



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Thursday, 9 May 2019

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9 May 2019

The Speaker (The Hon. Jonathan Richard O'Dea) took the chair at 10:00.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given.]

Bills

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2019

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Mark Speakman, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (10:11): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2019 continues the statute law revision program that has been in place for more than 30 years. Statute law bills have featured in most sessions of Parliament since 1984. They are an effective method for making minor policy changes and maintaining the quality of the New South Wales statute book. Schedule 1 to the bill contains policy changes of a minor and non-controversial nature. These changes are for proposals that are too inconsequential to warrant the introduction of a separate amending bill. The schedule contains amendments to 21 Acts and includes related amendments to two instruments.

I will give an outline of some of the amendments that are included in this schedule. Schedule 1 includes an amendment to the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act 1986. Currently, an employer is required to notify the Long Service Corporation of a worker's entitlement within seven days of commencement of building and construction work. There is no operational requirement for notification within seven days. As such, a longer period can be provided without any negative impact on the corporation, employers or employees. The amendment introduces a revised period of 28 days within which an employer must provide notice.

The amendment to the Registered Clubs Act 1976 proposed in schedule 1 also reduces administrative burden. Currently, when a registered club changes its rules, it must provide the Secretary of the Department of Industry with a copy of the rules as well as any changes within one month of the change. The amendment allows a registered club to notify the Secretary of the Department of Industry of changes to the rules, but only requires provision of a copy of the changes if requested by the secretary. The amendments in schedule 1 also enhance the efficiency of the operation of State programs. An amendment in schedule 1 to the Local Land Services Act 2013 enables the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales to delegate functions relating to the collection of contributions for managing pests within the State. The power of delegation will allow the Minister to confer the functions on staff in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment once established.

Schedule 1 includes amendments to the Health Services Act 1997 and the Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Act 2009. These amendments streamline the process for reporting professional misconduct or unsatisfactory professional conduct of visiting health practitioners. Currently, chief executives of public health organisations are required to report certain complaints received about visiting health practitioners to a national board and a health professional council. The amendments allow chief executives to meet their obligations under both the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and the Health Services Act 1997 by making a single report of the relevant behaviour. This is an efficient approach that maintains the effectiveness of dealing with complaints.

Schedule 1 contains amendments to Acts in the portfolio of the Minister for Customer Service, including the Gaming Machines Act 2001 and the Liquor Act 2007. Currently, the Secretary of the Department of Industry has the power to carry out investigations and inquiries to determine whether a complaint should be made about a licensee, manager or close associate of a licensee to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority. These amendments ensure that those powers remain available in relation to a proposed complaint and after a complaint has been made, right up until the authority determines the complaint.

Schedule 1 also amends the Marine Safety Act 1998 to ensure persons charged with repeat offences of operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and other drugs are dealt with in the same way as offenders charged with equivalent road transport offences. The Road Transport Act 2013 is also amended by schedule 1 to adopt the most recent national standards for the safe carriage of loads on road vehicles. This amendment is required to deliver a consistent approach across all Australian jurisdictions. The amendments also implement a consistent approach to transfer of ownership of heavy vehicle number plates to road authorities in all Australian jurisdictions.

Amendment of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 by schedule 1 to the bill clarifies that all persons leaving, or who have left, out-of-home care are entitled to the possession of original documents in a file of their personal information held by the person or agency responsible for the person during the period during which they were in out-of-home care. The amendment is required to remove an ambiguity in the legislation that refers to a "child or young person". It was not the intention of the legislation that only a child or young person can obtain documents.

Schedule 2 deals with purely statute law matters consisting of minor technical changes to legislation that the Parliamentary Counsel considers are appropriate for inclusion in the bill. Examples of amendments in those schedules are corrections of cross-references, typographical errors and terminology. The schedule also includes amendments arising out of the enactment of other legislation. Schedule 3 continues the program of repealing Acts and instruments that are redundant or of no practical utility. This schedule includes the repeal of redundant provisions of the Government Telecommunications Act 2018. Schedule 4 contains general savings, transitional and other provisions. This includes a provision that deals with the effect of amendments on amending provisions. Each amendment is explained in detail in the explanatory notes included at the beginning of the bill or beneath the amendments.

I hope that members will appreciate the straightforward and non-controversial nature of the provisions in the bill. If any amendment causes concern or requires clarification, it should be brought to my attention. If necessary, I will arrange for Government staff to provide additional information on the matters raised. If any matter cannot be resolved and is likely to delay the passage of the bill, the Government is prepared to consider withdrawing it from the bill. Withdrawn proposals can also be dealt with in a second bill using the procedure for splitting bills in the Legislative Council and can be dealt with in each of the Houses in the same way as an ordinary bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Governor

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Debate resumed from 8 May 2019.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (10:20): It gives me great pleasure to reply to the Governor's Speech. I congratulate the Governor on her recent appointment and wish her and Mr Beazley a fabulous time in their roles. I also wish them all the best as the new apiarists taking on the care of the bees on the Governor's property. On the dawn of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament, I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation—the land on which this Parliament meets. I express my gratitude to the Darkinjung and Guringai peoples, whose land I have been chosen to represent, for their care of country past, present and future.

From the mighty Derebin, or Hawkesbury River, in the south, to Awaba, or Lake Macquarie, in the north and the spiritually poignant Mount Yengo in the west, the electorate of Gosford is part of the magnificent land that is the beautiful Central Coast. I look forward to the Government following through on its commitments to the coast. We are still waiting for the Woy Woy underpass that the Government promised eight years ago. We are also waiting for it to deliver on its commitment to upgrade our roads that it made during the by-election campaign when I was first elected.

The Liberal Government has been slow to deliver the Brisbane Water Drive upgrade. I will continue to push for its completion as well as for the Blackwall Road safety upgrade. The Government has promised to build the Picnic Parade roundabout. During the next four years I will continue to push for that to be delivered for the people of Ettalong. The Woy Woy underpass is really important for our community. I will continue to fight for a solution to that level-crossing debacle, even while the Government promises to speed up our trains. Of course it needs to fix one of the most dangerous level crossings in New South Wales.

We on the northern side of the Hawkesbury look at the northern beaches where a harbour tunnel is going to be delivered. To me that seems like another pork-barrelling exercise for the North Shore while the Government completely neglects Central Coast commuters who are spending significantly more time than northern beaches residents travelling to Sydney workplaces. The new train timetable delivers nothing extra for the Gosford

electorate. There are no new trains to speed up the morning commute and to ease congestion. No new carriages have been announced for people travelling at 5.00 a.m. The poor old tradies are up well before dawn and are crammed like sardines onto those early four-carriage trains. They are sitting in stairwells or standing for over an hour as they are commuting all the way to the city. We need a change to the trains for the people of the Central Coast.

Whilst we might have a new hospital, and consistently great reports from the community about the staff, we would love more full-time staff for the Central Coast Local Health District and not just replacements for those leaving the system or retiring. As for our new hospital car park, it is about time this Government delivered at least some parking for the city of Gosford. But unfortunately for the people it comes at such a price. Our car park has opened but it has been almost boycotted by the community because of the increase in the charge for parking from \$1.20 an hour to \$6.70 an hour for visitors and from \$13 to \$26 a week for workers—for those hospital staff who care for the people of the coast.

Mr David Mehan: Shame!

Ms LIESL TESCH: I acknowledge the interjection of the member for The Entrance. People in his electorate are concerned about what might happen to the Wyong Public Hospital car park, which is serviced by even less public transport. We commit to fighting alongside our hospital workers, the Health Services Union and the Nurses and Midwives' Association for a decrease in the cost of hospital parking for both the workers who care for the people of the coast and the people visiting their loved ones in our hospital.

Whilst this Government continues to push for increased population density in our electorate and across the coast, I will continue to fight for additional funding for infrastructure upgrades and quality design to maintain the integrity of our beautiful beachside communities. I will continue to fight to stop the State Liberal Government taking over all our local planning controls and smashing our coast communities with high-rise overdevelopment, as has happened in Sydney.

The people of the coast have seen the Liberal Government move Gosford Public School from the waterfront and squash it into the grounds of Henry Kendall High School. We asked for the Government to purchase the electricity land along Racecourse Road, which was once public land, to allow our schools to expand and give some quality playground area. We see Gosford Public School pushing capacity, with limited playground space for students and terrible parking options for staff, families and visitors when that land has been sold to a private developer for a new private hospital.

Despite its claims of improving school maintenance, unfortunately the Liberal Government has not replaced a single old demountable classroom in the Gosford electorate since I have been elected. I do hope this push for additional spending on school maintenance flows beyond Terrigal High School and Wamberal primary school in the Terrigal electorate. We have been speaking to school counsellors and teachers in our community who have told us about a promise of new counsellors for young people in our schools. However, at the same time we are seeing decreased job security for our teaching staff who have retrained as counsellors, and even less job security for those psychologists who are replacing trained teacher-counsellors on insecure contract work across the coast. We are seeing further moves to a casual and contractual workforce in the public sector under this Government.

In the Governor's Speech we might have heard about this Government bragging about its achievements, yet sadly we do not have a Minister for the Central Coast, or for the Hunter, and not even a Parliamentary Secretary for our community. Today in the New South Wales Parliament I ask: Where is the representation for the people of the Central Coast in the eyes of the Liberal Government? Who within the Government do the MPs on the coast turn to and trust to know our community—Taylor Martin, MLC, or the member for Terrigal? I do not believe either of these members stands up for our community on the issue of homelessness.

Are they listening to our community's concerns regarding the increasing level of homelessness across the electorate? Are they listening to our football club, which is losing members because of threats from people living in the corners of the parks alongside playing field? Are they listening to the manager of the local Woolworths, who would rather replace shopping trolleys than retrieve them from the growing enclaves of unsupported people living in our parks and on our streets and the mums living in their cars in our communities? I will continue to push for improved resources for the police, community services and mental health, and housing services that are supporting vulnerable people living in our parks and in their cars across the electorate. It is a real concern for me and for members of our communities. We as a government must put in place measures and services to care for these vulnerable people.

I thank the Governor for her address. I thank her for opening the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales. I thank the people of Gosford for re-electing me to this, the people's Parliament. I love working for the

people of Gosford. Every day it is an honour and it brings a smile to my face to be in our community representing the people of the coast. I thank all our community leaders for the great work they do within our community and I commit, alongside members representing electorates on the coast, to continue working alongside the people of the Gosford electorate and those members' electorates to strengthen our communities and our community groups. I will continue to do my utmost to improve the resources delivered and the quality of life on the coast that we cherish.

I thank the people who have supported me over the past two years as a new member of Parliament. I also welcome all those who are newly elected to this place. I thank everyone across my electorate who worked to ensure "Teschie" was re-elected with a decent margin. I particularly thank our team members in the Gosford electorate office—Richard, Brody, Jesse, Kajal and Emma—for their commitment and dedication to supporting our constituents. I know their hard work has improved the lives of many people across the Gosford electorate and I appreciate their efforts and initiatives in delivering solutions for our community. I thank our Labor family, led by our pre-poll and election day coordinator, Peter Feltham, and his team of Genny Murphy, John Gifford and Joy Cooper. I also thank everyone who was a part of the mighty campaign team. I believe we are a strong Labor family across the southern end of the coast—in fact, across the Central Coast.

I extend a huge thankyou to Labor's extraordinarily talented candidate for Robertson, Anne Charlton. She was beside me on so many occasions, at early train station visits, doorknocking, at street stalls and speaking with members of our electorate on the phone. Anne has a clear understanding of the support our community needs. She is a fantastic candidate and I know we need a Labor Federal government to deliver to the coast, especially given that the New South Wales Liberal Government has not appointed a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast.

I am confident that the people of the coast will listen with intelligence and wisdom to some of the ridiculous lies being presented in our media and being placed in our letterboxes and vote for a fairer Central Coast and a fairer Australia on 18 May. We have heard the fast-train fibs before and have watched the Federal member do absolutely nothing as fuel prices increase to ridiculous heights on the peninsula despite the fact that she claims the Prime Minister can control them.

I send a hug to my Central Coast colleagues. What a team! That includes Jeff Sunstrom. I thank him warmly. I also congratulate the member for Wyong, David Harris, and the member for Swansea, Yasmin Catley, on their re-election. I particularly congratulate our very own rocket man, the member for The Entrance, David Mehan, on increasing his margin. I thank the Labor councillors on the coast: Richard Mehrtens, Kyle MacGregor, Jeff Sunstrom, Lisa Matthews, Jillian Hogan, Doug Vincent and the people of the coast for their hard work and successes on behalf of our community across the third-largest council area in New South Wales. I thank the Governor for her speech and remind her that the Central Coast is a fabulous place in which to live, and I commit to working with my constituents to make it even better.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (10:31): I am pleased to contribute in the debate on the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech delivered this week on Tuesday 7 May 2019 to officially open the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. I congratulate Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley, Officer of the Order of Australia, Queen's Counsel, on her appointment as Governor of the State of New South Wales.

I am honoured and privileged to speak in this Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales after being returned as the member for Mulgoa at the recent State election. The election result, showing a swing towards me despite the negative and deceitful campaign waged by my opponents, was incredibly humbling and a demonstration of the community's support for the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals vision for our community. I will not take this honour and privilege for granted, and I commit myself to work tirelessly to deliver on my election commitments, to provide assistance to my community, and to continue to stand up and to speak up for the people of Mulgoa.

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 reduce the cost of living and delivering better services; fixing our roads and transport networks and easing congestion, which will make it quicker for people to move 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 in schools, giving all children in New South Wales the best possible start in life.

I highlight the Liberal and Nationals New South Wales Government's commitment and funding allocation under the Cooler Classrooms policy. In my inaugural speech in this House eight years ago, I highlighted the need for air conditioning in western Sydney schools not only to support our students to perform their best in classrooms but also to assist our teachers and support staff to perform at their best as they educate our future

citizens. I was extremely proud that day when the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government announced funding to deliver the Cooler Classrooms policy.

The vision the Liberal-Nationals Government set for the next term of government is achievable only through strong economic management which the Coalition has continuously demonstrated. I congratulate the Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, on her leadership and her tireless work ethic and passion for the people of New South Wales. During the swearing-in ceremony this week I reminded the Premier that last year when I was a Minister I responded to a question and declared that she would be the first female Premier to be elected to govern in New South Wales. I was thrilled and elated that the Liberal Party is the party that has delivered the first female elected Premier—an achievement that I know rubs salt into Labor Party election wounds.

I also congratulate the Treasurer, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, and the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro, on their leadership during the election campaign and on the vision they set for the people of New South Wales. I congratulate all Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPs with other leadership responsibilities on their appointments and wish them success in their roles. I congratulate returned MPs on both sides of this House as well as new MPs, specifically Robyn Preston, the member for Hawkesbury; Wendy Lindsay, the member for East Hills; Wendy Tuckerman, the member for Goulburn who is in the Chamber; Dugal Saunders, the member for Dubbo; Peter Sidgreaves, the member for Camden; Nathaniel Smith, the member for Wollondilly; Justin Clancy, the member for Albury; and Gurmeh Singh the member for Coffs Harbour who is also in the Chamber.

They have commenced in a new role and in a new world. It is incredibly rewarding to speak up, to advocate and then to deliver for one's local communities. But politics can also be a tough time for members and their families especially when they are often away from home serving their communities. I extend my thanks to them and to their families and friends who will support them during their political careers, which I am certain will be much longer than the next four years. It will go quickly so they should make every day count.

The Governor noted in her speech that New South Wales is on track to deliver consecutive budget surpluses over the next four years. New South Wales currently leads the nation on key economic indicators, including our record low unemployment rates. We are also experiencing a record-breaking \$89.7 billion infrastructure program for New South Wales which will continue to deliver jobs and opportunities for the people of New South Wales. Infrastructure works are transforming my local community.

Western Sydney Airport is a game changer for the western Sydney region. Employment, lifestyle, business and investment opportunities will be delivered as a result of the airport and the surrounding aerotropolis—something for which my community has been calling for decades. I acknowledge the courage and vision of former Prime Minister Tony Abbott for ending decades of indecision on both sides of politics to announce in 2014 that the Federal Coalition Government would commence and build Sydney's second international airport. As a result of this announcement a significant infrastructure program of works is now underway including major road upgrades such as The Northern Road, Bringelly Road, Mulgoa Road and the M4 Smart Motorway, and the M12 and Elizabeth Drive upgrades are being planned—only a handful of the projects that are underway.

During the election campaign I was thrilled to announce that the Mulgoa Road stage two upgrade will commence in this term of government. Stage two will include upgrades to Jeanette Street, Regentville, through to Glenmore Parkway in Glenmore Park and will enable thousands of residents in Glenmore Park to get onto Mulgoa Road with less stress and delay than they are currently experiencing. Stage one of the Mamre Road upgrade, which is worth \$420 million, will commence in this term of government. A westbound on-ramp to the M4 and to Roper Road will be built. These road upgrades and many more are being delivered to make it easier for the community to get around and will support businesses without the cost burden of congestion.

Another commitment I was thrilled to announce included a Service NSW centre in Glenmore Park, a new primary school in Mulgoa Rise and a new performing arts and learning centre in Glenmore Park High School. It was absolutely thrilling to make that announcement because the performing arts and learning centre is there to foster creativity and science, and to strengthen our local community. It will benefit Glenmore Park High School and the seven other public schools that form the Glenmore Park Learning Alliance and is being built and designed to be a facility for the wider community of Glenmore Park and beyond.

MPs love to make announcements about positive changes happening in their communities, but there are also times when we must stand up and take up the fight against undesirable change and inappropriate development. Regrettably, Penrith City Council and my community of Wallacia are fighting an unwanted, inappropriate and dangerous development application brought by the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust [CMCT] that will destroy my local Wallacia golf club and turn it into a cemetery. I fought the proposal alongside my community before the election and I will continue to fight it after the election. I have presented the CMCT with far more

suitable sites for a cemetery, but for unknown reasons it remains fixed on destroying my local golf club and the Wallacia community.

This fight is far from over. I thank the Premier for responding to the crisis, meeting with members of the community and Penrith City Mayor, and directing the Greater Sydney Commission to prepare a strategic report to meet the cemetery and burial needs of our Sydney community without destroying essential local recreational and sporting infrastructure. I also reaffirm my total opposition to the incinerator planned by The Next Generation at Eastern Creek. The election commitments I made to my community can only be delivered when the Government has the economic means to do so. Only a Liberal-Nationals Government has the skill, discipline, vision and fiscal responsibility to manage the economy so that my community and the wider New South Wales community can be supported with the infrastructure and improved services that they deserve.

I first stood for election after seeing the decline and decay in western Sydney after 16 years of Labor Government. Now I am heading into my third term as the member for Mulgoa in a successful Liberal-Nationals Government. It is an honour and privilege to represent my community and be a part of this Government team that is focused on delivering infrastructure, investment and improved services. I will work tirelessly every day to deliver on my election commitments and to support my electorate of Mulgoa.

Business interrupted.

Bills

FAIR TRADING AMENDMENT (CASH LOAN MACHINES) BILL 2019

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Yasmin Catley, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (10:44): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The object of the Fair Trading Amendment (Cash Loan Machines) Bill 2019 is to prohibit cash loan machines from being installed or kept on any premises. These machines are a scourge on our communities. Before I discuss the substance of this bill I will give some context on predatory payday loans and these machines. Low-income people have little capacity to absorb financial shocks including unexpected illness, replacement of broken appliances or even an unexpected parking ticket. Payday lenders prey upon people who have fallen on hard times, offering them small amount credit contracts and trapping them into a cycle of debt.

These are not good value loans by any stretch of the imagination. They are loans cloaked as leases to avoid caps on costs under the national credit laws. Payday lenders are actively finding loopholes in our national law to exploit people, fleece them of their pay cheques or pensions and collect hundreds, if not thousands, in fees. They are called "loan sharks" for a reason—they are outright predators. These loans are anything but helpful to families and individuals in need of quick financial assistance. Payday lenders have comparison interest rates anywhere between 111 per cent and 407 per cent. On top of this they have sneaky fees and charges. Attempts have been made at a Federal level to regulate payday loans, but time and again this has been held up by the current Federal Government.

In 2015 a review of small account credit contracts [SACCs] recommended a number of changes to these loans. They include: imposing a cap on the total payments that can be made under a consumer lease; requiring SACCs to have equal repayments and equal payment intervals; banning monthly fees on the residual term of a loan where a loan is repaid early; preventing door-to-door sales of SACCs; introducing broad anti-avoidance protections to prevent SACC loan and consumer lease providers from circumventing rules and protections; strengthening penalties; and preventing payday lenders and rent-to-buy schemes from giving loans or taking repayments where the repayments of all of the customer's payday loan exceed 10 per cent of their net income, which is known as the "protected earning amount".

These companies are always coming up with new and sneaky tactics to fleece people of their cash. In New South Wales we are particularly worried about the accessibility of the new instant cash loan machines, which work like ATMs; however, in reality they provide small amount credit contracts with high fees that target low-income earners. These machines are located largely in tobacconists stores in low socio-economic areas in New South Wales. They offer loans of between \$500 and \$1,000, with the limits increasing each time a user accesses the machine. We have identified the location of these machines in stores in the suburbs of Berkeley; Cessnock; Lake Macquarie; Minto; Raymond Terrace; San Remo, which is in the electorate that I represent; Woy Woy; and Wyoming.

I am extremely worried about the ease with which people can access small amount credit contracts, including via these machines and via apps on their phone. These are not good value products: They are poor value products that are predatory in nature. These machines look like ATMs; however, they operate as payday lenders. They require identification and bank details for users to receive an instant cash loan, the amount of which is then direct debited from the user's bank account. While payday lenders maintain they take a consumer's personal circumstances into account, I find it hard to believe that a machine that asks only a few questions would be able to take into account a person's living situation and whether they had the ability to pay back the loan. The fees for these loans are egregious. Some of the loans require a 20 per cent establishment fee and, for late payments, a 4 per cent monthly fee and a daily fee of \$6.

First-time employed customers can access up to \$600 and Centrelink benefit customers can apply for up to \$300. Existing customers can access up to \$950. Payday lenders use sophisticated software to detect when users receive payments such as Centrelink payments, and time the direct debits in line with these payments. Loans are for a maximum of eight weeks only. That is why I commend this bill to the House today. While others will try to justify the existence of payday loans by arguing that they provide a service to the community, New South Wales Labor is proud to stand up and call for an end to these machines. The intention of the Fair Tradition Amendment (Cash Loan Machines) Bill 2019 is very clear: It is to ban these machines from our State so that they do not prey on members of our community. The object of this bill specifically is to prohibit cash loan machines from being installed or kept on any premises. The bill will amend the Fair Trading Act by inserting Part 4C "Cash loan machines" after Part 4B. Proposed section 58O sets out a prohibition on cash loan machines, stating:

- (1) A person must not cause or permit a cash loan machine to be installed or kept on any premises.

A maximum penalty of 100 units will be applied. It goes on:

- (2) In this section:
Cash loan machine means a machine used:
 (a) to approve a small amount credit contract between a user of the machine and a credit provider, and
 (b) for the withdrawal of cash by the user under that contract.
credit provider has the same meaning as in section 204 of the *National Credit Code*.
National Credit Code means the Code set out in Schedule 1 to the *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.
premises includes a hotel, club or other premises licensed under the *Liquor Act 2007* or the *Casino Control Act 1992*.

I emphasise to this House that this includes the whole State, including licensed venues. It continues:

small amount credit contract has the same meaning as in the *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.

I commend some of the fantastic organisations that have been campaigning in this area, some of which have been campaigning over many decades. Without their fantastic advocacy work, this bill could not have been introduced today. First, I acknowledge the work of the Financial Counsellors Association of NSW [FCAN]. What a great job it does to assist the most vulnerable. This problem was first brought to my attention by Graham Smith from FCAN, who has chaired FCAN for the past three years and has a significant history in the community sector. He currently works in the Cessnock electorate and is only too familiar with how vulnerable people are in that community and how they are being preyed upon by these shocking loan sharks. His many decades of service includes working in the public housing sector in remote Northern Territory and Western Australian Indigenous communities, and running community development programs.

Mr Smith is a confidant and I enjoy his counsel on matters such as these. He raised this issue with me and also with the media. He has serious concerns about these machines and their potential to harm disadvantaged communities across this State. He has passionately pursued this issue in the media and I am pleased to present this bill, which is a legislative mechanism to solve the serious concerns Mr Smith raised. I will touch briefly on the work of Consumer Action in the area of payday loans. Consumer Action, which is located in Victoria, works directly with people who have taken out payday loans. The organisation has lobbied the Federal Government to review the legislation. It has documented the experiences of people using these types of loans and the adverse impacts that these loans have had on their lives. As an example, Consumer Action has noted James's story, which highlights the vicious cycle of payday lending.

James says that in the past 12 to 18 months he had eight to 12 payday loans from a payday lender that also operates as a pawnbroker, but that he has lost count. James says that he was recently provided a loan from one counter, which he then used to pay off his pawnbroking loan at another counter within the same store. The payday lender listed his monthly expenses, excluding his rent, as less than \$550 per month, based on a default calculation of expenses that equals just 15 per cent of the borrowers' income. James says that his monthly expenses are much higher and that he generally uses the loans for groceries and living expenses, such as his rent. He says that he had trouble paying back the loans and that he got caught in a cycle where he had cash flow problems. The

default fees were significant, so when he defaulted on one contract about three or four times he was left with little money to make ends meet.

Consumer Action also told me Julie's story. Julie, a single mother subsisting on Centrelink payments, relies on multiple payday loans. In particular, Consumer Action found that dodgy structuring of loans added hundreds of dollars onto those fees. For example, the contract for a loan with a lender stated that the term of the loan was 16 months. However, the lender arranged for debits from Julie's account at a rate that ensured that the loan was repaid within four months. By restructuring the loan in such a way, the lender was able to charge Julie 16 months' worth of fees, but recover them in only four months. We must stop these kinds of shameless and underhanded tactics that put people down, drown them in a cycle of debt and impact so fully on their lives that they are unable to pay their rent, their bills or even afford groceries. This bill is an attempt to stamp out exactly this vicious cycle of debt. These machines are a scourge. Graham Smith said it best when he was quoted on the ABC as saying:

Unfortunately ... these machines are targeting the most vulnerable in our community, people on benefits who are looking at a way of getting some quick cash that I don't think they can afford in the long run.

Mr Smith says that there are "two smoke shops" in Cessnock. He adds:

... in one shop there is one [machine] and in another shop there is two. Usually there is a queue out the door around Christmas time.

He goes on to say that these locations in low socio-economic areas are, by no means, a coincidence. He says:

It's an area of our society where people are struggling, and with electricity bills increasing, people have got less and less money, and going to one of these organisations and getting a loan can often be a deep financial trap.

I read out these words because they illustrate just that—the deep trap that these loans put families and individuals in. We cannot, and we must not, wait for Federal reform. It is our duty, through the power of legislation created in this place, to protect the residents of New South Wales. It is my strong view that it is time to act here, in the New South Wales Parliament, to ensure that we protect people from predatory behaviour by payday lenders. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Motions

INFLUENZA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (10:58): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Calls on members to recognise the importance of annual influenza vaccinations for everyone in the community.
- (2) Calls on members to support the NSW Health Influenza Awareness Campaign.

The Premier and the Minister for Health, on their recent visit to Blacktown Hospital, launched the 2019 influenza awareness campaign. The aim of the campaign is to optimise protection in our community against influenza, especially by making those who are more vulnerable to flu—pregnant women, children under five years of age and older people—aware of the importance of an annual flu vaccination. Vaccination against influenza is the best protection available for vulnerable people.

It is crucial that everyone realises that influenza has the potential to kill, especially those who are most susceptible in our community. In 2017 New South Wales experienced its worst influenza season since the 2009 pandemic. More than 100,000 people were diagnosed with influenza and at least 650 deaths were due to influenza infection. Young children in their first few years of life are one of the most vulnerable groups to flu. Unfortunately, every year we have seen the death of one or two children in New South Wales from influenza. In some cases, these were previously healthy children, and their families are shocked by the sudden and severe effects of influenza.

Since 2018 the Government has made an influenza vaccine free for all children from six months to four years of age—that is around 400,000 children each year. Over a quarter of eligible children were reported to the Australian Immunisation Register as receiving at least one dose. NSW Health has informed me that that figure is likely to be an underestimate and it is working on more reliable reporting of influenza vaccines to the register. This uptake shows that the program has been well received in its first year but we can do more to increase the number of children receiving the benefits from influenza vaccine this year.

In 2019 the Government is spending \$2.6 million to purchase influenza vaccine for children aged six months to four years of age, and the half-a-million-dollar Influenza Awareness Campaign aims to raise awareness amongst parents and doctors of the importance of vaccinating vulnerable young children. I urge members to

support the campaign and to encourage all New South Wales parents of children under five years to take advantage of this important program. The 2019 Influenza Awareness Campaign also will help to support our efforts to reduce the impact of influenza on our communities and hospitals.

The campaign, which has two phases, runs from May to August. The first phase encourages all eligible people to get vaccinated and the second phase will inform everyone in the community about the importance of other measures to reduce the spread of flu, such as frequent hand cleaning, covering their coughs and sneezes and staying home if they are sick. I implore all eligible people to take advantage of government-funded vaccines. Those eligible include Aboriginal people, those with chronic illnesses, pregnant women and people aged 65 and over. NSW Health has introduced new initiatives to further promote flu vaccine uptake in 2019.

I acknowledge that in 2018 the flu vaccination was challenging, mostly due to the unprecedented demand for all vaccines. In 2018 more than 2.3 million doses of government-funded influenza vaccine were distributed. This is the highest volume ever distributed in any one year—50 per cent higher than in 2017. The 2018 program was made more complex by the first use of enhanced vaccines for the elderly and the first time all children under five years were eligible for vaccine. In response, NSW Health has introduced new initiatives to support the 2019 flu vaccination program.

Our stakeholders—general practitioners [GPs], pharmacists, local health districts, and aged-care providers—have provided very useful advice. Based on their advice, the Government has introduced new measures for a more flexible vaccine delivery system. A new Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit has been introduced this year, which provides advice on how providers can calculate vaccine demand and usage for each patient group to improve vaccine order forecasts. I commend this useful resource to all GPs, Aboriginal Medical Services, pharmacists and aged-care facilities.

Of the 2.5 million doses of influenza vaccine that are available in New South Wales in 2019 through the National Immunisation Program and government programs, 1.5 million doses have already been distributed. This is an encouraging start to the campaign. In 2019 more than 1.2 million doses of enhanced vaccine will be available for people aged 65 and older in New South Wales. This vaccine is important for those over 65 years as the older immune system tends not to have as robust a response to vaccines as it did in younger years. The vaccine available includes a stimulant for the immune system and boosts the effects of the vaccine by about 25 per cent.

NSW Health recognises that staff have a responsibility to do everything they can to minimise the risk of disease and of spreading it to patients and other staff. In 2018 NSW Health purchased the vaccine for all frontline staff and about 140,000 doses were provided. Since 2018, according to the provisions of the new Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases policy, staff working in high-risk clinical areas, such as maternity, intensive care and cancer wards, must provide evidence of an annual vaccination by 1 June each year. If no evidence is provided, staff must wear a mask during patient contact or be redeployed to lower risk areas. This is important to protect vulnerable patients from the risk of exposure.

In 2019, 150,000 doses were available and more than 95,000 have already been distributed. From 1 January 2019 trained pharmacists can prescribe and administer influenza, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, mumps and rubella vaccines to people aged 16 and over. These measures are of particular advantage in areas where it can be challenging to get a general practitioner's appointment. I hope it will increase the uptake of the vaccine across the wider community. I would like to see a bipartisan approach to influenza prevention in New South Wales. We can all pull up our sleeves and get a jab and urge our communities to follow suit. I am disgusted to see that in the current Federal election campaign in the great seat of Richmond Labor and The Greens are preferencing an anti-vax group before the Coalition. I commend the motion to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): I welcome to Parliament student leaders of high schools in New South Wales who are attending the Secondary School Leadership Program conducted by the Parliamentary Education Unit. I hope you enjoy your day today and learn from your experience.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (11:06): I am pleased to lead for the Opposition in debate on this important motion. I thank the member for Tweed for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. Experts are baffled by the unprecedented start to the influenza season in New South Wales this year, with more than 10,000 people having already been diagnosed—almost three times more than the same period last year. The figures revealed in the New South Wales Communicable Diseases Weekly Report show 10,121 recorded influenza cases to the end of April. That is almost triple last year's influenza figures for the same period, which was 3,803 cases, and is almost four times the number recorded in 2017, which was 2,884. With 103,852 cases reported, 2017 was a record year.

Influenza, or the flu, is the result of a viral infection that affects the respiratory system and causes, amongst other things, acute bouts of coughing and headaches. It is considered a seasonal epidemic disease due to

the high level of infection and transmission that occurs in colder months in temperate climates and throughout the year in tropical and subtropical climates, with seasonal spikes of increased occurrence. I welcome the school leaders who are visiting Parliament this morning. They would understand that this virus is spread from person to person. In their school assemblies and on public transport, when people are coughing all around them, it is important that they cover their mouth. Particularly as they move towards their Higher School Certificate, it is important that they have their influenza injections and stay well this year.

As the member for Tweed said, the main people at risk in our population are those with heart conditions, asthma and other lung conditions, diabetes, kidney problems and weakened immune systems; residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities; and anybody aged 65 and over, regardless of their health status. The complications that can arise from influenza, such as pneumonia, can be life-threatening. I was interested to note a report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics stating that in 2017, 1,255 deaths occurred due to influenza, with a standardised death rate of 3.9 per 100,000 persons. This was a significant increase from 2016 when 464 deaths caused by influenza were recorded across Australia. Those who died in 2017 from influenza most likely were female and aged over 75 years, had multiple comorbidities and lived in the eastern States of Australia.

Influenza and pneumonia are often reported together; however, they are two different diseases. While influenza is a viral respiratory tract infection, pneumonia is an infection or inflammation of the lungs that can be caused by bacteria, fungi or a virus. Influenza is a common cause of pneumonia. In 2017, 563 deaths were attributed to influenza but pneumonia also was certified on the death certificate as having developed and contributed to the death. When grouped together, influenza and pneumonia accounted for 4,269 deaths and were the ninth leading cause of death. In comparison, they were the eleventh leading cause of death in 2016. The majority of the increase was driven by the influenza virus in 84.6 per cent of cases. The statistics illustrate how important it is for people to be vaccinated against influenza, particularly those in a high-risk group.

As I stated earlier, influenza largely is a preventable and communicable viral illness. Treatment of influenza and its complications consume considerable resources that could otherwise be used for other essential healthcare services. According to an economic report of March 2007 into the costs of influenza to the Australian health system, the cost to the health system is largely borne by all levels of Australian governments—State, Territory and Federal—to varying extents. That funding could be used more efficiently for the prevention of influenza, which is why the education program referred to by the member for Tweed is so important. The 2007 report contains the latest figures I could find. I acknowledge that the information is a bit over 10 years old. Current figures are probably worse when compared to 2007 figures.

In the five years prior to 2007 there was an annual average of 310,000 GP consultations and 18,000 admissions to hospital caused by influenza. Those events cost government \$85 million annually. A sensitivity analysis around key parameters, which measures trips to the local doctor when a person gets the flu, shows that annually there are between 282,000 and 393,000 GP consultations related to influenza. Annually there are between 10,000 and 30,000 admissions to hospital, which shows that many hospital beds are being taken up by people who have influenza. The cost of those events range from \$52 million up to \$137 million annually.

The statistics show the large costs to our health system of not being inoculated against influenza. The most important factors affecting results were the number of admissions to hospital for influenza and pneumonia and for other respiratory conditions. The cost associated with GP consultations accounted for approximately 12 per cent of the total cost. In 2007 in Australia the total cost of influenza is estimated to have been between \$828 million and \$884 million a year. That includes not only trips to the doctor but also the number of workdays lost.

