



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday, 13 October 2020**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Presiding Officers .....	3813
Absence of the Speaker.....	3813
Business of the House.....	3813
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Condolence Motion .....	3813
Rulings .....	3813
Legislative Assembly Chamber .....	3813
Business of the House.....	3813
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Question Time .....	3813
Notices .....	3813
Presentation.....	3813
Bills.....	3813
Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020.....	3813
Second Reading Debate .....	3813
Consideration in Detail .....	3816
Third Reading .....	3818
Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020 .....	3818
Second Reading Debate .....	3818
Announcements .....	3822
Parliament House Information Technology.....	3822
Members .....	3822
Member for Fairfield .....	3822
Member for Balmain.....	3822
Member for Heathcote.....	3822
Member for North Shore .....	3822
Bills.....	3822
Adoption Legislation Amendment (Integrated Birth Certificates) Bill 2020 .....	3822
Police Amendment (Promotions) Bill 2020 .....	3822
Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Courts and Civil) Bill 2020 .....	3822
Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 .....	3822
Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Crimes) Bill 2020 .....	3822
Assent .....	3822
Question Time .....	3822
The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian .....	3822
The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian .....	3823
The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian .....	3824
The Hon Gladys Berejiklian .....	3825
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital .....	3826
Documents .....	3826
Register of Disclosures .....	3826
Parliamentary Ethics Adviser .....	3827

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Reports .....	3827
Law Enforcement Conduct Commission .....	3827
Reports .....	3827
Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act .....	3827
Reports .....	3827
Committees .....	3827
Public Accounts Committee .....	3827
Reports .....	3827
Legislation Review Committee .....	3827
Reports .....	3827
Petitions .....	3827
Petitions Received .....	3827
Bills .....	3828
Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020 .....	3828
Second Reading Debate .....	3828
Condolences .....	3830
The Hon. John Joseph Fahey, AC, Former Premier of New South Wales .....	3830
Bills .....	3852
Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020 .....	3852
Second Reading Debate .....	3852
Third Reading .....	3855
Private Members' Statements .....	3855
Holsworthy Electorate Active Transport Projects .....	3855
Australian Catholic University Blacktown Campus .....	3856
Cootamundra Electorate Agriculture .....	3857
Lions Club of Berowra .....	3858
Blacktown City Lions Club .....	3859
Councillor John Martin, OAM .....	3860
Art North 2020 .....	3860
Paul Angus Bryant .....	3861
Lane Cove Electorate Recycling Centre .....	3862
Tribute to Susan Ryan, AO .....	3863
International College of Management, Sydney .....	3864
Lismore Electorate Homelessness .....	3864
Lower Creek Road Infrastructure .....	3865
Dubbo Electorate Awards .....	3866
Bankstown Master Plan .....	3867
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day .....	3868
Lakemba Electorate Community Organisations .....	3869
New South Wales Politics .....	3870
Tribute to Norm and Beryl Butters .....	3871
Icare .....	3871

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Gandhi Centre Australia .....	3872
National Carers Week.....	3873
Port Stephens Electorate Health Services.....	3874
Community Recognition Statements .....	3875
Tribute to Phil O'sullivan, OAM .....	3875
Lucia Wilcox .....	3875
Coffs Coast Jump Club .....	3875
Sydney Rohingya Football Club.....	3875
Tribute to Beulah Midson.....	3875
Batyr .....	3876
One Meal .....	3876
Lucille Mckenna, OAM.....	3876
Aaron Bykerk.....	3876
Yarramalong Valley Scarecrow Competition.....	3876
Dubbo Volunteer of the Year Awards .....	3877
Cassie Elbourn .....	3877
Marrar Campdraft Association .....	3877
Charlestown Azzurri Football Club.....	3877
Penshurst West Public School .....	3878
Myall U3a Writers' Group .....	3878
Tiernan Cartwright.....	3878
Atul and Kamini Kumar .....	3878
Coffs Harbour Pyc .....	3878
Community First Step.....	3879
Paramount Tennis Club .....	3879
International Allied Health Professionals Day .....	3879
Temora High School.....	3879
Medowie Mumpreneurs.....	3879
Sutherland Shire Historical Society.....	3880
Options Theatre Company .....	3880
Coffs Harbour Garden Club.....	3880
Binya Public School .....	3880
Pat Guild .....	3881
Mid Lachlan Valley Rural Fire Service .....	3881
Mccallums Hill Public School .....	3881
St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall .....	3881
Bankstown Sports and Cup of Kindness .....	3881
Taylor Kirkwood Young.....	3882
Russell Bridge.....	3882
Tribute to the Late Warren Mckinnon of Lismore .....	3882
Electorate Visit by Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, Her Excellency Ines Almeida .....	3882
Alesco Students at Community Kitchen.....	3882

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Pink Patrol Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club .....	3883
Labour Day .....	3883
Surf Life Saving .....	3883
Rankin Park Landscape .....	3883
Dr Matthew Dun .....	3883
Mark Nielsen Jnr .....	3884
Sara Drebber .....	3884
Western Sydney Volunteer of the Year Award Winner Sinilia Radijevovic .....	3884
Kylie Kehane and Rene Chang, Verona School .....	3884
Byron Youth Theatre .....	3885
In Hearts Wake .....	3885
Norma Marin .....	3885
Josephine Guyer .....	3885
Maxine Colligan .....	3885
Bank of Queensland, Penrith .....	3886
Tony Joice .....	3886
Ashley Scott .....	3886
Marcel De Maria, Gift of Bread .....	3886
Maltese Independence Day .....	3887
Batyr .....	3887
June Lunsmann .....	3887
Damien Carlton, St John Bosco .....	3887
Marilyn Urch and Sandra Hudson .....	3887
Damien Carlton .....	3888
60th Wedding Anniversary—Russell and Gay Pinch .....	3888
Hugh Mahon .....	3888
Alexi Boyd .....	3888
2020 Group Six Grand Finals .....	3888
Cut it Out Hair Design .....	3888
Get Ready Weekend .....	3889
Bowral Men's Shed .....	3889
Discovery by Westmead Institute for Medical Research .....	3889
Dr Jay Chandra AM .....	3889
Mates Row the Atlantic for Mental Health .....	3889
Mosman Rugby Club Grand Final Weekend .....	3890
City of Sydney Food and Face Masks .....	3890
Kelly Brown .....	3890
Imogen McDonald .....	3890
Michele Jedlicka .....	3890
Julie Charlton .....	3891
National Police Remembrance Day .....	3891
Lmmhs Carer Support and Education Network .....	3891

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Health My Way at the Place .....	3891
Pride in Sport .....	3891
Life Education's Work Through COVID-19 .....	3892
Eliza Martin .....	3892
Sylvania High School Captains .....	3892
Gymea Technology High School Captains .....	3892
Michael Ward, Pet Scanner .....	3892
Maitland Volunteers for Palliative Care .....	3893
Good Luck Maitland HSC Students .....	3893
HSC Students .....	3893
Theo Scholl .....	3893
Cowra Under 13s Magpies .....	3894
Ken Rutledge .....	3894
Tacking Point Public School—Tournament of the Minds .....	3894

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 13 October 2020**

*Presiding Officers*

## ABSENCE OF THE SPEAKER

**The Clerk** announced the absence of the Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker (The Hon. Leslie Williams)** took the chair at 12:00.

