 14. We honour those who currently serve, or have recently served, just as we honour the many who have gone before to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

[*Business interrupted.*]

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Liverpool, I acknowledge and welcome to the public gallery a good friend of mine—Robert Talbott from Beverly Hills.

*Private Members' Statements***TIMORESE COMMUNITY**

[*Business resumed.*]

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (17:11): I advise the House of a book launch I recently had the pleasure of attending. The book entitled *Island Off the Coast of Asia: Instruments of Statecraft in Australian Foreign Policy* was written by Clinton Fernandes and dedicated to Dr Andrew McNaughtan, a medical practitioner who was a great advocate of the people of East Timor—a man I knew who regrettably died a number of years ago. The book was launched by Bernard Collaery and the launch was chaired by a good mate of mine, Josephite Sister Susan Connelly. The book is of considerable interest to many in the electorate that I represent, most especially those who were born in East Timor and who were involved in the long campaign for Timor-Leste's liberation. I acknowledge the presence at the launch of one of my constituents, Eusebio Sam, a Timorese community and independence activist for all the decades that I have known him.

The author Clinton Fernandes is a former Australian Intelligence Corps officer, and is now an academic at the University of New South Wales. The book looks at the central role of economic actions and factors in determining Australia's national interest in foreign policy. The book's cover is adorned by a quote from Noam Chomsky that accurately describes it as, "a deeply researched and penetrating study of Australian foreign policy". There is also a positive quote about the book from Geoffrey Blainey. Apart from the penetrating analysis in the book, there are some wonderful vignettes. I was particularly interested in the listing of early scions among European colonists who invested in Australia using the proceeds of slave ownership in British colonies, particularly in the Caribbean. Of course the most topical part of the book, and the part of most immediate interest to my constituents, concerns East Timor and, obviously, Australia's involvement with it.

This stretches from Australia's approach in 1975 to the Indonesian invasion to the way Australia has treated Timor-Leste over the oil and gas found in the Timor Sea. Fernandes also deals with the cover-up of illegal spying by Australia on the Government of Timor-Leste to provide tactical advantages to Australia and to various commercial interests in the treaty negotiations. I should add I am not seeking to make a partisan Australian comment here—as I have said in this place before in relation to East Timor, there is plenty of ignominy to go around. Under the guise of an Australian Aid program, Australian Secret Intelligence Service officers bugged the walls of the East Timorese Prime Minister's office and listened to negotiators' planning sessions.

Granted the interest in this topic, of course, it was of particular note that the launch of the book was performed by Bernard Collaery, a former Attorney General of the Australian Capital Territory and a legal adviser to the Timor-Leste Government. In December 2013 the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation [ASIO] raided the home and office of Mr Collaery and also the home of a former Australian Secret Intelligence Service [ASIS] officer subsequently known as Witness K. Apparently Mr Collaery's house had previously been bugged by ASIO. They are both essentially accused of being whistleblowers.

The core of the story is that ASIS used the cover of an aid project to install listening devices in Timor-Leste ministerial offices in 2004. The information obtained allowed Australia secret access to what Clinton Fernandes describes as "Timor-Leste's internal deliberations and negotiating positions". As Clinton also writes, "Knowing the other side's bottom line allowed Australia to know where Timor-Leste was prepared to compromise, and which members of its team differed from the official line." This all related to negotiations over the Greater Sunrise oil and gas fields. As if this was not bad enough in itself, it also diverted scarce Australian resources away from very real terrorist threats at the time—most especially extremist terror groups in Indonesia. The Australian embassy in Indonesia was, of course, bombed in 2004. One would have thought that should have been a higher priority for ASIS.

Bernard Collaery and Witness K are now being prosecuted in the Australian Capital Territory, not in this jurisdiction, in relation to these issues for alleged violations of the Intelligence Services Act over information received by journalists—prosecutions 4½ years after the raids. In my view, and in the view of my Timorese constituents, these prosecutions are fundamentally misconceived and are wrong in principle. Whistleblowers should be protected not prosecuted. The position is worsened by the fact that the prosecution wants as much of the case as possible heard in secret. The Kafkaesque nature of these proceedings is shown by the fact that Mr Collaery cannot even see the brief of evidence used by the prosecutors.