Vaccination against influenza is a very important issue. I hope that the community listens to the campaign and takes the opportunity to be vaccinated. Information about the groups that are entitled to free vaccination is available on the Government's website. Those groups include Aboriginal people, elderly people and young children. It is very important that our communities take the opportunity to keep themselves healthy, not only for their own wellbeing but also for our whole health system.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (11:13): I too acknowledge the young people in the gallery today and welcome them to the New South Wales Parliament. The Parliament is discussing issues of health. That is not because the New South Wales Parliament makes us sick, or politicians in general make us sick. That is an urban myth. We are highlighting the important need for people to take heed of vaccinations heading into the winter season so as not to repeat the influenza season of 2017. I acknowledge the member for Tweed who has fought tirelessly for a hospital in his area to provide health services for the community of the North Coast. I acknowledge also the good work of the Minister for Health and Medical Research, Brad Hazzard.

The Government has invested \$700 million in a wonderful new facility at Blacktown Hospital to serve the needs of western Sydney. On the health Minister's visit to Blacktown Hospital, he was approached by mothers

who were concerned about the availability of influenza vaccinations for their children. The Minister took it upon himself to launch a program funded by the Government to vaccinate children from nought to four years of age. In my previous role as the Minister for Multiculturalism I launched a campaign targeting our culturally diverse communities through various language channels in order to highlight the important need for the entire community to be vaccinated.

As has previously been mentioned, in 2017, 7,000 cases of influenza were detected across the State, culminating in the loss of 300 lives. The young people in the public gallery are fit, strong and healthy and would not be affected in the same way that influenza affects the very young, the elderly and frail and those over 65 years of age. In 2018 the Australian Government made available an enhanced flu vaccine for people aged over 65. In 2019, 1.25 million doses of enhanced flu vaccine have been ordered for elderly residents across New South Wales. Vaccination is the best way to reduce the impact of flu on the community. I understand that NSW Health, as soon as the enhanced flu vaccine was available from the supplier, prioritised delivery to aged-care facilities. It will continue to deliver the vaccine to aged-care facilities and general practitioners.

It is pleasing to see that more than 750,000 doses of enhanced influenza vaccine have been delivered across New South Wales to those people. Those important aged-care facilities have received 55,000 doses. NSW Health also provides resources for aged-care facilities to help them avoid transmission of flu, including influenza information kits, guides to identify and manage respiratory illness and access to current influenza vaccination campaigns. When outbreaks are reported to public health units, public health staff assist to identify the cause of any outbreaks. The Government is working as hard as it can to highlight to the community the importance of vaccination and the danger of influenza to our communities.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (11:18): I commend the member for Tweed for bringing this important issue to the attention of the House. It is paramount to inform the community of the importance of influenza vaccination. In 2017 and 2009 we saw pandemic outbreaks of influenza. For those who have health vulnerabilities, a simple flu shot can be the difference between life and death. None of us wishes to live with the regret of a grandparent, young child or a person with health challenges suffering an adverse health outcome because they had not been vaccinated.

I am happy to note that the health Minister and the Premier visited Blacktown Hospital in my electorate last week to launch this very important awareness program. I was also interested to hear from the member for Tweed that he knew about the launch. Unfortunately, I as the local member, along with many other local members, did not realise that the Premier was there. The very important launch was such a tightly kept secret that the local paper did not even run anything on it. We were not informed. Then again, even though I serve as the local mayor, it is not unusual for me not to be told about such events. You would think that together a mayor and a Premier could really raise awareness.

Local members the member for Seven Hills and the member for Riverstone, who are active on Facebook, did not know about it either. They have been promoted to be parliamentary secretaries but have no idea what is happening. If I had been there I could have taken the Premier to visit Benjamin Punzalan, who recently went to hospital after breaking six ribs at Doonside station. On eight occasions over the past eight years the Government has stopped funding for the installation of lifts at Doonside station. That has caused many elderly people to suffer injuries after falling down the stairs.

Ms Lynda Voltz: Where's the Minister for Customer Service?

Mr STEPHEN BALI: Indeed. Where is the Minister for Customer Service? I could have introduced the Premier to an elderly gentleman at Blacktown Hospital who has six broken ribs. I could have also told the Premier and the Minister that—depending on how much they want to utilise the hospital—there are 140 full-time equivalent vacant nursing places at Blacktown Hospital. Those poor nurses, doctors and other staff are doing a fabulous job but are being pushed to the absolute limit. When we are talking about such an important program, we should do it in a bipartisan way instead of the Premier being on show, getting a quick photo and talking to a couple of people. We need to work together to make sure that the message gets out.

Mr Mark Coure: You're scaring the kids.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: The member for Oatley might think this as a joke, but it is important. We do not want young children or grandparents to die because people were not aware of the fabulous program that we and the member for Tweed are talking about. It is so important; we cannot just pay lip service to it. If every member believes it is an important issue we must work shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand to tell people about it. We must fill the vacancies at Blacktown Hospital and we must make sure that Doonside station has lifts.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! If the member continues to interject, he will be placed on a call to order.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (11:22): It is with great pleasure that I speak in support of the important motion moved by the member for Tweed. I thank him for bringing it to the attention of the House. The influenza virus is always changing, and every year that creates challenges for public health officials and vaccine manufacturers. Each year decisions about the composition of flu vaccines need to be made at least six months in advance to allow time for them to be manufactured and distributed for the winter flu season. Flu vaccines need to be updated to make sure that they offer the best level of protection against the strains likely to dominate in winter. This year's flu vaccine includes two important updates to improve its effectiveness against some of the newer strains of flu that have been detected around the world since last year.

While flu is always in the community year round, I cannot recall a year with so much flu over the summer. Indeed, in 2019 there seems to be a new dimension to influenza, with extraordinarily high activity having been recorded across Australia over the summer months and into autumn. I understand that 10,000 cases of influenza have already been notified in New South Wales—at least three times more than previously recorded at this time. The impact has been felt in emergency departments and general practices. Some 27 aged-care facilities have already experienced outbreaks, with nine associated deaths. That shows how devastating influenza can be.

We know that getting a flu shot and practising basic hygiene measures are the best ways to avoid getting and spreading the flu this year. Given the high level of summer flu activity, NSW Health brought forward vaccine deliveries by two weeks this year, making vaccines available to vulnerable people as soon as they were provided by manufacturers to the warehouse. Each year flu vaccine distribution is a major logistical exercise and since 1 April more than 1.5 million doses of government-funded influenza vaccine have been supplied to hospitals, aged-care facilities, general practitioners and other immunisation providers. I urge everyone eligible for government-funded influenza vaccine to take advantage of this as soon as possible.

I would like to acknowledge pharmacists for supporting NSW Health's efforts to raise awareness amongst their patients of their eligibility for free influenza vaccine and for their contribution to prevention efforts by offering vaccine to those not eligible under government programs. Already more than 700 New South Wales pharmacists have undertaken training to administer influenza vaccine and establish accounts to report vaccinations administered to the national register. With more than 10,000 influenza cases already confirmed this year in New South Wales, I urge all our local residents to organise an appointment with their general practitioner or pharmacist to get their flu jabs ahead of the upcoming winter period.

I know that my local chemist, Chen's Pharmacy, both in Hammondville and Wattle Grove, is very approachable, professional and kind and one of the many local pharmacies that are a perfect place to get a jab. For those who have not been elsewhere before or who do not know where to go, I know Jonathan or Lilian will look after them. As I have done every year, I will make sure that I get my flu jab in the coming weeks to ensure that I am 100 per cent healthy and can continue to advocate strongly for our local area. I encourage all members—who come into contact with many vulnerable people, particularly small children, in the course of their work—to do the same.

While influenza throws up new challenges for the health system and our State each year, coordinated efforts from all sectors of health professionals allow us to respond effectively and minimise the impact of this potentially deadly disease. I again thank the member for Tweed for raising this important issue through this motion and urge all local residents and members of Parliament to organise to get their flu jabs.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (11:26): Mr Temporary Speaker Evans, congratulations on your re-appointment to the Speaker's Panel—well done indeed. I am delighted to speak on this motion about the Influenza Awareness Campaign brought forward by the member for Tweed. I congratulate the member for Tweed on his re-election. He is 100 per cent for the Tweed and is doing a wonderful job as a parliamentarian, especially for the good people of his electorate who benefit from the services of the Tweed Hospital. Vaccination against influenza is the best protection available for vulnerable people. It is therefore critical that everyone, especially those most susceptible in our community, realise that influenza has the potential to kill. I once had the flu and I can honestly say that it is debilitating.

Ms Melanie Gibbons: Once?

Mr ADAM CROUCH: Once was more than enough.

Mr Mark Coure: He's got it now. Be careful!

Mr ADAM CROUCH: I thank the member for Oatley for his concern. It is a debilitating illness and people do not realise how serious it is. Some interesting statistics have emerged over the past two flu seasons. In 2017 New South Wales experienced its worst influenza season since the 2009 pandemic, with more than 100,000 people diagnosed with influenza and at least 650 deaths due to the influenza infection. In 2018 more than

2.3 million doses of government-funded influenza vaccine were distributed. This is the highest volume ever distributed in any one year and 50 per cent higher than in 2017.

In advance of this flu season, as winter begins, the New South Wales Government is spending \$2.6 million to purchase influenza vaccine for children aged six months to four years. The \$500,000 Influenza Awareness Campaign aims to raise awareness amongst parents and doctors of the importance of vaccinating vulnerable young children. More than 2.5 million doses of influenza vaccine will be available in New South Wales in 2019 through this national influenza program. Under the New South Wales government program 1.5 million doses have already been distributed. This certainly is an encouraging start to the campaign. I am sure the member for Strathfield is going to have her vaccination and I will pulling up my sleeve to get a jab in a few weeks in Parliament House. I thank the human services staff of the Department of Parliamentary Services for organising this initiative.

I urge everyone to get a flu vaccination to ensure that we all stay healthy during the flu season. In my electorate on the Central Coast we have a high proportion of elderly people. Influenza is a serious viral infection and its impact upon the elderly is severe. Influenza has the potential to kill the elderly and outbreaks of flu in aged-care facilities tend to spread extremely quickly. Vaccinations are important, but they may not always prevent influenza in the elderly. I am the proud husband of a nurse, so I know that nurses appreciate the importance of influenza vaccinations. I commend the member for Tweed for moving this motion.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (11:29): In reply: I thank members representing the electorates of Wyong, Terrigal, Castle Hill, Blacktown and Holsworthy for their contributions to this debate.

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

Motion agreed to.

Members

INAUGURAL SPEECHES

The SPEAKER: I pay respect to the member for Lismore, who is about to give her inaugural speech. It is a pleasure to welcome the member for Lismore, who is no stranger to this Parliament but is a newcomer to this House.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (11:31): Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the post of Speaker in Australia's oldest colonial Parliament. I also congratulate the Government on its election win and the Premier for being the first woman to win an election in her own right. I note that she is single and, as she said, has a long name. These things should not be remarkable but they still are. I congratulate the Opposition, led by the Hon. Michael Daley, on a sterling effort in what was a hard campaign.

Mr Speaker, I take you at your word and hope that you can change the culture in this place. I stand ready to help. I commend my extensive and diverse parliamentary experience, which includes Speakers' panels in the other place and in our Federal Parliament. I must say that my first question time yesterday was unedifying. I expected better from the Premier because I know that she is better, and I see no reason to pat myself on the back for taking pointless points of order. We had grown-ups denigrating each other and their parties. We were not sent here by our communities to do that.

I was asked whether I was worried about coming into the bear pit, as it is called. After experiencing one question time I can say that it was more like cats hissing and spitting at each and there was little substance. Yesterday I contemplated sitting through about 44 question times—I think it will be about that many; I am not sure—but because I will do so for the good of my community, so be it; I shall endure. However, as I said, Mr Speaker, I hope that you can change the culture.

I remind the Liberal-Nationals Government that for the 16 years that the Labor Party was in government it achieved 16 triple-A credit ratings and surpluses in 15 of those 16 years. I stand to be corrected, but that is the information I have. The one anomaly was during the global financial crisis, when the Federal Government led by Kevin Rudd ensured that Australia was the only country that did not go into recession. I make that point because I get tired of hearing that Labor cannot manage the economy. I heard it repeatedly during the election campaign and we need to put that absolute nonsense to bed.

I also remind the Liberal-Nationals Government that during its term in government jobs in my region have reduced by at least 17,000 that we know of. The number of public service jobs has also declined, which means lower incomes in our communities. I do not have my family, friends and supporters with me in person today, but they are here in spirit. My senior electorate officer, friend and comrade, Carmel Cook, is here in the gallery. Carmel also ran my office when I was the Federal member for Page. I plan to celebrate at home in my

electorate what is the win of many. They will be subjected to watching my speech at the event, a bit like being subjected to your best friend's home video of their holiday—they too will endure. When the Hon. Jenny Gardiner congratulated me, she quipped it was my third first speech—and indeed it is. So it feels a little unusual to talk about my first speech when it is my third but it is the first, and probably the most important, in this most important of Parliaments that you preside over, Mr Speaker.

On Tuesday the Government's agenda and priorities were set out in the speech delivered by the Governor, as is customary. The Government stated unequivocally that it is committed to improving the lives of everyone in New South Wales. I shall take it at its word. As the member for Lismore, my job is to ensure that I do everything I can to improve the lives of all residents across the electorate, which includes Tenterfield, Kyogle, Lismore, Murwillumbah and parts of Tweed Valley. I shall continue my practice of working closely with the local councils and all local MPs to get the best outcomes for the electorate. To do this, I have a duty to work with government but to hold it to account to deliver. As a member of the Opposition, I have a duty to work to better policies and programs that best serve my community and all regional and rural residents of New South Wales.

I am the first Labor member for Lismore in 54 years—a bit of a drought there. The drought has broken; I wish the other drought would do so totally. Lismore was last held by Labor member Keith Compton from 1959 to 1965. His widow met with me in 1991, when I first stood for the seat of Lismore. Some people may have forgotten that or may not have known. You see, I am an optimist who never gives up. I was asked on ABC radio this week whether it was different in this Chamber and I said, yes, there was more civility in the other place. Perhaps instead of mocking it, we could at least emulate that civility.

I am here because I am proudly an activist, not a career politician. I do not say that disparagingly because we all have different paths to this place. We mostly all want to make a difference. I do, I have and I shall do so again. As MPs we get invited into people's lives in the most emotional, intimate ways. Our obligation then is to tread lightly in their lives and take their trust in us to advocate not so lightly for them, and to do so as fearlessly as we can. In my United Nations Development Programme work, I teach new MPs in other Parliaments about the role of an MP and say this: MPs serve and lead. MPs are a voice for all their constituents. MPs are often the first port of call and sometimes the last. MPs are agents of change. MPs do not have a job description—try to look for one, Mr Speaker—so should script their own, along with their plan for their electorate.

I did that during the election campaign, and it will serve my community well. I listened to what the needs are of the unemployed; the homeless; the parents struggling to make ends meet and to give their kids a good life; the farmers who want to feed us and protect the land and rivers; those who want to save our koalas, our forests and us from extinction; small business people who generally just earn wages but who want not only to survive but also to thrive; nurses and midwives who want to nurse safely and need mandated safe patient to nurse and midwife ratios, and security in hospitals; and our First Nation's People, who want to take their place in society and not have their people, particularly the men, jailed at alarming rates. I think it is more than 30 years since the royal commission and we have gone backwards. They deserve much better.

My constituents need TAFE places and teachers available to teach the courses, and to have schools that are permanent and with air conditioning and renewables. Bexhill Public School comes to mind, with all its demountables. People need shelter and housing. I cannot fathom why we do not have a department of housing and why we do not just build public housing. We build it, we rent it, we upkeep it and it pays for itself. Even at an economic level, it makes sense. I just don't get it. We need to have disability advocacy, action on climate change, more police to be engaged with the community not just arrest people—noting that the views in Nimbin, which is in my electorate, may diverge a little from what I just said. Treating people kindly goes a long way.

My mother always says I am kind, and I have never lost sight of that through all my years in public life. I have faith in politics; the word comes from the Greeks and it meant "affairs of the city". To that I add "country" so it covers rural and regional New South Wales. Its practical meaning is "the art of compromise" and that is what we have to do well in this place. I seek leave to incorporate into *Hansard* a one-page summary of my Lismore electorate plan. I am happy to first give it to members on the other side if they wish to look at it.

The SPEAKER: I note that you seek leave pursuant to Standing Order 271. I would like to view it before I consider granting leave to incorporate it into *Hansard*.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: Certainly. I do not think you will find it offensive to the House, but it is your call.

The SPEAKER: Please continue your speech and I will assess it as you speak.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: I was asked what was different between my electorate and other electorates where Independents or the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party won seats from The Nationals. I said the common thread was The Nationals not responding to the needs of the electorate, whether it be action for dairy farmers, fair

prices for farmers, fresh food or proper telecommunications, not the goat track of an NBN that has been rolled out—that was former head of NSW Farmers Association Mal Peters, not me. Another example is the failure to spend the promised Restart NSW funds in the regions—only 10 per cent instead of the promised 30 per cent in the years 2015 to 2016, but never on target over five cycles.

Sadly The Nationals have lost their way and are unable to properly represent the changing needs and challenges of our modern society. Maintaining the status quo no longer works. Keep tradition, by all means, but to cling to the relics of coal and just add water to address our problems of extreme weather events, hotter temperatures—climate change, as our scientists call it, including the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology—and water insecurity and scarcity is to fail current and future generations. I want to make things better for my grandson, who is five this year and already a citizen of the world, speaking fluent Portuguese and English, and all our children and grandchildren.

This brings me to say here in this place, where I am very honoured and proud to be, what motivated me to stand. In a nutshell, it was the lack of representation on the challenges the community faces in ensuring our economic and environmental health. It was the inability to tackle issues such as climate change and take action to lower temperatures, transition to renewables, and conserve and fairly allocate water. It was the failure to provide affordable and accessible housing, disability support with advocacy and strong institutions that serve the public—we have lost faith in them. It was the need to tackle drug use, including ice, increase social cohesion in the community—and my community is equally conservative and progressive—and take the community together to a better future.

The inability to tackle these challenges, and we can, was epitomised in the failure of our institutions and MPs—not our wonderful, brilliant volunteers in the State Emergency Services, Rural Fire Service, Red Cross and many more—to adequately respond to the catastrophic flood damage caused to the Lismore and Murwillumbah CBDs and industrial areas by Cyclone Debbie. Yes, Category C assistance was secured for the CBDs and small business. When I was a Federal member I made sure we got that assistance four or five times. Queensland rightfully gets Category D assistance, which is for catastrophic damage, but no-one in my area sought it. I said, "Could you imagine me not going hard for Category D or, in the alternative, a public infrastructure fund to help us rebuild?"

The debate in the electorate often would take the path of economy or environment or defending the status quo as opposed to change. It is not either/or but all of these things. As members we have to walk forward with those challenges and take our community with us. We need to do something about electricity networks, the big three who have the monopoly and push prices down. I have seen everyone promise and I have never seen it delivered yet, so I hope through this Parliament we can do that. We do need to deliver cheaper, cleaner energy and solar power for families and small business. Renewables are not an option but a necessity and—guess what?—they are cheaper than coal-powered electricity. We need to convert to electric vehicles [EVs], and we need EV cars to be cheaper. We need more charging stations in the regions, but I note the rollout by NRMA and others. Government can lead the way on this and must convert our power base to renewables and car fleet to EVs.

As only former Prime Minister Paul Keating can, he characterised coal's place in its historical context of being what was needed for industrialisation, but now it is renewables. He took the Prime Minister to task for taking a lump of coal into the Federal Parliament, a place where I have seen a few silly stunts, but that one was up there with all of them. We need to repair and restore our social, physical and economic environments. We need to work with stakeholders to revitalise our CBDs to create jobs. We need a clean environment. We need jobs—regional jobs plan with targets for local jobs, local skills, local industry. We need regional integrated transport plans and timetables for action. This brings me to customer service. I say to the Minister for Customer Service, "Oh, Minister, I have a long list and I think you may have a rod for your back."

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: I have mine.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: I am sure members on all sides have a long list. I wish him well but I wish the title was "Minister for Public Service". Maybe I am bit old fashioned in that I want service not a commercial engagement with my public services. When I go to renew my licence, I do not consider I am a customer but a member of the public accessing a service, albeit a mandatory one for which I pay a fee, generally, if I want to drive on public roads. I expect a service, not a commercial exchange as I do when I am getting fuel for the car, getting my hair done or shopping for clothes and groceries—that is when I am a customer.

How does the notion of public service fit into customer service? It galls me when I get called a customer or client when accessing health services. I am not shopping for an opinion, a diagnosis, a cure, medicine or treatment; I am seeking a service. I am a patient and I hope to get some good medical help by way of investigation or treatment. I say "me" to reflect the concerns of my community expressed to me regarding these issues and to state that I share their sentiments. There is also a gutting of public services. We cannot have customer service or

public service if public services are gutted as they have been, with the loss of extension for farmers and the loss of public service jobs—there are about five people in Forestry to oversee the regulation from Newcastle to the border. The two have to go hand in hand. I have a long list—I will not share it today, but I will over the next four years. I have plenty of time to do that.

This brings me to the challenge of ice use in my local community. Members would have seen Lismore in the news about ice—everybody would have. The member for Ballina certainly would have because it is an issue in communities right across the north of the State—many other communities; it is not just us. We have a serious problem with ice in Lismore and some surrounding areas. It is destroying families and the lives of addicts. It is highly addictive, takes people down a path of self-destruction and affects the lives of all around them. We already have a body of work and some evidence about the extent and nature of the problem and some approaches to respond.

There was a Legislative Council committee inquiry into the provision of drug rehabilitation services in regional, rural and remote New South Wales. That committee came up with some really well researched evidence and recommendations, so do not tell me that those committees do not do some good work! The Government response to that committee report was issued by the Hon. Brad Hazzard. Many people in Lismore and Tenterfield, in my electorate, tendered submissions to that inquiry. There has also been a report by the Lismore City Council's committee on social justice and crime prevention. That report has not yet been made public. There is a large body of work which speaks to this issue. There has been a Commonwealth Government inquiry into crystal methamphetamine, or ice, and I hope meet with members of that committee quite soon; I am trying to arrange it now.

As those in the know say, we cannot arrest our way out of this problem. Yet we try. It is a bit like playing a broken record. We fight the war on drugs, yet it boils down to a fight with addicts, young users and people like those in my electorate who are taking cannabis for medical reasons. A cannabis user cannot drive, either, as the presence of it in their system is the element of the crime—unlike drink driving, where the crime is linked to a measurable amount of alcohol which indicates impairment. We need to take these issues seriously as we sip our shiraz and chardonnay—the drugs of choice for us older ones. I find taking drugs pointless, but society has been at it since pre-literate times and I cannot see abstinence being taken up any time soon.

We also have a problem with young people being criminalised for taking their drug of choice, cannabis. I know that no-one is up to the challenge on this, but these challenges, left unchecked, will intensify. I know that it was the Opposition's plan to convene a drug summit in this place, but good ideas should not be discarded. I seek leave to have the "Lismore Electorate Renewal Plan: New Priorities, New Energy, and the Right Priorities: 2019" incorporated in *Hansard*.

The SPEAKER: I advise that under Standing Order 271 you can incorporate the document.

Lismore Electorate Renewal Plan: New Priorities, New Energy, and the Right Priorities: 2019

I have a local plan and Labor has a state-wide plan.

My Lismore Electorate Renewal Plan will bring new energy and new Priorities to our communities, to ensure they are economically and environmentally sustainable to maintain and enhance our quality of life.

My Lismore Electorate Renewal Plan will deliver better frontline services and opportunities to our health and hospitals, schools, universities, rebuild TAFE, create jobs, and revitalise our CBDs, so our young people can see and have a future.

My Lismore Electorate Renewal Plan will see the rollout of renewables, the repair of our rivers, secure our water and take real action on Climate Change.

My Lismore Electorate Renewal Plan incorporates Labor's stated priorities about a fairer NSW including jobs for the region, health and education services, attacking the cost of living rises, action on affordable housing and homelessness, re-regulating and capping electricity prices, accelerating the transition to renewables, and stopping the sale of NSW under the Liberals and Nationals.

If I am elected as our Member for the Lismore Electorate, my Lismore Renewal Electorate Plan will deliver on the right priorities. The Nationals have not and will not deliver or lead change that is needed. The Greens have some worthy visions but cannot deliver them. Labor in Government can and will deliver on the right priorities. It is a party of progress and renewal; the party that leads change to ensure the community is included in the new ways needed of working and living. And always about jobs.

My advocacy for our communities will be fearless, gutsy and informed by my extensive successful experience of getting things done, even the hard things. Think Water Trigger Legislation that I was instrumental in delivering at Federal level, to protect our water from Coal Seam Gas and Coal mining. Given that it is primarily a State issue it required skilful advocacy to get Federal action. I secured that well aided by overwhelming community advocacy imploring me to do something at Federal level.

My advocacy will bring local action on renewables, protection for koalas, clean water, water security, decent roads for our electric cars and of course better health and hospitals and education including TAFE places, courses and teachers. It will mean a Sustainable Food Plan that will strengthen our region's growing food and fibre reputation.

My plan and Labor's plan will build on our historical agricultural base, that now includes a service base - health, education and construction and a lively and growing arts culture. We need to wrap a strong economic plan around this base. We need jobs and

sustainable jobs. Our Snowy Hydro's Chifley's three principles can enable this. To give this vision some teeth I shall work to realise a range of actions and roll out of policies, that I have already articulated.

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN: Thank you for your indulgence. I was at the Drug Summit in 1999 in this place. It worked. It brought a whole community together. The Parliament worked at its best when it came together to tackle hard issues—and they are hard issues for many members. Politics was at play and the art of compromise was the order of the day. I want the Government, and indeed the Parliament, to consider this.

We once held a Homelessness Summit in the New South Wales Parliament. The summit was held by former Speaker Kevin Rozzoli—a wonderful man—Ian Cohen, MLC, and me. The Governor graced us and opened it. We did make some advances and we can do this again. Were our parties happy at the outset? Not entirely. Three members of Parliament, acting as parliamentarians, held the summit, but everybody came on board, including the members of the minor parties. It is often said that there is a difference between the major parties and the minor parties. Some of my friends in The Greens talk about the two major parties being the tired, old parties, as though The Greens members can rightfully claim to have a perfect party. Please, that is not true. We should not denigrate each other's parties. Denigrate policies, not parties. All of us come from strong traditions and we should show respect to every member in every party.

The Coalition generally defends the status quo while Labor advances change. That is not 100 per cent true in either case, but the difference is clearly seen during elections. I come from a tradition of progressive politics, and that has delivered pensions, child endowment, publicly funded schools, public hospitals, Medicare, Landcare, home care and disability care. I shall digress here to opine on the axing of Disability Services in New South Wales with the advent of the NDIS, a potentially great program that just needs funding properly. To improve peoples' lives here in New South Wales—including in my electorate of Lismore—the Government needs to provide, at the very least, disability advocacy.

I cannot hope to say all that needs to be said today, but I treat this speech as the start of a conversation about improving the lives of the people of the Lismore electorate and making a difference. We need to have more conversations in this place on issues we all care about. We need to come together as a community of MPs as we represent our respective constituencies. We need to make the committee system work and we need to properly resource the alternative government, the Opposition and some minor parties. I say this not for some self-serving purpose, but for the larger purpose of maintaining a healthy democracy. People struggle and fight wars to get freedom that can come through a democratic state. We need to protect and preserve our freedoms and that means proper scrutiny of our legislation and regulations in this place. We can do it; are we up to the challenge?

That brings me to my work at the international level through practising being a good neighbour. As Reverend Tim Costello has said, "Charity begins at home, but does not have to stop there." Indeed! I helped form the New South Wales Parliament's Asia Pacific Friendship Group, which I see is still going strong. I hope that we can establish a Friends of the United Nations Association of Australia [UNAA] as well. I will work with the Speaker to advance this and the NSW UNAA branch.

Some members will know that I have worked in Timor-Leste or East Timor, as we know it affectionately. I supported their long and costly struggle for freedom, in which more than one-third of the population perished. I supported them in their long struggle to rightfully get title to their resources in the Timor Sea. We were not good neighbours at government level on both scores—all of us. I am pleased to say that I was there for the advent of their freedom and the advent of their massive win in securing a median line boundary in the Timor Sea. It still needs to go through the Australian Parliament and I hope that, as my close friend and colleague Nobel Peace Prize laureate José Ramos-Horta says, Australia shall be generous and give the money they are still reaping during this delay of ratification. I can see the member for Liverpool nodding; we have some commonality on that issue.

I became expert in freedom struggles, the United Nations, international affairs and the law of the sea. The technical expertise of itself may not seem transferable to my role as a local MP, but it is. I know how to fight to win—and that is a plus—and I know a thing or two about what works in government and what peoples' needs are. I am on the United Nations Development Programme express roster as a parliamentary affairs and governance expert, having done some solid work in Myanmar's Union Parliament. I am gradually working in their State and Region Parliaments, of which there are 14. I intend to continue some of this engagement, albeit on a modest scale. I can do more than one thing at a time, do it well and not neglect my home duties. For those of you interested, please discuss it with me. I still stand with my other close friend and colleague Aung San Suu Kyi, whose task is massive and probably mostly incomprehensible to those who have not lived under military dictatorship. It is akin to trying to turn around a jumbo jet midstream in a few seconds.

In conclusion, before I turn to my thankyou's, I can recount that MPs have three key roles: They are constituency, parliamentary and party, in that order or, for Independent MPs, frequently a strong community support group. To be a good MP, one needs the passion of an activist—and it should not be dulled by this place;

it should be enhanced—the skill of an advocate and the disposition of a diplomat. Fortunately, I have all three, have used them to great effect and will use them to great effect through this place to make a difference in the lives of people in the Lismore electorate. I have a few thank-yous and I will go fast. Kevin Rudd came to Murwillumbah to support me and will be here with me in the next sitting week—thank you, Kevin. Tanya Plibersek opened my campaign. Isn't she wonderful? We love Tanya and Penny Wong—intelligent at every level, informed, strategic, caring and much more.

Carmel Cook and Ronny Susanto were my campaign manager and campaign director, which sounds fancy but they did the hard slog, day in and day out. Carmel was with me every step of the way, including early mornings, and is still here with me as senior electorate officer [SEO]. When we came here some people commented on our ages. I did not say it then; I am 64—younger than some members in this place. Carmel is soon to be 71, so she might be the oldest SEO. She can wear that title. I thank my husband, Jim Gallagher, who turned up every day in the campaign office. I thank Ian Cook; door knockers extraordinaire Shaen Springall, Michelle Bobbin, Gil Wilson, Zoey Bull, Harry Gregg, Aurora Ihalainen, Eli McLean, Dylan Varis, Jack Budgeon and team; Jenny Dowell, Naomi Worrall, Darlene Cook, Glenys Ritchie, Cassie Barnes, Owen Kirk and family, Kylie Rose, Inge Stainlay, Joe McErlean; branch members and supporters; the local branch of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association, Health Services Union, Electrical Trades Union and the United Services Union.

I thank also Joel Fitzgibbon; Mark Butler; Penny Sharpe and Adam Searle, who are in the gallery today; Walt Secord; Lynda Voltz, who made her inaugural speech in this Chamber yesterday; Mick Veitch; Michael Daley, who rang and apologised for not being here today; Jenny Aitchison; John Graham; Troy Swan; John Gunston; Ian and Marionne MacRitchie; Nathan and Sandie Willis; Oan Gasorn; John Redmayne; and many others who helped with my campaign. I was looking around the Chamber for which shadow Ministers visited: I thank Jodi McKay for her good work on roads and bridges. I thank Marg Barden, Charmaine Murphy, Heather Ryan, Katrina Johnson, Emily Green, Jade Hanlon and Jaxson Wilson.

Mr Speaker, I have more people to thank but I shall have other opportunities to do so. I again thank the Speaker for his indulgence in allowing me to incorporate my plan into my first speech and for granting me the extra time. I thank all members in the Chamber for their courtesy in listening to my inaugural speech. I look forward to working with all my colleagues to improve the lives of every citizen in New South Wales.

Members stood in their places and applauded.

The SPEAKER: I join the House in congratulating the member for Lismore on her inaugural speech in this Chamber.

Documents

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 28 of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2013, I table the report of the Small Business Commissioner for 2018. I order that the report be printed.

Motions

STATE ELECTION

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (12:05): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Congratulates the member for Willoughby on becoming the first elected female Premier of New South Wales.
- (2) Acknowledges the importance that the Premier and the Government place on the Holsworthy electorate and New South Wales.
- (3) Recognises that the Government has a strong plan for New South Wales.

In my first speech in this place I talked about female representation and the firsts for women in this Parliament. In this day and age I am astonished that we are still finding more firsts for women to achieve. For anyone to be known as the first of something is an amazing achievement—they are the trailblazers and role models. In the past eight years the Liberal-Nationals Government has provided New South Wales with many firsts, including our first female Speaker, first female Attorney General and first female Treasurer. Premier Berejiklian is one woman who deserves the honour of a first. I am glad she has the honour of being our first elected female Premier, because she is quite possibly the hardest-working person I know. She is dedicated, knowledgeable and incredibly nice.

Dr Geoff Lee: She is nice and successful.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS: She is nice and successful, but she is also incredibly tough. She knows where to draw the line and when to make the hard decisions. I am sure the member for Parramatta will agree with me when I say the Premier is a true leader and should be congratulated for her monumental achievement. The Premier and every member of her Government care deeply about this State. It is wonderful to see all of them, but particularly the Premier, tirelessly out and about across New South Wales. Given all the places she visited and all the people she spoke to, I do not know when she had any downtime—or even time to sleep. She just kept going, such is her dedication to this State.

It has been brilliant to see the Premier out and about in the Holsworthy electorate. She has become a regular visitor since taking the role of Premier, from visiting our shops and cafes, our train stations and our hospital. I am proud that we are delivering a \$740 million upgrade to Liverpool Hospital—an announcement the Premier made along with the Minister for Health and Medical Research. This investment will allow a major health education, research and innovation precinct to be based in Liverpool. No longer will it be a hospital of two halves: the renovated section versus the old section. Each will now work together to offer the same clean, light, airy feeling. The upgrade will allow for a comprehensive cancer centre, expanded ambulatory care, neonatal intensive and maternity care, day surgery, interventional radiology capacity and critical care capacity. It is a phenomenal investment in our local area and one I have been working on for some time—with many meetings and discussions with the Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Treasurer and the Premier, particularly with the advocacy of Professor Les Bokey from Liverpool Hospital and South Western Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive Amanda Larkin.

Finding a parking space can be stressful at any time but is even more so when one needs to use hospital facilities. The last thing one wants to think about is finding a parking space. During the campaign the Premier again came to Liverpool Hospital to announce that her re-elected Government would provide 500 new parking spaces. What a phenomenal difference that will make. The Premier is a former Minister for Transport and has a passion for seeing positive results in this important sector. It is wonderful that the Premier has committed to planning the extension of the Sydney Metro Southwest from Bankstown to Liverpool. The extension of the metro to Liverpool is a project I have advocated for a long time because I know the difference it will make. Sadly, it is a project that Labor would not even consider building.

Dr Geoff Lee: Shame!

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS: That is disappointing. The Liverpool extension will be added to three other routes that have been identified for expansion of the Sydney Metro network. That includes an expansion of the metro from Westmead to the western Sydney airport and the north-south rail line extension from St Marys to Rouse Hill via Schofields, as well as from the western Sydney aerotropolis to Macarthur. The demand for more parking in this area has been increasing. I am pleased our Government has been able to deliver a solution for my community. The provision of transport infrastructure and services that people require is important to members of this Government.