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

*Business of the House*

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to provide that business before the House be interrupted at 3.00 p.m. to permit the moving of a motion of condolence regarding the Hon. John Joseph Fahey.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Rulings*

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER (12:00:58):** Further to the ruling of the Speaker on 28 July 2020, in the current circumstances and until further notice the Speaker's gallery will be acknowledged as part of the Chamber for proceedings. Members should refrain from sitting in the Speaker's gallery during the condolence motion to be considered later today as the front two rows of the gallery will be reserved for the friends and family of the late John Fahey.

*Business of the House*

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: QUESTION TIME

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide that during each question time in the sitting weeks commencing 12 October and 19 October 2020:

- (1) No question shall be asked after the answering of 5 questions.
- (2) Ministers will not be asked questions by Government members in question time in that period.
- (3) Ministers present in question time will not answer questions on behalf of other Ministers.
- (4) That by 11.00 a.m. each day the Leader of the House will notify by email the Opposition and the crossbench which Ministers will be present in question time that day and that the Manager of Opposition Business may advise by 1.00 p.m. if alternative Ministers need to be present.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Notices*

## PRESENTATION

*[During the giving of notices of motions]*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Bankstown about the length of notices of motions. The member's notice of motion was more than a page in length and took over a minute to deliver. I ask that the member consider those points before presenting another notice of motion.

*Bills*

## STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2020

### Second Reading Debate

**Debate resumed from 23 September 2020.**



**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (12:18:26):** I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020. The Opposition does not oppose the bill. I note the amendments that the Government will move that will, amongst other things, remove two contentious items from the bill. I thank the Government for that and note that the Opposition will support the amendments. The bill is presented as making a large number of purportedly non-controversial and minor changes to a very wide range of Acts and instruments. It is a mechanism that has been used by governments of all persuasions for some decades. The first schedule has a range of amendments.

Schedule 2 is entitled "Amendments by way of statute law revision" and covers things ranging from reformatting provisions, capitalising some letters and correcting cross-referencing to correcting spelling errors—for example, "S" instead of "C" in "practised" and so on. Schedule 3 has amendments flowing from administrative changes. Schedule 4 contains amendments resulting from the dissolution of Roads and Maritime Services. Schedule 5 contains the repeal of redundant Acts and instruments. Schedule 6 has savings and transitional provisions. I will comment specifically on item [40] of schedule 1 to the bill, which involves an amendment by way of addition to the Public Health Act 2010. I do not speak in opposition to the provision, but with a degree of unquiet.

The provision seems to allow the health Minister to issue a public health order requiring compliance with a publication as enforced for the time being. That seems to allow an order requiring compliance with something that does not yet exist, or that exists but may change, and compliance is still required with the new obligation that does not exist. I concede that there are similar types of provisions in other legislation, but it is troubling in principle. Granted, there are other precedents and, given the realities of COVID-19, and that section 7 public health orders are limited to 90 days, Labor does not oppose the provision. As I indicated, the Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:20:41):** I thank the shadow Attorney General for his contribution to debate on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020. I note that he does not oppose the amendments put forward by the Attorney General. From the outset, I congratulate the Attorney General and his team on the fact that they have been willing to work with the Opposition to remove the amendments that caused some concern. The bill continues the statute law revision program that has been in place for more than 30 years. Again, I congratulate the team from the Attorney General's office on their work on this very lengthy bill. As the Attorney General noted in his second reading speech, statute law bills have featured in most sessions of Parliament since around 1984. They are a very effective method of making minor policy changes and maintaining the quality of the New South Wales statute book.

The presentation of statute law bills to the House allows Parliament to consider amendments that have been identified as necessary since the passage of the last such bill. I note the comments from the shadow Attorney General. Statute law bills are an important aspect of the Parliament's business. Without them, other amending legislation would become cluttered with unrelated changes, or New South Wales would be left with known errors in its laws, which would be unacceptable. Traditionally, statute law bills contain two species of proposals: those proposed by Ministers and their agencies, and those of a pure statute law revision nature identified by the Parliamentary Counsel.

The content of statute law bills necessarily changes with each sitting period of Parliament. A statute law bill will often contain changes in a schedule to the bill where the changes share a common theme. Alternatively, a statute law bill may contain a schedule that includes amendments consequent on the enactment of an otherwise unrelated Act earlier in the parliamentary sitting period. Statute law bills protect the currency and the accessibility of the New South Wales statute book by making changes, such as removing errant cross-references in legislation; removing redundant or obsolete provisions in legislation; amending an amending provision of uncommenced legislation to deal with a change in circumstances from when the uncommenced legislation was passed, which is of particular interest to the member for Oatley; replacing references to public sector agencies and other bodies created by statute where the names of those agencies or bodies have changed; and correcting typographical errors, which is a particular favourite of mine.

The next amendment is a particular favourite of mine: correcting typographical errors. I note that the member for Vacluse is in the Chamber. When she was the Attorney General she was diligent in bringing these sorts of amendments to the House. These amendments will ensure the work of this Parliament in enacting laws and ensuring that they remain of the highest calibre will continue with as little disruption as possible to its usual business. While these matters may seem trivial, it is not possible for a typographical error, once passed into law, to be amended except by a later law. The practice of the Parliament in dealing with statute law bills is intended to ensure that the passage of bills remains a routine avenue for the making of these housekeeping legislative amendments.

While these important amendments may seem trivial to many, it is important that errant cross-references and redundant or obsolete provisions in legislation are removed. As I mentioned earlier, the bill amends an amending provision and replaces references to public sector agencies, which by their nature change their titles at times. It is important that the laws be kept up to date and correct titles are allocated to the agencies. This very extensive bill, drafted by the Attorney General and his team, will play an important role in the day-to-day functions of this Parliament. The Government will typically make a briefing available to Opposition and crossbench members to explain the proposed changes in the bill. I acknowledge again the great work done by the Attorney General and his team for their willingness to work in a bipartisan way on these issues.

**Dr Hugh McDermott:** Hear, hear!

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** Exactly. I note the member for Prospect agrees. In the shadow Attorney General's speech earlier today he acknowledged that there were some issues but following consultation the concerning amendments were removed. This is how we should work through the processes together to make sure that good legislation and any corrections are made appropriately. In addition, where a proposed amendment is objected to by a member of the Parliament, the Government will consider withdrawal of the proposal to allow the passage of otherwise uncontroversial legislation—and that is exactly what took place this morning in this Parliament. Many people do not realise the importance of a miscellaneous provisions bill. It plays a huge role in the day-to-day running of the Parliament. I congratulate again the Attorney General and his team on bringing this 83-page bill to the House. I am pleased that we have been able to work constructively with the Opposition to come to an agreement whereby the bill will pass without any amendments from either side. I commend the bill to the House.

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (12:28:20):** I contribute to debate on the Statue Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020, which mostly makes minor amendments to clarify existing legislation and ensures its consistency under New South Wales law. I appreciate the undertaking given by the Attorney General on 23 September 2020 in his second reading speech to work with any member of the House and to provide further information if any concerns were raised or clarification was sought about the bill. Bills such as this are essential for the machinery of government. There is no reason that we cannot work together as a Parliament in a bipartisan manner to ensure that our laws are kept up to date, that they address minor amendments, that they function as intended and that they are reviewed and passed. The bill makes amendments to over 40 Acts and amends eight instruments. I will outline some of the amendments proposed and highlight some key amendments of importance. I join the shadow Attorney General, my colleague Mr Paul Lynch, and my NSW Labor colleagues in not opposing the bill.