I understand the line-up of eminent silks appearing for Mr Collaery have issues with signing various secrecy strictures and undertakings that the prosecution demands. I should add that because Collaery had gag orders served on him about these issues he could not really talk much about it at the launch. He did say, however, that if the court decided the case could be heard openly he doubted the prosecution would proceed. The case in open court would fully expose Australia's illegal behaviour in 2004 and allow questions about what scarce security resources were diverted to it. Clinton Fernandes' book is a useful and important publication and is recognised as such by constituents with whom I have discussed it. In particular the book's comments on Australia and East Timor and their relations with each other are of very great value.

DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne—Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans) (17:16): I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the constituents of the Drummoyne electorate in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales. This is my third term as the member for Drummoyne and it has been an honour and a pleasure to serve since 2011. As we have heard today, elections are a battle of ideas and I acknowledge all the candidates who nominated to stand for Drummoyne in this election, particularly Tom Hore, Charles Jago, Maurice Saidi and David Roberts. I thank my constituents for their resounding vote of confidence in me and in this Government. I am humbled by the results and I will not let them down.

I take this opportunity to thank the many people who volunteered their time and efforts, in particular Councillor Stephanie di Pasqua. As members I believe we have a role to mentor those who help out, particularly the younger ones. Councillor di Pasqua did a remarkable job and I am proud of her and her family. I also thank Councillor Michael Megna, who has served in local government for some 30 years, and all the volunteers who made themselves available to volunteer on weekends, at pre-poll and on election day. They were all fantastic and hardworking. As all members know this job could not be done without the support of our family. I take this opportunity to thank my wife, Sandra, for supporting me throughout this journey. I thank my children, Julian, Fabian, Ava, and my parents and extended family, who have all supported me unconditionally. I am honoured to have been given a ministry in Premier Berejiklian's Cabinet and I look forward to a new and exciting chapter serving the people of New South Wales as the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.

My community knows that first and foremost I am their local member and I will always stand up for our area's fair share. I will mention just a few of the many achievements over the years. In health construction works have begun on stage one of a \$341 million redevelopment of Concord Hospital. I have praised the hardworking hospital staff on numerous occasions in this place and this announcement will ensure the magnificent hospital is well equipped to manage patient health in the future. Since 2011 the Liberal Government has built three brand-new schools in my electorate—Victoria Avenue Public School in Concord West being the first, a knockdown and rebuild of Lucas Gardens in Canada Bay, and Russell Lea Public School, which opened this year.

It was a pleasure to host the Premier and the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning at Russell Lea Public School last week to mark the beginning of term two. In terms of grassroots local funding we have announced \$30 million for the total redevelopment of Concord Oval, \$2.3 million for an all-weather synthetic playing field at Ron Routley Oval in Concord, and \$500,000 for an upgrade to the amenities at Timbrell Park. These projects will benefit the numerous local clubs that share those facilities. I am proud of this Government's track record and I thank my community for its faithful support. I look forward to continuing to serve my community and to delivering many more infrastructure projects that will benefit my local area.

NORTHERN TABLELANDS BUSHFIRES

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (17:20): In February this year the communities of Tingha and Stannifer in the Northern Tablelands electorate faced a trial by fire over a full week as out-of-control bushfires engulfed properties and threatened the town of Tingha itself. By the time the fire was controlled more than 23,000 hectares of land was burnt out, 13 houses and 44 outbuildings were destroyed and approximately 2,500 kilometres of farm fencing was burnt and needed to be rebuilt. Livestock perished and residents were left with the huge task of remediating their already drought-parched properties.