I am pleased that the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Roads have made some important announcements over the past few months to assist the Liverpool region. Firstly, the Premier announced more than \$40 million to be invested at Edmondson Park to deliver up to 700 additional commuter car parking spaces at the station by approximately mid-2020. That improvement is vastly different from the additional 200 car parking spaces announced by Labor. The 700 additional commuter car parking spaces will make a significant impact because it means that, once complete, there will be approximately 1,100 car parking spaces available at the Edmondson Park station.

Secondly, the Premier announced that \$17 million will be invested at Warwick Farm station to deliver up to an additional 250 commuter car parking spaces, which will result in approximately 1,000 commuter car parking spaces being available for commuters at that station. Thirdly, the Premier and the new member for Camden announced that the Government will provide \$9 million for the construction of an additional 350 car parking spaces at Leppington station. Then there will be more than 1,250 car parking spaces at Leppington for commuters. The investments are on top of the commuter car parking spaces already delivered by this Government, which include 462 at Holsworthy and 100 at Liverpool.

This Government recognises that providing commuter car parking spaces is not the only answer to securing a stronger public transport system. Importantly, in March the Minister for Transport and Roads visited Liverpool to announce that the Liberal-Nationals Government will provide 14,000 additional weekly bus services over the next four years to support public transport services across Sydney, the Illawarra, the Hunter and the Central Coast. This Government has been working hard to improve and increase bus services. The most recent commitment will mean that this Government has delivered more than 50,000 new bus services since being elected in 2011. Some of the extra services will greatly assist residents in the Holsworthy electorate. The 869, the 901 and

the 902 bus routes will receive more services, which will enable people to commute without the need to find parking at a train station.

Additionally, the Minister has committed to rolling out more air-conditioned trains so that 100 per cent of timetabled services will soon be air-conditioned, with just a few trains left to receive that improvement on our line. The information I have provided shows that the Premier and the Liberal-Nationals Government have a strong plan for New South Wales. I again congratulate the Premier on her historic achievement and look forward to her leading us and New South Wales to achieving many more positive results for our State.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:12): I move:

That the motion be amended by leaving out paragraphs (2) and (3).

The House should congratulate the Premier, as I have done personally. It is very significant that the Premier is the first elected female Premier of New South Wales and the second female leader nationally. Indeed, it is a significant achievement but what is even more significant is that the Premier is testament to what is achievable in Australia. It shows that a girl from a non-English-speaking background not only can break through a glass ceiling but also can break through the normal prejudices that those of her generation had to contest to reach one of the most powerful positions in the country. In the eyes of all Australians it is also testament to her hard work, her high standards and her commitment to public service. For those reasons, the House should acknowledge that success.

On her election the Premier proclaimed that there would be changes within the Parliament of New South Wales, the democratic forum that makes laws for this State and the forum that holds the elected Government to account. As I indicated to the House yesterday, I found the hubris and arrogance of the Government members and the Premier to be quite breathtaking. The ungraciousness of a successful Government on the first working day of the Parliament was a pretty poor spectacle for the people of New South Wales. The election results the member has referred to indicate that the people of New South Wales are crying out for political leadership, for statesmen and stateswomen to govern the State and for a plan for this State. Yesterday they stood in this House after an election victory and demonstrated hubris.

This State has significant challenges. I referred yesterday to the economic and budgetary challenges that the Government faces—all of which may not necessarily be its fault. On its first working day in this House the Government could have indicated its future plan for New South Wales, but Government members only spoke of how good it was. They could have confessed to the challenges that the Government has with a reduction of \$2.3 billion in GST that it did not anticipate in the 2018 June budget. They could have indicated what action the Government proposes to take now that it is facing a \$9 billion writedown in stamp duty. They could have indicated how that will impact the commitments the Government made during the election campaign.

They could have indicated how they would answer the cry from every single corner of metropolitan Sydney asking what they propose to do about overdevelopment, gridlock in the streets and the inability of the Government to address the huge increases in population density without supporting infrastructure. They were singularly unable to do so. In their hubris the conservative parties have nothing to write home about other than they clawed themselves to victory by their fingernails. In the last four years The Nationals have lost 25 per cent of its electorates in regional and rural New South Wales. The result was despicable. The people in rural and regional New South Wales are turning to fringe groups to represent their interests. The Liberal Party lost 25 per cent of its electorates. It will have to invite the member for Orange to be Deputy Premier and form a new coalition in order to cover any by-elections during the next four years.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Kiama and Minister will cease interjecting.

Mr RON HOENIG: The newly elevated Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services no longer has a safe electorate. He will now have to serve the people in my electorate rather than spending every day in his own electorate campaigning.

Mr Gareth Ward: Wait until I start coming after you.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services will cease interjecting.

Mr RON HOENIG: The reality of the situation is that more than two in three people did not vote for the Liberals at the State election. The Liberal Party should look in the mirror and ask itself what it is about its body politic in this State that was so overwhelmingly rejected. In the circumstances of the Labor Party losing its leader last October or November, the Liberals and The Nationals should have been able to romp it in. The fact of the matter is they got in by the skin of their teeth. They were lucky. They will not be lucky in four years' time.

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

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (12:19): I congratulate the Assistant Speaker on his elevation. He is doing an exemplary job. I thank the member for Heffron for that fantastic narration on how not to win an election. We are in the third historic reign of the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government and I am so proud to be part of it. Prior to the election we put forward many plans. The member for Heffron must have been asleep throughout the campaign and did not find out the plans we have. The Opposition's plan was to cancel, cancel, cancel. Opposition members wanted to cancel the F6 extension, the light rail and whatever they could get their hands on. They wanted to cancel Rockdale and take Rockdale out. They wanted to cancel everything. That is not a plan. On the contrary, we have a very positive \$88 billion plan.

[An Opposition member interjected.]

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Members will resume their seats.

Mr LEE EVANS: Yes, Standing Order 54 requires members to remain seated. As I was saying before I was rudely interrupted by the member for Rockdale, prior to the election we had a plan and we have \$88 billion worth of infrastructure in the pipeline still to build. Years ago we could only dream of some of the things that will transform the State. The F6 extension is a major thing in my area. I know the member for Rockdale is excited about the prospect.

Mr Stephen Kamper: It's only in my area—it's not in your area.

Mr LEE EVANS: I know it is landing in your area. I have stood at the beginning of the F6 at the Tempe tunnel, which will eventually be taken through to President Avenue and beyond. I congratulate the Minister for Transport and Roads on making sure that the project will go ahead. We have also been working on the roads network across Sydney. In my area the \$300 million Gateway to the South Pinch Point Program is midway through construction and will make people's trips to and from work, and their lives, a lot easier. They will not get caught up in traffic snarls and build-up. It should have been done a decade ago but, as the member for Heffron demonstrated in his speech, they were asleep at the wheel.

Opposition members did nothing for 16 years, but now they are complaining about the work being done throughout the State. The member for Holsworthy touched on some of the things that confirm how much the Government has planned for New South Wales. The new airport will be a great employment generator. Up to 26,000 jobs will be created once it is built. I look forward to the construction jobs that will be created in the years to come, and the 26,000 permanent jobs that will exist when it is complete.

In my local area we are working with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation at its new innovation hub at the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor in the electorate of the member for Holsworthy. We have invested \$12.5 million to kick off that innovation hub. It will be fantastic for the creation of local highly paid jobs and secure employment for the people of the south. The plan is clear. New South Wales is in good hands. The Berejiklian-Barilaro Government will take us into the future.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (12:24): Mr Assistant Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation and the swing towards you in the recent election. Your re-election reflects your incredibly hard work, diligence and dedication. You attended every railway station, every shopfront had your corflute—you were everywhere and that is why you were elected. The member for Holsworthy was also returned. She did a tremendous job in her electorate, as did every member on this side of the House. "Let's get it done NSW"—and did we not do those opposite?

We did those opposite because Gladys Berejiklian, the first elected female Premier, did a sensational job. Bucketloads of authenticity, bucketloads of honesty and integrity shone through her campaign like a glittering light, which is why she has been re-elected as Premier. She will continue to provide the strong leadership this State has received. This State has a budget surplus and that has not happened by accident. This State has the lowest unemployment rate of any State. In this State business confidence is continually on the rise. All these factors are because of the strong leadership of our Premier.

We on this side of the House are not just excited by her leadership but also proud of her leadership. We are proud of the job she is doing in leading this State and inspiring people to be the best they can be. We must remember that the Premier could not speak English until she started school. As she said, when declaring victory on that wonderful night of 23 March, although she is a woman with a long surname, she can be Premier of this State. She is emblematic of the fact that members on this side of the House encourage initiative, enterprise and results. It is those results that have seen us returned to government.

We recognise that there is much to get on with. We want to get on with the job of delivering the infrastructure that is changing this State. We want to get on with delivering jobs and opportunities for young people across New South Wales. More important than all of that, we want to get on with the job of protecting the

vulnerable. Members on this side of the House understand that we need to protect those in our community who are most vulnerable, because how a government looks after those who need support speaks volumes about that government. This Government is committed to supporting the most vulnerable and yesterday I was pleased to introduce the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Bill 2019, which will provide an extra level of support.

This legislation is an article of faith for this Government, because members on this side of the House believe in social justice. We believe in ensuring that people who need support are never left behind. I acknowledge in the House the member for Mulgoa, Tanya Davies, who worked very hard on the legislation, as did the member for Castle Hill, Ray Williams. I thank both members for their extraordinary work in that regard. Members on this side of the House are a united team, another thing we have going for us. We are a united team, unlike the loose confederation of warring tribes opposite. I do not know who is going to be Leader of the Opposition, but I understand there have been some calls and Sussex Street has been on the phone. A number of calls have been made to members of the Opposition, because they are all trying to stop the member for Kogarah from being leader.

No-one has called the member for The Entrance. I thought the member for The Entrance worked for Hansard for the first six months he was a member of this place; I did not know he was a member of Parliament. No-one is going to ask him to be leader and no-one is going to ask the member for Rockdale to be leader, although a few of us might vote for the member for Rockdale. While ever the Opposition is a protection racket for Bill Shorten and looking after the interests of the Federal Government, this side of the House will continue to get on with looking after the interests of the people of New South Wales. Members on this side of the House will continue to deliver under the strong leadership of our Premier. We are proud of our leadership, not running away from leadership like members on that side of the House do every day.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (12:28): By leave: I feel a bit overwhelmed to make a contribution following the amazing performance by the Minister, and member for Kiama. I congratulate the member for Kiama on his promotion to Minister. I know he will do an outstanding job, as he has done in his role as the member for Kiama. I am incredibly proud to have been returned as the member for Mulgoa for the third time and as a member of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government, ably and capably led by Premier Gladys Berejiklian. I am also proud to stand with my colleagues in supporting this motion moved by the member for Holsworthy. The motion gives due honour to our outstanding Premier in leading us to a fantastic result on 23 March and returning us to government for another four years—and hopefully for another four years after that.

It is truly an honour and a privilege as an individual to speak for and to stand up for an electorate comprising 50,000-plus people. It is even more of an honour and a privilege as an individual to speak and to stand up for New South Wales by holding our own at Council of Australian Governments gatherings and defending our State in negotiations with the Federal Government and other State and Territory governments. Premier Gladys Berejiklian does that incredibly well. Last year I predicted that the Premier would be the first female to be elected as Premier of this State. I proudly reminded her of that this week as we waited to be sworn in.

The Premier epitomises Liberal Party aspirations. We joined the Liberal Party because we believe in people who take stock of their origins but who do not let their circumstances or their background determine their future. The Premier has relished and honoured her Armenian background and the great work ethic her mum and dad have demonstrated, and she has applied them to her life. She is a wonderful example not only for the young girls and women of New South Wales but also for the boys and men that if they work hard on their passions they will be able to achieve. She has certainly applied her passion to leading and achieving for the people of New South Wales.

There is a line in our national anthem that I love to highlight for young schoolchildren. We sing, "We've golden soil and wealth for toil." We cannot become wealthy or succeed without working hard. That philosophy is embedded in the Liberal Party and The Nationals, which is why this State is becoming wealthier on many levels and by many measures. This Government has toiled and strived to introduce change to take New South Wales from the lowest ranking State in Australia eight years ago to the highest. That is not the result of wishful thinking or making promise after promise; it takes skill, ability, effort, talent, persistence and courage. That is what the Premier in leading this amazing Liberal-Nationals Government is delivering for the people of New South Wales. It is a pleasure and an honour to be a member of her team for another four years.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:33): By leave: Mr Assistant Speaker, I congratulate you on your election to that important position. The New South Wales election has shown that the—

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: —people of New South Wales and my constituents on the north shore want the Berejiklian Government to continue to deliver for our community by investing in the services and infrastructure we need to reduce pressure on households, businesses and individuals. I thank members of our

community for putting their trust in me again. It is a privilege to serve them in a returned Berejiklian Government. My community and members of the Liberal Party collectively achieved an historic third-term Liberal government in New South Wales led by the first elected female Premier of the State. I thank the member for Holsworthy for moving this motion because it gives members the opportunity to speak about the strong plan offered by the Government, under the leadership of Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier John Barilaro, about what they have already achieved for our community and about what they will continue to achieve over the next four years.

The community's endorsement of "Our Gladys" acknowledges what she believes in for New South Wales and what she will deliver. It also demonstrates an appreciation of her genuine character, her commitment, her integrity, her drive, and her desire to put people first and to ensure we are focused on community services and delivering for the people rather than thinking about ourselves. The plan that she is delivering for our State is based on that ethos—the notion that we are here to provide service and to ensure our communities get what they need. We must support individuals in our society who need a safety net and those who need to get their kids to school with less congestion on the roads. We want to ensure that our people have the right medical services, treatment and support available. We want to ensure that we have the necessary services, facilities and infrastructure and medical professionals in our hospitals.

I was incredibly proud to work with my north shore Liberal team not just in this recent campaign but also over the past two years. Our work began immediately after my election in the by-election. Our branches were involved in hosting coffee mornings, volunteering at transport stops and contributing to fundraising for the North Shore electorate and marginal seats across New South Wales. I have loved the past two years of building relationships and ensuring our community not only has a voice in Parliament but also has outcomes delivered locally. I have been honoured every day to have been given the opportunity to keep working hard for the North Shore electorate. We not only successfully held the seat against the threat from a well-resourced and high-profile Independent but also more than doubled our margin from 4.7 per cent to 11.1 per cent—one of the largest swings to a sitting Liberal member in New South Wales.

Our success was underpinned by what we delivered locally, including major upgrades of Mosman High School, North Sydney Demonstration School and Neutral Bay Public School to which we have committed in the coming term, and progressing work on the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link with an environmental impact statement in preparation which will bust congestion across Military Road and Spit Road and also take traffic off our local roads—a rat run constantly filled with traffic from the northern beaches in particular. I acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and member for Pittwater.

This Government will increase parklands and public open space locally. It has committed to the acquisition of 1 Henry Lawson Avenue to expand a public open space at McMahons Point. The Government will soon open the clifftop park in Milsons Point. The Government is addressing things like rail noise challenges at Wollstonecraft and Waverton by trialling dampness to reduce the noise. When the Assistant Speaker was a Parliamentary Secretary we visited local residents to address this issue. We are investing in new ferry services, upgrading ferry wharves and making before and after school care more convenient and affordable for all families. On a personal note, I thank my community for showing kindness on the arrival of my daughter, Eleanor, just before Christmas. Sam and I thank them for their patience and their warm welcome. It is a blessing to live in such a wonderful community that has supported me as a working mum and an MP. I thank my North Shore community.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (12:37): By leave: I too acknowledge the historic nature of the election results. On a couple of counts it was a significant outcome. Our Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, and member for Willoughby should be rightly proud of her achievement of being the first female Premier in New South Wales to be elected in her own right. It is one more milestone along the pathway to the time when we do not have to talk about firsts any more. More importantly, it is a mark of the respect with which our Premier is held by this community. Despite the burdens of incumbencies and the natural tendency for the pendulum to swing back over time, she leads a government that has secured a third term because of its performance—a government of which she has been an integral part since 2011.

Her performance on behalf of the people of New South Wales is the critical element. It is a recognition by the community that she as leader and the team that she leads are delivering for the people of New South Wales. That is the notable outcome from this election result. It is also historic because it has been a long time—as long ago as the early 1970s—since a Coalition government has won a third term. It is a heavy responsibility that we do not take lightly. It is a mark of respect also of the performance of members of the Liberal Party and The Nationals since we were elected in 2011.

The Premier and Deputy Premier have laid out the plan for New South Wales and it is significant in many respects. We are all familiar with this Government's infrastructure delivery, but it has not happened by accident

or by chance. It has taken difficult decisions and significant effort, commitment and discipline by the team to make funds available to meet the real needs of the people on so many fronts. The building of hospitals from one end of the State to the other is testament to the success of that strategy, and the outcome of our discipline and resolve. Many communities are benefiting from better healthcare facilities, which will be a legacy of this Government for decades to come.

The other significant part of the plan is the commitment of the Premier and Deputy Premier to address issues that have been put in the too-hard basket for too long. There are a number of social problems that seem intractable, such as intergenerational disadvantage, and previous governments simply have not found a way to address them. Part of the answer, again, is finding the resources to put into those issues. The other part is the political will and commitment to focus intense efforts on those issues that other governments have failed to grapple with. I am pleased to be part of a government that is prepared to say, "We will do that. We will focus on intergenerational homelessness, underemployment, drug use, family dysfunction"—those things that we all recognise but struggle to find an answer to. I am pleased that this Government will front up and commit to tackling those issues head on.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (12:41): By leave: It is great to be here today. I am extremely proud to be the newly elected member for the Dubbo electorate. I recognise the fantastic work that has been done by the New South Wales Government and its great plan for the future, which importantly puts regional New South Wales at the forefront. The Premier has been a great leader and I congratulate her on being the first female Premier elected in her own right—an immense achievement and one that we all should be extremely proud of.

During the election campaign the Premier spent time with me in my electorate and confirmed her commitment to regional areas. She recognises the difference that regional towns and cities make to the economy and is happy to be part of a government that leads for the future. For The Nationals, Deputy Premier John Barilaro leads from the front. One of his key messages is about the need to keep delivering things such as infrastructure. People expect infrastructure to be delivered and that will keep happening.

The infrastructure needed in regions such as mine includes hospitals, roads and rail. I will start with hospitals. The redevelopment of Dubbo Hospital is at stage three. That had been in the wings for many years under the former Government. As soon as the Coalition Government came to power and The Nationals member Troy Grant was elected in 2011, things finally started to happen. That redevelopment is springing up like new growth from the shell of a deteriorating building. The future is extremely bright. Stage four will include the Western Cancer Centre, which will be a real game changer for people across western New South Wales who currently have to travel to Orange or Sydney to seek treatment. The new centre will make life easier.

Roads are another big part of regional infrastructure. People travel vast distances to the regional city of Dubbo—the capital of western New South Wales—and Dubbo Hospital. The upgrading of roads will be an important part of how we deliver infrastructure in the future. The new roads Minister, Paul Toole, is very aware of the need to keep the infrastructure build going and to focus on not only major highways but also roads that were left to deteriorate under previous governments. They are on the way up now. I am very proud to be a member who can say that will be happening in my electorate.

We have plans underway for a rail maintenance facility, which will be delivered. That facility will be in Dubbo. It will create hundreds of skilled jobs and give us the ability to build and maintain our new regional train fleet from the heart of western New South Wales, which is another big plus. I recognise and reiterate the importance of having strong leadership. Our two leaders, Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier John Barilaro, lead from the front and are taking us in the direction we need to be heading for the future. Economic growth and economic stability is what this is built on. I know the Treasurer will be leading us forward. I am looking forward to the budget in a few weeks as we again show that New South Wales is the premier State. We will keep delivering not just for the "N-S-W" part of New South Wales—Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong—but also for regional areas as well, including the electorate of Dubbo.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:45): By leave: I congratulate Temporary Speaker Coure on his appointment to the Speaker's panel—well done. I also acknowledge the member for Holsworthy for her fantastic contribution in this place today noting the Premier's historic re-election as the first female to be elected as Premier of New South Wales. I also note the contributions of the member for Heffron, who is in the Chamber; the member for Heathcote; the member for Kiama; the member for Mulgoa; the member for North Shore; the member for Riverstone; and the member for Dubbo, who made his inaugural speech yesterday—and an excellent inaugural speech it was too.

It is a historic time—another term of government with record delivery. As the member for Terrigal I was so proud to welcome the Premier to the Central Coast on one of her first regional visits during the election campaign. *The Daily Telegraph* said it all when it announced her as "the Gladiator". She was greeted like a rock

star on the Central Coast, where her popularity is phenomenal. People wanted selfies with the Premier. It was great to see their enthusiasm. They know the Premier is rock solid about delivery for all of our regions in New South Wales and especially on the Central Coast.

We have seen amazing delivery with record investment in our hospitals on the Central Coast: more than \$340 million at Gosford Hospital and multimillion dollar re-investment at Wyong hospital. Gosford Hospital is almost completed. We are seeing a commitment of more than \$380 million to the Central Coast Highway, which is a vital upgrade to the missing link between Tumby Road and Bateau Bay Road. Every day 20,000 commuters use that roadway. I was delighted the Premier was able to work with me as the local member to help secure that funding for our community.

Whether it was in Terrigal, Avoca or Killcare, the Premier was greeted warmly. As the member for Heffron outlined earlier, people recognise that when the Premier was a young girl English was not her first language. People see her as a Premier for the people. That was no more evident than when she visited the Central Coast. Last year she attended an economic breakfast held by the NSW Business Chamber at which she made it clear that this Government is committed to delivering for all the regions across New South Wales, including the Central Coast. We are seeing incredible investment on the Central Coast. I note the member for Pittwater is in the Chamber today. As the former Minister for the Central Coast he knows how vital it is that the people of the Central Coast have complete confidence that the Government is delivering.

There are a dozen cranes in the sky across Gosford. There is even a crane in the sky at Wamberal Public School. The Minister and I were at Wamberal Public School to turn the sod for its \$20 million upgrade. We had a similar greeting at Terrigal Public School. We are seeing record investment in health, education, roads and the vital infrastructure the Central Coast needs. This is a wonderful time for the people of the Central Coast. It gives me great pleasure to support the motion moved by the member for Holsworthy. I again congratulate Premier Gladys Berejiklian on her well-deserved win in March. I look forward to continuing the record delivery of services and funding to the Central Coast that I know the Premier is determined to deliver over the next four years of this Government.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (12:49): In reply: I congratulate you, Assistant Speaker Coure, on your elevation to that position. It is nice to see you there. I did not have the opportunity to congratulate you earlier, as you left the chair while I was speaking. I also thank the members representing the electorates of Heffron, Heathcote, Kiama, Mulgoa, North Shore, Riverstone, Dubbo and Terrigal for their contributions to this debate. It is particularly easy to talk about someone who is not only absolutely capable in her job but also a friend. I know how much work Premier Berejiklian puts into her job as the first elected female Premier. It is a nice honour; it matters and it will go into the history books.

The member for Heffron mentioned that the Premier comes from a non-English speaking background, and that makes her a role model for many young children. At a function last year at Liverpool West Public School she asked the young students in the assembly to raise their hands if they did not speak English at home. The majority of students raised their hands. She also asked students to raise their hands if they were not able to speak English when they first attended school. Once again many students at Liverpool West Public School raised their hands. She said to them, "That's just like me. I wasn't able to speak English when I started school, either." It was an inspiration for those young students—for young girls and for all the students from non-English speaking backgrounds. We know about the hard work that the Premier has put in, and her commitment to public services, which the member for Heffron stressed in his contribution. It was nice to see that acknowledged.

The member for Kiama spoke about the Premier being an inspirational person. He said that people should be the best that they can be. On this side of the House we are pleased that we have a strong leader. We encourage the Opposition to fill its leadership void, to become a strong Opposition and to keep the Government accountable, as that is its role. I am absolutely thrilled that as a new Minister, Gareth Ward, the member for Kiama, has introduced a bill to support our most vulnerable, which fits in with our strong plan at the third point in the motion. Minister Ward's bill will support people with disabilities and our ageing population. Our strong plan is not just about infrastructure but also about supporting people who most need it. The member for Kiama also said that this State has the lowest unemployment rate and a budget surplus.

New South Wales' lowest unemployment rate and its budget surplus forms part of our plan, as do school upgrades all over this State, as we have been reminded by the member for North Shore and the member for Terrigal. I thank the former Minister for Education for that. He was with me at Prestons Public School, announcing our new classroom and new administration block. It is a great school with a great principal, but it will be made even greater by the investment being made in that school. On election day I was thrilled to be able to say to people, "Have a look at all the hard work that has already started to make this school an even better place." Our plan is to address infrastructure and make a difference all across the State. Even the member for Dubbo, who made his

inaugural speech only yesterday, has made a contribution in this House emphasising the Government's strong plan for New South Wales. I thank the House for the time to debate this motion.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I remind the member for Rockdale and the member for Kiama that they are on one call to order. The question is that the words proposed to be left out stand.

The House divided.

Ayes48
Noes38
Majority..... 10

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Berejiklian, Ms G
Conolly, Mr K
Coure, Mr M
Dominello, Mr V
Gibbons, Ms M
Gulaptis, Mr C
Henskens, Mr A
Lee, Dr G
McGirr, Dr J
Petinos, Ms E
Provest, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Speakman, Mr M
Tuckerman, Mrs W
Williams, Mr R

Ayres, Mr S
Bromhead, Mr S
Constance, Mr A
Crouch, Mr A (teller)
Elliott, Mr D
Greenwich, Mr A
Hancock, Mrs S
Johnsen, Mr M
Lindsay, Ms W
Pavey, Mrs M
Piper, Mr G
Roberts, Mr A
Singh, Mr G
Stokes, Mr R
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Mrs L

Barilaro, Mr J
Clancy, Mr J
Cooke, Ms S (teller)
Davies, Mrs T
Evans, Mr L.J.
Griffin, Mr J
Hazzard, Mr B
Kean, Mr M
Marshall, Mr A
Perrottet, Mr D
Preston, Ms R
Sidgreaves, Mr P
Smith, Mr N
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G
Wilson, Ms F

NOES

Aitchison, Ms J
Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Dalton, Mrs H
Finn, Ms J
Hoenig, Mr R
Lalich, Mr N (teller)
McDermott, Dr H
Mihailuk, Ms T
Park, Mr R
Scully, Mr P
Voltz, Ms L
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Atalla, Mr E
Car, Ms P
Cotsis, Ms S
Dib, Mr J
Harris, Mr D
Hornery, Ms S
Leong, Ms J
McKay, Ms J
Minns, Mr C
Parker, Mr J
Smith, Ms T.F.
Warren, Mr G
Zangari, Mr G

Bali, Mr S
Catley, Ms Y
Crakanthorp, Mr T
Doyle, Ms T
Harrison, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
Lynch, Mr P
Mehan, Mr D
O'Neill, Dr M
Saffin, Ms J
Tesch, Ms L
Washington, Ms K

PAIRS

Saunders, Mr D
Taylor, Mr M

Daley, Mr M
Haylen, Ms J

Amendment negatived.

The SPEAKER: The question is that the original motion as moved by the member for Holsworthy be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes48
Noes38
Majority..... 10

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Berejiklian, Ms G
Conolly, Mr K
Coure, Mr M
Dominello, Mr V
Gibbons, Ms M
Gulaptis, Mr C
Henskens, Mr A
Lee, Dr G
McGirr, Dr J
Petinos, Ms E
Provest, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Speakman, Mr M
Tuckerman, Mrs W
Williams, Mr R

Ayres, Mr S
Bromhead, Mr S
Constance, Mr A
Crouch, Mr A (teller)
Elliott, Mr D
Greenwich, Mr A
Hancock, Mrs S
Johnsen, Mr M
Lindsay, Ms W
Pavey, Mrs M
Piper, Mr G
Roberts, Mr A
Singh, Mr G
Stokes, Mr R
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Mrs L

Barilaro, Mr J
Clancy, Mr J
Cooke, Ms S (teller)
Davies, Mrs T
Evans, Mr L.J.
Griffin, Mr J
Hazzard, Mr B
Kean, Mr M
Marshall, Mr A
Perrottet, Mr D
Preston, Ms R
Sidgreaves, Mr P
Smith, Mr N
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G
Wilson, Ms F

NOES

Aitchison, Ms J
Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Dalton, Mrs H
Finn, Ms J
Hoenig, Mr R
Lalich, Mr N (teller)
McDermott, Dr H
Mihailuk, Ms T
Park, Mr R
Scully, Mr P
Voltz, Ms L
Watson, Ms A (teller)

Atalla, Mr E
Car, Ms P
Cotsis, Ms S
Dib, Mr J
Harris, Mr D
Hornery, Ms S
Leong, Ms J
McKay, Ms J
Minns, Mr C
Parker, Mr J
Smith, Ms T.F.
Warren, Mr G
Zangari, Mr G

Bali, Mr S
Catley, Ms Y
Crakanthorp, Mr T
Doyle, Ms T
Harrison, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
Lynch, Mr P
Mehan, Mr D
O'Neill, Dr M
Saffin, Ms J
Tesch, Ms L
Washington, Ms K

PAIRS

Saunders, Mr D
Taylor, Mr M

Daley, Mr M
Haylen, Ms J

Motion agreed to.**NORTH SHORE ELECTORATE SCHOOLS**

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:06): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges the Government's record investment in education, with the announcement of major upgrades to local schools.
- (2) Acknowledges that Mosman High School, Neutral Bay Public School and North Sydney Demonstration School will be upgraded to give students permanent classrooms and facilities to ensure students continue to thrive and excel.
- (3) Thanks the Minister for Education for her first official visit to Neutral Bay Public School.

I thank the New South Wales Government for its record investment in education with the announcement of major upgrades to our local schools. The Government is committed to ensuring that the students of New South Wales have the best possible start in life. I am proud of the work that the Berejiklian Government is undertaking to invest in school upgrades. Over the next nine years the Berejiklian Government will provide funding of an additional \$6.4 billion to schools, bringing the State's total investment over this period to \$148 billion. Over the next four years alone the Government is investing \$6.5 billion to build 190 new and upgraded classrooms. Understandably, I am most excited about the school upgrades that the Government has committed to in my electorate of North Shore.

I have been fighting for upgrades to my local schools in order to provide better schools for our students to ensure they are able to learn and study in an environment that maximises their potential. We are very fortunate in my community to have excellent local schools. In some way, we are the victim of our own success. Our schools, our teachers and our support staff are considered exemplary across the State and this has placed significant demand on our local resources. People move into our catchments to take advantage of the wonderful education provided by our schools. The challenge with that and with our growing population locally, particularly in a built-up area, is finding the space and resources to increase capacity for our students while ensuring that we also focus on good pedagogical outcomes.

Since the election of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government in 2011, my local area has already seen investment in two brand-new schools. We have seen the commitment to and delivery of Anzac Park Public School and at Cammeraygal High School the junior campus was opened a number of years ago and the senior campus opened in January for its first intake in 2019. The Government is building on that local investment and commitment with investment in upgrades to Mosman High School, Neutral Bay Public School and North Sydney Demonstration School. The Government has committed to upgrade these three schools to provide students with additional permanent classrooms and facilities. It is a big win for our local community. Thousands of families in my electorate will benefit from this record investment in our local schools to ensure that our students continue to thrive and excel in all areas of their learning and education. I thank my school communities for all their support to make sure that the Government delivers the investment and upgrades that they need.

I have spent a lot of time at these three schools. I visited North Sydney Demonstration School during the election campaign to let them know about the announcement and commitment for an upgrade. I thank the Parents and Citizens President, David Bond, the previous president, Laurens Lubbeten, and Principal Myra Wearne. The former Parliamentary Secretary for Education, now the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, Gareth Ward, joined me in visiting the school in 2017 as we commenced a campaign to upgrade our local school.

I also thank the Mosman High School P&C President Evan Predavec and Principal Susan Wyatt. The former parliamentary secretary, Gareth Ward, and the former Minister for Education, Rob Stokes, joined me on a number of occasions to visit Mosman High School. The school has made significant investment in creative arts, theatre, music and design. While the school is a local catchment area school, it contributes greatly to the State and our country through its graduates and investment in the visual arts, music and the creative arts. Last year the former Minister for Education joined me on a visit to the school to see some of the classes and speak to students about their creative arts. Earlier this year we met again to visit drama and cooking students. The school has great classes on coding and the President of the P&C, Evan Predavec, does a lot of work with the school on coding as well.

Neutral Bay Public School was the site at which the new Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, made her first visit to a school in her role as Minister. Neutral Bay Public School, which is just down the road from my electorate office, is a wonderful public school but it is bursting at the seams. The school has approximately 1,000 students in grades K1 to year 6. It has three separate recesses and lunch breaks to ensure that all the kids are able to play in what is a very constrained site. The school has beautiful heritage buildings. Recently when I visited the school I noticed the honour roll board, which was installed in 1919. This year is the 100th anniversary of recognising the service of former Neutral Bay Public School students in the First World War. One of those students was just 13 years old when he enlisted. The school has rich ties to the local community and heritage.

Recently Minister Mitchell joined me at the school and I thank the president of the school council, Kim Thompson, the President of the P&C, Sharmila Soorian, and the Principal, Judy Goodsell, for their welcome. One of the most significant fighters for the Neutral Bay Public School is the former member for North Shore, the Hon. Jillian Skinner, who recently joined Minister Mitchell and me for a visit to the school. Jillian has had a commitment to the school for more than 30 years. Her children attended the school, as the local member she championed the school, and now her grandchildren attend the school. I know that she will be one of the most excited individuals when the upgrade of the school is opened. I express my sincere thanks to Jillian Skinner for her many years of tirelessly advocating for the school and for joining me as an ongoing champion for Neutral Bay Public School.

Other commitments that were made in last year's budget and in the lead-up to the recent election were the introduction of the Environmental Education Centre at Middle Head and a new education precinct at St Leonards with a brand-new high school and primary school. That is all part of the Government's commitment to ensuring that our community has the infrastructure and services it needs for a growing population and that our kids get the best start in life. Since 2011 the Government has been building a legacy. The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals have funded more than 230 infrastructure projects, which will provide more than

3,500 permanent new classrooms and approximately 81,000 new student places. The rollout of 190 more new and upgraded schools is underway across the State. That is just part of this Government's record \$6.5 billion investment in public school infrastructure to ensure that each of our schools provides world-class facilities that our students and teachers deserve.

This funding is in addition to our existing record school infrastructure program to cater for the growing demand in our outstanding public school system. It will create more than 40,000 jobs over the next four years. The Government's record infrastructure investment program for schools is the largest investment in public schools by any State government in Australian history—a matter of which Government members can be very proud. Funding includes commencing work on more than 40 new and upgraded school projects in 2018-19 alone and planning for a further 22 new and upgraded schools. On day one, term one this year the New South Wales Government proudly opened 17 new and upgraded schools. As I mentioned, one of those was the senior campus at Cammeraygal High School in Crows Nest. The program has provided for almost 400 new classrooms for students across our State. The record infrastructure milestone includes eight new schools and nine major upgrades. In term two in 2019, students and teachers moved into five upgraded schools. The new schools have delivered 69 new classrooms for students across Sydney.