I draw the attention of the House first to the amendments in the bill as they apply to the Residential Tenancies Act, particularly as they impact on domestic violence. One of the numerous amendments of the bill is to the Better Regulation Amendment Act 2019, which modifies a clause that amends the Residential Tenancies Act 2010. This amendment will enable the Minister to delegate the issuing of compliance notices to appropriate individuals employed in the Department of Customer Service. The amendment narrows the definition of a competent person who is able to make a declaration regarding a domestic violence issue that causes a tenant to request an early termination of their lease. This change is unlikely to have a material impact on the ability of those suffering from domestic violence to obtain a declaration. However, the new definition of a competent person requires that government agents and employees hold a specialist registration under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law rather than merely being eligible for that registration.

The ability to break a lease without penalty if a tenant is at risk of domestic violence is essential; thus this amendment ensures that the individuals working in this sector and with domestic violence victims have specialist qualifications to deal with this very sensitive issue. It is imperative that government agencies employ the appropriate individuals to undertake this role. Domestic violence victims are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society and must be addressed delicately. We must protect and assist those who are suffering under this insidious threat and support them to move to safer accommodation without delay or the risk of further harm. I will continue to stand in the House and support amendments, no matter how minor, that provide effective and efficient protection to all members of our society, specifically domestic violence victims and survivors.

I turn to the serving of notices under email in numerous Acts. The bill addresses several provisions that will modernise the provision of notices under the Stock Medicines Act 1989, the Local Land Services Act 2013, the Hemp Industry Act 2008 and the Animal Research Act 1985. It will allow the notices to be served via email rather than in person or by post. This will reduce the administrative burden on both the New South Wales government agencies serving the notices and on organisations receiving the notices. Similar changes are made to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

These changes will improve the process of the winding up of non-active incorporated associations. Many non-active associations do not maintain their mailing address, which leads to a high propensity for returned mail. This amendment will allow for notices to be sent via email when there is reason to believe that a mailing address

is inactive. This is an appropriate reform that helps to improve processes given changing technology and expectations of communications systems. Further, at a time when Australians are trying to deal with the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic, this much-needed amendment allows us to adapt to the everyday challenges that our governmental agencies face. The amendment ensures our processes stay up to date with the contemporary changes and challenges our society is facing.

Amendments have also been proposed to the Ombudsman Act 1974 under schedule 1 to the bill which allow for the Ombudsman to produce a verbal response to a complaint if the complaint is made verbally. This amendment has been introduced to respond to complaints in the most appropriate and time-effective manner. However, if the complainant asks the Ombudsman for a written response, or the Ombudsman believes that a written response is more appropriate, this will still occur. It is appropriate in some circumstances for the Ombudsman to give a response orally, especially for simple matters. This reduces administrative burden and allows for government agencies to approach issues in a more vigorous and effective manner.

The amendments in this bill are relatively minor but essential for the continued functioning of our legislation in New South Wales. The amendments provide for a more appropriate and effective process to deal with administrative issues and remove the burden placed on government agencies. Further, the amendments under the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Act 2019, which modify a clause that amends the Residential Tenancies Act 2010, is also essential so that the delicate process of working with domestic violence victims and removing them from the risk of harm is adequately ensured. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (12:34:48):** In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Liverpool, Terrigal and Prospect for their contributions to debate on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020. I foreshadow that at the consideration in detail stage I will move Government amendments Nos 1 to 11 on sheet c2020-146E. I commend the bill to the House.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

**Consideration in detail requested by Mr Mark Speakman.**

#### **Consideration in Detail**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** By leave: I will deal with the bill in one group of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 3 and schedules 1 to 6 be agreed to.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (12:36:32):** By leave: I move Government amendments Nos 1 to 11 on sheet c2020-146E in globo:

**No. 1 Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983 No 145**

Pages 5 and 6, Schedule 1.7, line 14 on page 5 to line 11 on page 6. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 2 Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983 No 145**

Page 6, Schedule 1.7, lines 27–30. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

Item [12] makes a consequential amendment.

**No. 3 Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Regulation 2014**

Pages 6 and 7, Schedule 1.8, line 35 on page 6 to line 9 on page 7. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 4 Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Regulation 2014**

Page 7, Schedule 1.8, lines 13–14. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 5 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203**

Page 10, Schedule 1.16, lines 9–35. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 6 Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17**

Pages 18 and 19, Schedule 1.31, line 26 on page 18 to line 14 on page 19. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 7 Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 No 17**

Page 19, Schedule 1.31, lines 29–31. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

Item [13] makes a consequential amendment.

**No. 8 Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 No 64**

Page 34, Schedule 2.17, line 19. Omit "the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment".

Insert instead "Regional NSW".

**No. 9 Gene Technology (GM Crop Moratorium) Act 2003 No 12**

Page 34, Schedule 2.18[1], lines 24–25. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

Omit "the Department of Industry and Investment".

Insert instead "Regional NSW".

**No. 10 Farrer Memorial Research Scholarship Fund Act 1930 No 38**

Page 43, Schedule 3.11, lines 14–15. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

Omit "the Department of Industry and Investment".

Insert instead "Regional NSW".

**No. 11 Local Land Services Act 2013 No 51**

Page 47, Schedule 3.29[1], lines 9–11. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

Insert ", Industry" after "Planning".

The proposed amendments correct four references to departments in schedules 2 and 3 to the bill. Those schedules include minor technical amendments to legislation consequent on machinery-of-government changes and a drafting error in which references to departments in four Acts were incorrectly updated in relation to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Department of Regional NSW. The Government amendments will update and correct those references.

Following concerns raised with me by the member for Liverpool on behalf of the member for Auburn, the Government amendments withdraw from the bill the proposed amendments to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Regulation 2014 and the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001 relating to membership of the trusts constituted under those Acts. The amendments about which concerns have been raised are appropriate for inclusion in a statute law revision or SLR bill; however, as foreshadowed in the second reading speech on this bill, if any particular matter of concern cannot be resolved and is likely to delay the passage of the bill, the Government is prepared to consider withdrawing the matter from the bill.

The intention of the amendments that have caused concern is to update the membership of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust and the Parramatta Park Trust. The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust currently comprises seven persons appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the Minister, and one trustee appointed by the governor on the recommendation of a majority of the members of the community consultative committee established under the Act. The proposed amendments in the SLR bill update the membership of the trust so that it consists of the chief executive of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, the chairperson of the community consultative committee and up to six other persons appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the Minister. The Parramatta Park Trust currently comprises seven persons appointed by the Minister. The proposed amendments in the SLR bill would update the membership so that it consists of the chief executive of the Parramatta Park Trust and up to seven other persons appointed by the Minister. In both cases, the amendments would ensure that the chief executive of the relevant trust is an ex officio member of that trust.

These amendments are appropriate for inclusion in a statute law revision bill. A briefing was offered to the member for Liverpool and the member for Auburn to explain the amendments, but it was declined. So as not to delay passage of the bill, the Government is willing to withdraw those provisions from it. Following concerns raised by the Leader of the Opposition in the other place, the Government also proposes to withdraw from the bill a provision to amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The provision sought to correct an unintended consequence of 2017 amendments to the Act, which resulted in a consent authority no longer being able to issue subdivision certificates under part 6 of the Act. The amendment was appropriate for inclusion in a statute law revision bill; however, a briefing by Government staff explaining it was not sought. The Government is also willing to withdraw this provision from the bill so as not to delay its passage.

Details of the amendments being moved are as follows. Amendments Nos 1 and 2 relate to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983. The amendments omit provisions in schedule 1.7 to the bill relating to membership of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust and omit consequential amendments. Amendments Nos 3 and 4 relate to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Regulation 2014. The amendments omit provisions in

schedule 1.8 to the bill, which are consequential to amendments relating to membership of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust in the parent Act. Amendment No. 5 omits schedule 1.16 to the bill, which will amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Amendments Nos 6 and 7 relate to the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001. The amendments omit provisions in schedule 1.31 to the bill relating to membership of the Parramatta Park Trust and omit consequential amendments.