The scale of the Tingha Plateau fire had not been seen within living memory in the Northern Tablelands. I will share with the House a little about the remarkable actions I witnessed and the inspiring resilience of people in the Tingha and Stannifer areas. On Sunday 10 February grass was seen to be alight following a dry lightning strike. High temperatures, unpredictable winds and the ongoing drought contributed to escalate the situation despite the best efforts of volunteer Rural Fire Service crews and their incredibly quick response.

By Tuesday the fire had spread across more than 300 hectares. It was all hands on deck as the situation deteriorated and an emergency warning was sounded. Firefighters and fire tankers were spread out on the ground

and air support was brought in, including the Erickson Air Crane. Teams of volunteers and coordinators were rushed in from across the State—not only from the Rural Fire Service, but also Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Police Force, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation of New South Wales, Armidale Regional Council, Inverell Shire Council and Local Land Services, as well as individuals in the township and almost anyone who was old enough to grab a hose, shovel, hoe or bucket to put water on the fires or remove vegetation in front of the fire lines.

With temperatures pushing 40 degrees, zero moisture in the air and winds gusting 40 kilometres to 45 kilometres it was obvious that the fire would not be stopped anytime soon. By Wednesday the fire was consuming homes and burning in multiple directions. It was absolutely out of control. The firefighters remained on the fire line; indeed, some experienced the fire burning over them. In horrendous and frightening conditions, they never gave up. The Tingha township was under threat for days and some of the more vulnerable residents were evacuated to Guyra, approximately 65 kilometres east. The Tingha fire swept through a large vehicle wrecking yard, and about 10 kilometres to the north it created a bombardment of embers that wiped out the Topper's Mountain Vineyard and the entire 2019 vintage—much to the disappointment of the owners and many locals.

Later in that week, on Wednesday, I visited the fireground. By Thursday the wall of smoke and flame had reduced visibility. Roads were closed and all hell was breaking loose. Never in my life have I felt as useless as a local member of Parliament. I talked to people who had literally lost everything they owned apart from the clothes on their backs. But amidst that we saw the very best of humanity. People were rejoicing in the fact that, amazingly, no lives were lost, no serious injuries were sustained and everything that was lost was material and could be replaced.

By the following Monday the fire had been controlled and mostly extinguished. This was an amazing feat by the Rural Fire Service and by local group captains who coordinated the fight: Ray White and his trustee off-sider, Alex, who were on duty for days on end, calling the shots at a local level; Pat Bradley and Robert Martin from New England RFS; and incident controller Superintendent Michael Brett. They all did a tremendous job and deserve our praise, thanks and congratulations on the community's survival and continuing recovery.

WALLARAH 2 COALMINE

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (17:25): This evening I speak again about an issue that I have raised in this place since 2007, the proposed Wallarah 2 coalmine. Following a series of investigations it is now in the hands of the Minister to issue the final licence once certain conditions are met. I continue to be very concerned about not only water loss from the catchment affecting the drinking water supply to 320,000 people on the Central Coast but also one of the conditions set as part of the process. I refer to condition 17, which is headed "Central Coast Water Supply Compensatory Arrangement". The NSW Planning Assessment Commission recognised that there would be some water loss from the catchment and, in order to compensate for that loss, it put in place a condition that says "mine water treated to an appropriate level" can be released back into the Central Coast water supply.

Further, the condition states that after 10 years the discharge of at least 300 megalitres per annum of treated water can be made "directly into the Central Coast Water Supply system at a location mutually agreed with Council". The first issue I have is that the requirement does not come into force until 10 years after mining has started, which I suggest will be too late if there are any problems. The second issue is how the condition for water to be "treated to an appropriate level" will be enforced. In an email sent to me and to the Federal member for Dobell, Emma McBride, the General Manager of Wyong Coal Pty Limited, Peter Allonby, stated:

You regularly comment negatively on water from Wallarah 2 being put into the Central Coast drinking water supply. This idea is neither new or unique. The email contains a link to a video that refers to the Clarence Colliery, which supplies water to Lithgow City Council's drinking water supply. I did some research and, instead of allaying my fears, I have more concerns and I ask the new Minister to look carefully at this issue. The Environment Protection Authority [EPA] has conducted a five-year review of environmental protection licence No. 726 held by Clarence Colliery. The EPA report states that "Clarence Colliery LDP002 introduces a high volume, point source of pollution to the Upper Wollangambe River." The report's analysis details the pollution in the water system, stating:

... the discharge waters exhibited acute and chronic toxicity to the freshwater cladoceran *Ceriodaphnia dubia* at a variety of dilutions. It also caused significant inhibitory effects on growth of the freshwater green alga ...