I am proud of this Government's investment in local schools and schools across New South Wales. That investment can be achieved only with a strong economy. In particular, I thank the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, the Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, and the previous Minister for Education, Rob Stokes, for their prioritisation of school projects. I wish the new Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Minister Mitchell, the best of luck. I look forward to working with her on these investments for our students.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (13:16): Mr Assistant Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment. You truly deserve to be on the front bench and I hope that occurs sooner rather than later. I congratulate the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC, on her appointment as Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning and look forward to working with her as I did with former Minister Rob Stokes and former Minister Adrian Piccoli. I thank the member for the North Shore for bringing forward this motion. I move an amendment to the motion as follows:

That the motion be amended by adding the following paragraph as the new paragraph (1):

- (1) Acknowledges that under this Government, New South Wales public schools have suffered the largest maintenance backlog and number of demountables in history.

I acknowledge that there has been a lot of investment in education. However, it is easy for the Government to talk about record investment because it has ignored education for so long. Government members seem to have forgotten that the first thing the Coalition did when it came to office in 2011 was to cut the school maintenance budget by half. It cut \$1.7 billion from the maintenance budget.

Mr Stephen Kamper: You should see my old school James Cook.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I will get to James Cook in a minute. It is confected for Government members to pat themselves on the back for this investment after so many years of this Government's neglect. The facts are that there are more than 5,000 demountable classrooms in New South Wales public schools and more than one-third of schools are at or above capacity. Government members talk about the number of schools that were closed, apparently, during Labor's time in office but this Government has closed 23 more schools than it has opened. They do not like to talk about that. This Government likes to sell. Thank goodness we were able to save a school site that it wanted to sell. I recently visited Cairnsfoot School with the member for Rockdale and the member for Kogarah. The Government wanted to sell this school.

Mr Stephen Kamper: Flog mania.

Mr JIHAD DIB: The member for Rockdale interjects about flogging; I will leave that to him. Cairnsfoot School would have been sold but for the hard work of the member of the Rockdale, supported by the member for Kogarah. We also visited Kogarah Public School in the electorate of Kogarah. It is bursting at the seams and has an issue with its hall. Schools in the electorate of the member for Auburn require upgrades. We want a commitment from the Government for those upgrades.

The Government talks about 170 to 190 new and upgraded schools. That is a lot of upgraded schools. I want to know how many of those upgrades have occurred within budget and on time. I want to know the details of the upgrades. This Government is happy to talk about the headlines but is not happy to talk about the details. When the budget was delivered, I looked in the budget papers for funding for schools in my electorate. Banksia Road Public School and Punchbowl Public School were going to get an upgrade, along with 170 other schools. I was so excited. I went to the budget papers to see when the upgrades would take place. It said, "Not applicable". How much funding would be allocated? It said, "Not applicable". Will the schools have new classrooms? It said, "Not applicable". I visited a school site at Jordan Springs in the electorate of the member for Londonderry. The

area has been developed and families moved in when they were expecting their first child. Their children are now of school age—

Mr Chris Minns: Homeschooling. It is not going to happen.

Mr JIHAD DIB: Homeschooling. There is a sign in the area stating, "A school is coming this way". When? A whole generation is missing out. I am pleased to see investment in education; I will never argue against that. But I do worry sometimes that Government members get too carried away with themselves. They tell us about all the amazing and wonderful things they do, but their record of actual delivery is not very impressive. They are very good at making announcements—they can make announcements better than anyone else I know—but they are not very good at delivering. I remember an announcement that the Government would be opening X number of schools a year. It has not quite met that figure.

While I have got the mic, so to speak, I will refer to air conditioning. When we came out with the "cool schools" policy we copped a little ridicule. Then the Government stole the policy. But it did not even steal it well; it made it worse. Under the Government's policy some schools are going to miss out. I do not think it is fair that some schools will get air conditioning and heating while others will not. If the Government is going to steal a policy it should at least copy it properly. Government members stole that and some other ideas, but, as we know, there is more to education than just bricks and mortar. I want investment in education. I want upgraded schools. I want schools being built. But I want it all done in consultation with the community and I want it done properly. I do not want school assets to be sold off. I would like the Minister to make a commitment that no more education assets will be sold off. That is important and we need to talk about it. We will be pursuing that issue more.

I congratulate the member for North Shore. It is outstanding when a school community receives something. I hope the investment will be spread across the board. I hope the Government will continue with its investment in education and will complete the tasks on time and on budget with community consultation. As I have said many times—and I am sure all members agree—if we invest in education then we invest in not only our future but also our society. That is especially true when we invest in public education. We know that every child needs to have the best possible opportunities. I hope the Government supports my amendment to the motion. I am happy that there is investment, but I make it clear that since this Government came to office there have also been some serious problems in our public schools.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (13:21): In the Oatley electorate we are seeing the biggest spending spree in education than was ever seen before. Over the past eight years we have had school upgrades—

Mr Stephen Kamper: You just dust every other electorate off your shoulders, do you?

Mr MARK COURE: You might learn something here. There have been school upgrades and a new school hall built at the Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. Construction has started on a covered outdoor learning area for the girls at the Georges River College Penshurst campus. One of the biggest upgrades of any school in my electorate since Adam and Eve is taking place at Penshurst Public School, where the planning and design phases of an entirely new school have been completed. A pop-up school has been constructed at Peakhurst West Public School and the tenders for the main building works have been announced. Construction has started on the new Penshurst Public School.

It all forms part of our record \$6 billion investment over the next four years to build and upgrade more than 170 schools across New South Wales. The new school at Penshurst will have 47 brand-new classrooms, a library, a school hall, a covered outdoor space, open play spaces, seating, shade structures, running tracks, new administration and staff facilities, and new staff and student amenities. That is great news for the people of my electorate and the kids who attend the school. It is all about them. The work will be completed by the middle of next year. We cannot forget Penshurst West Public School. The good news keeps rolling in for my electorate as part of the \$6 billion investment over the next four years. Across the State there will be 170 new and upgraded schools. Did I mention that already?

Mr Adam Crouch: You did.

Mr MARK COURE: I will mention it again: 170 new and upgraded schools across New South Wales. Penshurst West will get a new, modern teaching space and seven new learning spaces. I have been actively campaigning for this upgrade for the past seven years. This is great news for my electorate. I cannot forget, of course, the new school hall at Georges River College at Peakhurst, which will also get an outdoor learning space. What is Labor's track record on education in my electorate? We all remember Narwee High School. What did Labor do when in office? It closed Narwee High School and sold off the land for low-, medium- and high-rise development. That is Labor's track record when it comes to education in my electorate. Labor made cuts, cuts and more cuts. Thank goodness the people of Oatley re-elected me and the people of New South Wales delivered a

solid victory for this side of the House. We would have seen more cuts under Labor, just as happened when it was in government for 16 years.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (13:25): I have learned some new terminology today. I assume a "pop-up school" means more demountables. Those opposite can elaborate on what an "outdoor learning area" is; we used to call them "playgrounds" in our day. I assume the seven learning centres are something that we would have called "classrooms". I love the new terminology; I am sure it is up there with the customer service we will get from here on in. On the subject of investment in schools, I would like to raise the subject of Sydney Olympic Park. At a little place called Wentworth Point, where 13,000 new dwellings have been built, the Government signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] more than a year ago to develop a school at Sydney Olympic Park.

But we hear only crickets at Sydney Olympic Park; people are wondering whatever happened to the MOU for a new school. During the same period the Government managed to pull down the Sydney Football Stadium, put up a business case and make planning decisions on the stadium's redevelopment, yet not one sod has been turned or plan has come through for a new school at Sydney Olympic Park. I like investment and think it is a great idea. However, we want to see some investment happening. Anytime soon would be nice—maybe sometime this century.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Take a trip to Penshurst.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: I missed the interjection, but that is okay; I will catch it later. Speaking of investment in schools, there is a school on the border of my electorate called Birrong Boys High School. The former Minister for Education will be well aware of the school because Birrong Boys High School, unlike other schools that are at capacity, has plenty of room for more students. However, in the past 40 years it has had absolutely no government investment. Birrong Boys High School should be the first school to receive investment under this Government. There should be investment in woodworking equipment that students at the school have used for 40 years, because students should have the best equipment on offer. However, the students are being left behind. Girls schools in my electorate are doing very well. Birrong Girls High School is a top 50 Higher School Certificate school. We do not want the boys to be left behind. These schools need to be at the top of the list for investment by this Government. Birrong Boys High School, Birrong Girls High School, Riverstone—

Mr Jihad Dib: Riverstone, and you've got Canterbury and Canley Vale, Wiley Park Girls School—

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: Yes, Canterbury Boys—

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! Only one member will speak at a time.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ: I am sorry, I am trying to learn not to respond to interjections. These New South Wales schools should be at the top of the list for investment. Quite frankly, these schools are in regions with the highest rates of homelessness and unemployment. The area with the highest rate of unemployment in metropolitan Sydney is in my electorate. This Government should prioritise investing in the schools attended by these kids in order to get the outcomes we want for the future of this State's economy and to encourage and retain cohesion in our society. We need to make sure that the people who are most in need are not last on the list for investment. What about the new Sydney Olympic Park high school? Crickets! That area is waiting for a sign from the Government that it will start construction. Birrong Boys High School and schools throughout our regions are crying out for investment. It is good that the Government is investing, but it would be better if it could deliver it as quickly as it delivers stadiums.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:30): I acknowledge the motion moved by the member for North Shore and the contributions of the member for Lakemba, the member for Oatley and the member for Auburn, who had some assistance from the member for Lakemba. That was great to see given that she is a little nervous. This motion is about teachers and schools in New South Wales. I know how tough teaching is because I am the son of a teacher. I am also the proud grandson of teachers and the nephew of a teacher. It is not just a job; it is a vocation. I am extremely proud to have hosted Minister Mitchell on the Central Coast when she visited Avoca Public School to make an announcement about the Healthy Harold pop-up classroom service. I have an amazing director of schools, the incredible Karen Jones, who is second to none. I also pay tribute to the principals at high schools and public schools across my electorate of Terrigal, who do an outstanding job providing excellent education services on the Central Coast. That are ably supported by—

Debate interrupted.

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

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the public gallery Marie Hall, guest of the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads, and member for Miranda. I also welcome Ian and Pam Case of the Balgownie Branch of the Australian Labor Party, guests of the acting Leader of the Opposition, and member for Keira.

*Question Time***REVENUE NSW**

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:18): My question is directed to the Minister for Customer Service. When did the Minister first become aware that the personal information of hundreds of citizens of New South Wales had been disclosed from Revenue NSW?

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (14:19): For the past 24 hours something has been weighing on my conscience and I have been tossing and turning about whether I need to correct the record. Yesterday I said that it was four years since I was asked a question by the Opposition; it was actually five years. But there is a police investigation underway: I have directed my staff and my agency to cooperate with it and I will not be saying anything further.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Minister has been asked a serious question but he is obviously not taking it seriously. I ask that he be directed to answer the question about when he knew that the information had been disclosed.

The SPEAKER: It being less than a minute into the answer, I will hear further from the Minister.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: As I said yesterday, I have directed my staff to assist the police in their investigation. I have directed the agency to do the same.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will not hear any further points of order on relevance at this stage, if that is the member's point of order.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: Unlike members opposite, I trust the police to do a thorough investigation. I will not interfere with that process. I will let that process play out. There is an investigation underway. I will not be making a further comment in relation to it.

EDUCATION

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (14:20): My question is addressed to the Premier. How is the New South Wales Government delivering on its plan for high-quality education?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:20): I thank the member for her question and congratulate her on becoming the member for Goulburn. I also thank her community for the trust they have placed in her and the Government. I hope they know that we will of course continue to deliver for the people of that community. I am thrilled that the member has joined us and I look forward to her contribution in this place.

During the election campaign, members opposite said to the people of New South Wales that they can either have good education or good health, or stadiums, or one of this, or one of that. But a good government can deliver good education, good health, good roads and good hospitals as well as good stadiums and other infrastructure. We know that if we are really serious about providing equality of opportunity to every person in this State, especially to our young people, we need to provide a quality education for all. As my colleagues and I and all members who represent our more remote and regional communities appreciate, that is especially the case for isolated communities as much as it is for children, young people and mature-aged students who aspire to improve their education so that they can get a job or pursue their personal ambitions.

I will not put up with the mistruth that the Labor Party tried to sell to the people of New South Wales that they should only expect one thing from a government. We do not believe that. We believe that we can deliver on all important initiatives. My colleagues and I are absolutely committed to that task. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that the record investment we have put into education translates not only into a record number of schools and reducing and abolishing the maintenance backlog but also into ensuring that we attract the best teachers. We must also ensure that what happens inside the classroom is the best that it can be.

This Government's actions contrast with what the Labor Party offered us. Yes, it has been some years since members opposite were in office, but it is important to note that whenever they talk about education their

words are hollow. When they were last in office, regrettably, they closed more than 90 schools, including Macquarie Boys Technology High School and high schools at Beacon Hill, Maroubra and Redfern.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Unfortunately, their record on teacher recruitment was no better. I am pleased to say that students are learning in more than 80 new schools that we have opened across the State. We are committed to delivering our \$6.5 billion investment in school infrastructure. But of course it is not just about the bricks and mortar and the new classrooms; it is also about what happens inside those classrooms—the record investment we are providing, including and over and above the Gonski investment. I am pleased that we are the first State to have signed up to Gonski; some Labor States have still not signed up to the next instalment. And of course we also provide support to non-government schools, because we appreciate that choice for parents is very important. We also respect that investment.

I was very pleased to recently visit some of the new schools that have opened—for instance, with the member for Drummoyne I visited Russell Lea Public School, which had 600 new students. At the beginning of the 2019 school year new schools were opened in 17 different areas, including Bardia Public School in Liverpool; Yandelora School in Camden, which is a wonderful new school to cater for students with moderate to severe disabilities; the Bolwarra Public School in Maitland—and I am sure the member for Maitland is very pleased to have—

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Put in more classrooms.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: What will keep the member for Maitland happy? There are 10 new classes at that school and she still does not want it. [*Extension of time*]

I am also pleased for the children at Yawarra Community School in Dubbo. What an outstanding first speech the member for Dubbo gave yesterday; I congratulate him. There is also Rainbow Street Public School in Coogee—and I congratulate the new member for Coogee on her inaugural speech as well—and the Farrer high school in Tamworth. I know the Minister, the good member for Tamworth, appreciates the major upgrade at his local school at Farrer high. There is also Homebush West Public School in Strathfield, and I am sure the member for Strathfield is very grateful for the major upgrade, including 26 new classrooms; and also Manly Vale Public School.

This is not the comprehensive list; it is just to give members of this place and the community a taste of what we have done and what is to happen over the next four years and beyond. I am extremely pleased to say, as we announced in the campaign, that the maintenance backlog left by Labor will be abolished by July 2020—next year. We know that schools will always require ongoing maintenance but this backlog will be clear. In fact, let there be no doubt: We have already put \$1.3 billion towards abolishing the maintenance backlog those opposite left behind. Of course we are also committed to recruiting a record number of teachers because we know a quality education is not just what happens in the classroom; it is what happens in life. Every person in this State, irrespective of their circumstances, should have the best opportunity to be their best.

PERSONAL INFORMATION SECURITY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (14:28): My question is directed to the Minister for Customer Service. I refer to the 2018 Auditor-General's report into internal controls and governance that found that deficiencies relating to IT increased by 63 per cent last year and that poor management exposes agencies to the risk of fraud and increases the risk of cyber attacks. Have any of the people whose personal information was leaked during the election campaign been made aware that their personal details are no longer secure?

Mr Andrew Constance: Point of order: I draw the Speaker's attention to Standing Order 128. I am seeking a ruling in relation to the length of the question. The question did seem a little bit too long and there were a number of clear breaches of the standing orders in that question.

The SPEAKER: I will permit the question, but it was testing the limits.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (14:29): I did not hear the question. Could I have it repeated?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the member to repeat the question. In doing so I make very clear that, if there is any noise from either side during the re-asking of the question, members will be put on a call to order immediately.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Have any of the people whose personal information was leaked during the election campaign been made aware that their personal details are no longer secure?

The SPEAKER: I am happy to take that as a restated, shorter, new question, which is welcome. It is one question, and it stands on the record as the question just asked.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: I thought the first question had cybersecurity and a whole lot of other things in it.

The SPEAKER: Minister, do you wish to answer the question?

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: I will answer the question. There is a police investigation afoot. I have given direct instructions to my staff and to the agency to assist in every way possible. That investigation is ongoing. I am not going to make further comment.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (14:31): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade. How is the New South Wales Government delivering on its plan for drought relief?

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (14:31): I thank the member for Upper Hunter and congratulate him on his re-election. They said he would not get re-elected, but he was. Well done! It was unfortunate for the former mayor of Muswellbrook. I also congratulate the member for Upper Hunter on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture. I know that the Upper Hunter region, like most parts of the State, has felt the pain of drought. I recall visiting the Upper Hunter last year. We stopped by a local farm and I could see the anguish on the faces of a young family that had chosen, in the journey of their lives, to go into careers in agriculture. But that anguish was tough for them and I was glad that we were there to chat, have a coffee or tea, and talk it through, maybe giving them some hope. I congratulate the member on advocating for the people of his region.

I would have loved to be able to come back into this Chamber and, in updating the House, say that things have got better. Unfortunately, things have not got better. Even though there have been some rains across the State they have not been sufficient: 99 per cent of the State remains in drought. The map of New South Wales that I am holding up shows the drought with colour coding. The red and yellow areas indicate parts of the State that are suffering serious drought conditions. The paler areas indicate that most of the State is really struggling with drought.

The impact of drought is beyond the comprehension of many. The drought impacts on more than the farmers and their families; it also impacts on the broader community. If you want to quantify what it means to have 99 per cent of the State in drought, I can indicate that close to 19,000 jobs have been lost directly because of drought in regional New South Wales. The loss of those jobs to the economy means that money is not spent locally, which impacts on local cafes, service stations and tractor dealerships right across the regions. It is really tough.

The gross value of primary industry production has fallen since 2016-17 by an estimated 22 per cent over the two years to 2018-19 and 29 per cent over the three years to 2019-20. New South Wales farm business profit in 2018-19 is forecast to fall by approximately 166 per cent on 2016-17 levels. New South Wales livestock farm profitability in 2018-19 is forecast to fall between 117 per cent and 229 per cent on 2016-17 levels. Much of this is attributed to the increased cost of production from livestock feeding activities. For the cropping industry in the sector, farm profitability in 2018-19 is forecast to fall by approximately 182 per cent on 2016-17 levels and the dairy industry by up to 323 per cent over the same period.

One can clearly see those numbers and the impact on jobs, the local economy, profitability and gross value of production [GVP] for the farming sector and agriculture in New South Wales. It is having a serious impact on local economies and, of course, the State economy. But numbers are painting only one part of the picture. The true impact of this drought is the human cost on families and businesses in our regional communities, on the people who live in regional and rural New South Wales each and every day, who are the fabric of those great communities. Farmers are really doing it tough. As I said, the full effects are reverberating across the local economy.

Recently the Premier and I were in Brewarrina, where we met with Dallas Codrington, his wife, Richelle, and son, Alex. We saw firsthand the impact that the drought was having on them. They are spending \$200,000 a month to handfeed stock to keep them alive. We saw how the drought has impacted the community: The cost of fodder has moved from \$250 a tonne to \$410 a tonne, making it very expensive. The job of turning up every second day to handfeed the cattle takes a personal, physical toll on the family. Young Alex was there on

his school holidays helping out mum and dad on the farm. He loved it but you could also tell that he was doing it tough, just like the rest of them.

The impact is on the wellbeing of not only the farmer but also their family and friends. I have seen firsthand young kids who are going without because they do not want to ask mum and dad about a school excursion or anything else that is happening in school. Yesterday, with the Minister for Education, we visited a school in Sydney. There were some fundraising activities to support young people in regional New South Wales, which is a fantastic sign of students and young boys and girls in the city thinking about young boys and girls in regional New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

Last year the Premier and I made a number of announcements as part of the \$1.5 billion drought package for New South Wales. Only when the Government runs the budget in the black can it put in place the programs that support our farmers. That \$1.5 billion drought package touched a lot of areas, supporting farmers by eliminating Local Land Services rates and water rates. Freight subsidies supported many of our farmers in the region. Across the sector \$55 million went into drought transport subsidies. Many people probably do not know that \$10.3 million has gone into transport assistance to those drought charities that are doing a wonderful job of finding hay across the country and helping our local farmers.

We waived \$30 million in water charges. A total of \$7.4 million went towards emergency town water, \$56.6 million to our Drought Assistance Fund and \$309 million to our Farm Innovation Fund, which was well supported and embraced by our farming sector. Clearly a lot of money went out, but the impact of the drought continues in this State. It is going to be tough. The forecast does not indicate any immediate relief. Even if it rained tomorrow and the drought broke, it could be two or three years before many communities get the benefits or opportunities off the back of it—it is going to be a tough time. I thank the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Agriculture as we work through the drought package. I know the Premier and the Minister will have more to say about further drought relief in the next 12 months. There is no question that the impact of the drought—the human cost—is a reality for regional communities. But I also want to talk the regions up. If members get a chance, they should visit regional New South Wales. We are still open for business.

PERSONAL INFORMATION SECURITY

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (14:38): My question is directed to the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections. Did the Minister's former staff member John Macgowan leak the personal information of New South Wales citizens to the media on his own volition or under the Minister's instructions?

Mr Andrew Constance: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 120. There are clear imputations in that question, which could lead to that question being ruled out of order.

The SPEAKER: I am happy to hear further from the member for Liverpool if he wants to try to justify that. I am inclined to uphold the point of order. I am happy to hear the question rephrased.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: My question continues to be to the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections. Did the Minister's former staff member John Macgowan leak the personal information of New South Wales citizens to the media?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections) (14:39): How would I know? The member can always ask John Macgowan. Mr Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I can inform the House that it has been a rather busy time for me as the new Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections. One thing I have already learned is the portfolio of Corrections is a job full of hard decisions that cannot be avoided. Prisons everywhere are full of violent individuals, many of whom seek to continue their bad behaviour while in prison—this is about as relevant to the member's question as his question is to me—and managing them is an enormous challenge.

The New South Wales corrections system is one of the best in the world. I take this opportunity to inform the House about the remarkable job staff are doing. Those on this side of the House have the greatest admiration for our corrections staff and, together with my colleagues, I look forward to meeting as many of them as possible in the coming months. Corrective Services NSW has much of which to be proud. Participation in offender programs continues to rise. In fact in the past 12 months almost 6,500 offenders have attended over 500 programs—a 15 per cent increase since 2015. The Mothers and Children's Program operating at Emu Plains Correctional Centre now provides a range of programs for women offenders who wish to assume an active parenting role while serving a custodial sentence. The Bolwara Transitional Centre—

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129, relevance. If the Minister does not have anything to say in relation to the question—

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough.

Ms Jodi McKay: —perhaps he can sit down if he does not want to tell us about John Macgowan.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has been addressing the question and is now proceeding to make some broadly relevant comments.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: What does the member for Strathfield have against the Mothers and Children's Program, which allows mothers to look after their children, and the Bolwara Transitional Centre? What has the member got against that wonderful community-based program?

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. I have nothing against that at all.

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough. The member will resume her seat.

Ms Jodi McKay: Perhaps the member can get a Dorothy Dixier if he wants to tell the House about that.

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

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: The Bolwara Transitional Centre, which is a community-based prerelease program that obviously the member for Strathfield does not like or believe in, provides therapeutic accommodation for up to 16 medium high- to high-risk female offenders who have between four and 18 months of their custodial order to serve. I can inform the House that reoffending rates for women who have been through this program are less than 10 per cent. That is a significant improvement when compared with the general inmate population. The New South Wales Government's long-term infrastructure strategy for prisons is being driven through a \$3.8 billion Prison Bed Capacity Program. I pay tribute to the former Minister for Corrections, Mr David Elliott, for the fantastic work he did, together with the Premier and the Treasurer, in providing the capital. Two new rapid-build maximum security prisons have been established at Cessnock and Wellington.

A maximum security centre for women has been established at Lidcombe, and minimum security facilities at Berrima, Unanderra and the South Coast. Across this great State upgrade work continues at centres at Bathurst, Cessnock, Goulburn, Junee, Kempsey, South Coast, Parklea and Silverwater, as well as the John Morony Correctional Complex in Berkshire Park. I am pleased to inform the House that already close to 3,000 new beds have been added to the correctional system. Indeed, Corrective Services NSW has introduced a new model for the delivery of education and training programs in New South Wales correctional centres. It will give me great pleasure to continue to answer these questions and to inform the House further about the remarkable job our corrections staff do each and every day—almost 10,000 of them.

Ms Tania Mihailuk: Did David pass the keys over to you?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Opposition members might hate these people who do a remarkable job but Government members are backing the corrections officers and their families. Opposition members can play whatever games they want but this Government will continue to back our system and the corrections officers.

PERSONAL INFORMATION SECURITY

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:44): My question is directed to the Premier. When did the Premier or her office become aware of the leak of hundreds of people's personal information during the election campaign?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:45): I thank the acting interim leader for his question and acknowledge that the interim leader is also in the Chamber. It is important to put into context the series of questions that have been asked today. I refer the House to the response given by the Minister for Customer Service but it is important to note that during the election campaign when various issues were raised about the former Leader of the Opposition he requested a police investigation. Of course we said that we would accede to and support that investigation. That needs to be put into context. From my recollection the request was made by the Leader of the Opposition. In fact he requested in writing that the police investigate this matter. I have full confidence that the police will continue to investigate the matter and report back accordingly. It is important for the House to note that context.

URBAN GREEN SPACE

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (14:46): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. How is the New South Wales Government delivering on its plan for well-connected communities with quality local environments?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (14:46): I note that the Speaker cuts an imposing figure. I thank the member for Camden for his question and congratulate him on his election. He is in a better position than most in this place to understand how important public open spaces and green corridors are in connecting our communities. The research and the lived experience on well-connected

communities and green open spaces is clear. They are important for physical and mental health and wellbeing in our communities. They are essential to promoting active transport and the lifestyle treasured by Sydneysiders and people across New South Wales. They also enhance and preserve our biodiversity, our bushland and Sydney's beauty. It is critical to wise energy use and combating the urban heat island effect. Open spaces and open space corridors are critical in improving the value of surrounding suburbs and supporting tourism and industries that seek to locate next to these green corridors.

Get corridor planning wrong for open space or transport connections and it can produce devastating social consequences that will last for generations. Bad placement of corridors can separate not join communities. Bad corridor planning can literally leave families on the wrong side of the tracks and can limit opportunity via spatiality. Over the past 100 years the development of Sydney, in particular, has left jobs in the east but placed homes in the west, leaving hundreds of thousands of our citizens with massive commutes, creating huge social, economic and environmental consequences. We know that well-connected communities have homes and jobs in the right places and a great multiplicity of convenient transport routes and open green spaces connecting them. We believe in proper corridor planning and in preserving open green spaces but Labor's legacy in this city's urban corridors is stark.

The two previous Labor governments have a sorry history of selling off public corridors to property developers. Vast swathes of public land were flogged off from Pyrmont to Strathfield in the inner west, from Woolloomooloo to Moore Park in the east, and from Seaforth to Chatswood in the north. That continued until the dying days of the Labor Government. I recall that foreshore public land around Pickering Point near Seaforth was sold off by the former Labor planning Minister, Tony Kelly, while the Labor Government was in caretaker mode. Ribbons of public foreshore land also were flogged off and huge parcels of Crown land adjoining national parks were transferred to private interests.

In contrast to that since 2011 across Sydney and in the electorate of the member for Camden this Government has spent more than \$150 million of taxpayer funds on buying back or acquiring more than 175 hectares of open space to add that to a network of green corridors, which this Government recognises as equally important as our great urban placements. Our parklands are just as important as our built environments. This Government is building not just the road, rail, health and education infrastructures for our community but also the soft infrastructure and parkland, which are equally important.

Ms Tania Mihailuk: That is not infrastructure.

Mr ROB STOKES: For the information of members opposite, we also call it green infrastructure.

The SPEAKER: The member for Bankstown will remain silent.

Mr ROB STOKES: When we talk about urban renewal, it is equally important to talk about parkland and bushland renewal at the same time. I state for the record my gratitude to my passionate and progressive predecessor, the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, who worked hard as part of a team to secure more than \$207 million to provide more opportunities for public open space.

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

Mr ROB STOKES: The Government also has provided \$20 million for inclusive playgrounds so that everyone can play, regardless of their level of ability. In addition, more than \$7 million has been allocated for what is a great planning vision—an extra five million trees—to preserve and enhance Sydney's tree canopy. *[Extension of time]*

The Government has provided an extra \$150 million to purchase more public parkland and open spaces across Sydney. I am keen to leverage that money by partnering and collaborating with local councils to make the investment go even further than it otherwise would and so that future generations of Sydneysiders will enjoy a legacy of great public open spaces. But I am a little disappointed.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Ah!

Mr ROB STOKES: Really, I am. I am disappointed because Labor has not given me a shadow Minister. We know how important shadows from trees are, et cetera, but I do not have a shadow Minister.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Mr Ryan Park: I'm not doing that job too, Rob.

Mr ROB STOKES: I know the member for Keira's surname is Park, and that is a start, but that really does not go far enough. While Labor members may not have an interest in public spaces, they certainly have an interest in vacant spaces. Let's face it, the Labor leader is currently a vacant space. I note that the former Leader

of the Opposition has created a vacant space. Perhaps that suggests there may be a vacancy in his seat at some point in the future. While members of the Labor Party are a rudderless ragtag rump that are descending into a dystopian Hobbesian nightmare of a leaderless resistance cell, Government members are focused on building great communities—and that includes great public open spaces.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:53): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

The SPEAKER: Members will remain silent.

Mr GURMESH SINGH: How is the New South Wales Government delivering on its plan for regional transport and roads?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (14:54): I thank the new member for Coffs Harbour for the question. There is no doubt that this new member is a local champion for his area. This member understands what our regions offer. This member understands that a strong transport and road network creates opportunities for those living in the bush. I have had the transport portfolio only for a short time but one thing is clear: It is hard to drive a bus when one does not know where it is going.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Lakemba to order for the second time. I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: When I look at Opposition members I am reminded of a big red bus that went out during the election campaign but that came back missing a driver. Clearly Labor has been so inspired by our driverless shuttle trials that it has adopted them. We were trialling them at Coffs Harbour and at Armidale but Labor has extended the trial to Sussex Street. The wheels on Labor's bus are no longer going round and round; the wheels on its bus have fallen off and passengers do not know what to do. They know that the next driver will be from the Right but when they get on the bus they did not know with whom they should sit. Do they sit with the member for Kogarah, the member for Port Stephens or the member for Strathfield?

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. The question is about regional roads and transport. I suggest that the Minister should get out his Opal card and tap off.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Minister has been generally relevant to the transport issue and is talking about buses.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The reality is that Labor's bus is going nowhere for the next four years—or the four years following that. But there is good news for the people of New South Wales because Government members know who is driving the bus and they know where it is going. We have strong leadership from the Premier and the Deputy Premier and we have a strong plan.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I agree that there is too much noise in the Chamber, but if the Minister was relevant to the question we would sit quietly and listen.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Minister is being relevant, albeit in very general terms.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: It is about responding to the needs of today and positioning rural and regional New South Wales to ensure that it has a vibrant future. It is about delivering infrastructure and it is about creating jobs. Infrastructure will change the way people and freight move around this State. It will open up a world of opportunity for those in the bush. We will invest \$1 billion into fixing local bridges and roads. Over the next four years duplication of the Great Western Highway will begin, creating a faster and safer trip over the mountains. We will invest \$960 million on the Princes Highway making the road safer and bringing new jobs and investment to the South Coast. We will finish delivering Australia's largest road infrastructure project—the upgrade of the Pacific Highway. The new member for Coffs Harbour appreciates the importance of that project. It has already halved the number of fatalities on the Pacific Highway and when complete it will take 2½ hours off the trip from Hexham to the Queensland border. [*Extension of time not granted.*]

ORANGE MULTIPURPOSE SPORTING PRECINCT

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (14:59): My question is directed to the Premier. On 6 February this year whilst in Orange the Premier committed to building a \$25 million multipurpose sporting precinct. When can the people of Orange expect that to be delivered?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:59): I congratulate the member for Orange on his re-election. He had a very healthy primary vote that compared very favourably with the Labor Party, which got 10 per cent of the primary vote in Orange. At least Labor did better in Orange than it did in

Murray, where it got only 8 per cent of the primary vote. In any event, I assure the member for Orange that the Liberal-Nationals Government will deliver on its election commitments. All members should look forward to the budget papers to see the time line for when those commitments will be delivered.

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:00): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. How is the New South Wales Government delivering on its plan for health care?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (15:00): I thank the member for Holsworthy for her question and her commitment to health throughout her electorate and more broadly across the State. I have worked extensively with the member in my capacity as Minister. She has been an absolute fighter for Liverpool and Sutherland hospitals, which she shares with her colleagues in that area, including the member for Cronulla and the member for Miranda, the wonderful Eleni. She should not worry, I am not forgetting her. Those members were all out fighting, which was entirely different from the Labor members who seemed to be asleep at the wheel in the run-up to the election.

I thank the staff at our hospitals across the State. I acknowledge that New South Wales has the best health system in the world. That is not disputed by any of our colleagues around the country. They acknowledge the incredible work done by our doctors, nurses, allied health staff, support staff, paramedics, cleaners and office staff. Everybody who works in our health system is doing an incredible job. As a result we are getting amazing outcomes for our patients. I acknowledge also that we have the biggest service agency in the country. We have 142,000 full-time equivalent staff compared with the Australian Defence Force, which has approximately 80,000 to 100,000 full-time equivalent staff. That shows the size of our health system.

The Government recently announced that over the next term it will employ a further 5,000 nurses and midwives; 1,060 doctors; 880 allied health staff, including pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists; and, very importantly, 1,360 support staff for our amazing medical staff. I remind members that those numbers are on top of the 16,000 additional health staff that we employed in the first eight years of government. We certainly have the people there to provide our health services; the front line is extremely healthy. We will continue to deliver.

In addition to that we have spent nearly \$10 billion on health infrastructure. There is no other State or Territory that has spent on health anywhere near as much as the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government has in its first eight years in government. In the next four years we will spend \$8.4 billion on health. That leaves every other State and Territory in this country in our wake—way, way behind us. We are certainly doing what a good Liberal-Nationals government should do, and that is making sure that our healthy economy ensures that we have a very healthy health system.

I will pick out a few examples of health infrastructure being built by this Government at the moment. We have announced that there will be a \$740 million new world-class health and academic precinct at Liverpool. I thank the member for Holsworthy, Mel Gibbons, for her efforts in securing this funding. I also mention Professor Les Boke, who has health issues at the moment. He has been a great advocate for Liverpool Hospital. I thank him and his professional colleagues for being advocates, along with the member for Holsworthy, for the Liverpool Hospital precinct. One particular hospital I want to pick out is in the electorate of Tweed. Where is the member for Tweed? There he is. Winston Churchill is famous for a lot of sayings, one being:

The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.

Here we have the Winston Churchill of the Tweed. He fought them on the beaches, he fought them everywhere. I tell you what, they said it was a referendum and he got a 4 per cent swing. Well done, the member for Tweed. [*Extension of time*]

It was unfortunate that the shadow Minister for Health, a member of the upper House—whatever his name is—did not appear in the Tweed even more frequently, because I reckon it would have been a 10 per cent swing if he had been there more frequently. He was just hopeless. Whoever gets to be the permanent, interim or whatever Leader of the Opposition should think about the shadow Minister for Health, because even the Australian Medical Association said, the day before the election, that he was hopeless and could not be trusted.

Mr Paul Lynch: Point of order: To prove I can defend Walt Secord, my point of order relates to Standing Order 73. The Minister is indulging in an attack upon the shadow Minister for Health. If he wishes to do that he must do it by way of substantive motion.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Minister to be careful with his comments.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Actually, in all fairness, some of my staff said that they hoped he would go and I said I really hoped he stays.