Amendment No. 8 corrects the amendment to section 4 of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 in schedule 2.17 to the bill. The correct reference is to Regional NSW, not to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Amendment No. 9 corrects the amendment to section 4 (1) of the Gene Technology (GM Crop Moratorium) Act 2003 in schedule 2.18 [1] to the bill. The correct reference is to Regional NSW, not to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Amendment No. 10 corrects the amendment to section 2 of the Farrer Memorial Research Scholarship Fund Act 1930 in schedule 3.11 to the bill. The correct reference is to Regional NSW, not to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Amendment No. 11 corrects the amendment to section 60K (5) of the Local Land Services Act 2013 in schedule 3.29 [1]. The correct reference is to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, not to Regional NSW. I commend the amendments to the House.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The question is that Government amendments Nos 1 to 11 on sheet c2020-146E be agreed to.

**Amendments agreed to.**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The question is that clauses 1 to 3 and schedules 1 to 6 as amended be agreed to.

**Clauses 1 to 3 and schedules 1 to 6 as amended agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

## **ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENSING) BILL 2020**

### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from 16 September 2020.**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (12:42:44):** I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Road Transport (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020. I state at the outset, and I advised the Minister's office the other day, that the Opposition will not oppose the bill. However, we are concerned about the Government pursuing further digital initiatives in light of its poor record on cybersecurity and digital issues. Digital driver licences were first introduced in 2017, with a trial in Dubbo. The trial was subsequently expanded to Sydney's eastern suburbs and a statewide rollout commenced last year. The rollout was initially delayed by seven months, only for the service to crash when it launched. As *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 29 October 2019:

The digital driver's licence that was meant to allow citizens to display their ID on smartphones has suffered from an outage under immense load following its launch this week. The delay of the statewide launch of digital driver licence, and the crash when it was finally launched, does not inspire confidence that this Government has the competence to deliver new digital initiatives. Clearly, there is strong demand for digital services. The Opposition believes that the digital initiative, when well done, can make it easier for citizens to interact with government and fulfil legal obligations. In theory, this bill will make it easier for people both to provide their identity using a digital driver licence and to apply for a licence. In light of those potential benefits, the Opposition will not oppose this bill. For the last 25 years, particularly with digital transformation, governments of all persuasions have been working with industry and government agencies to make things work efficiently.

Government information should be open and accessible to everyone. I represent one of the most multicultural communities in Australia and for many of my constituents to access information online it is very difficult. For example, for the past couple of years my office has organised with council and a number of government services, together with the Energy and Water Ombudsman, to provide an outreach service. We notify people over the age of 60 years that a number of interpreters and translators are available for them. Last year in Earlwood we provided 15 services and during the course of one day approximately 500 people attended. It was all about them being able to access Legal Aid, investigate discounts on water and energy bills or talk to people face to face. Now this could be done online but, as I said, for many it is very difficult.

My father finished his schooling in about year 10 or year 11. My mother did not get quite get that far. She finished night school to the equivalent to sixth class. My father's English is better than my mother's but after 50 years in Australia they have managed to make their way. Over the years because of technology—whether it be

with banking or other services—they have sought help from my brother and me to fill out forms or read documents. No doubt many members in this place have heard similar stories from their constituents or they have filled out forms for them. In fact, in my family I sometimes call myself the form filler. From the time we could read and write English our parents asked us to help explain what certain documents meant. I guess that is part of what people do when growing up in a migrant family.

It is important not to leave out people of my parents' age who did not have a formal education when they came to Australia because they had to go to work. Although they do not have an IT system set up, my dad could get online but it would be more difficult for my mother. Governments of all persuasions have to consider how to help those of a certain age in our communities who speak a second or third language and might not be able to access information online because of their lack of command of the English language. They are not inept or incompetent; they just did not have an opportunity to learn English.

Last week I was at Riverstone with my colleague the member for Blacktown, a former mayor of Blacktown, representatives of the local Chamber of Commerce and many businesses and community groups, and we talked a lot about this outreach and digital transformation. At the meeting a number of people put an interesting statistic to me. We went there to talk about the Government fast-tracking Service NSW in the Riverstone electorate. People from the neighbourhood centre and local businesses said this impacted about 30 per cent of people, not necessarily just those from a multicultural background but also people facing certain socio-economic or housing situations. That was quite alarming to me.

In light of everything that has happened in relation to cybersecurity, which I will address shortly, the Government has to make sure that it does not leave people behind when moving into digital transformation. We started that when we were in government, particularly prior to the Olympics when a lot of digital initiatives were taking place. We have to look at the job opportunities available to many people in greater western Sydney, in particular our young people, who speak a second language. The opportunity for trade and investment in the digital space is phenomenal; however, the Opposition wishes to place on record its strong concerns about potential adverse impacts if the Government becomes complacent or negligent about cybersecurity and privacy risks.

In essence, the bill contains three elements. Firstly, it will give digital driver licences the same legal status as traditional physical plastic cards, which we welcome. In theory, the in-built security features in a digital driver licence should mean that it is at least as resistant as a plastic card—if not more so. However, as the use of the digital driver licence becomes more prevalent the incentives for cybercriminals to find ways to circumvent the security features will become stronger. The Government must not become complacent about the risk of fraud. The second element of the bill is the expansion of the range of situations in which information can be released from the central driver licence database.

Currently, information can only be released from that database to allow a digital driver licence to be issued. The bill will provide new options for information to be released, including for the purpose of verifying the authenticity of a digital driver licence. In theory, this should make the digital driver licence a robust form of identification by allowing real-time verification against the Government's main database. However, increasing the range of situations in which that database can be accessed increases the risk that cybercriminals may be able to find a back door and hack into the database. The Government must not be complacent or naive about this cybersecurity risk because it is real, and I stand here to tell members that it is real. Many members would have read about my experience over the weekend; I am one of the 186,000 people whose information has been stolen by cybercriminals because of the Service NSW cyber attack. I will get to that in a moment.

The third element of the bill is an expansion of information-sharing arrangements among agencies which administer licences. That is sensible and practical and it absolutely makes sense. The third element will allow a person who has provided information for one licence application or renewal to consent for that information to be shared with other agencies, which also makes sense. In theory, the bill should make it easier for people to apply for a licence or to renew a licence because they will not have to supply the same information to multiple agencies. However, there is always a risk that information may be shared or accessed inappropriately. Ongoing monitoring by independent bodies like the NSW Privacy Commissioner and the Auditor-General of New South Wales will be essential.

While delivering programs and services digitally has its advantages, we cannot afford to be naive about the risks. Earlier this month, after a lot of pressure from the Opposition, the Government admitted that 3.8 million documents relating to 186,000 people had been stolen from Service NSW by cybercriminals. I received a letter from Service NSW. We now understand that 47 Service NSW staff email accounts were accessed using a phishing attack in late March 2020. It was detected in April 2020, which is what we were advised in May 2020 when Service NSW talked about it publicly.

I have a lot of questions about that time period. What happened between this cyber attack being detected in April 2020 and the public finding out about it in May? Was the Minister advised? Who knew, and when? When were authorities notified? There is very scant information. It was mentioned a couple of times and there was a press release, but there has been no full explanation in this place about exactly what happened. I urge the Minister responsible to tell the people of New South Wales the full extent of this cyber attack, as well as what his department did, how it managed this situation, when he was notified, what they did and what decisions were made. There are a lot of grey areas of which the public is not aware.