It states that the water has potential to induce toxic effects and reproductive impairment in sensitive invertebrates et cetera. In effect, the EPA report says that the Government has put in place a condition while knowing that processes in the area are causing problems. I ask that the Premier, the Government and the Minister, if they really care about this issue, instead of coming up with conditions that cannot be enforced—and we know the EPA is taking Clarence Colliery to court over breaches of its licence—to consider conducting a referendum of people on

the Central Coast to ask them whether they want recycled mining water, which cannot be proven to be non-toxic, put into their water supply. [*Time expired.*]

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (17:31): I thank members for the opportunity to address the Chamber today and I thank all members who made me feel welcome today. I thank also the Clerks for the traditional experience of the kick-off of Parliament this morning; it was an eye-opener for me and a learning experience. It has been my privilege to serve the people of New South Wales and Australia for more than 20 years. I have worked with police, disability services and correctional services and I was in the army when I first left school. For 17 of my years as a public servant I worked across the Barwon electorate, so I am very familiar with the area.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House two headline items, that is, quality of life in regional areas and regional decline. I note that a lot of things fit under these headline items. When we talk about quality of life, our first and foremost consideration is water. Water is our most precious resource. Without water, we do not have communities. No-one is going to move to or stay in a community if it does not have clean, safe, reliable water. Between 2007 and 2017 the population of the Barwon electorate has decreased by more than 5,900 people—that is, 5,900 people have left the electorate. Those people will not come back unless we make our towns and communities good places in which to live. The communities are not asking for anything crazy or outlandish. We just need to meet the basic human needs of our communities in order for people to stay in them or want to move to them.

According to data from NSW Health, between 1996 and 2016 the life expectancy of people who lived in the far west of New South Wales went backwards by 1.5 years. By contrast, the life expectancy of people who lived in Sydney went up by 6.9 years. The idea that regional New South Wales is getting a raw deal is not a fantasy: The numbers bear this out. The numbers show we are not getting the same level of service and we are not getting the same health outcomes. We are not imagining that we are getting a raw deal. As an example of regional decline, when I managed disability services in Bourke I had a staff of four. With the advent of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the winding up of disability services, three of those people left the community and they took their families with them. Only one of them, a retiree, is still in the community.

Public service positions pay well enough so that people in communities have discretionary dollars to spend. They spend their extra income on luxury or discretionary items. People on lower incomes do not have money for luxury items. That discretionary spending keeps retail outlets and employment going in our regional communities. Whenever public service positions are lost, we see a downward spiral. That spiral has been exacerbated by the current protracted drought, with the resultant drop in farming incomes. The farmers do not have money to spend on seed, fertiliser and pesticides and they do not have the money to employ people on their farms. There is now a perfect storm of regional decline, resulting in the loss of those things that keep people in our communities. We have to maintain our school numbers to keep teachers in our schools. When our students finish school, if they do not have an ongoing education option such as TAFE they will leave the town—and experience shows that when they leave they rarely come back. We must do something to keep those people in our towns.

Communities in regional New South Wales have reached a tipping point. We have to make a decision whether we want our regional communities to grow and thrive or continue to wither. If we continue with the current policy settings, these communities will continue to wither. That is something I do not want to see happen. At a later time I will thank the many people who helped me throughout the campaign and during the election phase. Today I want to say that it is a privilege for me to be here representing the people of the Barwon electorate. I thank them for the honour they have bestowed upon me and the trust and confidence they have put in me.