Mr John Barilaro: It was a referendum on Walt.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: It was a referendum on whatever his name is, yes. Where is the member for Penrith? This member fought for a \$1 billion commitment for the Nepean Hospital. It is because the amazing member for Penrith was out there advocating and working with the locals that we were able to focus on that commitment and there will be a new and expanded emergency department, at least 12 new operating theatres and at least 18 new birthing suites. Where is the member for Mulgoa? She was also on the campaign trail, making sure that we heard the message from the people of the Nepean.

Of course, \$1.3 billion will be spent on the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital for new emergency services and critical care facilities. Where is the wonderful new member for East Hills? There she is, another fighter. She is an amazing fighter for that hospital; her campaign was incredible. We are building more hospitals and I look forward to sharing with the House on many occasions information about all the hospitals that we are building across this incredible State.

Committees

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Establishment and Membership

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: By leave: I move:

That:

- (1) A Standing Orders and Procedure Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on any matter relating to the standing orders or the procedures of the House and its committees.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, such committee consist of: The Speaker (as Chair), Mr Andrew Constance, Ms Steph Cooke, Mr Mark Coure, Mr Adam Crouch, Mr Michael Daley, Mr Lee Evans, Mr Nick Lalich, Mr Paul Lynch, Mr Greg Piper and Mrs Leslie Williams.
- (3) The committee have leave to make visits of inspection within the State of New South Wales, and other States and Territories of Australia.

Motion agreed to.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

Pet Shops

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

Inner-city Ferry Services

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

Route 389 Bus Services

Petition requesting more reliable 389 bus services, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Sydney Metro Pitt Street Over-station Developments

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

The Star Casino

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

Low-cost Housing and Homelessness

Petition requesting increased funding for low-cost housing and homelessness services, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Glebe Island Multi-User Facility

Petition calling on the Government to commission an independent impact assessment of the proposed Glebe Island Multi-User Facility and to protect adjacent residential amenity by imposing operating conditions such as night and weekend bans, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Matter of Public Importance

OVARIAN CANCER

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:11): Madam Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment to that position. Yesterday, 8 May, was an important day in our calendar—World Ovarian Cancer Day. I have spoken about ovarian cancer in this place on a number of occasions. I have done so in tribute to my friend Caroline Bear, whom I met in 2014 and who sadly lost her daughter, the lovely Kylie Bear, to ovarian cancer. It is a great honour to speak on this issue to increase awareness of ovarian cancer in the New South Wales Parliament.

Ovarian cancer is diagnosed annually in nearly 250,000 women globally and is responsible for 140,000 deaths each year. Statistics indicate that just 45 per cent of women with ovarian cancer are likely to survive for five years. That is why it is important that today we recognise World Ovarian Cancer Day. It is a day on which women living with ovarian cancer, their families, their supporters and advocacy organisations around the world come together to raise awareness. Raising awareness of ovarian cancer is the most important thing we can do. In Australia four women are diagnosed with the disease every day. It could be a member of this place, their partner, their sister, their mum, their grandmother or, indeed, their daughter. That is why I am encouraging women everywhere to be aware of ovarian cancer and to understand the risks. Of course, with knowledge comes power, and with that power women can give themselves the best possible chance of beating this awful disease and changing its narrative.

Unlike the treatment and management of other common cancers, there are massive hurdles to leap in addressing ovarian cancer because the disease has been largely overlooked and, unfortunately, research has been underfunded. Each year in Australia about 1,600 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 1,000 of them will die as a result. That is, more than 70 per cent of the women diagnosed will lose their life. Unfortunately, for 75 per cent of women with ovarian cancer their diagnosis is too late or the disease is difficult to treat. Currently only 43 per cent of women with ovarian cancer will live more than five years after diagnosis. We can beat those statistics. If ovarian cancer is diagnosed at an early stage, women have an 80 per cent chance of being alive well in excess of five years.

That is why we—everyone—need to know more about ovarian cancer and its symptoms. If women are diagnosed at an early stage, ovarian cancer is treatable. Every woman needs to know the symptoms of ovarian cancer. The symptoms include: increased abdominal size, persistent bloating, difficulty eating, feeling full quickly, abdominal or pelvic pain, and the need to pass urine more urgently and more frequently. Residents in my electorate of Swansea are rallying behind our local ABC legend Jill Emberson, who, sadly, in 2016 was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and is now in stage 4 of this terminal illness. Jill has been a local and national voice, and a beacon of light for those who are suffering. She has taken the issue all the way to Canberra and asked for equity in cancer funding during a meeting with the Prime Minister and health Minister. I cannot say how much I applaud her for her courage. Jill was named Newcastle's Australian of the Year earlier this year for her contribution to both journalism and ovarian cancer research advocacy work—it was such a great honour for her. I thank Jill for her bravery and her advocacy during this difficult time in her life.

As we know, a teal ribbon signifies ovarian cancer. I urge all members to make sure that they wear a teal ribbon on this very significant day; we must make sure that women stop dying from ovarian cancer. All women are at risk of ovarian cancer. Awareness of the early warning signs of the disease does and can save lives. Diagnosis at an early stage vastly improves a woman's chance of survival. Ovarian cancer is too often diagnosed at such a late stage. Sadly, many women mistakenly believe that a pap test will detect ovarian cancer, but that is simply not the case. Members have a responsibility to make people aware of ovarian cancer and to make sure we provide researchers with the necessary funds to research ovarian cancer so that we can stop women in our community dying from this terrible scourge. Members, please wear a teal ribbon to remind people about ovarian cancer.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (15:16): I congratulate you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on your appointment and election as the Deputy Speaker of this Chamber. I know that you are also a champion of women's health. I thank the member for Swansea for bringing this matter of public importance, World Ovarian Cancer Day on 8 May, to the attention of the House. The member for Swansea is an ongoing champion of women's health, in particular, looking at the diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer. Last year she held a very powerful event in this House. I hope now that we have resumed our sittings she will continue to do so.

As the member for Swansea mentioned, we must be champions in this place for raising the awareness of ovarian cancer, which is such an insidious disease that is hard to diagnose. It is hard for a person to know whether they have symptoms of ovarian cancer. Most women who have been diagnosed may have felt a little bit off, have a sore stomach and issues with their bowel movements, which are the kinds of symptoms that can be dismissed very easily. I thank the member for Swansea for continuing to be a champion for ovarian cancer.

As we all know, 8 May is World Ovarian Cancer Day and each year February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, which is when we normally wear a teal ribbon. I thank the member for Swansea for reminding everyone to wear a teal ribbon. The purpose of these important initiatives is to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of this disease. Ovarian cancer is one of several diverse types of gynaecological cancers. Other gynaecological cancers include cervical and uterine cancer. In New South Wales ovarian cancer is the eleventh most common cancer in women and the sixth most common in female cancer deaths, which is significantly linked to low rates of diagnosis of women with ovarian cancer compared to other gynaecological cancers.

One in 77 women will develop ovarian cancer by the age of 85 and 40 per cent of women are alive five years after a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Gynaecological cancers are diverse; ovarian cancer is the gynaecological cancer with the lowest rates of survival. In the period 2007 to 2011 the national five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer was 43 per cent whereas for cervical cancer it was 72 per cent. The key to reducing deaths from ovarian cancer is early detection, as the member for Swansea mentioned, when more effective treatment options are available. Experience over recent decades with breast, cervical and bowel cancers has shown that cancer screening is a key life-saving tool for detecting cancer and its precursors and for reducing mortality from those cancers.

Sadly ovarian cancer is often detected at an advanced stage because the symptoms can be vague, generalised and non-gynaecological. They can resemble those of other conditions that are more common or less serious. Most women with ovarian cancer report at least one symptom in the year before diagnosis. The symptoms include abdominal bloating, indigestion, loss of appetite or feeling full quickly, fatigue, increased abdominal girth, abdominal and/or pelvic pain, unexplained weight loss or gain, changes in bowel habits or urinary frequency, incontinence and a feeling of pressure in the abdomen. Many of those symptoms are conditions that any of us could experience any day of the week and a number of them are contradictory. It is important that women who experience any of these symptoms see their doctor, particularly if the symptoms are unusual or persistent.

There are resources for general practitioners, including guides published by Cancer Australia, to assist them in assessing the symptoms of ovarian cancer and identifying women who should be referred to a gynaecological oncologist. There is currently no screening test for ovarian cancer. Excitingly, though, recent research suggests we are getting closer. Previously in this House I have spoken about Professor Ian Jacobs, Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales since February 2015. Professor Jacobs led the world's largest randomised trial for ovarian cancer screening based on an annual blood test of levels of a blood protein, CA125, used in conjunction with transvaginal ultrasound.

Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer should be treated in a specialist gynaecological oncology centre under the care of a gynaecological oncologist who is part of a gynaecological multidisciplinary cancer care team. Research evidence shows that being treated in such a specialist centre is associated with better survival. Through the Cancer Institute NSW the Government is committed to ensuring that people with cancer receive the best possible treatment and care. The Cancer Institute NSW publishes details of seven specialist gynaecological oncology centres on its website. Women with ovarian cancer are recommended to be assessed and treated at one of those centres. Between 2007 and 2018 the New South Wales Government provided \$18 million in competitive research funding towards research into gynaecological cancers. We are committed to continuing to invest in ovarian cancer awareness and prevention.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (15:22): World Ovarian Cancer Day is observed on 8 May. It aims to create a community where those living with ovarian cancer, survivors and their families and friends can unite, share their experiences and knowledge, help educate the public about this deadly disease and remember those we have lost. I particularly acknowledge my friend and colleague the member for Swansea; Kylie Bear; and Bridget Whelan, who is a staffer. I congratulate Jill Emberson, Newcastle's citizen of the year, journalist with the ABC, ovarian cancer advocate and one of the bravest women I have ever met.

Jill is on a quest to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and, most importantly, raise funds for more research into its detection, treatment and ultimately cure—even though there is no prospect of a cure helping her. Associate Professor Nikola Bowden, ovarian cancer researcher with the Hunter Medical Research Institute, and Dr Olga Ostrowskyj, GP and breast cancer survivor, joined Jill as speakers at the Pink Meets Teal event in Newcastle on World Ovarian Day. Recently Jill wrote the following for The Sista Code, an organisation and website run by another amazing Hunter woman, Melissa Histon:

What we need for ovarian cancer is some dedicated funding. Large sums of money. The kind of thing that say the brain cancer groups have got now, which is a pot of 100 million dollars in the medical futures research fund dedicated to brain cancer. We need to do a similar thing for ovarian cancer. **And why money is important, and I know everything needs money, [is because] money attracts the researchers.** Because researchers need to work, they've got kids and families, so with no money, we don't get the research, we don't get the improved outcomes. And, unfortunately, ovarian cancer has had insufficient funds. Breast cancer has had four and five times the amount of money. Cervical cancer has had huge sums of money thrown at it. And look, just this week, they've declared that the world, or Australia at least, is poised to eradicate cervical cancer.

Why has ovarian cancer not had the money? **Only 1600 women get this cancer every year, but a thousand of us die and we die really quickly.** You know, on average, we have 47 months of good health. I was diagnosed 37 months ago and I'll be buggered if my daughter is going to have the same prospects of this cancer when she gets to my age. Forget it. I just can't risk that.

Having any kind of cancer takes a huge emotional and financial toll on our lives and on families not just now but also in the future. I share these concerns with Jill. I have the breast cancer gene which also has the ovarian cancer risk. This is something I do not want to share with my daughter either. For the thousands of women like me who have this gene it is not an either/or scenario. We face both risks together. Indeed, as far as I know none of my BRCA2 genetic ancestors died of breast cancer; they were killed by "women's problems", a twentieth century term for ovarian cancer. We must do more, we can do more; we just need to have the will and the money to do it. Thanks, Jill.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (15:25): By leave: World Ovarian Cancer Day is a very emotional time for me. Earlier today I posted about Dayle Walker, a former teacher colleague at Northlakes Public School, someone with whom I became great friends. We thought in very much the same way, so much so that when I was elected to Parliament I asked Dayle to be my researcher and speechwriter. I still miss her words every single day. She thought about issues in ways so similar to the way that I did that it was almost as if I had written the words myself.

Dayle was one of the most positive people I have met. When she was diagnosed, sadly she did not tell me straight away. It was just before the 2011 election. We were working very hard on the election campaign and she did not want to upset me, so I did not find out until the following year that she had been diagnosed. I knew she was not well but she told me then that it was ovarian cancer. Dayle passed away on 25 September 2014. She spent her final time as an advocate on ovarian cancer, fundraising right up until the very end. I looked at her Facebook page and the posts there are of her attending events, raising money and being an advocate on behalf of women with ovarian cancer right up until she sadly passed away. It shows the sort of person she was that never at any stage did she put herself first: It was always her family, her friends and then her causes.

I am so privileged to have known her. I know Bob and her whole family still miss her dearly; I am still in contact with them. When I posted about her today, so many people responded with memories of Dayle. People loved her. Kids she taught who are now adults have said that Mrs Walker was always one of their favourites. I thank the member for Swansea for raising this issue today as a matter of public importance and I appreciate the indulgence of the House in allowing me to speak in Dayle's memory. She will always be in my heart and in the hearts of others, but it is wonderful that I get the chance to talk about her and her achievements today.

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (15:28): By leave: I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a brief contribution on this matter of public importance relating to World Ovarian Cancer Day. I acknowledge the member for Swansea for bringing this important issue before the House. Over a relatively short period warriors have been out there championing the cause and have done an amazing job in raising awareness of this insidious disease. But there is still a lot to do. I raised this issue in the House on 23 November and I spoke about a local champion in my electorate who was taking up the fight: Liz Wright from Wangi Wangi. Liz and her Teal Sisters have been raising funds, not for themselves but for others who will come after them. Liz was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic ovarian cancer in June 2017. She is keen to use her time productively to raise more money so that other women and their families will not suffer from this awful disease.

A lot of people are touched by this disease. One of my electorate officers had a very close friend who passed away in January this year. Her friend, Kim Monnox, was a much loved and well-known family lawyer from Newcastle. Kim was diagnosed with ovarian cancer just five weeks before she died. She went from being a healthy, active mother who did not know she had this disease to passing away in just 35 days. That is extraordinary. I acknowledge everyone who has mentioned Jill Emberson. I like to claim her as a friend but maybe everybody in the Hunter who knows her does the same. I have known Jill since she came to the area from Melbourne to work for ABC radio. She is a fantastic woman. I do not think that even she can believe how strong she is and what she has been able to achieve.

With people like Liz and Jill and members of this House, we will make the changes because we will keep driving the argument for more funding. This is not about taking away funding from breast cancer or other cancers. That funding has had great results and I am sure everyone is pleased about those achievements but this insidious

disease, ovarian cancer, needs particular attention. We need to ensure that the funding is put in place to undertake research so that we can remove this death sentence from so many women.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:32): In reply: I thank the member for North Shore, the member for Maitland, the member for Wyong and the member for Lake Macquarie for their contributions to this very important discussion today. All of those members know someone close who has ovarian cancer and who, as a result, has a death sentence. The member for Lake Macquarie told us about Kim, who died just five sad weeks after she was diagnosed. Each of the women who were mentioned in members' contributions to this discussion had become advocates and had raised money for the ovarian cancer cause because they did not want women to suffer from the same disease that they had lived through.

I remind members of Jill Emberson's words that of the 1,600 women diagnosed annually 1,000 will die. That is an extraordinary statistic. We women have to make sure that we persist in seeking more funding for better diagnostic tests. The member for North Shore was spot on when she talked about Professor Ian Jacobs and his fight for screening here. Screening has been successful in fighting other cancers so we need to seek that as a goal in Australia and globally. This is a disease that affects women around the world. It is often the case that women do not speak out about gynaecological problems. I am very proud as a woman in this place to be able to talk about these matters so openly. Members here, as a collective, regardless of their gender, can be supportive of women who suffer from this disease. We know that today four women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer. It is critically important that as legislators we work together to make those changes so we can give women the confidence that we are serious about combating their disease.

The member for North Shore can rest assured that there will be a morning tea in the New South Wales Parliament in 2019. All members have been extraordinary supporters. Ovarian Cancer Australia is grateful for the Parliament's support to fight ovarian cancer. It does make a difference. We heard the women who came here and bravely told their stories about ovarian cancer. The member for Mulgoa and I hosted the first ever ovarian cancer morning tea here. We certainly took a lot from that and, in return, we will ensure that we continue to support the cause. Members, look out for your invitations; they will come very shortly. I thank members for participating in this discussion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the member for Swansea for raising this important issue in the House today. I am sure all members are looking forward to receiving their invitations and supporting this important issue.

Community Recognition Statements

TRIBUTE TO GORDON LINDSAY MCMASTER

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (15:35): I speak in remembrance of the late Gordon Lindsay McMaster, or Gordie as most knew him. Receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the merino industry and the kelpie breed in 2009, the wool classer and breeder was a legend of the stud. He was a Churchill Fellow and founding member of The Working Kelpie Council of Australia and led in establishing the Riverina merino field days. His story and contribution are far too great to canvas in just 60 seconds. Gordie died peacefully in Narrandera aged 84 following illness but he will be remembered for his contagious passion for life and the land.

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (15:36): I recognise the 2019 Irish Film Festival. The Sydney component of the festival was held from 1 May to 5 May. On Wednesday 1 May the first film of the festival was shown at the Penrith Gaels Cultural and Sporting Club. The film was entitled *Unquiet Graves* and the producer, Sean Murray, from west Belfast was in attendance to answer questions about it. The film was a documentary featuring the activities of the murderous Glenanne Gang, including members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster Defence Regiment, who were active in what was called the "murder triangle" in portions of counties Armagh and Tyrone in the north of Ireland in the 1970s. The gang's depredations also extended over the border into the republic. The gang was responsible for the murder of more than 120 civilians from July 1972 until the end of 1978. Of course, the festival features a diverse range of films. As its promotional material says, it caters to all ages and interests. This was the fifth year of the festival, which commenced in 2015. I acknowledge the roles of Enda Murray and Tomás de Bhaldraithe in the festival.

PROSPECT HERITAGE TRUST

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:37): Last Sunday I had the great pleasure of attending a lunch hosted by the Prospect Heritage Trust, of which I am a proud patron. I was kindly invited to the first official viewing of the newly refurbished and restored Prospect History Cottage, where our proud western Sydney history is on display to the public. I have great connections to this fantastic area through the Caprari family and the Watts

family, who used to operate the old Prospect post office. I thank the president, Jill Finch, and the secretary, Margaret Grace, for their invitation to see the restoration of such a vital part of western Sydney history. Margaret and Jill are incredibly hardworking and committed people who secured a New South Wales Government grant for \$2,300 for new data software and a portable display board. I wish Margaret, Jill and the rest of the Prospect Heritage Trust all the best and thank them again for their part in keeping our history alive.

BONNIE SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:38): On 11 April 2019 I had the honour of attending Bonnie Support Services' official launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan, which has been a work in progress for nearly two years and has now entered into its innovate stage. This is an exciting time for everyone involved in this great initiative, which aims to build trust and a solid foundation for a positive working relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for reconciliation and a productive relationship between providers, services and the community. I commend Tracy Phillips, executive officer for Bonnie's, for joining more than 1,000 organisations that have signed on to the Reconciliation Action Plan. I wish them all the best in this endeavour moving forward.

FORSTER TUNCURRY GOLF CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:39): I inform the House that pennant teams from Forster Tuncurry Golf Club have experienced a wealth of competitive success lately. The hot streak started when the division one team travelled to Harrington Waters for the 2019 Lower North Coast District Golf Association division one pennant. The pennant series is a team-based event contested between eight golf clubs from Port Macquarie to Forster. Forster's division two then followed on from their division one counterpart's success by beating Port Macquarie in the division two pennant. Forster Tuncurry Golf Club currently holds five of the six pennants they have contested in the past 12 months. I congratulate pennant teams from the Forster Tuncurry Gold Club on their fantastic achievement and record.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF DANCE

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (15:40): I congratulate Chloe Reynolds and Grace Humphris on their outstanding achievements in dance. They are both students at the National College of Dance in Lambton. These talented young women are two of nine Australians competing at the Prix de Lausanne in Switzerland. The Prix de Lausanne is one of the world's most prestigious competition for ballet dancers aged between 15 and 18. Chloe and Grace joined 71 other young dancers in Switzerland from 4 February to 9 February in a week of classes and competition. This is the second time that the National College of Dance has sent students to this event and it is understandably very proud of them. I also acknowledge Vicki Morgan, who runs the National College of Dance, and all the staff who have worked so hard with Chloe, Grace and the rest of their talented, dedicated students. Congratulations and well done!

SUE HOOD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (15:41): I acknowledge the invaluable community contribution of Sue Hood from Dubbo. Sue is a stalwart of the annual Dubbo Show; she started working in the show office 36 years ago. She has filled the secretary's role since 1996 and has been key in making the show one of the biggest on the Dubbo calendar—and across the west. Sue's efforts were recognised recently when she was presented with the Agricultural Society Council President's Award for 2019. Aside from her role with the Dubbo Show and her work with the showgirl entrants, Sue is also secretary for the Western Group of Shows, which incorporates 23 shows across rural New South Wales. I congratulate Sue on her honour. The people of Dubbo, and the entire western region of New South Wales, are extremely proud of her.

JILLIBY CEMETERY MEMORIAL

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (15:42): It was my great honour to attend the opening of a new memorial at Jilliby Cemetery to commemorate the service and sacrifice of local men and women who served in World War I. I was joined by the Federal member for Dobell, Emma McBride, MP, who shared the honour of opening the memorial with Bill Dafter, whose parents are buried in the cemetery. The Jilliby Valley was one of 1,701 recruitment centres in New South Wales and the staging point on the coast for the men and women embarking on the journey to aid in the Empire's war effort. The Wyong RSL Sub-Branch, with the assistance of Emma McBride, was successful in securing funding through the Anzac Centenary Grants Program. I was extremely pleased to take part in the unveiling, and I congratulate the RSL and Emma McBride on making this project happen. It is important to our local and national sense of self that we commemorate those who fought in the Great War and understand their local stories. In particular, I mention the work of Pat Frewin who started the project but, unfortunately, passed away before it was completed.

TRIBUTE TO MARK HERRICK

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (15:43): In March the late Mark Herrick, a beloved teacher who had worked at Caroline Chisolm College since 1986, was farewelled by past and present students and teachers at the college. Among other incredible attributes, this amazing educator was known for his ability to remember the name and birthday of every student he came into contact with. Chantelle Al-Khouri, who was the 2016 school captain, said, "He was sunshine personified." After three decades of teaching at Caroline Chisolm College, his legacy will forever be embedded in the way we go on as a community and as the sisterhood that he continued to champion. Thousands of condolences have been shared across social media on the passing of this beloved Glenmore Park teacher who dedicated his life to the college and the wider Glenmore Park community. He was loved by many and will be missed. Vale, Mark Herrick.

FATHER CHRIS JENKINS, SJ

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:44): I acknowledge the service of Father Chris Jenkins, SJ, to St Canice Church and the local Kings Cross community over the past eight years. Father Chris has maintained a welcoming, inclusive and community-focused church, where my husband and I have attended Christmas mass. Father Chris and St Canice have shown great leadership in supporting people who are homeless, as well as refugees and asylum seekers needing support. Its roof garden, which is maintained by refugees and asylum seekers, provides herbs and vegetables to local restaurants, including Billy Kwong. Father Chris will be missed as he moves on to his new posting in South Australia's Clare Valley. I see him most mornings while walking my dog as he begins his day at around 6.00 a.m. He always has a smile on his face and a commitment to support the local area and those in need.

MAY DAY RALLY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:45): Unions NSW represents more than 600,000 trade union members and has been fighting for the rights of workers since 1871. This year Unions NSW hosted the May Day rally on 1 May at Hyde Park, Sydney, and a further May Day march and family fun day on 5 May. May Day is a celebration of working families and the sacrifices and struggles of the trade union movement to achieve decent pay and working conditions, a safe work environment and true equality for all Australians. Thousands of trade unionists were in attendance. I had the honour to march in solidarity with the workers of New South Wales, especially those from the electorate of Prospect. The speakers were focused and determined in their messages and I acknowledge Unions NSW State Secretary Mark Morey for his work and commitment to organised labour. I look forward to working with the leaders and rank and file members of the New South Wales trade union movement during this parliamentary term to make a fairer New South Wales.

UNITING ABILITY LINKS

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (15:46): Uniting Ability Links provides a valuable and unique service within the community, supporting those with disabilities and their families and carers to enjoy experiences they may not otherwise have access to. Ability Links has actively promoted open caption cinema at venues across Sydney and has recently expanded this service to Roseville Cinemas in the electorate of Davidson, with a screening yesterday of the movie *All Is True*. Open captions allow those with hearing loss and those who are hard of hearing to enjoy the experience of attending the cinema in a way that has not been possible for them previously. I commend Ability Links for making the cinema experience far more enjoyable for those who have hearing loss, and Roseville Cinemas for providing an ongoing program of open caption movies for their patrons.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (15:47): While we in this House were facing an election more than 7,000 athletes with an intellectual disability from 170 nations competed across 24 sports in the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 21 March. Five athletes from the Hunter won medals. I acknowledge swimmers Melissa Jarvis from Cardiff, who won three bronze and one silver medal; and Belinda Prince from New Lambton, who won three silver and one bronze medal. Both did a wonderful job representing the Wallsend electorate. My thanks also go to Ellena Norris, the Hunter Valley sports coordinator for the Special Olympics. I thank all the volunteers.

JULIE JARDINE

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (15:48): I congratulate Julie Jardine, the Coffs Harbour electorate 2019 Local Woman of the Year. This annual local award recognises the outstanding contributions made by remarkable women to the Coffs coast community. Julie Jardine fits the bill in every regard. She loves living on the Coffs coast and works tirelessly to help improve the lives of those around her. Julie is a successful businesswoman who has always felt the need to give back by supporting many community organisations. She also

mentors women in their careers and serves on various business advisory boards. Most recently, Julie has been involved with the Outback Air Race raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Her passion is the Coffs coast and the Clarence CanDo Cancer Trust, which helps patients and their families experiencing financial difficulties. One of the qualities that impresses me most about Julie and the work she does is that she gets a kick out of helping others. Julie was thrilled to be presented with her Woman of the Year certificate by the Premier of New South Wales, Gladys Berejiklian, who met with members of the local community during her Coffs coast visit.

PETER POULTON

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (15:49): I acknowledge and thank the Wollongong RSL Sub-Branch President, Peter Poulton, for 30 years of service to veterans—not just in the Illawarra but throughout Australia. On Tuesday Peter was awarded the RSL Meritorious Service Medal, which is the RSL's highest honour that is awarded only to league members who have given exceptional service over a sustained period—and that is the best way to describe the service that Peter has provided to the veterans community. Peter was instrumental in organising the 1987 welcome home march for Vietnam veterans that brought to Sydney 30,000 veterans of the 60,000 Australians who served. On the day he was on the dais and in the ear of Prime Minister Bob Hawke. He has been in the ear of politicians ever since—never taking a backwards step in advocating for veterans. His frequent visits to my office are both informative and entertaining. He has been involved in establishing the Vietnam Veterans memorial in Canberra, the Centenary of Anzac. But supporting veterans who need help always comes first. It is helping veterans that continues to drive and motivate him. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Peter Poulton for his selfless service.

MADELEINE RICHEY

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (15:50): I offer my congratulations to Madeleine Richey, who has been announced as the recipient of the Ena Williams Award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care at the recently held Northern New South Wales Local Health District Awards. This is a wonderful achievement and one that I know Maddie is extremely proud to have received. Ena Williams was a very strong Aboriginal woman who led the way in overcoming many boundaries within the health area. I congratulate Maddie and wish her a long and satisfying career in health.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:51): Last Friday I had the privilege of attending St Anthony's Primary School in Clovelly for the school's Anzac Day commemoration. I was incredibly impressed by all the students' reverence and respect as they honoured our fallen Anzacs, as well as the fallen veterans of our close Allies. I congratulate the Principal of St Anthony's, Ms Kym Whyte, assistant principal Marie Iorfino and year 6 teacher Mr Alexander Uric for their tireless efforts in organising such a fitting tribute to our diggers. The work that all our teachers do is so valuable. I extend my congratulations and thank all the staff at St Anthony's Primary School for providing such high quality education to our local children.

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:52): Ahead of the NSW State Emergency Service [SES] Wear Orange Wednesday on 22 May, I thank the many people who volunteer their time and energy to help others in need. This annual day encourages community members to wear orange as a way to thank our volunteers. There are more than 10,000 New South Wales SES members across our State, many of whom serve my local community. In my electorate of Terrigal there is an SES depot at Erina from which many Central Coast operations are dispatched and controlled.

I will be visiting the depot this weekend for the annual open day, which is a fantastic event. It is a chance for locals to get a sneak peek and learn about what is involved for emergency services who are often first responders to storm events and natural disasters. Last December a significant hailstorm inflicted over \$1 billion in damage to properties and cars on the Central Coast and north Sydney. The local SES unit played a significant role in helping many families and individuals. In advance of Wear Orange Wednesday, I thank all SES volunteers on the Central Coast.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (15:53): I take this opportunity to congratulate St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Georges Hall in my electorate, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. The anniversary marks not just St Mary's fortieth but also the integral part the school plays in our community. St Mary's Primary School was officially opened in March 1979 by the then Premier, the Hon. Neville Wran, and became a school that the community absolutely delights in. I take this opportunity to acknowledge current principal

Ms Monica Palmer, assistant principal Mrs Julie Casey and parish priest Father Joseph Kolodziej, as well as former principals Ms Maureen Jones, Mr Steven Lemos, Mrs Karen Richards, Mrs Mary Nixon, Mr Bill Nola and Mr Anthony Logue. I also acknowledge the school's founding principal, Sister Edwardine O'Connell, for her contribution to St Mary's and all the teachers and staff for their commitment and for making this a wonderful school. Congratulations St Mary's.

LUCAS HUNTER

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (15:54): Today I wish to acknowledge a young Scout who has achieved his Grey Wolf Award. Lucas Hunter of Hornsby Heights 1st Scouts has worked extremely hard to receive this award—one of the highest a Cub Scout can achieve. The work that goes into receiving the Grey Wolf Award is extensive, but Lucas went above and beyond this. He was required to complete four level 2 badges and instead he completed nine that included first aid, swimming, gardening, canoeing and athletics—absolutely brilliant!

Lucas also completed specialist badges in local history and world Scout environment, a service badge and a leadership course. Late last year Lucas led a two-hour hike and completed his Gold Boomerang to meet all the award requirements. I take this opportunity to congratulate Lucas on his success in achieving this award. I know that Lucas is doing his Hornsby Heights 1st Scouts extremely proud. He is a great credit to his wonderful parents, Gavin and Sally. I cannot wait to see his star continue to rise—even if he did cover me in flour at the recent Easter camp for Benowie. Congratulations, Lucas. I am so proud of all your many fine achievements.

GEOFFREY MELVILLE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (15:55): Today I draw attention to a very special resident of our community, colloquially known as the unofficial Mayor of Empire Bay, Mr Geoffrey Melville. He has for the past 42 years been a very active member of the Rotary Club of Umina Beach. Mr Melville is a highly respected real estate agent. For consecutive decades he has devoted a considerable portion of his spare time to helping community organisations and others less fortunate on the Central Coast. Throughout this period Geoff has held every position in Rotary as well as twice serving as the president. For his considerable contributions to the organisation over many years Geoff has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship—not just once but a spectacular four times.

Mr Melville's benevolence extends to his role as the volunteer director for Peninsula Village, zone chairman of the local Red Shield Appeal, and president and secretary of the Empire Bay Progress Association. He is an enthusiastic proponent of the Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus agricultural farm and participates in the annual mock interviews for students. Additionally, Mr Melville has fundraised for critical community organisations such as Mary Mac's, Coast Shelter and the Umina PCYC. It is with great pride that I express my sincerest thanks to Geoffrey Melville.

COOPER PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (15:56): On 30 March I attended the first anniversary of the Cooper Park Community Garden open day. It was hosted by Michelle Falstein, Mayor Peter Cavanagh and local residents including Melanie Joson, her partner, Daniel Perry, and their daughter, Lucy. This is a wonderful space. It started with only nine garden beds and now there are 55 garden beds, five of which are communal. There is a native beehive in the garden that is producing honey in small quantities for all the residents. This is a great example of a garden that is not only in and of itself beautiful but also a place where my community comes together to create an even more beautiful space. It was an honour to see the progress in the garden over the year, and I look forward to supporting this community garden into the future.

CABRAMATTA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (15:57): On 10 April I had the pleasure of attending the multicultural day assembly at Cabramatta Public School. The morning was spent enjoying songs and dances performed by the children, in some instances supported by the parents in their traditional costumes. The program began with a welcome to all by the principal, Mr Glen Stelzer. The welcome was followed by a lion dance and Vietnamese, Chinese, Khmer, Fijian, Samoan and Greek dances. There was even a Bollywood dance. The parents also performed a dance. Community day is a celebration of the talent and creativity of the students, staff and parents at Cabramatta Public School. They had all spent many hours preparing for this day. We have come a long way since Australia was colonised. Without multiculturalism, Australia would not be the wonderful, harmonious country it is today. I thank the principal, Mr Glen Stelzer, his staff and the parents for putting on such a wonderful assembly.

SHARON LEVY

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (15:58): It was my pleasure recently to present Sharon Levy with the 2019 Penrith Local Woman of the Year award in recognition and appreciation of her commitment and leadership in establishing the new women's community shelter, The Haven - Nepean Women's Shelter. There is no doubt that Sharon Levy is an exceptional woman and a strong representative of the Penrith community. She has inspired many other people in the community with her leadership and willingness to help those who need assistance. She leads a fantastic team at The Haven, which launched just 12 months ago.

The Haven provides support for women escaping domestic violence as they begin to rebuild their lives. Since opening, Sharon and her team have provided over 3,000 bed nights of safe shelter and case management and support for 20 women and 28 children. A number of those women have started study or traineeships that have set them on a fantastic career path. I thank Sharon for her ongoing leadership, which has been recognised through the award of Penrith Local Woman of the Year. I congratulate her team at The Haven on their first birthday and the fantastic work they do.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:59): On 28 April 2019 I was honoured to join the Armenian National Committee of Australia to march for justice in remembrance of the 104th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. The community shared its history and traditions through speeches, songs and dance. We remember the men, women and children who were subjected to genocide because of their race and religious faith. Armenians were murdered and persecuted because of their birth, their culture, their faith and their humanity. We stand as testimony to the fact that the Armenian people will not be forgotten. We will never forget the crimes committed against the Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. I acknowledge Michael Kolokossian, Greg Soghomonian and Vanche Kahramanian for hosting the remembrance event.

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (16:00): As a member representing a proud agricultural region, I was not at all surprised that so many primary producers in my electorate took out honours at the 2019 Sydney Royal Easter Show. I congratulate the southern district, including Temora, Trungley Hall, Junee Reefs and Dirnaseer, which took out a record nine championships and 11 first grade medals. I acknowledge district award organisers Rob and Dianne Hartwig for their hard work and all of the local growers for their exceptionally high standards. It was a record-breaking result for the region and demonstrated the mastery and strength of our farmers through adversity. I say well done to all.

MARINE RESCUE CENTRAL COAST

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:00): I congratulate and thank all volunteers at Marine Rescue Central Coast and across New South Wales. When I stand on the edge of the beautiful Brisbane Water I often see Marine Rescue vessels zooming past to look after yet another member of our community in trouble on our waterways. I was pleased to present Norman Smith of Ettalong with the 2019 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award for his longstanding commitment to Marine Rescue. In 1980 Norm joined the former Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol. He has taken part in numerous search and rescue operations and held many offices during the years. Norm is a quiet achiever who is totally devoted to his position at Marine Rescue. He continues to help with fundraising and search and rescue as well as to serve his monthly duty weekend. With almost 40 years of service, Norm is a local hero. I am proud to recognise his achievement in the Parliament.