It is very serious if a cyber actor can get into Service NSW, which is a central hub that runs 30 programs and contains myriad personal information. I know that constituents of mine have raised concerns about whether their information is protected when they apply for a licence or a driving lesson. These people have firearms licences, business documents, Revenue NSW information—Service NSW contains some of our most private and sensitive information. Regardless of political persuasion—this applies to the Labor Party as well—a democratically elected government has a responsibility and a duty to make sure that the information of its citizens is protected, that it is secure and safe and that in encouraging its citizens to move their information online there are comparable security measures put in place.

Some 2½ years ago the Auditor-General of New South Wales put out a scathing report about this Government's weaknesses in relation to agencies implementing key security measures. A number of recommendations were made. I have been calling on the Government to fully implement those recommendations. A few weeks ago on ABC the Minister responded that the Government is making progress, which is good to hear. However, he said that because of COVID and the bushfires they are yet to fully implement the recommendations. I urge the Minister to really focus on this issue.

This is a huge mess. I have spoken to people who have received letters from Service NSW notifying them that their information has been compromised or is in the hands of cybercriminals. They are very upset and are asking questions. I raise these issues today and I will be asking more questions about this matter in the future. The Government needs to focus on cybersecurity. The Opposition is not opposing the legislation but we note there are risks and it is important that there is ongoing monitoring of the digital driver licence. Cybersecurity has to be at the top of the Government's agenda. Cybersecurity is real and I am concerned about our data sovereignty. How many of the back-office job cuts in Service NSW have affected IT? How many of those IT jobs have gone offshore and how many of those contracts will come back onshore? The Government must answer those questions.

A number of years ago the Government made a big song and dance about outsourcing IT work to offshore companies. The data of Australians has gone offshore. We want to know about our data sovereignty because our citizens' data should be protected in New South Wales, not offshore. I will be pursuing this matter in the days and weeks ahead because these very important questions need to be answered. The people of New South Wales want to know who is protecting their data. Where is our data being stored? Why did 50,000 driver licences end up in an Amazon cloud? It was reported a few weeks ago that information relating to victims of domestic violence was in the hands of a non-government organisation that was doing work for the Family and Community Services. This important and sensitive case information was offshore. That is a very serious matter. The Government must take the issue of cybersecurity seriously.

While there are advantages in delivering programs and services digitally, we cannot afford to be naive about the risks. Earlier this month 186,000 people were notified that their data had been stolen. As I said, the hack was originally discovered in April this year; however, the Government has only just begun notifying people. I note that the Minister who introduced the bill is responsible for both Service NSW and the Government's Cyber Security Policy. It is concerning that the Minister has brought forward another bill to expand digital service delivery when he has not taken responsibility for or explained the full extent of the data breach—which appears to be the single largest data leak in our State's history. It is very concerning.

I am one of those who have been affected. I received information from Service NSW that my full name, signature and banking details had been compromised. Those details related to information provided as part of a Government Information (Public Access) Act [GIPAA] request that I had made to Service NSW on 4 December 2019. Ironically, my GIPAA request asked for information on the impact on services from staff cuts in the Service NSW IT section. Unfortunately, by sending that request for information, I provided Service NSW with a copy of my banking information and my signature. That information was among the 3.8 million documents that were stolen by cybercriminals. Like many thousands of people, I was deeply upset when I found out about the hack. I was shocked and angry that the Government of a modern, democratic State with important institutions could allow that to happen, particularly as it had been forewarned.

I was particularly upset that it had taken the New South Wales Government five months to notify 186,000 affected people we know of, given that the hack occurred in April. As upset and angry as I am for myself, I am even more upset for the 186,000 other people who are affected by the hack. From my personal experience,

the system that the Government has put in place to assist people simply does not work. It is time consuming and very difficult to navigate. What is really upsetting are the reports that the attack could have been prevented if the Government had taken cybersecurity seriously.

A report by *The Guardian* on 10 September 2020 sets out the scale and root cause of the hack. In April Service NSW reported that it had been subject to a phishing attack wherein attackers sent emails, which appeared to be legitimate emails, with links to sites that collect login information and compromised those email addresses. In total, 47 accounts were accessed. After four months of investigation Service NSW reported that, after examining the 3.8 million documents in the email accounts of those staff, around 500,000 documents contained personal information and 186,000 customers had to be notified of the data obtained.

The incident happened shortly after Service NSW began Office 365 Microsoft cloud-based email and the Office software suite. Staff had not yet switched on multi-factor authentication that would have required any people obtaining logins to verify their identity in another way, beyond just a password. The head of Cyber Security NSW told *The Guardian* Australia that multi-factor authentication could have prevented the majority of the incidents occurring in New South Wales government agencies last year. He stated:

My team last year had determined that 61% of incidents reported to Cyber Security NSW would have been prevented if multi-factor authentication was in place ... So you can imagine it's a key driver for me to educate across the sector.

Put simply, the proposal for Service NSW, for which Minister Dominello is responsible, to expand the legality of digital driver licensing is absolutely welcomed by Labor, but I point out the risks involved. The Government must make sure that the risks are monitored and reviewed continually. Service NSW will play an integral role in administering the reforms that will be enabled by the bill. However, Service NSW only recently was the site of a massive data breach that Cyber Security NSW officials said could easily have been prevented. I note the reports stating that staff at Service NSW were sharing significant volumes of personal information by email. This is particularly concerning given that this bill, based on its second element, will allow more information sharing.

I ask the Minister to address the following specific issues in his reply. Have any reforms at Service NSW been implemented to reduce the volume of personal information shared over email? Will the expanded information-sharing arrangements enabled by this bill authorise staff at Service NSW to share even more information over email? Earlier I mentioned concerns about the 50,000 New South Wales driver licences. I state for the record that Labor is very concerned about that and wishes to hear from the Minister about images of more than 50,000 New South Wales driver licences being able to be accessed on an unsecured cloud server. As I mentioned earlier, 17 gigabytes of sensitive data relating to New South Wales government child protection were also stolen.

I raise these issues because it is becoming increasingly clear that the Government appears to lack the legal authority and technical capacity to keep people's personal information safe. The Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 1—Premier and Finance has commenced an inquiry into cybersecurity. I trust that it will look into these issues. Labor does not oppose the bill. However, we urge the Government to stop and think before pursuing more digital initiatives. I am happy to work with the Government on this important area of policy. It is very concerning that people's information is not secure.

I have spoken to a number of people who have received letters from Service NSW notifying them of its data breach. Not only are they very upset and angry but also it is a violation of their information and privacy rights. A person who provides information to a government agency believes that their information will be protected. The Government and the Minister in particular have a policy and willingness to continue to move into that digital space. Of course Labor will support good and sensible initiatives but it is important to be aware of the risks and to ensure that proper security measures are in place to protect people's information.

I put on record a matter raised with me by a number of constituents. When filling out their Active Kids or Creative Kids voucher they have to provide their information every time they apply; they have to repeat the procedure. I understand that in some cases a child may not continue a particular activity but two of my constituents asked me: Why do we need to provide our Medicare details for accessing the Active Kids or Creative Kids vouchers? They do not understand why they have to do so and I did not have a response for them. I ask the Minister or his office to get back to me on the following questions: Is it necessary to ask people to provide their Medicare details? Is there a reason why they are asked for those details? I think that information is unnecessary for both voucher systems. Is the information protected? Is the information given to a third party for statistical analysis? I would like more information about that.