I ask the New South Wales Government to stop looking at regional New South Wales through an economic lens, to stop looking at the dollars and to stop looking at the cost of services. Start looking at the quality of life for people living in regional New South Wales and start looking at the things that will attract people to regional New South Wales and grow our communities. As I said, if we continue with the current policy settings we will continue to see many of our small regional communities get smaller and smaller and dry up. Eventually they will not have the core population they need to be called a "community". I appreciate the opportunity to address the Chamber and the welcome I have had from everyone. I look forward to hearing the private members' statements of other members.

RYDE ELECTORATE

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:35): I take this opportunity to thank the people of Ryde for allowing me the privilege of representing them for the next four years. The Ryde

renaissance has truly begun. The Government will open the North West Metro and open and complete upgrades to many schools. Ryde Hospital will be rebuilt.

Mr David Elliott: You are a renaissance man.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: I have Italian heritage; I could be called the renaissance man. Victoria Road will be widened, new sporting facilities will be opened and open space will be expanded. None of this would be possible without the incredible efforts of my campaign team. Rain, hail or shine, at the crack of dawn and late in the evening my team worked so hard to ensure a positive outcome for the people of Ryde. In particular I thank my campaign manager, Jordan Lane, as well as Craig Chung, David Hayman and Elizabeth Ryu for their tireless efforts throughout the campaign. I also thank my mighty booth captains: Keenan Smith, Laura Glase, Michaela Weston, Matt Dawson, Hugo Robinson, Trenton Brown, Sarkis Yedelian, Melanie Marcellino, Jason Cowland, Sophie Lara-Watson, Sarah McFayden, Kevin and Priya Pagadinnimath, Margaret Lee, Paul Etherington, Nanda Almeida, John Brown, Sabi Singh, James Camilleri, Chris Moujalli, Kit Hale, Michael Oliveri and Hassib Elias.

I stand on the shoulders of an incredible group of people who are committed to and passionate about their local community. I love Ryde and I am truly blessed for the team I have around me. In this my first private member's statement for this Parliament, I am proud to celebrate a great community achievement: the opening of Ryde Outdoor Youth Space, also known as Roy's Place. Council has since renamed the skate park Meadowbank Outdoor Youth Space but it will forever be known as Roy's Place because of Councillor Roy Maggio's vision and the role he played in bringing it to life.

Roy's Place is Ryde's newest skate park. The last time anyone tried to launch a skate park in Ryde was in 1979, and it was never completed. Members can imagine the heavy lifting that was required to get this project off the ground, and Councillor Maggio was more than up to the task of completing it. When Councillor Maggio was first elected to council in 2008, he committed to being a voice for the local sporting community. Councillor Maggio started school holiday skateboard clinics, which proved to be a huge success and sparked interest in the creation of a proper skate park in Ryde. He began his battle to build the new park over a decade ago in 2008 but initially did not receive support from council. Not to be deterred, Councillor Maggio started a working group that refined the concept to make it as inclusive as possible. Once there was a solid foundation, Roy advocated extremely hard. In June 2017 Councillor Maggio was finally successful in gaining council's support. He then approached me for support from the State Government, and I was proud to deliver \$400,000 from the State Government's Stronger Communities Fund to go towards the construction of the park.

On a recent visit I was struck by the number of young and old people on skateboards, scooters and bicycles. I struck up a conversation with a man who was teaching his daughter to skate. He remarked that it was great to finally have a space that everyone can enjoy. They really are enjoying it, because you can drive past the park at any time of the day and see that it is packed. Roy's Place has proved to be a huge success and Councillor Maggio is to be commended for bringing Ryde together in such a positive way. On behalf of our local community, I thank Councillor Maggio, members of the Skate Park Working Group Ben Drayton, Nigel Cameron, Brad Shaw and Andrew Alcorn, the West Ryde Rovers and Eastwood Ryde Netball Association for all their hard work to make this project a reality. Though it may not be named as such on the plaque, the skate park will always be known as Roy's Place.