CORAL MCFARLAND

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (16:01): I thank Coral McFarland, an incredible woman from Mudgee who recently reached a remarkable milestone when she achieved her fiftieth year of service to nursing and mental health work in western New South Wales. Coral was the first mental health worker to be based in Mudgee and the first nursing unit manager of the Mudgee Community Mental Health Teams. Coral is a very committed member of the Mudgee community who works on various boards. She was a nominee for this year's Mudgee Citizen of the Year Award. I congratulate Coral on her milestone and thank her for her work for the community over the past 50 years. I wish her all the best in retirement.

Members

INAUGURAL SPEECH

The SPEAKER: I welcome family and friends of the member for Albury to the New South Wales Parliament.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:03): I begin by acknowledging the First Nations of this land and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to your position and I extend my congratulations and best wishes to other new members in this, the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. I speak this afternoon fully conscious of the responsibility to serve well my community. The people of the Albury electorate have entrusted me to be their voice in this place—to speak of their being, belonging and becoming. I am honoured and humbled to be placed with this duty. I will speak for the identity of the Albury electorate—our region, and our people. Travelling through Albury in 1895, the famed American writer Mark Twain observed:

Now comes a singular thing: the oddest thing, the strangest thing, the most baffling and unaccountable marvel that Australasia can show. At the frontier between New South Wales and Victoria our multitude of passengers were routed out of their snug beds by lantern-light in the morning in the biting cold of a high altitude to change cars on a road that has no break in it from Sydney to Melbourne! Think of the paralysis of intellect that gave that idea birth; imagine the boulder it emerged from on some petrified legislator's shoulders.

Our identity is shaped by political boundaries, lines on paper. The political landscape as it impacts on the Albury electorate can be best exemplified by the railways. Poor communication between colonies, changes to plans and self-interest resulted in the colony of New South Wales having the standard United Kingdom gauge and the Victorian colony trains running on a broad gauge. Consequently passengers travelling between the two capitals were required to change trains at Albury—roused at all hours, night and day, with the catch-cry, "All change!" It was some 67 years after Twain that the standard gauge line was extended from Albury to Melbourne, removing the need to change trains in Albury.

We are the crossing place, a place of State borders and different rail gauges. Our identity is shaped by being on the outer limits of both the New South Wales and Victorian States. We are impacted by border anomalies that are often perceived to be a result of a paralysis of intellect. Addressing cross-border issues through a memorandum of understanding between States, the recent announcement of the Regional Deal by the Commonwealth Government and the work of cross-border commissioners are all important to my electorate, as they all impact on daily life.

While there are limitations and obstacles to life on the border, as Twain illustrates, there is also innovation and the willingness of our communities to collaborate and work together. The Albury-Wodonga Health agreement is a decade old this year. It is the basis of a unique service. Albury-Wodonga Health is the first and remains the only cross-border public health service to exist in Australia. Operating under an agreement between the New South Wales and Victorian governments, it provides the largest regional healthcare service between Sydney and Melbourne. It supports an outer catchment population of 250,000 and covers the north-east of Victoria and southern New South Wales. It is an example of what can be achieved through collaboration.

As a crossing place we also have the vantage point of comparing the merits or otherwise of policy in our neighbouring State. In competitive federalism we should make more of recognising the good work done in our neighbouring States. Whilst it may seem at times that we are on the fringe, we are at the same time at the centre of where policies may be judged. I take this moment to welcome to the public gallery someone who knows that well, the Victorian member for Benambra, Bill Tilley. Thank you for being here, Bill. Our identity is intimately related to our region, yet we are not defined by any one particular geography. We are the Riverina plains, the hills and mountains of south-west slopes and the Upper Murray. We are the Murray River and the Billabong Creek.

The place that is now called Albury is known by the Wiradjuri as Bungambrawatha, or "homeland". Howard Jones, a local historian, suggests that Bungambrawatha and neighbouring Mungabareena were among the richest food areas in Australia. So late do we recognise the rich culture and depth of knowledge of our First Nations that our homeland is plentiful yet at the same time fragile. This is something we are becoming increasingly aware of.

It is through our sustainably making the most of our endowments—our location, our environment and our agriculture—that we achieve. We benefit by enabling our softwoods, agriculture, logistics and manufacturing. That our region's geography is a competitive advantage is recognised by business attracted to the area—Mars, Norske Skog, Cool Off, Kotzur, Nestle and Border Express. Yet we need our governments, both Federal and State, to see our region less as a frontier or outpost and more as a rich region that truly can be a centre of growth for our State and for our nation.

The drought and water issues confront a large part of our electorates and the State, as stated by the Deputy Premier today. Being raised on the land, I know the challenges of farming with weather and markets. I have seen firsthand the impact of drought through my parents' experience. The longer the dry the more that hearts, hands and minds tire. However, I also know of the resilience in our farming communities, their ability to face hardships with innovation and their passion as custodians. I recognise the importance of a water agreement and plan that is shared across States and the Commonwealth. Yet our communities are vitally concerned about the impacts of

water recovery observed to date and are increasingly apprehensive about the potential impacts of further water recovery.

Our communities are concerned that their local environmental and agricultural values will be compromised to achieve broader basin plan objectives. Communities are uncertain about who is responsible, and this has made it difficult for them to navigate the institutional landscape for implementing the plan. Water policy is complex, but it is also vital. We need to ensure that the social and economic prosperity of our regional communities is part of our thinking while returning water to the environment. The local environment, local farming, and local economy in the Albury electorate are no less important than the environment, farming and economies elsewhere. Ultimately, our rural communities are crying out to be heard. Be assured, I am listening.

Mark Twain speaks of dislocation caused by change. The village of Bowna on the Sydney road just north of Albury was first mapped in the 1850s, and by the early twentieth century consisted of several churches, hotels, a public school and post office. In 1933 the village was inundated by the newly created Hume weir. It was a dramatic illustration of dislocation, of massive change to the people that called the village home. As the weir dropped to its current level of 13.5 per cent capacity, the traces of foundations and roadways protrude like a decaying skeleton—a reminder of a village that once was.

We remember that government is called upon to play a fundamental role in managing change. It was John F. Kennedy who said, "Change is the law of life." We understand that change does impact on our people—often positive, yet sometimes in a profound and negative way, as it was for the people of Bowna, and we need to strike the balance in acting for the greater good. We need to be empathetic to those impacted by change. As an aside the site of the old Bowna village is now part of a property that was owned by my family for 30 years until 2015. In place of farming this land I now stand in this place. Change indeed.

Our identity is also found in our people. We are a place that, as mentioned previously, our First Nations call homeland. We are a place of new beginnings for the influx of migrants who passed through the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre. Many of these people went on to work on Snowy Hydro. The development of Snowy Hydro 2.0 is important to our communities in the east of the electorate; the wise investment from the proceeds of the sale of Snowy Hydro, important to all in our region. Coming from the land I recognise the importance of the small community. We have a great regional centre in Albury and we also have wonderful smaller communities. I want to see our small communities not just survive but thrive. We achieve this by encouraging business investment and projects that bring visitors to our towns, such as the State's first Rail Trail in Tumbarumba.

As I travelled the electorate, I had the opportunity to listen to our community and to hear of the challenges that we face. Deep to who I am is a sense of community. I believe each community is important and each person is important. The wellbeing of our society has an enormous impact on an individual's capacity to adapt, to change and to improve. As the Premier noted, the Liberals are the party of opportunity. On the border, all levels of society live close together. We live in a mix of advantage and disadvantage. As I look around my community I see people who are resilient and who respond to the opportunities for education, employment, financial independence, and I also spend time with those who are losing traction on their path through life.

We can help, in this place, by reviewing our laws for fairness and equity; we can develop programs that fund hospital improvements, better-resourced schools and improved transport options. And, digging deeper, we can support individuals who are finding the going tough—those whose lives are impacted by mental or physical ill health, homelessness, domestic violence, addiction. This is an area of human life and society that greatly interests me and is a source of motivation for my choice to embark on this new life of representation. As for my identity, who am I? I stand here today as a father, a son, a husband, a veterinarian and small business person. I am a lad from the land at Urangeline East. Perhaps it may be asked why I am not like my namesake and chasing "the vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended".

There are probably two reasons for putting forward your name for politics, one is to be somebody, the other is to do something.

Those words belong to former Culcairn Shire Mayor Elwyn Kotzur—and they are as relevant today as when he first spoke them more than 25 years ago. I am interested in the latter: to do something for my community, rather than to be somebody. I am determined to do the very best for my electorate. I stand here to represent the concerns, aspirations and needs of the people of New South Wales as effectively and as passionately as I am able. I also stand here keenly aware that I am indebted to many people who have guided me, supported me and helped me to be who I am.

My election would not have been possible without the support of many wonderful people. To my campaign team—Howard and Deborah Hinde, Ben Brndusic, Chris Stern, Claire Juranic, Anthony McFarlane, Campbell Simpson, Tobias and Amy Lehmann, Sheridan Leonard—thank you. To Gary Saliba, to the local branches and members, to the amazing friends and volunteers working on pre-poll and polling day—people such as Joan Dennis and Warren Kaye, who are so generous with their time—thank you.

To my predecessor, Greg Aplin, and his wife, Jill, and to Greg's team—thank you. Greg is held in high regard by our community and by his colleagues in Parliament alike. Greg has been a mentor and I trust that I would be well served to model my actions on his. He has made a significant contribution to our local community and our State. Greg leaves a legacy of not only projects delivered but also a pipeline of future projects. We need to see those to completion and then to work hard to continue supporting the aspirations of our communities. I believe that the best way to respect his legacy is to work hard and strive to improve further.

To the Premier, the Treasurer, Minister Roberts, Minister Harwin, Minister Marshall and Attorney General Speakman, for your support during the election—thank you. To all colleagues on both sides of this Chamber and parliamentary staff for your welcome here—thank you. To my team at our veterinary practice in Albury and Wodonga, you are part of my journey as a vet and as a person. Tabitha and I see you as family and you are dear to us. Thank you. To our new team in the electorate office, Peter, Stephen and Irena, thank you. I look forward to the journey ahead.

There are many along the way who have been educators, guides and mentors, from the little bush school of Pleasant Hills to St Joseph's, Narrandera; from St Patrick's and Xavier High School, Albury, to St Joseph's College Hunters Hill and Sydney University. I thank the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Marist Brothers, and—whilst not educated by them, certainly influenced by them—the remarkable women who are Presentation Sisters. I thank the educators within schools, including Marion Bennett, Mark Halsted and Tony Lantry, and those outside formal education, including Bill Pearce and Val Edmunds. I also thank those who, though no longer with us, remain always in my heart and mind, especially that man of great spirit, Father Kevin Flanagan.

To friends from my early years and my brothers here today, and in particular to Anthony Dann, to the Steamers crew and to those from latter years back in Albury, to the good people around me that I am blessed to call my friends—thank you. You are my compass. To my clan, Clancy, Egan, Spillane and Carroll, from the rugged west coast and hills of Ireland to Australia, strong of faith and instilled with a sense of community and connected to the land—thank you.

Times on the land are rarely easy. The downfall of the wool industry was created in the late 1980s and by 1991 it had self-destructed with huge losses. Three years into the wool crash of the early nineties a farming couple sacrificed much to give me the opportunity to attend school in Sydney. Thank you, Mum and Dad, for your love and support. Thank you to my sisters, Margeaux and Celeste, and brother, David. You are a great source of support, particularly in recent years, when times are not always easy. I will say though that the bearpit is nothing on a good Clancy sibling parley. To Tabitha's parents, Clifford and Susan, thank you. Along with Tabitha's sister, Emma, you inspire with your strength and resilience. To our children, Xavier, Seamus and Natalie, thank you—Xavier, you are a most beautiful boy; Seamus, you live up to your name as a wild Irishman and you are also beautiful; and Natalie, our birthday girl of three today. You are all precious to me and I love you. They perhaps are also making a sacrifice that they do not fully know. To Tabitha:

She turns to me sometimes and asks me what I'm dreaming
And I realise I must have gone a million miles away
And I ask her how she knew to reach out for me that moment
And she smiles because it's understood there are no words to say.

Thank you and I love you. And thank you to Billy Joel, who if not previously cited in *Hansard* will be now. I would like to share with you my vision for our community. My vision is for a strong regional city and a strong region—a place to live, work and invest, where there is growth and opportunity; a region that caters for and engages all ages from our youth to our elders; a CBD with a central cultural precinct surrounded by a cosmopolitan mix of residential and commercial; suburbs that as they grow retain their identity and are a place to live well, delivered through community assets such as sporting grounds, activity areas and community centres; regional areas that prosper by listening to and enabling the people living there. My vision is that we work to address complex problems together—government and non-government, State and national—that we base this on the legacy of the past and that through meeting the challenges of the present we shape our community for the future.

There are two roads for my generation of MPs. There is pressure from social media and elsewhere to declare up-front your position on every issue of the day, to be identified by your causes and beliefs. This approach by its very nature sends a clear signal to those with other perspectives that they will not find a receptive ear nor an earnest representative for their cause, for their beliefs, for their hopes. It is my intention in this role to represent the people of the Albury electorate. I commit to listening to my communities before acting, to being a willing participant in dialogue and to facilitating the people's right to access the Government through processes enshrined in law and policy.

Do people really want to know what I think? I suspect this is the wrong question. Perhaps it is around the wrong way. What I hear from my community is that people want me to know what they think. The focus belongs on the people and helping them to be heard—really heard—and understood in places where this counts. Know

that each time I enter this Chamber my thoughts will centre on our Albury community. One of the most salient pieces of advice I received in the lead-up to the election was from Noel Wilson, a retired farmer in Corowa, who said, "Be yourself; just be yourself." The other pieces of advice that resonate deeply with me have two sources. The first source is the motto of my alma mater, "in meliora contende"—to strive for better things.

The second source can be found on many a farm across Australia on the sides of the old Furphy water tanks. There are some of you who know where this is going! An old farmer sits today in the public gallery who, as a lad of merely 15, returned from school to work the land. He worked it then for 60 years. He would often recall the words on the Furphy tank and say to his children, "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better—best." Twain's petrified legislator with a boulder for a head is not for me. I know my responsibility is to serve my electorate and to be their voice here in Parliament. I will not rest for I will strive to give you my all for our community.

The SPEAKER: I join the Chamber in congratulating the member for Albury on his inaugural speech.

Members stood in their places and applauded.

Private Members' Statements

MYUNA BAY SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (16:33): This evening I speak on an issue that has had an immense impact on the Charlestown community. I do this because I want to put on the record my concerns. It is an issue which is not of concern in only one electorate; it is an issue which is deeply and widely felt. It is an issue which has been raised with me by many constituents. That issue is the closure of the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. On 29 March this year I read in the *Newcastle Herald* that the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre was being closed immediately due to the potential risk of failure of the neighbouring Eraring Power Station ash dam wall owned by Origin Energy—a failure which would occur only in the event of a 5.9 magnitude earthquake. Despite the unlikelihood of a major earthquake occurring on that same day, about 30 qualified teachers and staff members at the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre lost their jobs without notice.

Those people have mortgages or rents to pay; they have families and responsibilities. It is a truly shattering situation for them. I thank the Public Service Association for its hard work in representing its members who lost their jobs at Myuna Bay, for acting in the interests of all involved staff and for briefing me on the matter. Not only the staff members have been significantly affected but also the clients and patrons. An international waterskiing competition, with more than 150 attendees, was due to be held at Myuna Bay over the weekend of its closure. Organisers of the event were left dumbfounded when they were told within hours of the event commencing that the facility had been closed permanently.

Travelling from as far as New Zealand, competitors and their families, who were staying in the sport and recreation centre, were left scrambling to find accommodation. Staff, the Waterski Club and the greater community are all significant stakeholders who should have been consulted prior to the closure of Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. The community demands answers and rightly so. A key detail that has increased the community's anger is that at the time of the facility's closure the New South Wales Government was in caretaker mode. The incredibly popular government facility was closed under the stealth of caretaker mode. Something has gone terribly wrong.

I note that the member for Lake Macquarie has collected more than 16,000 signatures on a petition to reopen the centre. The member has also been rightly critical of Origin Energy for not raising its concerns before or during the process of seeking planning approval to extend the ash dam last year. I thank the shadow Minister and member for Auburn, Ms Lynda Voltz, for her immediate action on the issue. Immediately after the closure she met with affected staff and has been vocal in her concerns about the process. I note that the new Minister for Sport, John Sidoti, visited the Myuna Bay site last week and ordered an independent review, which is due to be completed in the coming weeks, into the closure of the centre. Unlike the questionable report produced by Origin Energy, this review must be credible and transparent. The moment the review is completed I will call on the Minister to make the findings public. The Office of Sport moved quickly to close the centre but it has been very slow with credible answers.

Sports and recreation camps such as Myuna Bay play an important role in encouraging physical activity against the backdrop of a public health crisis emerging from our increasingly sedentary lifestyles. The centre is used for sport development camps, weekend escapes, community and group getaways, school camps and seniors programs, and it holds a special place in the hearts of not just locals but also people across New South Wales. When I was Mayor of the City of Lake Macquarie, Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre hosted teams from around the world at the International Children's Games.

The following questions need to be answered urgently: Why has the Office of Sport immediately decided to close the centre rather than put the onus on Origin Energy to make the dam wall more secure? Why did the Office of Sport close the centre based on Origin Energy's report rather than a report of its own? And why were no stakeholders consulted? If—and I say if—the independent review of Myuna Bay's closure concludes that the site is at risk a plan should be put in place to relocate the centre and Origin Energy should bear the cost as its operations will have resulted in the risk. Neither the community nor the staff or the taxpayer should have to pay for it. In the meantime I urge the Minister for Sport to reopen the centre immediately.

VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (16:38): Madam Temporary Speaker, it is good to have you in the chair. I thank the Vaucluse electors for re-electing me to represent them in the New South Wales Parliament. I am grateful for this third term and the opportunity to serve my community again. The Vaucluse electorate is unique. As I said in my inaugural speech, it is full of beauty and rich in character and history. It is small—15 square kilometres—and it extends from the tourist destination of Bondi Beach to the tiny, secluded harbour-side beaches at Camp Cove that can be reached only by foot; from the wonderful, foreboding South Head cliffs facing the Pacific Ocean to the soft, white sand on Nielsen Park Beach; from the beautiful 1834 Lindesay residence at Darling Point, which is home to many colourful characters, to nearby contemporary homes designed by internationally acclaimed architects.

I have and will continue to stand with my local community in defence of those precious things so that future generations may also enjoy them. My local community is also diverse and enterprising. Over 50 per cent of our residents were born overseas, compared with 29 per cent nationally. Close to 40 per cent are professionals—almost double the national average. They include business leaders, academics, philanthropists and entrepreneurs. In my electorate I am also proud to have the largest Jewish community in New South Wales. As I said, I represent a unique and wonderful electorate. That diversity, strong unity and tolerance was in abundance in our Anzac Day commemorations.

I take this opportunity to thank the leadership of the many organisations that hosted events on Anzac Day and in the weeks preceding it. The first event was the annual Anzac Sunday commemorative march on Sunday 14 April, hosted by the Rose Bay RSL Sub-Branch. The march began at the club on Vickery Avenue, travelled west on New South Head Road—the traffic is stopped by the local police—and ended with a wreath laying ceremony at Lyne Park, Rose Bay. We were piped along the way by The Scots College Pipes and Drums. I thank president Lee Stockley and honorary secretary Rosemary Stockley, OAM, for continuing to host this commemoration for local residents and sub-branch members.

On Anzac Day we started with the North Bondi RSL dawn service at the beach, where over 20,000 people gathered—the largest number so far—under the rising sun to pay tribute at the North Bondi war memorial. I joined president Robert de Graaf and his wife, Wendy, vice-president James Isbell, secretary Andrew Coleman, treasurer Ryan Mitchell, trustees Davis Sims and Fred Alderman and the wonderful administrative manager Victoria Raymond, who was the driving force behind the event, and serving members of the armed forces, both past and present. Then there was the Anzac service at Waverley cenotaph, arranged by Waverley Council in conjunction with Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Sub-Branch, with support from other sub-branches and the Eastern Suburbs Legion Club. There I gathered with my colleagues from Waverley Council, councillors Sally Betts, Will Nemesh, Leon Goltsman and Angela Burrill, to pay our respects. Local schoolchildren—who did a great job—and representatives from local businesses and community groups laid tributes.

After that I headed to Double Bay where Woollahra Council held its Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony at the Steyne Park cenotaph. Woollahra mayor Peter Cavanagh hosted the event. I joined Peter Poland, President of Woollahra History and Heritage Society, Double Bay Public School students and councillors Nick Maxwell, Isabelle Shapiro and Tony Marano to lay tributes. It was wonderful to see local resident Charles Wade, OAM, make his first trip out of hospital on his recovery to join us. Later that evening I attended Emanuel Synagogue, along with the NSW Association of Jewish Service & Ex-Service Men & Women [NAJEX] members and the wonderful Judean scouts, led by Leon Waxman, for their annual Anzac ceremony and 7th day Pesach Pluralist Service. I thank Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, OAM, for inviting me along.

The final event I will inform the House about was the Sydney Jewish community Anzac Day commemoration and wreath laying ceremony hosted by NAJEX with president Roger Selby, vice-presidents Norm Symon and Monica Kleinman, Jon Green and board members, and local students from Moriah College at the Sydney Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst. We were joined by the NAJEX patron, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), and wife, Mrs Linda Hurley. It was their final official event before beginning their new role in Canberra. I am so privileged to be the local member for the electorate of Vaucluse. It was my pleasure to attend all of those events. They showed the strength, diversity and unity of my local community. I commend my private members' statement to the House.

UPPER HUNTER LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (15:43): On 7 March 2019 I had the pleasure of accompanying the 2019 Local Woman of the Year for Upper Hunter, Mrs Colleen Wills, OAM, to the NSW Women of the Year Awards ceremony in Sydney. Colleen Wills of Quirindi was a worthy recipient of this award. I nominated her for the award in recognition of her tireless work for the community. She is currently the branch secretary of the Quirindi Country Women's Association [CWA] and has held that position for 25 years. The electorate of Upper Hunter has been overwhelmed with severe drought conditions and Colleen has spearheaded local drought relief activities, particularly within the Quirindi area. She has been able to work across a range of local interest groups and Government to achieve outstanding local outcomes.

Colleen has been working around the clock along with fellow CWA ladies to coordinate the distribution of donations for drought relief. Everything from stock feed to food hampers, cash, vouchers and even lipsticks for farmers' wives were being packed and delivered to farming families. Colleen provides weekly updates on drought relief activities to the council and other stakeholders to ensure that the lines of communication are always kept open, particularly in this time of severe drought. Recently Colleen provided me with the Quirindi CWA Drought Appeal April 2019 Financial Report, which shows that total donations were almost \$261,000 and total expenditure was almost \$233,000. I will give a breakdown of some of the funding: More than \$26,000 spent on medications; more than \$41,000 spent on trade support and subsidies; more than \$25,000 spent on fuel vouchers; \$17,500 spent on IGA supermarket gift cards; more than \$16,000 spent on hospitality vouchers; more than \$4,000 spent on hairdressing; more than \$21,000 spent on agricultural services and almost \$3,000 spent on optometry.

Other businesses not mentioned specifically total more than \$16,500. Day-to-day items are delivered continually to the branch, and it takes time to distribute and find suitable homes for them. Again, all this information was provided by Colleen Wills. As can be appreciated, the Quirindi CWA is doing an enormous job in supporting farmers and businesses within the community. Last year on 1 October Colleen was featured on the *Four Corners* program *Proud Country: A portrait of a community surviving the drought*. The ladies of the Quirindi CWA mobilised to fight the drought conditions spearheaded by Colleen Wills. I share some of Colleen's words that were featured in the program:

You may be on a bed of roses today, but the thorns always prick. So you've just got to pull yourself together. Everyone pull together.

Drought has no respect for a person, whether you're rich or poor.

In between drought relief and community support activities Colleen regularly volunteers at the local nursing home, Eloura. In the past Colleen has been a councillor for the Quirindi Shire Council, which later became the Liverpool Plains Shire Council. Colleen has also been on numerous shire council community committees, including the Youth Scholarship Committee, Australia Day Committee, Home and Community Care, library, Women's Focus Group, Community Safety Precinct Committee, Arts and Culture Committee, and Tourism and Economic Development Committee, and she was Liverpool Plains Shire Council's representative on the Quirindi Chamber of Commerce and the Health Advisory Committee—I almost ran out of breath just saying that.

I have known Colleen for a number of years. She is an excellent communicator and collaborator. She displays a caring and generous approach when dealing with community members, family and friends, and her commitment to any project she undertakes is immeasurable. Colleen has the reputation throughout the community of Quirindi and the Liverpool Plains as an experienced, caring, community-minded and reliable person. I thank Colleen for her immeasurable volunteer work, compassion and expertise in the many community activities that she has undertaken within the community of Quirindi, Liverpool Plains and surrounding districts.

PENRITH ELECTORATE

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (16:48): I congratulate the Temporary Speaker on her re-election to this House. I thank the community of Penrith for re-electing me to serve for the fourth time in this Chamber. It is a humbling experience and a genuine privilege. Only once before my election in 2010 had Penrith been represented by a Liberal member. I was elected in 2010, 2011, 2015 and again in 2019. I think this is a great vindication of the work that this Government has done across my community and the work of the team that I have had the opportunity to work with both locally and here in this place. At the core of the Government's success during the recent election has been its capacity to continue to manage the economy well. Penrith has been a beneficiary through the fantastic delivery of infrastructure and the creation of local jobs.

Penrith has been at the forefront of this Government's commitment to western Sydney. That stands in stark contrast to the experience of my community with Labor and what Labor offered during the course of the recent campaign. The Government made a number of commitments as part of a clearly laid out plan for the future of Penrith. The focus of the plan was around roads and transport. Residents of Glenbrook can see construction of

the upgrade to the Glenbrook train station as I speak. The Government made a commitment to ensuring that we increase capacity at other commuter hubs, particularly Emu Plains, where an additional 800 spaces will become part of the Emu Plains commuter car park. Every single person in Penrith knows just how important Mulgoa Road is to the functioning of the Penrith community. It was great to see continuation of the widening of the road with an investment of \$260 million by the Government for construction of additional stages of the project.

The Government also announced a cap on the Opal card, which will make it easier for commuters from the Penrith community to access public transport across multiple modes of transport each week. The Government also made a series of commitments to providing new educational facilities that will build on the fantastic work that the Government has already done. For example, recently new classrooms were opened at the Penrith Public School, which is one of the oldest schools in the community. The Government also is developing a new learning centre at the Cranbrook High School and constructing multipurpose halls at the Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School as well as the Jamison High School. I am also very pleased to acknowledge the delivery of a new library and administrative facility at the Lapstone Public School. I have been working with the school for a number of years to achieve that improvement. The Government also intends to improve facilities at the Kingswood Park and Kingswood South public schools.

The Government made a commitment to air conditioning schools right across Penrith and will be working with P&Cs, school leadership and members of the school infrastructure team to deliver that. Over a number of years the Government has been working to develop better quality sporting fields and has upgraded the Parker Street fields, the Lapstone Oval, the Penrith Tennis Centre, the Eileen Cammack Reserve, the Leonay Oval and the Hickeys Lane expansion, which is a crucial rugby league facility. For the first time Penrith will have a synthetic athletics track. As part of sports funding, the Government devised a greater Sydney package that will include the development of synthetic playing fields for football at Jamison Park. During question time today I was pleased to hear the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces referring to the importance of open and green spaces to our communities. Through the Government's \$150 million election commitments, Penrith will benefit from that by more open parkland being opened up alongside the Nepean River.

The Government continues to monitor the work around doubling the value of the Active Kids vouchers and supporting residents with energy rebates, particularly self-funded retirees. The City Deal project has resulted in fantastic investment in the Regatta Park precinct in Emu Plains as well as long-term commitments around the delivery of the North South Rail Line, which will create true connectivity to the new western Sydney airport. The further development of the aerotropolis will be about bringing jobs closer to where people live, particularly Penrith.

I could not have done this alone. I take this opportunity to thank a number of people such as my campaign manager Scott Percival and stalwarts of my team Trish Hitchen, Karen Correy and Michael Creed. I acknowledge particularly the staff of my electorate office whose newer members are Rebecca Cromie and Sue Connelly. I express my appreciation of the work of the longer-term staff Rhonda Hanbury and Libby Drysdale, without whom I would have been unable to achieve the 2019 election result for the Penrith electorate. It would be remiss of me not to mention the support of one Marise Payne, who every night makes sure I do what I need to do to keep representing the people of Penrith.

BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (16:53): I am honoured and proud to have been re-elected to serve as the member for Bankstown for another four-year term. I take this opportunity to thank my community for trusting me and for giving me this opportunity to be their advocate. I am delighted, very much humbled and honoured. I express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who assisted in supporting me during the election. The 2019 campaign was very interesting for a number of reasons. I thank my dedicated volunteers for never wavering in their support and efforts.

I thank particularly the many organisations that supported me during the pre-poll and on election day: Vietnamese Community of Australia—NSW Chapter; the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association; the El Dunnia Charity Association; the Lebanese Community Council of NSW; Father Peter and the St Euphemia Greek Orthodox Church of Bankstown; Indo-Chinese Senior Citizens Association of NSW; and the Bankstown Women's Health Centre. I acknowledge Miriam Mourad and all of the volunteers from the women's health centre—so many came down to assist during pre-poll. I thank the Labor Party branch members, and my family and friends for giving up their weekends and early mornings. I thank my husband, who took his two weeks annual leave during pre-poll. I thank my three beautiful children who stood at pre-poll for countless days after school. They were fantastic volunteers.

Ms Liesl Tesch: Hear, hear!

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK: They were fantastic volunteers. I will mention a couple of things about the election. As the Opposition it is important that we hold the Government to account for the promises it made during the election campaign. A number of promises were made concerning the electorates of Bankstown and East Hills. I make it clear to the Government that I will hold it accountable for those announcements, some of which were made at the last moment. I note, for example, that one of the Liberal commitments in the dying days of the election was a \$1.3 billion investment into redeveloping the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. That announcement was made without saying where the hospital would be situated or whether the hospital would be a public hospital. I fear that it will be at least a partly privatised hospital. If that occurs Bankstown may have another northern beaches disaster on its hands.

The Liberal candidates for Bankstown and East Hills said that the hospital would remain at the current Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital site on Eldridge Road, Bankstown. When the Premier visited Bankstown recently she said that the Government is consulting widely with the community about the location of the hospital, which is interesting because it contradicts statements her candidates made that it would remain on the current site. I will be watching this closely to see what happens with the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, which is integral to the region. We want to ensure it remains in public hands and remains at the current site, which is the appropriate location.

Commitments were made about the Sydenham to Bankstown metro. I will wait to see whether this Government upgrades the train stations at Yagoona, Birrong and Chester Hill. Labor made a commitment that those stations would be upgraded with easy access lifts. We are yet to hear what the Government plans for those train stations. We are now told that the metro will be extended to Liverpool. There is no indication of locations or precisely where the extension of the metro will be. We are still not clear. We are in the terrible position of not knowing whether the metro will be underground or whether it will sit on top of the existing tracks in Bankstown. I will raise all of these issues in this House because they are of great concern to the community of Bankstown: We care about our transport and we care about our health services.

MACQUARIE HOME STAY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (16:58): There is an organisation based in Dubbo that has a reach that extends far beyond the last major city in western New South Wales. In January stage one of the Macquarie Home Stay project was opened at a ceremony where my predecessor, former member for Dubbo Troy Grant, handed over the ribbon-cutting duties to Rod Crowfoot, the man who made the facility a reality. For many years Mr Crowfoot and his committee worked tirelessly to make the vision a reality. It was fantastic to be on hand to see the dream become a reality. Macquarie Home Stay is a 14-room facility that provides accommodation for people needing somewhere to stay while accessing medical treatments in Dubbo. It is within walking distance of Dubbo Base Hospital and is already making a real difference to people's lives.

One-third of the geographic area of New South Wales is drawn to Dubbo Base Hospital for maternity, surgery, accident and emergency, dialysis, oncology, cardiovascular, paediatric, orthopaedic, urology and gynaecology services. That gives us an idea of how vital the Macquarie Home Stay is. A total of \$3.3 million was provided through Restart NSW and the Cobbora Transition Fund to establish stage one, thanks to the good work of Mr Grant and members of the previous Government. Along with the 14 accommodation rooms, there is a large kitchen to allow for self-catering, a family area, lounge and entertainment areas, an outdoor area and full laundry facilities to help provide a feeling of being at a home away from home. A further \$1.5 million was raised for the project through sponsorship and donations from the community. The Community Building Partnership program made the site secure by providing \$95,000 for perimeter security fencing.

This project truly shows what can happen when a spirited community is supported by a capable and well-run government to deliver a much-needed facility. In the three months after the opening, Macquarie Home Stay went from zero to 88 per cent occupancy, showing that the demand exists and that there is an even greater need to expand. Looking at the statistics, 35 per cent of users are there for maternity services, 20 per cent for surgery, 10 per cent for oncology and 10 per cent for general admission to the hospital. Twenty-two per cent of guests are from the Walgett-Lightning Ridge area, 20 per cent are from Cobar and 11 per cent are from Bourke.

A story that resonates and shows the difference that Macquarie Home Stay is making in people's lives involves a young couple brought to Dubbo by ambulance for the emergency birth of their child. In the rush to get into the ambulance, dad only had time to grab an overnight bag for his partner and stick his boots on. He slept by her bed on a waiting room chair in the maternity ward for the first two nights before a midwife told him about Macquarie Home Stay. He was a first-time dad with no spare clothes, no food to eat, no vehicle, no phone and no bank card to buy anything. Macquarie Home Stay organised fruit, vegetables and frozen meals and provided him with a bathroom pack before settling him into his room for a hot shower and a sleep, which I am sure he was desperate for at that stage.

Mr Crowfoot has told me that he went to check on the family a few nights later when the mother and child were discharged from the hospital. He found the baby asleep and the parents in the kitchen and dining area having something to eat and a cup of coffee. What a great sight and what a great service to provide. There is potential to link with other providers, including private hospitals, to service more people and families who need somewhere to stay when loved ones are sick, are being treated away from home or, as in the case of the family I have mentioned, need maternity services. With stage one completed, the committee is looking at future stages that will include at least another 28 general patient rooms, a dozen family units and 20 rooms for patients of the Western Cancer Centre, which is due to open in 2021. It will be a game changer for western New South Wales. The facility is wonderful for not only my electorate of Dubbo but also the wider western New South Wales community. I congratulate Rod Crowfoot and his committed and hardworking team on getting this far. I look forward to helping them achieve further goals down the track.

KINGS LANGLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (17:03): As one of my first speeches in this Chamber for the Fifty-Seventh Parliament, I recognise the outstanding community spirit of the students, parents and staff of Kings Langley Public School in my electorate of Seven Hills. Firstly, I acknowledge the school's new principal, Mr Chris Lambert, and his incredibly dedicated executive team, including deputy principal Mrs Renae Mar and the many teachers, support staff and office personnel who not only keep Kings Langley Public School going but also inspire local students every day to give 100 per cent effort in their studies across the board.