As I said, Labor does not oppose the bill but we urge the Government to stop, think and look at the risks before pursuing more digital initiatives. Digital service delivery is not risk free. Anyone who thinks so is absolutely naive. Privacy is a fundamental human right and cybersecurity is essential. The Government has failed to keep people's private information secure. More people will come forward in relation to the data breaches. I am



very concerned, and so are others, about identity theft and scams when cybercriminals steal personal information. Instead of introducing more legislation for more digital initiatives, the Minister should take responsibility for presiding over the largest data theft in our State's history.

**Debate interrupted.**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I call the member for South Coast to order for the first time. I will now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

*Announcements*

**PARLIAMENT HOUSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is an intermittent problem with the Parliament's IT system, which will impact on today's publication of *Hansard* and the availability of the transcript. The information services team is working to rectify the problem as soon as possible.

*Members*

**MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD**

**MEMBER FOR BALMAIN**

**MEMBER FOR HEATHCOTE**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I acknowledge and congratulate the member for Fairfield, the member for Balmain and the member for Heathcote, who have celebrated their birthdays since the House last sat.

**MEMBER FOR NORTH SHORE**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Congratulations are extended to the member for North Shore and her husband, Sam, on the arrival of their son, Henry, on 17 September at Royal North Shore Hospital. Mum and baby are doing well, and the family send their thanks to colleagues in this place for their well wishes.

*Bills*

**ADOPTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (INTEGRATED BIRTH CERTIFICATES) BILL 2020**

**POLICE AMENDMENT (PROMOTIONS) BILL 2020**

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (COURTS AND CIVIL) BILL 2020**

**BETTER REGULATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020**

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CRIMES) BILL 2020**

**Assent**

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

*Question Time*

**THE HON. GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:21:28):** My question is directed to the Premier. Given her legal obligation to report corruption under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, why did the Premier fail to report Daryl Maguire's actions despite knowing of his business dealings with property developers for 6½ years? Why did the Premier not act, as it is her legal responsibility?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition has asked the question. She will resume her seat.

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Point of order: The question contravenes Standing Order 128. It contains argument about what is a legal opinion or legal obligation, and is objectionable on that basis.

**Mr Ryan Park:** To the point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am waiting for silence.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:22:39):** I am happy to answer the question.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Premier is happy to answer the question. Does the member for Keira have a point of order?

**Mr Ryan Park:** Not if the Premier is happy to answer the question.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In future, the member will wait until he is called before coming to the lectern. The Premier has the call.

**Mrs Shelley Hancock:** Behave yourself, little boy.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask that this unparliamentary conversation cease immediately.

**Ms Kate Washington:** It is the member for South Coast.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My comments were not directed to anyone in particular, so the member for Port Stephens is being a little presumptuous. I was making a general comment about unparliamentary comments in this Chamber. The Premier has the call and she will be heard in silence.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I acknowledge the question from the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition is entitled to ask me these questions. However, I do say this: As the Premier of this State, the public and the Opposition and every member of this place deserves to know that their Premier at all times has upheld—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** You haven't done that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier has the call.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** As I said, the Leader of the Opposition is entitled absolutely to ask me any question in this place regarding my activities as the Premier because it is in the public interest for the public to know their Premier has at all times made sure that she or he has fulfilled their obligations in relation to all matters, whether it is in the public interest—

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** —or whether it is in enforcing the various codes and regulations for which I am responsible and the various codes and regulations of this Parliament, for which every member is accountable to this Parliament. I state unequivocally that at all times I have acted in accordance with the highest levels of accountability—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition asked a question of the Premier. Does the Leader of the Opposition want to hear the answer? She will sit in silence and listen now that she has asked the question. I will not hesitate to use Standing Order 249 to remove members from the Chamber this afternoon. The Premier has the call.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** To finish my statement, at all times I have undertaken the full letter of my responsibilities in accordance with those obligations—legal or otherwise—because that is what a Premier does. I also state that each member of this place knows his and her obligations according to their responsibilities and their interests, and it is the expectation that every member—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will be heard in silence. If members opposite do not want the Premier to answer questions, they should not ask them of her. I want to hear the answer.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** As I was about to say in conclusion, I think everybody would argue—whether or not they choose to support me or believe me—that I was full and frank in my evidence yesterday. I have remained—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Keira that he is on a call to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I have been full and frank in relation to every question I have been asked and I will continue—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All members will come to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I will continue to be full and frank. I wish to say that at all times I have, and always will, put the public interest first.

#### **THE HON. GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN**

**Ms JODI MCKAY (Strathfield) (14:27:14):** My question is directed to the Premier. Let us talk about her being full and frank.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Does the Leader of the Opposition have a question?

**Ms JODI McKAY:** In July 2018 it took the Premier eight days to take action against Daryl Maguire after he was required to give evidence to ICAC over his dealings with property developers. Why did the Premier conceal at that time what she knew of his business dealings from ICAC? She concealed it for two years. Why, Premier?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition has asked her question.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:27:51):** I am more than pleased to answer the question of the Leader of the Opposition. From memory, I was actually away at the time and rang him—

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Two years!

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I am answering the question directly. I rang him and asked him for his resignation, I think, within an hour.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** After eight days.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** No, that is actually incorrect. He actually resigned from the parliamentary Liberal Party that day. He went to the crossbench.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition asked the question.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** My best recollection is that he actually resigned that day, and if you look up the records you will find that I asked for his resignation that day.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time. I call the member for Keira to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I make this point: At any stage, had I—or, I am sure, any of my colleagues or the public servants who were in contact with him—picked up that there was any wrongdoing, it would have been reported.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time. I remind the member for Keira that he is on two calls to order. Does he want to spend the afternoon out of the Chamber? Order!

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Premier will resume her seat.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I am finishing my answer.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Swansea rises on a point of order.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order: The Premier cannot make up the question.

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

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** It is taken under Standing Order 129. The Premier is not addressing the question. She had a responsibility—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The Premier is being entirely relevant. The member for Swansea will resume her seat.

[*Interruption*]

I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time.

[*Interruption*]

I call the member for Swansea to order for the second time. Members will not come to the microphone unless I call them, and they will refer to a point of order. The Premier has the call.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I make this point: At every opportunity I want to praise the public servants and colleagues who made sure no benefit was achieved.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am waiting for Opposition members to come to order. I will not give the Leader of the Opposition the call until there is silence.

#### THE HON. GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:30:34):** My question is directed to the Premier. In 2011 I reported a number of issues to ICAC, and suffered personally and professionally. But I knew as a member of Parliament

that it was the right thing to do and it was my legal obligation. Why did the Premier fail to fulfil her legal obligation and report Daryl Maguire to ICAC?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:31:01):** As I have answered previously, if at any stage I knew that anything was going to happen that was wrong or anything wrong had occurred, I would—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will resume her seat. I will wait for silence before she continues her answer. I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I say to those opposite: They were in the Cabinet room with people found to be corrupt.

[Interruption]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! This behaviour will not continue. If a member has a question for the Premier or for any other Minister, they will ask it and listen to the answer in silence. Does the Leader of the Opposition have a point of order?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was: Why did the Premier not fulfil her legal obligation and report Daryl Maguire?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Premier is being relevant to the question asked of her.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** She was complicit—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat.

[Interruption]

I remind the Leader of the Opposition that she is on a call to order. The Premier has the call.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I have been in this place for 17 years and I also know what it is like when you have colleagues you trust, on either side of the House, and you have colleagues you assume are doing the right thing, on either side of the House, and there are—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I again remind the Leader of the Opposition that she is on a call to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I say to any person in this place: I bet there were times when you thought you could trust someone and you could not.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the Leader of the Opposition rising on a point of order?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** I refer to Standing Order 129. This is about the Premier's legal obligation to report corruption, and she did not do that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have heard enough. The Premier is being entirely relevant to the question. The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat.