Councillor Maggio has a track record of supporting better open spaces in Ryde—he campaigned with me to save Smalls Road from developers—and thanks to our community fight, next year we will have a brand-new primary school surrounded by sporting fields, and with a beautiful, circular courtyard at its heart. I am calling it Ryde's colosseum of learning. It is one of seven new schools coming to the area, including a new high school and primary school at the Peter Board site, a new co-educational high school at Ivanhoe Estate, a new high school and primary school in Meadowbank and a new primary and high school in Melrose Park. This is in addition to a \$154 million upgrade to Meadowbank TAFE. We are also doing amazing things for Ryde district hockey with two new synthetic hockey fields. We have a \$30 million investment in a state-of-the-art community netball facility and many other great projects. This is truly a rebirth, a revitalisation and a renaissance of Ryde. [*Time expired.*]

WALLSEND ELECTORATE TRANSPORT

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (17:41): Mr Assistant Speaker, I congratulate you on your new role: I am sure you will do very well. The growth of Wallsend is creating transport chaos. The major arterial roadways in the western suburbs of Newcastle—Newcastle Road, Lookout Road and Lake Road—are beyond capacity with thousands of new homes being built at Fletcher and in my area, where we definitely have transport chaos. In peak hour Newcastle Road is a car park. Just one accident on Lake Road freezes our western suburbs' roadworks for hours. Even on a good day traffic on Lake Road is bumper to bumper.

The brilliant solution of Roads and Maritime Services was to reduce the speed limits on those roads. The problem is that bumper-to-bumper traffic means traffic is travelling at slow speeds, yet accidents occur. To my disappointment Roads and Maritime Services would not reveal the reasons that the speed was reduced. I believe that it was its pretend solution to our traffic gridlock. The Government should start building and expediting roads before any other plans.

Car commuters in the western suburbs lose thousands of dollars a year by being banked up on roads when trying to get to the city. More housing is being built in the western suburbs, but reliable public transport and park and ride facilities are not being provided, particularly at the John Hunter Hospital. We used to have good public transport park and ride facilities to the former stadium, and it was very successful. We need to find solutions and make sure that Roads and Maritime Services immediately expedites roadworks, particularly the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. A New Lambton constituent put it in stark terms:

I work in Wallsend, and in the morning when I'm coming in to work Newcastle Road is often total gridlock. Getting through the Jesmond roundabout takes forever. I would catch the bus, but the system is too unreliable—especially early in the morning—and I need to be at work by eight.

I am pleased that works are set to begin on stage 5 of the Newcastle inner city bypass from Rankin Park to Jesmond, but it is only the start of what is required to make Wallsend's traffic management successful. An integrated, broad-based transport plan is not only necessary but also urgently needed. We must act now before the situation becomes untenable, as it has in parts of Sydney. We cannot afford the piecemeal infrastructure that is occurring at the moment, with only small sections of roads being built—just like the cycleways in the western suburbs where streets are built that do not have cycleways and put cyclists back on the roads again. At times people in the western suburbs are too afraid to cycle—just like me when I travel from Jesmond to Wallsend—because it is scary.

Yes, we need more infrastructure—and we need it to work. As I have stated many times before, the Glendale interchange is the most significant regional project that needs to be built. Another important project is the M1 extension from Beresfield to Raymond Terrace, which will ease congestion from Maitland to Beresfield and Tarro. Once complete, stage 5 of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass will be instrumental in fixing the traffic chaos around the John Hunter Hospital and Lookout Road. It is a nightmare for workers to get to and from the John Hunter Hospital.

But that is not enough: Innovative solutions are required. Unfortunately, the Government has suspended funding for the popular park and ride facility, which took commuters—many of whom live in Wallsend—from the Hunter Stadium at Broadmeadow into the Newcastle CBD. At the moment Newcastle City Council is funding that project because it has been so successful. It is interesting to note that the Governor spoke about the importance of connectivity. We need to have connectivity in regional areas, too. Those regions where people do not vote Liberal—where they vote Labor—need and deserve infrastructure as well. Thousands of new homes are being built in the west, and we need better infrastructure in those areas, including better public transport to get people to and from those areas and schools.