Kings Langley Public has a great sporting reputation at Primary Schools Sports Association [PSSA] level and school sports participation is growing, ensuring sport is loved by all as a great way to keep healthy and active. Each Friday students from Kings Langley play other schools in friendly matches of T-ball, softball, cricket, basketball and Australian Rules football. Just last Monday students from years 1 to 6 participated in the school's annual cross country carnival across the school grounds and around Golden Grove Park, Kings Langley. At representative level Kings Langley Public School was the winning school at this year's zone swimming carnival and a number of students have been selected to represent the Sydney West PSSA region at upcoming State carnivals. Congratulations to Jessica C., Kade B. and Nathan G. on their selection in Sydney West soccer teams; Isabella D. on her selection in the Sydney West basketball team; and Zac W., Darcy F. and Danroy K. on their selection in the Sydney West Australian Rules football team.

The arts and other extracurricular activities are supported to encourage creativity amongst the young learners. I am told the new student leadership team has been doing great work with their peers. This team includes: captains Josh V. and Jessica C.; vice captains Josh B. and Jessica B.; prefects Ayden B., Charlotte H., Danroy K., Darcy F., Hannah S., Liam F., Rowan M. and Simon S.; sports captains from Adventure House Kade B. and Emma F. and vice captains Jake C. and Lara N.; from Discovery House captains Zac W. and Cienna P. and vice captains Hastings P. and Ava K.; from Endeavour House captains Dylan B. and Emily F. and vice captains Joaquin M. and Amber N.; and Resolution House captains Bramley K. and Solei V. and vice captains Patrick W. and Aaliyah T. Congratulations to all on their appointment for the 2019 academic year. I know each of them will continue to be role models for the younger students of Kings Langley Public School.

I also pay tribute to the fantastic work done by the Kings Langley Public School Parents and Citizens [P&C] Association. The president, Ryan Cosgrove, and his team work very hard advocating for their children's school. Over the last term of Parliament, the P&C was successful in obtaining many grants, thanks to the Premier and other Ministers assisting with projects and educational opportunities. The P&C and I advocated for a new island crossing at the front entrance of the school along Isaac Smith Parade. This new crossing allows children to travel across the road to and from school more safely.

Recently I had the pleasure of awarding the canteen manager, Sarah Baile, with a Premier's award for her efforts in the creation of a healthy new canteen menu that is enjoyed by the students and parents. In particular, I thank the P&C members for their efforts last year: president Ryan Cosgrove, vice president Roula Thimiopoulos, vice president and uniform sales manager Rachel Beecham, treasurer Leigh Smith, secretary Laura Fania, canteen manager Sarah Baile, canteen treasurer Jodie Kayler-Thomson, uniform stock manager Nicole Dawson and committee members Narelle Allingham, Adam Bissett, Deb Duffy, Djoti Gurrier Jones, Kim Fairall, Kylie Lee, Nicole Knezevic, Mark McClintock, Sally Payne, Julie Redhi, Ross Shaylor, Debra Speechley and Alison Vaz.

From next Tuesday students from years 3 and 5 at Kings Langley Public School will complete their National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, tests in writing, reading, language and numeracy. I wish all of these students our best wishes for the rest of the academic year. I congratulate Solei V. and Charlotte H., who represented Kings Langley Public School in the NSW Pulse Dance Ensemble at the Schools Spectacular last November at Qudos Bank Arena. It is all happening at Kings Langley Public School. Well done to the students, teachers, parents and P&C.

GOSFORD HOSPITAL

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:08): This evening I call on the New South Wales Liberal Government to review the statewide parking policy and reduce the parking fees being charged at Gosford Hospital for staff and visitors alike. I was embarrassed when I drove into the new parking facility at Gosford Hospital early on the morning it first opened and saw the costs. Taxpayers have already paid for this facility, yet the Government has outsourced the management of secure parking and as a result those who park in the facility are charged \$6.70 for the first hour and up to \$20 a day for visitors. That is a 570 per cent increase in costs for the people of the coast visiting their loved ones in hospital.

It is even worse for the hospital employees: Welcome to work; now take a \$1,200 pay cut to park at your workplace while you care for the people of the coast—thanks to the new Liberal Government. On day one the car park was empty. I am proud of the people of the Central Coast, hospital workers and visitors alike who have made a clear statement to the Government and who have continued to park on the streets of Gosford. To this day the facility remains underutilised. The hospital workers of the Central Coast are making a clear statement to the Government that this is not okay and they continue to park along Hospital Road and hike to work rather than pay the exorbitant parking station fees.

I thank the fantastic staff at Gosford Hospital. I so often hear great reports about them caring for patients, being run off their feet and going over and above to make our coasties' stay in hospital superb. I commend them for making the necessary adjustments and for caring for the people of the coast despite the challenges caused by the construction of our new hospital. What is their reward? A massive increase in parking fees, drip-fed changes and inconsistent access to parking.

I apologise to hospital staff and the community for the lack of communication about parking costs and the opportunities available to alleviate these astonishingly high costs. I also thank the bus drivers, who for so long have been driving staff to the Gosford Showground parking facility and waiting in the darkness after the late shift so that all passengers are safely in their cars before departing. I apologise to hospital staff about the termination of this facility and for the fear they experience having to walk beyond the hospital in the dark because they refuse to take the \$1,200-a-year pay cut to park at their own workplace. I thank the staff for their perseverance with the lack of hospital parking. They have lined up along Racecourse Road in the early hours of the morning to walk a considerable distance to care for patients.

Parking in the great city of Gosford was excellent until the Liberal Government began to interfere. On the last day before the forced amalgamation of the council, the Liberal Gosford City Council chief executive officer sold the Kibbleplex facility—which had 660 car parking spaces that belonged to the people of Gosford—to the Lederer group for a mere \$13 million. The council must now pay to lease back the spaces and the lease is due to expire soon. In addition, the Government has built two new office buildings on our school land on the waterfront and is delivering minimal parking for local workers, forcing government employees to walk from well beyond the outskirts of the city and to arrive at work significantly early so that they can find somewhere to park and walk into the town centre.

I send a shout-out today to the staff at Gosford Hospital in support of their fight for justice. I thank them for continuing to hold rallies and meetings to draw attention to what this Government is doing to our hospital workers and visitors, and to raise the possibility of that occurring at Wyong. Our great coast community fought hard to stop the privatisation of Wyong Public Hospital. We do not want another hospital parking facility to smash our locals with unfair pricing, especially because Wyong Public Hospital lacks the public transport access that is available in Gosford. I encourage the people of the Central Coast to sign the petition urging the Government to review its statewide hospital parking policy, not only for the hospital workers and families at Gosford Hospital but also for the families and workers at Wyong Public Hospital.

NOELENE JUDITH BARRELL

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (17:12): Twenty-eight years of service to the people of New South Wales is an incredible record in anybody's language. I acknowledge my electorate officer Noelene Judith Barrell, who has been working with me since just a few months after I was elected in 1991. Noelene has been an incredible advocate for our community. She has been a friendly ear to the troubled, a passionate helper for those who need help and a carer of locals with a range of challenges, including disabilities, homelessness and legal issues. In fact, she has been an ambassador for the community of Wakehurst. She may be my emissary but in reality I seem to be working for her.

When I first became a local member of Parliament I wanted someone who was connected to the community and who knew the northern beaches like the back of their hand. I wanted someone who had political experience so that they could educate me about how to achieve outcomes in our local community. I found Noelene.

She was connected into our community in ways that most of us could only dream of. I found her working in then Minister Terry Metherell's office. She had previously worked for then Minister Virginia Chadwick. When she joined me I knew immediately that we had a partnership that would last, I thought, for some years. It is now 28 years.

Noelene understands—and educated me much before I probably would have learnt—the intricacies of how to achieve outcomes for the community through government processes. She knows how to cut through the jungle of administration on behalf of those who otherwise would have no chance of doing it. She and I have been a team ever since. Every step we have taken together has been to improve and support the lives of the people of Wakehurst and, further afoot, the northern beaches.

Noelene's husband, David, was also intricately involved in the community. For example, he was a member of Manly and North Curl Curl surf life saving clubs and the sweep for the both boat crews. Noelene and David have two wonderful children, Alexander and Nicole, who are adults. Nicole has helped out in my office from time to time as well. But Noelene's caring hands have reached well beyond our Wakehurst office. She has attended thousands of meetings outside the office with staff from council, police, health, housing and schools. Almost every part of government has had her soft hand firmly directing them as to what they should do in the interests of the community.

We have always had a mobile electorate office—I still have one 28 years later—which means we go out into the community and hear from the community. In the early days, we had a caravan. Noelene and I would head out every few weeks to the furthest parts of the electorate, which sometimes involved the onerous travel of about 10 to 12 minutes, and there we would sit in the sunshine waiting for our constituents to come, and they did come. As a result we were able to establish a wonderful relationship very early on.

She was elected to the board of the women's refuge on the northern beaches and for many years served there. In fact, Noelene has served in so many different ways. She received the Pride of Workmanship Award from Rotary. Often she and I would disappear out of the office and duck over the road and have—as you can probably tell from my girth—coffee and donuts. We would talk about the issues and how to make sure that the people of Wakehurst would be well looked after.

This final week I find very sad because I will miss Noelene very, very much. I will miss her company. I will miss just knowing that she is there to make sure that we all have the benefit of her wisdom. To Noelene I say, "Noels, you have been the most amazing partner in the journey that we embarked on together 28 years ago, and I want to thank you for that." Words are not sufficient but she knows she is part of the north shore electorate office mafia, with Jill Dubois who works in my great friend's office, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and member for Pittwater, and Marilyn Cameron who used to work in the north shore electorate office of Jillian Skinner. Between the three of them they managed everything that needed to be managed, and they made all of us members of Parliament look fantastic but, most importantly, they looked after our communities in ways that nobody else could really understand. Thank you.

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (17:18): I endorse everything that my colleague and friend the Minister for Health and Medical Research, Brad Hazzard, and member for Wakehurst, has said about the irrepressible, indefatigable and wonderful Noelene Barrell. Noelene and Jill Dubois in my office are both retiring after a long period of public service to the Parliament and the people of New South Wales. They are two of the unsung heroes of this place. None of us can work effectively without our electorate staff. They do not get praised enough and I commend the Minister for Health and Medical Research and member for Wakehurst for his heartfelt words about Noelene. I certainly think she deserves a commendation from the Royal Humane Society for her work with Brad—perhaps a bravery award. Noelene has looked after what we call the "Bradlands" of the northern beaches effectively and delightfully for many years. Brad and I wish Noelene and Jill the very best.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): The House commends Noelene and Jill for their public service and congratulates them on their retirement.

725 SQUADRON

COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (17:19): I pay tribute to Coffs Harbour's adopted 725 Squadron, which exercised its right to enter our city in a spectacular and well-attended parade and community event on Wednesday 24 April 2019. Long before the 11.00 a.m. start, crowds were lining Harbour Drive and the Jetty Foreshore Precinct for the special occasion. It was fantastic to see people of all ages out and about, enjoying the spectacle. Freedom of Entry ceremonies are rich in colour, history and custom, and navies have been

undertaking them for centuries. To quote Lieutenant Commander Craig Castle, Royal Australian Navy Executive Officer of the 725 Squadron:

This practice is a physical demonstration of the connection between a municipality and the military unit, allowing a parade through the city with drums beating and colours flying.

During the march, the squadron was challenged by Coffs-Clarence Police District Local Area Commander Steve Clarke and Deputy Mayor Tegan Swan before exercising their right to freedom of entry. The ceremony concluded with a low-pass flyover by two of the squadron's helicopters. I congratulate the Coffs Harbour City Council, Mayor Denise Knight, and the Royal Australian Navy on helping to bring the exciting event to reality.

Operating from the naval air station at Nowra, 725 Squadron is a training unit for maintenance staff and aircrew on the MH-60R Seahawk "Romeo" naval combat helicopters. The squadron was formed in the Royal Australian Navy more than 50 years ago and has a history in the navy stretching back to 1943. In 2012 the unit was re-established by the Royal Australian Navy. Coffs Harbour adopted 725 Squadron in 2015. Major community support came from members of the local RSL sub-branches and returned and ex-services clubs on the Coffs coast. Coffs Harbour's warm welcome to 725 Squadron came on the eve of Anzac Day commemorations. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the important Treaty of Versailles at the Paris Peace Conference that formalised the end of the state of war between Germany and the Allied powers in World War I. Anzac Day is an important day of commemoration for all Australians.

I attended the dawn commemoration service at the Woolgoolga RSL. It was encouraging to see more and more young people taking an interest in Anzac Day. A few thousand people paid their respects at the dawn service. I thank Woolgoolga RSL Sub-Branch President Graeme Geyson for having me along. I then attended the main service at the Coffs Harbour RSL. I acknowledge Sub-Branch President John Lloyd for organising a moving and fitting commemoration to our fallen. The guest speakers—Major Graeme Palmer, who served in Iraq, East Timor, at the Sinai border and in Afghanistan; Captain Grant O'Loughlan, Deputy Commander Fleet Air Arm; and Coffs Harbour Senior College student Ella Burgan—delivered stirring speeches about Anzac Day and the Anzac spirit. The march was led by 725 Squadron and many school students were in attendance. A little later in the day I attended the Sawtell service, where there too were record crowds. I congratulate Sawtell RSL Sub-Branch President Dallas Burrage on organising the commemoration.

Each year crowds get bigger as more people pay respect to our service personnel for their sacrifices. In lieu of laying a wreath at the Woolgoolga dawn service and the Coffs Harbour and Sawtell main services, I presented books on Australian military history to three local schools so that they will have a resource in their libraries to further their education and knowledge of Anzac Day and the First World War. Lest we forget.

GRANVILLE ELECTORATE

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:23): It was wonderful to be re-elected as the member for Granville. I thank my community for placing their faith in me and supporting me again. I received almost 50 per cent of the primary vote and a strong two-party preferred vote. I am very grateful for the support. During the election campaign the Liberal Party made a huge effort to regain the seat of Granville and it gave a number of commitments. Today the Premier said that the Government will honour all its commitments. In fact, some of them were said to have been delivered already, even though they have not. I place on *Hansard* the claim that those commitments have supposedly been delivered, because I want to see them in my local area.

On 5 March my opponent, Tony Issa, announced that express train services are returning to Granville. He put that on corflutes, describing them as having been delivered. The timetable released a few weeks ago did not include a single additional express train service from Granville. Granville remains cut off from the T1 Western line, which was a decision made in the 2017 timetable. There are no express train services, which was the case in the timetable introduced by the Premier when she was the Minister for Transport in 2013. We still have 100 fewer express services a week than we had in 2013. None of those services have been restored, but I would like to see them restored, as would everybody in Granville. Everybody is frustrated by the trains, including the 2,500 people who signed my petition about the appalling train services in our area. I would like to see those express services returned.

Tony Issa also announced on 5 March that he had delivered a new Service NSW centre in Merrylands. There is no Service NSW centre in Merrylands. There used to be a motor registry but the Government closed it in 2016. It has not been replaced. People have to go to Auburn or perhaps Lidcombe—the other side of Silverwater Road—to access a Service NSW centre. If there is one to be delivered in Merrylands—and there certainly has been one committed and supposedly delivered, according to Tony Issa—I would like to see it as soon as possible.

On a number of occasions during the election campaign it was announced that a new school would be delivered for Westmead. Westmead Public School is the most crowded school in New South Wales, with more

than 1,600 students. It is the biggest public primary school in the State. Labor made a commitment to spend \$50 million building a new school in Westmead. To date, there has been no funding committed by the Government, no site identified and in fact nothing done other than an acknowledgement of the problem, although statements were made during the election campaign that a new school would be delivered. I would like to see it delivered. It is not fair on the local community that 1,600 kids are in such a cramped environment, with more than 20 demountables. A double-storey demountable was installed only a couple of months ago. The covered outdoor learning areas are pretty much the only parts of the playground that do not have demountables on them.

In addition to all those commitments, a number of commitments were made to community groups. I want to make sure that they are delivered as well. A \$7 million grant was announced for the Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral for an aged-care day care centre that is just outside my electorate but would certainly be used by families from my electorate. Labor also supported that project. In addition, there was an announcement of \$6 million for the Orthodox community. The announcement was made in my electorate at St Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, although I understand the project is to be constructed in Punchbowl. Some \$2 million was also committed to St Elias Church in Guildford. A commitment of \$6.5 million for an aged-care day care centre was made to the Lebanese Muslim Association in Lakemba, the announcement of which was attended by my opponent and heavily promoted. I want all these projects delivered, and I want to make sure that our community achieves its fair share.

SYDNEY METRO NORTHWEST

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (17:28): I welcome the news that the Sydney Metro Northwest will be opening on 26 May. This event has been awaited for decades by the people of the north-west and it is about to happen. It will be a magnificent service because it is designed to provide trains every four minutes in peak times—so frequently that people do not need to worry about a timetable. We describe it as a "turn-up-and-go" service. People do not need to worry what time they arrive at the station because they know that during peak times there will be a train within four minutes and outside the peaks trains will arrive in about double that time. There is no need to worry about a timetable—whenever a person arrives they can be confident that a train is on its way. This project was promised many times by our opponents during their 16 years in government, but no sod was ever turned or metre of track laid.

It was, however, a commitment made by Barry O'Farrell and the Liberals in 2011. Immediately upon our election in 2011 the work started. The commitment was honoured. It was given top priority. I remember well standing next to then Premier Barry O'Farrell and then transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian. The Premier promised then that if there were not tunnel-boring machines in the ground by the end of the first term both he and the Minister for Transport, who was standing next to him, would resign. I am sure that the current Premier was very pleased that she was able to deliver on the timetable and that the tunnel-boring machines were in the ground well in advance of that deadline.

This Government is going to provide a service that at last meets the public transport needs of the people in the north-west of Sydney. It will get them not only into the city but also across the northern region. Now, because of the new announcements this Government has made about connecting the metro to a wider part of Sydney, we will be able to provide a network that will, in due course, serve the whole of the Sydney metropolitan area in a way that has never been envisaged before. In the planning stages the Government added Tallawong station in my electorate of Riverstone—the final station on the Sydney Metro Northwest. Previously the Sydney Metro Northwest was going to terminate at Rouse Hill. In 2013 the Government identified an extension corridor through to Marsden Park. That work can now be built upon to identify a further corridor through to St Marys, which will join up with the north-west rail line that we are building to Badgerys Creek, completing this metro circuit around Sydney.

In order to service the metro and allow people to access the stations easily, we are providing 4,000 car spaces along the line. One thousand of those will be at Tallawong station, 1,360 at Kellyville and 800 at Bella Vista. This will ensure that the people of my electorate will have car parking spaces where they need them so they can use the stations. The Government is improving bus services. Substantial changes to the bus timetable will take place on 26 May. I will put the details of those changes on my Facebook page and website and I will circulate the information to the community. People need to look at the changes because the frequency of many services will increase. Some services will be rerouted to go more directly to the stations and there will be other consequent changes such as renumbering of services and so on. It is a complex change but basically it will mean a big increase in services and accessibility to stations in the region.

Starting in full service mode on 26 May is the on-demand bus service that is currently being trialled in my region. It is like a kind of Uber bus. It will allow people to find a bus that comes close to a location that is convenient for them and take them to the station. That is already working in trial mode but will be expanded to full service mode on 26 May. I hope that this will give people in a rapidly changing and expanding area a

convenient way to access public transport. It will cost people in the region only 20c to do that because a bus fare under three kilometres is \$2.20 and there is a \$2 rebate for changing modes of public transport. So it is a pretty efficient service for that price. This will be a safe mode of transport because the Government will be introducing safety screens and doors on platforms. We will no longer have to worry about anybody falling onto tracks. It will be a wonderful improvement. I pay tribute to all the people who have worked on this project—from Rod Staples at the very top, who was the captain of the project, right down to every single worker who worked on this vast project over the years to deliver on 26 May something that will be a triumph for the people of the north-west.

WORLD LUPUS DAY

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:33): This Friday marks the seventeenth World Lupus Day, a global awareness day that serves to unite people affected by the disease for the common purpose of raising awareness and improving the lives of over five million sufferers. This cause is especially important to me as the headquarters of the Lupus Association of Australia are in my electorate of Ryde. Lupus Australia is the largest publicly supported lupus organisation in the country. It is devoted to solving the mystery of this disease whilst giving support to those who suffer from its brutal effects. Lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease, where the immune system attacks healthy tissue, causing damage to vital organ systems including the lungs, heart, kidneys, blood, skin, joints and brain. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages and kidney failure.

One in 1,000 Australians suffer from lupus yet, despite its prevalence, it remains one of the most underdiagnosed and underfunded diseases in modern times. On average, it takes nearly six years from the time people first notice their symptoms to be diagnosed with lupus. People with lupus take, on average, eight prescription medications to manage all their conditions. While lupus knows no boundaries, knowing all about it and early diagnosis can help manage its impact. Lupus severely impacts many aspects of people's lives and the lives of their families and carers. It affects mainly women in the prime of their lives, compromising everyday plans, their social lives and their aspirations for a career and family, which many of us take for granted. On any given day, people with lupus may not be able to carry out daily activities or commit to plans and they struggle to function as parents, friends, partners or colleagues.

It also has a severe impact on a person's self-esteem. The lack of understanding about this condition is contributing to the stigmatisation of lupus patients, leaving them feeling isolated and depressed. Though lupus is not contagious, research by GlaxoSmithKline shows that of those surveyed only 57 per cent were comfortable hugging and only 49 per cent were comfortable sharing food with someone suffering from lupus. Lupus Australia outlines four calls to action to improve care, including raising awareness amongst the general public and primary care doctors in order to achieve earlier diagnoses; improving access to specialist care to ensure that people with lupus are receiving treatment that addresses their physical and psychological needs; facilitating clinical trial research to enable people with lupus to make autonomous decisions about the management of their condition; and donating to support Lupus Australia by calling 9878 6055.

I thank Lupus Australia's president, Barbara Ward, for her tireless work for this organisation. It is hard to find someone as dedicated as Barbara. When she sets her mind to achieve something, she gives it 110 per cent and she is to be commended for her determination. Barbara has worked in the not-for-profit sector for more than two decades. She is the former managing director of the San Foundation, where she raised \$23 million for the San Integrated Cancer Centre. She has raised millions of dollars for other worthy causes, particularly in the aged-care and healthcare sectors and has implemented sustainable programs that have changed lives for the better. Barbara not only cares for her community but also cares about delivering outcomes. For that, we are very fortunate.

Delivering better health outcomes is also important to this Government. Between 2018 and 2019 we are spending \$25.1 billion on the health sector alone. In my electorate of Ryde we are investing \$479 million to rebuild Ryde Hospital to deliver world-class health care close to home. We have long supported better health care in Ryde, including a \$9 million upgrade to improve coronary care and high dependency and medical inpatient wards, which were completed in 2017. Ryde Hospital has an emotional connection for most people in Ryde, and particularly for me as my sisters and I were born there. The investment will undoubtedly transform our community for the better.

Planning for the rebuild will involve consultation with the community and hospital staff and is expected to start in 2020-21, followed by the commencement of construction in 2022-23. I know that with this transformation locally, as well as the unprecedented investment in health care statewide, we will be able to deliver quality health care for years to come for people living with lupus and other conditions. Tomorrow I will wear my purple ribbon proudly to show my support for all those affected by lupus. I again thank Barbara Ward for all her hard work in bringing this issue to the community's attention.

KOGARAH ELECTORATE

NIUE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (17:38): I have spoken many times in this place about proposed developments in my electorate of Kogarah, which bring with them thousands of new entrants into our community. I have been alarmed that this Government, while insisting on new buildings and approvals, has not provided new infrastructure to keep up with the growing population. Train services have been cut, there are not enough spaces for people to park their cars and there is absolutely no provision for the green space that we need in our community. An acute example of this is the situation at Kogarah Public School.

Numbers have grown by almost 60 students since last year and by 80 since 2017, and yet the Department of Education has made no provision to ensure that the school can deal with the growth. As the population increases, Kogarah Public School is only going to grow in numbers but soon it will run out of room. It will need more land to accommodate the growing density of people in our community. The Education department must move quickly to acquire more land around the school. Children need space to move, run and play, but that will be increasingly difficult for the students at this school if their playground is filled with demountable classrooms.

Kogarah Public School is not the only school in my electorate facing these problems—for example, there are already proposals in place for major new developments around Carlton South Public School. That school also has space constraints and yet, again, the Education and Planning departments have no planning provisions for the increased population density in that part of Sydney. The two departments are simply not talking to each other. The Government and the departments need to plan for the future of our schools. They need to take into account what the current level of development is going to mean for population numbers in the next five or 10 years. Kogarah Public School needs space to grow as the number of students increase. The school should not get stuck between developments and have too many students packed into classrooms. I also thank president Udaya Pillutla, secretary Jude McCarthy and treasurer Anna Harding of the Kogarah Public School Parents and Citizens' Association.

Today I also acknowledge the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Niue Returned Soldiers League. Niue is a tiny island in the South Pacific. Recently the member for Rockdale and I had the honour of attending the Niue Returned Soldiers League Anzac Day commemorations. Small communities throughout the South Pacific have their own personal and emotional connection to the First World War, but these stories are often forgotten or overlooked. It is important that we have groups like the Niue Returned Soldiers League in our communities to make sure that the stories and efforts of the men and women who served are remembered and acknowledged. The contribution of Pacific Islanders who served are memorialised in their homelands but it is vital that Australia recognises and commemorates the role of so many from our broader region. Niue's contribution to the First World War was incredible.

In 1914 Niue was isolated from the rest of the world. It took five weeks for news that the First World War had begun in Europe to reach the island. On hearing the news, the islanders immediately raised money and sent it off to the Red Cross in New Zealand. They even wrote to the king offering troops, money and whatever resources the tiny island nation could provide. Despite most having never left the island before, 150 men—four per cent of the then population—volunteered to go the other side of the world to fight. Many did not speak English, had not worn shoes before and did not know a climate outside of that of the South Pacific, yet they still volunteered to leave their homes and families to fight with New Zealand's Maori contingent for their king. It was an honour to attend the tenth anniversary service and commemorate the courage and sacrifice of the Niuean people in the Great War.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:42): It is wonderful to see Temporary Speaker Piper in the Chair for my first private members' statement in the Fifty-Seventh Parliament. I congratulate him on achieving the best results as an Independent in the March election.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): The biggest margin.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: And the biggest margin as well. Music festivals are vital to the State's cultural life. They provide opportunities to see live music, socialise and dance. Last year more than 3.2 million people attended a live music event in New South Wales. The industry is worth \$600 million to the State. While live music in clubs and pubs has suffered from mass venue closures and reduced performance times due to the lockdown and other laws, music festivals have thrived and become an important part of contemporary and youth culture. Earlier in the year festivals came under attack with the introduction of a new regulatory regime with excessive, unworkable and unclear requirements on organisers. The conditions were rushed through with no industry

consultation and showed a lack of understanding of music festivals. Many believe the aim was to prevent festivals from taking place before the State election.

A number of festivals cancelled, and some promoters threatened to follow suit. I heard from a large number of constituents alarmed that their favourite events would end and no new events would emerge. While the Government tried to address some of the concerns, the new regime remains problematic and I understand talks with festival organisers have stalled. Recent deaths at music festivals associated with illegal drug use are tragic and heartbreaking. I agree that they require a government response, but overregulating and imposing massive costs on the industry will not make festivals safer. Some festivals report having to pay as much as 15 times more in user-pays police costs when we know that increasing police numbers at events contradicts harm minimisation measures and encourages a more unsafe approach to taking drugs.

Drug detection operations are a particular concern because they encourage people to ingest larger doses at once or to buy from strangers at a festival, which can increase health risks. My constituents who attend music festivals regularly report excessive, punitive and sometimes disturbing police presence at music festivals that they say makes them feel like they have done something wrong just by being there. This year's Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade and party provided a good example of how policing should be done at large events with officers taking a community approach. Instead of treating punters like criminals, initiating searches, questioning people about their drug use and surveying their every move, the police presence was there to make people feel safe and provide a trustworthy person to report concerns to.

Experts consistently say that pill testing and creating an environment where drug users are not afraid to report that they feel sick is the way to improve safety at music festivals. While I welcome replacement of drug possession convictions with on-the-spot fines, people will still act to avoid detection. The new NSW Health Guidelines for Music Festival Event Organisers is aimed at harm reduction and is a good start, but it was drafted without any industry input and fails to incorporate the complexities of running a festival. Festival organisers tell me that many requirements are unworkable—for example, the number of harm minimisation officers needed at many events is impossible to meet with the number of teams available in the community. The Government needs to increase funding to programs so that more officers can be trained.

The standards to help promoters employ appropriate medical providers are not useful, as they are too vague and focus on skills. Quality care would be better ensured if event medical providers were accredited. This is something industry wants and I understand Victoria is pursuing accreditation. It is not clear how festivals are being deemed high-risk and therefore subject to the highest licence conditions. There are guidelines which include the type of music at the festival but the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority has discretion in a process that lacks accountability and transparency and could be seen to be open to political manipulation. When the licence and guidelines were released I convened a meeting of festival promoters with Greens member Cate Faehrmann, MLC. It was clear that promoters want their events to be safe and accept that music festival specific regulation is appropriate, but they want rules to be fair, workable and not a deterrent to running events.

The industry is keen to work with government on better outcomes. A working party is urgently needed that brings together industry, health, police and Liquor & Gaming NSW. The Minister for Health and Medical Research has agreed to meet with me and the Australian Festival Association, and I look forward to working with him and other relevant ministers towards an outcome. With the lockout laws already stifling our late-night economy, Sydney's reputation as a cultural destination is suffering. We cannot afford to lose our music festivals as well. I call on the Government to create a new process to regulate festivals by working collaboratively with industry. That new process should protect the future viability of music festivals and ensure that they are safe and fun events for people of all ages.

CARDIAC ARREST

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (17:47): I congratulate the Temporary Speaker on his excellent result in the New South Wales general election. It was 10.30 a.m. on 25 September 2018 when Ian Hutchinson came off his bike whilst riding around Narrabeen Lakes with one of his mates. His friend, Don Mackee, heard Ian yell out as he fell and raced back to his aid. At the same time local residents Caroline Hepburn and Anne Ross walked around the corner, saw the scene and rushed to help. Ian was gasping for air and the colour had drained from his face. Eventually he was not breathing at all. Ian was suffering cardiac arrest.

In Australia 25,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest deaths happen every year. There are about 68 deaths every day from cardiac arrest, and in my local community on the northern beaches about 250 people die every year—an average of five people each week. Of the 25,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest occurrences only 9 per cent, or 2,250 people, survive. I am glad to say that Ian Hutchinson, whilst dead for several minutes, ultimately emerged as one of those lucky 9 per cent who ultimately survived a sudden cardiac arrest. As

Don, Caroline and Anne called for emergency services after Ian's fall they spent several minutes performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, all having been trained at CPR courses at some point in their lives. As they waited for the ambulance to locate them, Tim Locke jogged by and took over, having also recently completed CPR training. Those four people gave Ian CPR for eight minutes before emergency services arrived. Ian was shocked twice by paramedics with defibrillators before he was taken to hospital.

Months later, Ian is making it his mission to improve the survival statistic of those who suffer cardiac arrests. Last week I was very pleased to meet with Ian to discuss his initiative, CPR Friendly. I should note for the record that Ian is a personal friend of more than 10 years' standing. CPR Friendly is a website that encourages people through a series of humorous videos to make themselves familiar with how to give CPR. His message is quite simple: Even the smallest amount of knowledge about CPR could help. That is why some of the videos on CPR Friendly are as short as five seconds. Ian is looking to spread his message in the community and among local community groups to encourage people to become aware of cardiac arrest and how to react if it occurs in a loved one, a friend, a stranger or a neighbour.

Part of what Ian is trying to do is to make defibrillators accessible in public places such as local clubs, sporting fields, parks, surf clubs and other community spaces. The New South Wales Government already has done a lot on this, but there is always more to do. When my colleague Stuart Ayres was the Minister for Sport he launched a \$4 million program to install defibrillators in sporting clubs across New South Wales. In the last round of funding my community of Pittwater was successful in receiving funding for seven different clubs in the local area. But, as Ian's case proves, there is always more that can be done. Ian's story has been of much interest to me as both the local member for Pittwater and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Ian has told me that he will apply for the My Community Project grants that the New South Wales Government commenced this year. Local people can apply for grants of between \$20,000 and \$200,000 for projects in the community.

Ian's application is a great example of the type of ideas that My Community Project should foster. The project is all about local ideas, local projects and local decisions. That is one tenet of good planning—grassroots ideas that can invigorate and improve our local communities. Kelvin Campbell once wrote in *The Radical Incrementalist*, "We need to renegotiate the social contract between government and its citizens, between top-down and bottom-up systems. We need more democratic processes that will foster an open and collaborative relationship." That is the ethos that we take on as a government and the mantra I take to my new role as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. My role is not only to acquire land for public use but also to improve public amenity wherever possible. Ideas like Ian's—making defibrillators available in public spaces and training the community to not be scared of their capacity to save a life—are the types of ideas that I welcome and that our communities need.

I look forward to sharing more about my new portfolios as this Government enters its third term. I welcome ideas from the public about how we can best make open spaces more accessible to everyone in Sydney and greater New South Wales. Ian Hutchinson, as a passionate Newport local, has worked with his community—even with people in his local street. He and his neighbours had a street party and crowdfunded the purchase of a defibrillator that is stationed at a local carport. Everyone knows where it is so that people can access it in an emergency and will have the capacity to save a life. What better neighbour could you have?

WYONG ELECTORATE

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (17:52): I draw the attention of the House to a very important issue in my community—the increasing cost of parking at hospitals. All the Central Coast Labor MPs, the Health Services Union [HSU] and the Nurses and Midwives' Association embarked on a campaign after the new Gosford Hospital car parking fees increased significantly for the public and by more than 67 per cent a year for staff. As part of that campaign, a letter was sent to the local health district to request reconsideration of the parking fees. The letter received in response by Gerard Hayes, who is the secretary of the Health Services Union, states: As you would be aware, the parking fees for sites with new car park redevelopments have been established in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive ... Hospital Car Parking Fees Policy: Campuses which are subject to car parking development. We looked at that policy. It has "Mandatory requirements" that state:

Hospital car parking fees as described in the attached procedures are to be applied by Metropolitan Local Health Districts ... at hospital campuses planning to undergo or undergoing significant car park expansion works within the Sydney metropolitan area and at three major sites in the Central Coast (Gosford, Wyong) and Illawarra Shoalhaven (Wollongong) local health districts.

Currently at Wyong there is no cost to park. It is an area poorly served by public transport, as Temporary Speaker Piper would know. We are concerned that a cost will be added there. At Gosford public hospital there has been an outrageous increase in fees. The first 15 minutes is free, which is pretty good if it is possible to get in and out in 15 minutes. A stay of between 15 minutes and one hour, will cost \$6.70, and the costs increase to a maximum of \$19.90 per day. This is the public hospital. We compared those fees with those at Gosford Private Hospital,

where the maximum per day is \$12. The private hospital charges \$12 per day, and the public hospital charges \$19.90 per day.

Many people in the community have contacted us and signed petitions against what locals are calling a "sick tax". They are saying that if someone who is sick or someone wanting to visit a patient in the hospital will be taxed to attend. This is outrageous. Public money has been used to build the car parks and then they have been outsourced to the private sector. According to the eTendering website, Secure Parking will receive \$1,988,274.18 over five years for operating the car park. It is an automatic car park with a boom gate. Secure Parking will receive almost \$2 million of staff and public money to operate the car park. Meanwhile people are refusing to park in this brand-new car park. It is empty: People are parking on the street rather than paying the fees.

The cost for staff to park at work will increase by \$512. It will increase to \$1,230 per year. The hospital at Wyong is isolated and it is not safe, and that is concerning. We started a campaign calling on the Minister to change the policy. The policy does not take into account the fact that ours is a low socio-economic community, which means that some people will not go to or visit the hospital because it is too expensive to park onsite. It is almost impossible to get there by bus. In Gosford there has been a massive backlash from the staff and the community. The Government talks about customer service, but policies such as this are truly unfair.

SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government) (17:57): It is with great pleasure that I address this House as part of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament and as the re-elected member for South Coast. I take this opportunity to thank those who have again placed their faith and trust in me to represent them in the New South Wales Parliament. It is truly a privilege to represent my South Coast community in this place, as I have done since 2003. Some say, "Too long." Since our election to government in 2011 we have delivered significant infrastructure for the South Coast and invested in our community to improve services and amenity and to bolster the local economy.

There have been major improvements to the Princes Highway at South Nowra, Burrill Lake, Termeil Creek, Gerringong and Berry. The Berry-to-Bomaderry upgrade and Albion Park Rail bypass are currently under construction. These improvements, as well as essential safety upgrades, have made a real difference to our community. A new police station for the bay and basin and a new ambulance station are now both open and operational, thanks to this Government. Major improvements to our local schools include new facilities for Ulladulla High School and Nowra High School and upgrades to Shoalhaven High School, St Georges Basin Public School, Nowra East Public School and others. That has been delivered and millions of dollars have been invested to clear the maintenance backlog at all our public schools.

The Government has invested millions to improve health facilities on the coast with new renal and palliative care services at Milton Ulladulla Hospital. There have been upgrades to the emergency department, the aged care unit, new surgical theatres and improvements to the paediatric care unit at the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital. The Government has made a \$10 million commitment to deliver hundreds of new parking spaces, and construction is currently underway. But the best is yet to come.

In this term of government we will invest an additional \$960 million to upgrade the Princes Highway, including duplicating sections of the highway from Jervis Bay Road to Sussex Inlet Road, starting detailed planning work for the Milton and Ulladulla bypass and upgrading the highway from Burrill Lake. We will commence planning and construction of a new public primary school for Worrigea and South Nowra to futureproof education services for those rapidly growing communities. We will relocate Budawang School to the recently purchased former Shoalhaven Anglican School site in Milton and commence consultation to determine how to best use the remainder of the site to deliver additional public school facilities for South Coast students.

We will deliver a new police station for Culburra Beach and retain and upgrade the Huskisson police station. We will invest \$434 million to deliver a major upgrade of the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital to increase the number of beds and services and to improve wait times. That will be complemented by additional nurses, doctors and allied health professionals. The South Coast community voted with a swing towards a government that has a track record of listening and delivering. I thank Premier Gladys Berejiklian for her commitment to the South Coast. Since her election as Premier, she has visited my electorate more than any other Premier and she returned this week to inspect construction progress on the Princes Highway.

I recognise that it is impossible to serve as a member of Parliament without the loyalty of the many dedicated volunteers who give their time not only in the six-week campaign period but also over four years—and in my case much longer. I cannot name everyone, but I thank Gale and Roy Burgess, Jan Gregory, Serena Copley, Elza Maynard, Patricia White, Richard Purves, Francoise Sikora, Sharon and Liam Molloy, John and Belinda

Babington, Warren Mundine, John Carney, Tony Goodman, Ian and Adele Hughes, Graham Quinton, Jack Katon, Julieanne and Bob Campbell, Mitchell Pakes, Graham Williams, Graham and Joy Sweet, and the many others who have worked the polling booths since 2003. For so long they have manned pre-poll stations, displayed signs out the front of their properties and distributed posters and taken them down again after the election in their support for me and the Liberal Party. I thank them all.

I extend a special thankyou to the staff in my former Speaker's office and my electorate office. They are my current chief of staff in the Minister's office, Luke Sikora, and Brigid O'Bryan, Jane Boag, Troy Wilkie, Michelle Lane, Lynne Arnold, Adam Carney, Matthew Allen and Caitlin Davis. I thank my long-suffering family for their support over the 16 years I have been a member of this place. I also thank my long-suffering husband, Ossie, who over a 32-year career in public life has been unwavering in his support of me, even in the most trying and difficult times. I thank all members and congratulate everyone who has been elected or re-elected to this place. I look forward to continuing to serve the South Coast community for the next four years and beyond.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I thank the Minister for her contribution and wish her all the best in her new role.

LITTLE LEGS FOUNDATION

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (18:02): The Little Legs Foundation is making a valuable contribution to finding a cure for childhood brain cancer. Brain cancer is a serious health challenge across our State, with one case diagnosed every five hours. In Australia it kills more children than any other disease. It takes the lives of more people under the age of 40 than any other cancer and the five-year survival rate is just 22 per cent. The Little Legs Foundation is playing its part to change those statistics.

The Little Legs Foundation was founded in memory of Alegra, who lost her battle with brain cancer at the age of six, only 10 months after diagnosis. According to Alegra's mum and dad, their daughter never let herself be defined by her disease and continued going to school every day, along with attending her swimming, dancing and gymnastic commitments. I commend the Vasiliou family for their strength. I call on the community to support them in advocating for other children affected by this debilitating disease. As a father to a son no older than Alegra was at the time of her diagnosis, I cannot begin to imagine the pain this must have caused Alegra's parents. However, it also makes me admire the absolute strength and determination they have shown in continuing their daughter's legacy for the benefit of other children and their families.

The Little Legs Foundation has partnered with organisations such as the Charlie Teo Foundation to find a cure for childhood brain cancer. Professor Charlie Teo, a globally renowned neurosurgeon, established the foundation to shake up the way funds are raised for brain cancer research. Sadly 1,200 people die from brain cancer every year in Australia. However, the five-year survival rate has hardly changed in the past 30 years, increasing by only 1 per cent. It is clear that something needs to change.

In March this year the Little Legs Foundation partnered with the Charlie Teo Foundation to host a charity gala ball to help raise awareness and much-needed funds for brain cancer research. This event was attended by many people and more than \$480,000 was raised. I sincerely thank all those in attendance for their unbelievable generosity. Generous sponsors, including the Corletts, Era and Samos Polymers, Budget Petrol, McGrath Real Estate and dozens more, contributed to the evening. An army of businesses also donated auction and raffle prizes for the Little Legs Foundation's fundraising initiative.

But much more than fundraising, the Little Legs Foundation provides a sense of hope and compassion. During these difficult times sometimes what is needed most is a hug, a shoulder to cry on, or an ear that listens. The foundation meets these needs, bringing people together to support one another in the darkest of times. This is why I encourage each and every one of us to attend any future Little Leg Foundation events. If members cannot attend, the foundation also appreciates and encourages fundraising, volunteering, donations or corporate sponsorship. In the month of June I will again be hosting my annual Biggest Morning Tea at Oatley RSL to assist in the fundraising efforts of the Cancer Council. I look forward to this event each year to give generously to the Cancer Council. However, more than anything I look forward to the day when Cancer Council morning teas and Little Legs Foundation events are things of the past because treatment of cancer has progressed beyond anything we can currently imagine or fathom.

Three Australian families will be told today that their child has cancer. Three families this week will lose their child to cancer. I am certain that many of us in the House have a family member or friend who has fought or is currently fighting the cancer battle. Cancer took the life of loved ones in my family far too early. If I can play a part in any way to lessen the impact of this debilitating disease, I will. I look forward to a future without brain cancer and I congratulate Little Legs Foundation on its continued fight to make this become reality.

SURF LIFE SAVING NSW

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (18:07): Today I acknowledge the importance of all of the work that our surf lifesavers do across the State and in my electorate of Coogee. Coogee has some of the most famous and the most widely used beaches in all of Australia. It is home to Coogee Beach, Clovelly Beach, Bronte Beach and Tamarama Beach. To the north, just outside the electorate, is Bondi Beach. While the eastern suburbs are blessed with so many beautiful beaches, it is the work done by our volunteer surf lifesavers that keeps our locals and our visitors safe. Therefore, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our surf lifesavers for the time and effort they put into patrolling and keeping our beaches safe.

Surf lifesaving clubs in the eastern suburbs made total of 1,095 rescues across the 2018-19 season. The work that our surf lifesavers do is so important in keeping our beaches safe. Sometimes it is a thankless job, which makes this Liberal Government's decision to withdraw \$1.3 million of funding from Surf Life Saving NSW even more egregious. In April 2019 Surf Life Saving NSW was formally advised that the \$1.3 million Enhanced Rescue Funding Grant, which has been in place since 2011, would not be renewed. This funding is crucial to the organisation and supports three key operational areas: the digital radio network, which all 129 surf clubs and council lifeguarding services are reliant on; the Surf Life Saving NSW State Operations Centre, which coordinates responses to all drownings and other coastal emergencies across New South Wales; and equipment grants that are used for the purchase of crucial lifesaving equipment.

The withdrawal of this funding would be disastrous for Surf Life Saving NSW, and the organisation has stated that it would lead to one of two outcomes. First, Surf Life Saving would have to allow the digital radio network to degrade without the maintenance and upgrades that it requires. The State Operations Centre would no longer be able to be supported, and would have to be shut down. Additionally, Surf Life Saving NSW would no longer be able to provide lifesaving equipment grants to each of the 129 surf lifesaving clubs across the State. Secondly, Surf Life Saving NSW would have to redirect funding from the additional \$4 million funding enhancement that was promised in December 2018. This means that Surf Life Saving NSW would no longer have the capacity to deliver the enhancements announced by the Premier in December last year.

Both of these options would be disastrous for beachgoers in my electorate of Coogee, and for the entirety of New South Wales. The 2018-19 season has seen the worst drowning statistics on record, both in New South Wales and across Australia. The Sydney branch experienced 11 fatalities, three of which occurred in the eastern suburbs. I was on patrol the day a man died at Clovelly. With funding being cut from our surf lifesavers I fear that this will become a more common occurrence. I ask the Government to reconsider its funding cuts to Surf Life Saving NSW for the sake of the people of Coogee and New South Wales.

MANLY ELECTORATE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:12): I take this opportunity to recognise the incredible volunteers who worked across the electorate of Manly during the New South Wales State election campaign, not only on polling day but also in the weeks prior to polling day. These are the volunteers who helped to secure a record third term for the Berejiklian-Barilaro Coalition Government. Manly is the gateway to Sydney's northern beaches. It is home to secluded coves and tracks, national parks and famous beaches at Manly, Freshwater and Curl Curl, while being only a short ferry trip to the city's central business district. Manly is where suburban life meets our natural environment and where many people choose to move, to raise a family or to retire.

My team and I were proud to run a purely positive campaign, focusing on the issues that mean the most to my community, running on the strong record of this Government and making significant commitments to public transport, roads, schools, health—including mental health—and, importantly, lowering the cost of living. I was humbled to receive the support of more than 150 volunteers on polling day, some lifelong Liberals and encouragingly many people who had never before been involved in the political process. Whether veterans or novices, all supported positive politics and worked hard to ensure I could be returned to this place to continue advocating on behalf of our community.

The long days involved in pre-polling, meeting with voters at Manly Wharf or the B-Line bus stops, campaigning at Manly, Curl Curl and Freshwater beaches, knocking on doors and letterboxing households were all vital to ensuring our positive message reached the 80,000 residents of the Manly electorate. The Manly Liberals were also proud to support my colleagues in this place, working across Sydney and, in particular, in the beautiful electorate of Heathcote with my colleague Lee Evans, who I am delighted has also been returned to continue his good work for his constituents. I thank the Hon. Natalie Ward from the other place for her tremendous efforts along with David Begg in working at Heathcote.

I also acknowledge my first-class campaign committee members, in particular, the chairman of the State Electoral Conference for Manly, Paul Billingham; Lee Furlong; the always hardworking Dan Rubenach;

Philip Young; Melina Rohan; David Heard; Therese Hava; Mark Westfield; and Tony Brooks. They all worked tirelessly from the middle of last year to ensure that fortress Manly returned a Liberal member to this place. I appreciate the work of my electorate office staff—Adele Heasman and Kim Preston-Hiney—who worked incredibly hard to ensure that our important electorate work continued throughout the election campaign. Their dedication is always over and above what is expected of even the most outstanding electorate office. One can always count on one's family. I am incredibly thankful to my brother, Tom Griffin, for his unwavering support, and the phenomenal efforts of my sister, Elle Griffin, who kept everything on track, ably supported by Tom Loomes.

The election campaign took me away from my son, Ted, in the first few months of his life for longer than I would have liked. I am incredibly grateful for the herculean effort of my wife, Elissa, in looking after Ted during the campaign. To be able to celebrate on the day after the election with both of them was a memory I will cherish. I thank my mum and dad for their counsel, especially mum, for managing to excuse herself from activity in her political party, The Greens, while the campaign took place.

Collectively, the strong work behind the campaign helped to secure an 8 per cent primary swing towards the Liberals in Manly since the by-election just two years ago, which is testament to the positive plan we took to the election and the positive campaign we ran. I wish to recognise the other candidates who stood. I think we would all agree it is a tough gig in this modern day to put oneself forward for public service and it can be particularly difficult in the face of social media. Alongside the commitments of the Liberals and Nationals across the State, I focused on seven core promises that I will work towards delivering to the people of Manly over the next four years.

Those promises are to build Australia's first hospice for young adults on the Manly Hospital site; to continue investing in local schools and teachers, including a \$1 million upgrade of Curl Curl North Public School; to provide a counsellor or psychologist for every public high school; to upgrade Manly Wharf for additional capacity, disability access and wet-weather cover; to deliver a bus rapid-transit service between Dee Why and Chatswood, with a bus every 10 minutes; to continue work on the tunnel for the Beaches Link, turbocharging public transport with new connections to the Sydney Metro; and to provide interest-free loans for households to install solar panel and battery storage systems. I look forward to working closely with the new ministry to implement these important initiatives. Let there be no doubt, the heart of the Liberal Party in Manly beats strong. We are proud of what we have delivered and I look forward to leading continued delivery of projects and initiatives that improve the lives of people in my community for the next four years. To all members of the Liberal Party in Manly, it is onwards and upwards.

POLITICAL LOBBYING

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (18:17): I address an important issue that was highlighted last month by the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]. The ICAC released a discussion paper on lobbying, access and influence in New South Wales as part of Operation Eclipse. The discussion paper takes a well overdue look at lobbying in New South Wales and the efforts of a rich few to selfishly and profoundly undermine our democratic system. It is true in a broad sense that the capacity for individuals and groups to put forward their ideas to decision-makers is central to democracy and good decision-making. The question is how, when and why this lobbying takes place. When it is conducted along proper lines, is open, transparent and focused on the community, it often has beneficial outcomes. But a poorly regulated lobbying system risks giving more of a voice to those who are wealthy and well-connected and to individuals and groups who strive for personal profit rather than for the common good.

Who is in the room matters when it comes to political outcomes. If those powerful groups are more likely to get access to senior Ministers and decision-makers, their interests will triumph over those of the public. A quick glance at the Premier's diary will reveal that most months she meets more with corporate interests than she meets with community organisations—something that should concern us all. In its 2010 report "Investigation into corruption risks involved in lobbying (Operation Halifax)" the ICAC made a number of recommendations to tighten the lobbying legislative and regulatory framework. Some but not all of the elements recommended by the commission have since been implemented. However, the system with which we are left permits lobbying activities that fundamentally lack transparency and integrity.

Corrupt conduct can exist only behind a veil of secrecy where proper and public transparency is not prioritised. Ensuring transparency in lobbying procedures significantly reduces the likelihood of undue access and influence on government decisions. Transparency measures also allow the public to make judgements about the impact of lobbyist influence on decision-making processes and on governments themselves. Typically, when we think of political corruption we are reminded of a simple quid pro quo arrangement—a bag full of cash given in exchange for a political favour. But the corrupting effect of unregulated lobbying is a more subtle art.

Perhaps the most damaging example of this relates to the revolving door, which is now a common term in parlance. The revolving door involves former Ministers, shadow Ministers and senior staff who move on either to work as lobbyists or to act for businesses directly related to the portfolios that they once covered. These politicians and senior bureaucrats can effectively sell the knowledge, privilege and access of their previous positions to the private sector and in so doing selfishly and profoundly undermine our democratic system. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in the planning and infrastructure sector in New South Wales. The interplay, in particular, of Liberal politicians and the organisations planning, funding and building projects is remarkable.

While many politicians may go on to work in the private sector for honourable reasons, it is clear that we need to have effective ways to help manage this. At its best the revolving door demonstrates the closeness of politicians to the industries they govern, often to the detriment of the public good and, at its worst, it creates a possibility that a job taken after retirement is simply a proxy for a bribe. For those reasons The Greens will make a strong submission to the ICAC discussion paper addressing the revolving door issue, as well as a range of other measures that can be implemented to increase the transparency of lobbying. One step that the Government has taken is introducing a ministerial diary; that should be extended to shadow Cabinet Ministers. The Greens will put together and present a range of other measures in its submission.

An important issue is a proper cooling-off period or post-separation ban period. During the cooling-off period, former MPs and senior staff should be prohibited from working as consultant lobbyists, working for an organisation and carrying out lobbying activities on behalf of that organisation, or working for a corporation if lobbying constitutes a significant part of the work on behalf of the corporation. Currently in New South Wales there is an 18-month post-separation ban that covers only Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. It does not include senior ministerial advisers or senior public servants, which makes it weaker than bans in many other Australian jurisdictions. There should be an increased cooling-off period of five years for Ministers, shadow Ministers, members of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretaries, senior ministerial and shadow ministerial advisers, and senior public servants engaging in lobbying activity that comes under an area that they once managed in their portfolio. That is one of the many changes we will advocate for in our submission to Operation Eclipse. I encourage every member to make a submission and to speak to their own parties to ensure that we can improve lobbying in this State.

PROSPECT ELECTORATE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (18:22): As the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales has opened, I acknowledge the individuals and organisations that assisted with my re-election as the member for Prospect. It is an honour to represent the families and the multicultural community of my electorate. Many people and organisations need to be recognised and thanked for their hard work over many months. I acknowledge the hard work of the trade union movement and its leadership, which assisted in the campaign at pre-poll stations and on election day. I thank Unions NSW Secretary Mark Morey for his solid support throughout the campaign. I thank Australian Workers' Union [AWU] Secretary Daniel Walton and State organiser Michael Kerley for organising volunteers on election day. I appreciate the assistance on election day of the AWU State executive, especially Ian Morley and Leah.

I acknowledge Health Services Union Secretary Gerard Hayes and President Adam Hall, and NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association Secretary Brett Holmes and organiser Mark Murphy. I appreciate their hard work to bring justice to the workers of Fairfield Hospital. I thank Rail, Bus and Tram Union Secretary Alex Claassens for his support, advice and friendship over many years. I thank Transport Workers Union Secretary Richard Olsen; Electrical Trades Union Secretary Justin Page; Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association Secretary Bernie Smith; and United Services Union Secretary Graeme Kelly. I acknowledge NSW Labor head office for its unswerving support and assistance during the campaign. I am indebted to NSW Labor General Secretary Kaila Murnain for her great advice and innovative campaign strategies that assisted my significant win. I acknowledge organiser Todd Pinkerton for the guidance he gave to my campaign team. Without his advice I do not believe that I would have won the seat in 2015 or 2019. I also thank organisers David Dobson, Karl Stewart and Aidan Galea for their hard work assisting with the campaign.

I acknowledge the phenomenal individuals and local community groups that supported me throughout the campaign. I thank Carl Albrecht from the Greystanes Junior Rugby League Club for his public endorsement. I thank Julious Clement and Patrick Dako of the New South Wales Equatoria Community and Welfare Association for assisting on election day, and for their strong support and endorsement throughout the campaign. I thank the Armenian National Committee of Australia for endorsing Labor in the Prospect electorate—I believe I was the only Labor candidate it endorsed—and the Smithfield Armenian Scouts for assisting on election day. I thank David and Hermiz Shahan from the Assyrian Australian National Federation and the Assyrian Universal Alliance for their support. I also thank David for his public endorsement. I thank Assyrian Resource Centre Community Settlement Manager Carmen Lazar for her public endorsement.

I thank the many local school P&Cs that assisted as well and members and parents, especially the President of the Smithfield Public School P&C, Jodie Baker—I thank her for her public endorsement throughout the campaign. At the Tamil business chambers I acknowledge former President Sam Thevasaeyan and President Thiru Arumugan for their assistance in the campaign. Also from the Tamil community I thank Dr Chandrika Subramaniam for her public endorsement. I thank the 2019 Labor candidate for Seven Hills, Durga Owen, for fighting with me for upgrades to Wentworthville pools, the Toongabbie overpass, Toongabbie station and Pendle Hill station. I look forward to seeing her in the House in 2023. I thank the owners of Chemistworks Wetherill Park, John and Catherine Borger, for their advice in healthcare policy and support in the campaign.

From my campaign team, I thank my campaign field director, Max Kennedy, for his work to ensure I grew the margin by 7.5 per cent in the electorate of Prospect so that we now sit on 11 per cent in a safe Labor seat. I thank the volunteer coordinators, Annie Wang and Dilan Bogdanovski, for ensuring that there was an abundant number of volunteers. I also acknowledge Sophia Tao and Jayesh Joshi for their tireless efforts in the election campaign. I also thank the grassroots members within the branches of NSW Labor who allowed for the victory in Prospect. I thank the Greystanes-Pemulwuy branch members and the members in the Smithfield branch, especially George Barcha, Joe Yousif and Jack Akhrass for their hard work on the campaign trail and in pre-poll.

I thank Dennis Riddell and the Prospect branch, Kathlyn Collins and the Blacktown branch, the Toongabbie branch and the Wentworthville branch for turning out. Finally I thank Young Labor, which is the backbone of NSW Labor. I thank them all for their tireless hard work on the election campaign. I would like to acknowledge many other people, but I would run out of time. Finally and most importantly, I thank my wife, Bettina, our daughters and our extended family, who worked throughout the campaign and got us this solid win for Labor.

MIRANDA ELECTORATE

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (18:26): I speak today feeling deeply humbled and privileged to be re-elected to this place as the member for Miranda. Miranda is the beating heart of our shire, being home to our commercial centre and so many local businesses, an enviable waterway and lifestyle, sporting clubs and facilities, cultural clubs and so much more. But it is the people who reside within the electorate, and their volunteering and community spirit, who truly make Miranda so special. Aristotle once wrote:

... the form of government is best in which every man, whoever he is, can act best and live happily.

I am proud to be part of the Berejiklian team and a government that has been returned because of its strong track record of delivery and vision for this State. I truly believe this Government is one that delivers to ensure that our State thrives and its citizens are happy. Locally our plan for Miranda included making the daily commute easier by building stage one of the F6 and building a new commuter carpark for Jannali, investing \$81.5 million for eight new operating theatres and two new endoscopy suites at Sutherland Hospital so that residents can have surgery sooner and closer to home, and providing \$8.7 million to clear the maintenance backlog for every local public school in the Miranda electorate.

In addition to these items, the Government's plan for Miranda included building a new school hall for Jannali East Public School. I look forward to seeing these projects being delivered in our community and ensuring that Miranda remains, what I like to say is, the best place to live, to work and to raise a family. This journey, however, is not possible without the support of so many people along the way. My wonderful staff have diligently served the Miranda community over the past four years. I take this opportunity to highlight the efforts of those who were by my side during the election campaign. Vicki Poulos has been with me on this journey since my very first day.

Alessia Barilaro, who we have affectionately nicknamed "golden child", is one of the most intelligent and hardworking people I have ever met. De Yi Wu is a campaigning machine—she and Alessia were both out campaigning at train stations every morning and on weekends. I could not be prouder of them. Christian McLaughlan travelled all the way down from the Central Coast. I thank Erin Roditis and some past staff, Sophie Photios and Makaella Roditis. Many members have spoken about our campaign teams. I take this opportunity to highlight the efforts of my amazing campaign manager, Chris Downy, who is a former member. I cannot begin to express how much wisdom and how many fine words he has imparted along the way.

Carmelo Pesce, who is our wonderful mayor, is an absolute workhorse and seems to have an answer when it does not appear that there is an obvious way forward. I acknowledge Liz Straney, who was the campaign treasurer and processed so many things through the accounts, and the rest of the team, including Hassan Awada, Bill Meehan, James Meehan and Councillor Tom Croucher. But most importantly I would like to make it clear—as many other members have done in this place—that none of this happens without the help of our families, who sacrifice so much. They spend time with us day in and day out to make this amazing opportunity possible for us.

I highlight my mother and father, Marianna and Alexander Petinos. How nice it was to have them with me the other day as I was being sworn in as a member of Parliament. I thank them for taking time off work and supporting me the whole way through. I thank my siblings Christie Gavrinotis, Aaron Petinos and their partners Nikos Gavrinotis and Angelica Petinos for supporting me day in and day out. My family gave up my niece's first birthday to be on polling booths for me. Sharing my special day with her meant so much.

I thank my uncles and aunts Joe Agadakos, Susie Ganis, Bill Petinos and Denise Petinos for making all of this possible. I cannot begin to tell the House how privileged I feel to be here. I know how important it is for my family to go on this journey with me. I could not do it without them. I am so proud of them. I am so proud that they have indulged me by letting me do all of this. I was proud to share election night with them, particularly my grandmother Helen Petinos. I know that my grandparents are getting on, so knowing that they have now shared two elections with me is incredibly special. So I thank my family and the people of Miranda for believing in me. I promise all of them that I will not let them down.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I am sure the family of the member for Miranda is very proud of her.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (18:31): As a Minister and as her friend I am proud of the member for Miranda. Members on this side of the House are proud of everything she has achieved. She increased her margin in the recent election, which is an enormous testament to her diligence, honesty and care for a community that loves her. That was demonstrated by all of her hard work. I have known—better than many—what she has been through in order to achieve that result. That is why I am so proud of her. Her colleagues are pleased to have someone with her integrity and skill sitting with us on these benches. Her service in this Parliament makes this a better place. I could not be happier with the amazing result she has achieved. Well done.

CABRAMATTA INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY FESTIVAL

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (18:32): On 9 December 2018 I attended the International Human Rights Day Festival, which was organised by the Vietnamese community in Australia. The function was held in Freedom Plaza, Cabramatta. My electorate of Cabramatta is rich in diversity with respect to race, religion, culture and colour. It is these differences that make up and enrich our community. Cabramatta is home to many who have fled persecution in their homelands, which lacked basic human rights. They came here, in fear for their lives, from countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Today we welcome newer communities to south-west Sydney—refugees from Syria, Nigeria and other parts of Africa and the Middle East. We are proud to welcome these people to Australia and to give them a chance at life in a country where basic human rights exist. They have a chance to build a new life and to make something of themselves.

Like many in our community, I am a refugee. I was born in Egypt, where hardship and sickness took the lives of three of my siblings before my family was able to come to Australia and build a new life. We were welcomed by a country where, regardless of background, where we were from, what we looked like and what we thought or believed, we had value as human beings. Basic human rights are all about dignity, equality and mutual respect. It means one set of apartments can house people from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa at the same time. It means that in one house, one family can light incense and pray to the Lord Buddha, while next door another family can carry out their daily prayers of Islam.

It means that people from different political parties can come together on a Sunday morning without any petty bickering. Everyone deserves basic human rights, so when new communities come to our shores, to our suburbs, with their only "crime" being trying to provide a normal life for their families, be generous. We should be generous with our time, our help, and our heart. With this philosophy we will continue the great Australian tradition of giving everybody a fair go. Giving people a fair go is precisely what giving them their basic human rights is all about. It makes Australia the great country that it is. I congratulate the president of VCA in Australia, Mr Paul Nguyen, and his executive team on taking the lead and organising this great event.

KIAMA ELECTORATE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (18:37): Today I thank my wonderful electors of Kiama for their support at the 23 March election. Eight years ago the people of my electorate put their faith and trust in me. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve the community where I have lived and worked my entire life. I am just as passionate about getting things done for our community today as I was when I was first elected to Shoalhaven City Council in 2004. I am the only member on this side of the House to win a seat off Labor that had never been held by the Coalition before, and to increase the margin at each election. For the first time we won every single booth across the electorate. To

illustrate the significance of the support, the margin at booths between my vote in the lower House and the upper House Coalition vote was as high as 26 per cent.

Whilst Kiama was once a lifelong safe Labor seat, the results indicate that our community does not reward political or party games and it does not reward tub-thumpers and foot stampers; our community supports people who live their values, deliver on their promises and get things done. I am the first to acknowledge that I did not win the campaign alone; it was a disciplined, focused and united team that did. Before I start my long list of thanks, I commend our Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, Deputy Premier John Barilaro and our team for their strength and leadership.

Some of my strongest and most committed friends and supporters are those who slogged it out in the pre-polling campaign. We simply could not have done it without the White family—Len, Sarah, Liz and Grant—Ken Watson, Bob Johnstone, John Willmott, Greg and Lorraine Montgomery, Bobbie East, Graeme McMurtie, Greg Stanton, Tony Emery, Lorraine Penhall, Nick Cusack, Margo Johnstone, and John Lennon. I thank them for their commitment and dedication. I appreciate the time they all took out of their busy lives to support me in this laborious task. I acknowledge and thank those who took on the challenging role of being booth captains and senior campaigners, ensuring that all the polling booths were fully manned and dressed to perfection. I thank Councillor Nathan Cattell, Ken Levy, David Gray, David Gregory, Phil Motby, Wes Hindmarsh, Chris Bevan, Oliver Sieur, Leith Salem, Stephen Groves, Mark Way, Chris Rath, Serena Copley, Mark Croxford, Andrew Woods, Scott Jobson, Jesse Martin, Serena Copley, Robyn Watson, Councillor Andrew Guile, Adam Straney, David Heffernan, Jackson Calverley, Brayden Wedd and Daryl Clingan.

More than 400 people helped us on polling day—the most I have ever had. Most of them were not Liberal Party members but supporters who wanted practical and positive plans. Time prevents me from mentioning all of them but they should know that I am grateful to each and every one of them. It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge my office staff—Ben Blackburn, Bryan Fishpool and Paula Turnbull—who have been with me for three elections but, most importantly, for their outstanding work in our office; my office manager, Melissa Jobson, whom I could not live without; and Mia Watson, who has recently been elected the first ever female president of the University of Wollongong Liberal Club—thank you. My former Liberal Club president colleague James Parish is a great mate and wonderful friend. While I am talking about James, I congratulate him on passing the bar exam. He is an outstanding advocate and a formidable opponent at the bar.

I pay special tribute to Councillor Cameron Walters, who was a campaign dynamo. His efforts were simply outstanding and I am so proud of all that he has achieved and continues to do. He was always there when I needed him and I simply could not have done it without him. I know he will go far. To Mark Corxford, I am not sure if people really know how hard he worked, but I do. His daily efforts and outstanding advice for our campaign will never be forgotten. When I first met Henry Streamer I knew he was a special kid. He is an honest, smart and decent human being. I am so proud of him and I have no doubt he will accomplish many great things, whatever it is he decides to do. I first met James Malin as part of the Kiama Electorate Student Leaders Forum and I could have never known on that day that several years later he would play a critical role in my election campaign.

James is a young person with every good quality that one could want in a friend and supporter. He is honest, brilliant, loyal and dedicated. I cannot begin to tell him how happy I am to have him as part of my ministerial team, and I have no doubt his contribution will be enormous. But the most critical was my campaign director and, in this instance, one of my closest friends, Paul Ell. All members have people to help them through challenging campaigns, none of them has anyone as good as Paul. I have had the enormous privilege of watching Paul grow—from being dux of his local high school, working in my electorate office, graduating in law from Wollongong University and being admitted as a solicitor, to running a campaign that delivered the best result ever for the Liberal Party in Kiama. Paul will do great things in the future and I look forward not only to helping him but also to watching him do them all.

To my family, particularly my wonderful parents, Malcolm and Margaret—from being told that I would not amount to much because of my disability, to standing here in my third term as a Minister in this Government—I say thank you for making me the person I am today. They are the best parents a son could have. Mum in particular has always gone above and beyond. I love them both very much. Finally, to the people of the Kiama electorate. We have so many things to do. We have more goals to accomplish and results to deliver. They have given me the greatest honour of my life and I will always do my very best to be their true and faithful servant. Let's get it done.

Ms ELENi PETINOS: I place on record my congratulations to my dear friend, Minister, and the member for Kiama. He is one of the most hardworking and inspirational people one could ever meet. I am so proud of the result he achieved for this Government at the last election in Kiama. Many new members have taken the opportunity to visit his electorate office to learn what he does to ensure his success locally. So many of us have learnt from him. We are all truly proud of him and know that despite his disability he will inspire the next

generation of young people coming through. People are judged on their ability. I have no doubt that he will continue to strive and achieve greatness in his new role as a Minister.

COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:41): The Cootamundra electorate is the seat of small communities. Across its almost 35,000 square kilometres are spread villages and towns with communities that are tight knit and well accustomed to looking after each other. On Anzac Day it was my privilege to be invited to several commemorative events. I was welcomed by the communities of Wombat, Wallendbeen, Temora and Jugiong; each of them gathering to remember. As dawn broke across New South Wales, the small village of Wombat and surrounds paid beautiful tribute to the ordinary men and women who left home, never to return. Cadets from the nearby town of Young and the Murrumburrah Light Horse Heritage Troop assembled to honour those who had served our country and to remember the community's losses.

The commemoration at nearby Wallendbeen was just as moving and those gathered were just as grateful for the sacrifices of its sons and daughters. The service in that tiny village with a huge heart was a touching and thoughtful experience. Temora is a larger town. It is home to the Temora Aviation Museum, from which a spitfire performed flypasts at Springdale, Wallendbeen, Cootamundra, Junee and Temora. The sound of a Merlin engine passing overhead was a stirring experience and gave all who heard it a tangible link to the past. The keynote speech at Temora was given by Lieutenant Adam Hoare. I have known Lieutenant Hoare since he was a determined boy with a huge heart. He always gave his all in competitive swimming in Temora and beyond. He is now a strong and wise man, a soldier and a role model. He gave inspiration to all who heard his speech.

The day finished at Jugiong, where the 7th Light Horse Gundagai Troop gave us yet another tangible reminder of military service. Communities gathered in large numbers at all the events. I was inspired to note that even the youngest members of the villages and towns participated. It is imperative that we honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Men and women of all backgrounds, ordinary people, found themselves in extraordinary circumstances, answered the call and, ultimately, laid down their lives. But Anzac Day is so much more than that. It is a day when we reflect on the Anzac spirit, an ethic that arose from the scorching flames of war. The Anzac spirit speaks of a determination, a dedication and a selfless good humour that is part of being Australian. When faced with the grim reality of war, our sons and daughters gave the best of themselves. They knew what needed to be done, regardless of how frightening that may have been, and they set forward with their heads held high.

The Anzac spirit lives on in our twenty-first century military and it has become a defining characteristic in the very communities which these brave souls called home. Even in this day and age life in regional New South Wales is full of challenges and adversity. I have no need to remind the House of the difficulties that the land can throw at us. Extreme weather events and the need to travel huge distances are enough to test the resolve of even the strongest of us. The Anzac spirit reminds us that even when the chips are down, when a situation is looking its worst, we possess within ourselves untapped reserves of strength. Sometimes life in the Cootamundra electorate can be a stiff test of these reserves.

Storms earlier this year wreaked destruction in Young and Cootamundra, causing hardship for many hardworking families. State Emergency Services [SES] personnel gave the best of themselves, answering calls for help due to flooding, roof damage and fallen trees. SES volunteers in Young and Harden were tasked with more jobs in January and February than they had performed in the past three years. Staff from Hilltops Council and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council were determined to make good the damage as quickly as they could. Each of them worked long hours and made sure that they discharged their responsibilities fully—ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, answering the call to serve. I call upon all members in this House today to remember the dedication, good humour and sense of duty shown by not only our armed forces but also the men, women and, indeed, children who make up and serve our communities. The Anzac spirit which has come to define this nation lives strongly in us all.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:46 until
Tuesday 28 May 2019 at 12:00.**