[Interruption]

I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time. I hope that she does not want to ask another question.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** I do not think you can stop me from asking another question.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will stop the Leader of the Opposition from behaving like that in the Chamber. I remind her that she is on two calls to order. I have asked her to listen to the Premier in silence.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order: Are there any Government members on calls to order at the moment?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Not at this point in time.

**Mr Ryan Park:** I did not think so.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Has the member for Keira finished? The Premier has completed her answer. If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to ask this question, she will listen to the Premier in silence.

#### THE HON GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN

**Ms JODI MCKAY (Strathfield) (14:34:39):** I direct my question to the Premier. She has turned a blind eye to corruption and failed to report what was legally required of her to ICAC. A leader sets the standard for a government. What standard is she setting for New South Wales?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Premier has the call.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:34:54):** I reject the assertion in that question and I say on the record that at all times I have put the people of this State first.

#### **WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL**

**Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (14:35:38):** I direct my question to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. What are the Government's plans to provide local access to PET scanning for patients at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, and develop that scanning and other nuclear medicine services at the hospital?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (14:35:54):** I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for that question. I appreciate his ongoing support for his community. It has been very helpful of him to attend the forum we had about six months ago looking at the challenges of regional health, and how to get doctors and other services into regional areas. The Government has been spending a lot of money on regional health, particularly on infrastructure and the services that are provided in regional hospitals. Wagga Wagga Base Hospital is effectively being renewed. Off the top of my head, close to \$450 million is being spent there. The process that took place there was the process that is applied all across the State. Being a medical practitioner, and being married to a medical practitioner who is very knowledgeable of that particular hospital, the member for Wagga Wagga would know very well that a clinical services plan was developed when the Government committed funds to upgrade the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. The result of that clinical services plan was a master plan, and now it is largely completed.

As part and parcel of that clinical services plan, the doctors at the hospital and the surrounding areas provided input on what they thought was necessary at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. That is generally how it happens around the State. We make sure that the doctors themselves—the clinicians—drive the clinical services plan that leads to the master plan that leads to the construction. That particular hospital is certainly not at the level of some of the major trauma hospitals, but it is certainly a major regional hospital. My recollection is that as part of the clinical services plan the hospital received a CT scanner and an MRI scanner. I think the Federal Government has given the licence for the MRI, but I will check that. We can talk about that afterwards. If it has not given the hospital that licence, we will work on that—I just cannot remember off the top of my head.

I think the member for Wagga Wagga is talking about concerns that he has written to me about on behalf of Dr Currie. Dr Currie, he and I have exchanged correspondence. Dr Currie is keen to see a nuclear medicine department there as well, which was not part of the original clinical services plan that the doctors determined was necessary at the hospital. As I understand it, but again I will check on this, the nuclear medicine, both in terms of the use of radioactive isotopes and PET scanners—positron emission tomography—is available just over the road at Calvary Riverina Hospital. The last I heard, talking to the local health district, it was negotiating a contract with the unit. I remember that a cancer care centre was established there, which was strongly supported by the local community. In the past few weeks work was being done to make sure that nuclear medicine services are available. I think it is on Docker Street, down the side of the hospital, which is only 150 metres away from the hospital.

If that can be done, it might be a sensible balance. I think that is where they are at, but I will certainly raise the issue again with the local health district on behalf of both the member for Wagga Wagga and Dr Currie. At this point I would have to say that the local health district certainly satisfied me that, based on the original clinical services plan and the needs of the local and the broader community, this was a good arrangement. Having access to nuclear medicine just over the road associated with the cancer care centre would satisfy the needs of local constituents. [*Extension of time*]

**Dr JOE MCGIRR:** The question was specifically related to the PET scanner, so I would ask the Minister to comment on that.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD:** As I understand it, in the last little while positron emission tomography, or PET scanner as the member for Wagga Wagga is referring to it, has been implemented at the cancer care centre—the facility just over the road. I forget the name of it, but the radiology or the imaging facility just over the road forms part of the cancer care centre. As I understand it, it has a PET scanner being put into service now and negotiations are going on for a contract. That will work very well, but I invite the member for Wagga Wagga to come and see me later if he does not think it will, because I value him as a local medical practitioner on these issues.

#### *Documents*

#### **REGISTER OF DISCLOSURES**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In accordance with clause 21 of the Constitution (Disclosure by Members) Regulation 1983, I table a copy of the *Register of Disclosures by Members of the Legislative Assembly* (Volumes One and Two) as at 30 June 2020. I order that the document be printed.

**PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS ADVISER****Reports**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I table the report of the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser for the year ended 30 June 2020. I order that the report be printed.

I remind members that if they are not staying in the Chamber they must leave the Chamber under COVID rules.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION****Reports**

**The CLERK:** In accordance with Section 242 of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002, I announce receipt of the report pursuant to section 242 (7) of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 by the Office of the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission on *Covert Search Warrants* for the period ended 28 May 2020, dated August 2020, received out of session on 28 September and authorised to be printed.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY (ASSUMED IDENTITIES) ACT****Reports**

**The CLERK:** In accordance with section 35 of the Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010, I announce receipt of the following reports pursuant to section 35 of the law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010 for the year ended 30 June 2020 of the:

- (1) Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, received out of session on 29 September 2020 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) New South Wales Crime Commission, received out of session on 1 October 2020 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE****Reports**

**Mr GREG PIPER:** As Chair: I table the report of the Public Accounts Committee dated October 2020 entitled *Examination of Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports August 2018-January 2019*, Report 5/57. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Reports**

**Mr LEE EVANS:** On behalf of the Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 21/57*, dated 13 October 2020. I also table the minutes and extracts of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 20/57*, dated 22 September 2020. I move:

That the digest be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I announce that the following electronic petition signed by more than 20,000 persons has been lodged for presentation:

**Live Music Industry**

Petition noting the benefits of live music venues to build community, provide employment, boost the economy, improve wellbeing and drive tourism and the impact from the lockout laws, bushfires and COVID-19 and calling on the Government to work with MusicNSW and industry representatives to devise a stimulus package that will ensure the ongoing survival of the live music industry, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

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

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following electronic petition signed by more than 500 persons has been lodged for presentation:

**Wyoming Public School Traffic Management**

Petition requesting the Government provide funding to relocate and upgrade the pedestrian crossing at Wyoming Public School and install a speed camera, received from **Mr David Mehan**.

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following paper petition signed by more than 500 persons has been lodged for presentation:

**Wagga Wagga Base Hospital PET Services**

Petition noting the benefits of positron emission tomography [PET] and the growing demand for PET scanning services across Wagga Wagga and surrounding areas and calling on the Government to provide a PET scanner at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital as a matter of urgency and to review and assess future health services across the area to meet the predicted demand associated with population growth, received from **Dr Joe McGirr**.

*Bills*

**ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENSING) BILL 2020**

**Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (14:46:01):** I speak in support of the Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020. I thank Mr Victor Dominello, MP, Minister for Customer Service, for bringing this bill to the House with the purpose of amending the Road Transport Act 2013, and the Licensing and Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act 2002 to give digital driver licences the same status as physical driver licences. The bill's proposed changes achieve the New South Wales Government's commitments to digital transformation and will ensure that the use of digital driver licences will become an easy and efficient process for citizens of New South Wales.