CRONULLA ELECTORATE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (17:46): I am delighted to be back in Parliament as the member for Cronulla. I pinch myself every day when I realise how lucky I am to be one of a relative handful of people who get to serve the people of New South Wales in this Parliament. It is an honour and a privilege to be back.

I thank the many people who worked on my election campaign. Thousands of volunteer hours are behind any campaign in an electorate, and the Cronulla electorate is no exception. I thank Michael Douglas, Rhonda Holt, Carol Provan, Ross Howie, Mike Schrafft, Michelle Lawson, and those who were part of my committee. I thank the dynamic local Young Liberals, including Haris Strangas, Patrick Wynne, Max Bail, Lachlan Fraser, David Martin, Greg Barker, Keegan Mason and Cooper Gannon. I thank Barry Ross, who led my pre-poll effort. I thank all the other volunteers, including the many whom I have not named, but who worked on polling day, at pre-polls, shopping centres and train stations generally helping to get me re-elected. But most of all I thank the people of Cronulla for the confidence and faith they have put in me to act as their local member.

It will be very busy in Cronulla during this term of Parliament. There is lots to do and I am determined to make sure that a fair share of spending on infrastructure and services goes to Cronulla. At the top of my list is transport—in particular, upgrading the T4 Illawarra line. That line is full in peak hour. It is physically not possible to put more trains on the line at those times. That is why the Government is committed to spending \$880 million on upgrading digital signalling right across the Sydney train network, with the T4 line to be one of the first two lines to get that upgrade. That will allow a 30 per cent increase in train capacity from Cronulla to the city in peak hour. That is certainly the number one infrastructure priority that I have.

Another transport matter is the Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link [SCATL], which in the next few years will bring about a dedicated off-road cycle way all the way from Sutherland to Cronulla. Local road projects are also important. The Gannons Road bridge has been a bottleneck for many years. It has one lane going south and two lanes going north, which means that in afternoon peak hour it is just about the worst bottleneck in the Cronulla electorate. That bridge will be replaced this year, and the council will build a wider road underneath to fix the bottleneck. Other transport initiatives in this term will include improving local bus services—in particular, a far more regular bus service to Kurnell. The bus service there is very poor at the moment, with as few as four services on Sunday and buses finishing early during the week. There will be hourly off-peak bus services and bus services as late as nine o'clock at night during the week.

Our natural environment and our national parks are also very important. Part of the Government's election commitment was to green the shire and give Sutherland Shire Council a grant to plant 2,800 new trees. Kamay Botany Bay National Park will be the beneficiary of \$50 million of joint Federal and State funding that will coincide with the 250th anniversary of Cook's landing at Kurnell and the meeting of two cultures. The money will fund the construction of matching ferry wharfs at Kurnell and La Perouse that will hopefully re-establish a connection that was lost in the 1970s when the Kurnell wharf was washed away in a storm. It will also go towards a revamped visitors centre and a generally upgraded amenity of Kamay Botany Bay National Park, which is an extremely important cultural, historic and natural precinct for all Australians.

Returning to transport, from 1 July the Opal weekly cap will be set at \$50, which will lead to significant transport fare savings for my constituents who catch the train to the city from Woollooware and Cronulla and are paying well over \$60 at the moment. There is also plenty to do in the hospital space. There will be eight new operating theatres at Sutherland Hospital and upgrades to two endoscopy suites to bring those facilities to world-class standards. I am delighted to be back. It is a privilege to be here. There is lots to do, but if any constituent reading this shopping list of activity does not think there is enough or has other ideas, that is what I am here for—to be their voice in Parliament, to represent them and to put forward projects and ideas. I look forward to getting that feedback from constituents.

Announcements

ALFRED COURE

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I wish my father, Alfred Coure, a very happy birthday, best wishes and many happy returns. No doubt he is watching this on the internet.

The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 17:52 until Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 10:00.