Madam Deputy Speaker, if you are anything like me you have stopped carrying money during COVID. I now just carry my phone with my credit card on it. For me, having a digital driver licence would mean I no longer have to carry a wallet with my licence on me just in case, and I know I can continue to abide by the law by having my licence with me when I am driving and have my ID ready to go as well. It is a great thing for the people of New South Wales to have that flexibility, particularly during these very strange COVID times. Through the bill's amendments New South Wales driver licence holders will have the option to produce their digital driver licence when it is required by law. Instead of being required to produce only the physical driver licence, citizens of New South Wales will now be given the option so that they can do what is most convenient for them.

Last year the digital driver licence went live on the Service NSW app. Since then 1.7 million citizens have downloaded the app and used the digital driver licence. This means that about 31 per cent of all driver licence holders have a digital driver licence. Members of the community who use the Service NSW app have downloaded the digital driver licence and have given it overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding its practicality. As part of the Service NSW app, customers are able to provide feedback easily on the digital driver licence. It is understood that customers have found it convenient and simple to use every day. The process of setting up a digital driver licence is efficient and therefore effective in encouraging other driver licence holders to make the switch to a digital driver licence.

It is important to note that the proposed changes within the bill do not alter the use of the physical driver licence. It does, however, seek to enable the digital driver licence to be used in all situations in which a driver licence is required to be shown. It is merely adding another option for citizens of New South Wales who may prefer to have their driver licence in digital form. This bill will ensure that should a customer wish to have their digital driver licence in required situations they will have peace of mind, knowing that producing a digital driver licence will meet the legal requirement for producing a driver licence. An example of an industry that will benefit by the legalising of the use of digital driver licences is pharmacies. Pharmacists are required to validate the identification of a customer through the use of a driver licence before selling certain non-prescription drugs. This will give them more flexibility.

The digital driver licence utilises unique features that confirm the legitimacy of digital driver licences. These include an updated time stamp to show when the digital driver licence was last opened, which should be the time and date that the person was required to present the licence. Furthermore, distinguishable features such as the hologram of the New South Wales waratah will also ensure legitimacy. The enhanced security of the digital driver licence will provide better assurance to industries such as pharmacies in considering issues like fraud when

they are dealing with customer transactions and purchases. The increased security measures that come with the digital driver licence will better protect privacy and security and also detect criminal behaviour in relation to wrongful usage of driver licences.

Proving the authenticity of a driver licence is much simpler with digital driver licences than with physical driver licences. Verification of a digital licence by the NSW Police Force is done through a device called MobiPol, which allows highway patrol and other officers to meet the requirements of authenticating a digital driver licence, making it simpler and more convenient for police officers and citizens to have their licences checked. Driver licences will be able to be suspended in a more timely manner by New South Wales police officers through the use of MobiPol.

Service NSW is working with industries such as pharmacies to implement the appropriate recognition and validation of digital driver licences for citizens to use them. This is to ensure that there are no obstructions to accepting digital driver licences as a valid proof of identity. Further to this, the New South Wales Government is working with the rest of the States and Territories, mainly with their police forces but also with liquor and gaming regulators and peak bodies, to enable the recognition and acceptance of New South Wales driver licences as a form of proof of identity. This will ensure consistency and allow citizens of New South Wales to use their digital driver licences across all of Australia.

It is also reassuring that the process of the digital driver licence has undergone several privacy impact assessments. To ensure that the personal information a digital driver licence encompasses is secure, the Department of Customer Service has liaised with the Privacy Commissioner. The program undergoes regular hacker tests to further ensure the safety of personal information and to ensure security measures remain intact. The bill's proposed security improvements will allow digital driver licences to be authorised with the New South Wales driver licence register. This will meet the international standards for digital identification documentation, and will eventually allow digital driver licences to be accepted and recognised across all jurisdictions. Moreover, the bill's proposed changes will make providing information to the Government much simpler.

The proposed amendments will update the current photo-sharing provisions, which will enable authorities that hold licences to conveniently arrange for customer information to be shared and transferred, with customer consent. This will improve the process of applications that require a passport photo to be attached to the licence application and will remove the unnecessary time and effort that this requires. Existing legislation requires the person to have a passport-style photo taken and added to the application even if the person has provided a photo to a government service previously.

The sharing of photos and information will eliminate this time-consuming process and allow for a much easier process of licence application. It is noteworthy to add, however, that if the person had not had a photo or information process with a government service previously they will be required to get a passport-style photo taken and printed for the application purpose. The bill's proposed amendments will lead other government agencies to allow for photo and information sharing, provided they have the customer's consent, so that people applying for other licences will need to give consent only to their driver licence photo being used. The rest will be handled by the government service.

The bill's proposed changes emulate the New South Wales Government's customer and digital strategy framework, Beyond Digital. The legitimisation of digital driver licences in New South Wales is a direct response to the current and emerging technological opportunities in services provided by the Government. It is part of the Government's commitment to be at the forefront of digital leadership and innovative government-provided services. As included in the framework, Beyond Digital, the move to digital driver licences ensures that this service is accessible, convenient and customer focused. Giving digital driver licences the same status and recognition as existing physical driver licences will ensure that the experience of using digital driver licences is much simpler and more convenient as well as ensuring consistency. It is a significant move toward the New South Wales Government's promise of the digital transformation of government services, allowing for more security, transparency, accessibility and responsiveness of these services. I commend the bill to the House.

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (14:54:50):** I support the Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020. Since its launch in 2019 the digital driver licence has proven popular with the people of New South Wales. As of the beginning of this month 1.73 million people had chosen to download it. In my electorate of Miranda the community has recognised the benefits of the digital driver licence with an uptake of nearly 27,000 people. The digital driver licence offers the ease and convenience of being able to rely on your phone for your ID. During the digital driver licence trial eight out of 10 people reported high levels of satisfaction with the convenience of the licence. While popular, the digital driver licence can legally be used only as a driver licence in specific circumstances. It is not a driver licence in the same way as the plastic card. The bill will change that and make sure the digital driver licence has the same status as the plastic card. This will primarily impact



industries that are required by law to view a driver licence as part of business transactions—for example, pharmacists, second-hand dealers and explosive retailers. It also demonstrates that the digital driver licence should be considered equal to the plastic card.

At the time the digital driver licence was launched we could not have imagined the important benefit that it provides today—a no-contact ID check and a COVID-safe ID option. Pharmacists, second-hand dealers, publicans, security guards, bottle shop retailers and police are required to take and hold a person's licence card in order to check its validity and confirm a person's identity, age or authority to drive. On the other hand, the digital driver licence can be easily verified by sight without the need for the checker to touch the mobile device. The checker is not allowed to take or touch the mobile device at all. The green tick, the animated New South Wales Government logo and waratah show the checker that the ID is valid quickly and easily by sight. The Government has undertaken targeted engagement with industry to ensure that businesses are ready to recognise and verify the digital driver licence.

During the original rollout of the digital driver licence in 2019 the Government conducted regular engagement with the liquor and gaming industry, including endorsement by key peak bodies. This led to the successful large-scale recognition and acceptance of the digital driver licence as proof of identification in pubs, clubs and liquor retailers, with customer satisfaction for digital driver licences tracking at 95 per cent. In preparation for the bill and the expansion of the digital driver licence, the Government has targeted industry groups such as the pharmacy industry with an education campaign modelled on the approach used for the liquor and gaming industry. This includes online information, quick reference guides and videos on how to identify a digital driver licence and to ensure its legitimacy. The Government is also reaching out to industries that use driver licences as identification but are not required to do so under the legislation, such as upcoming engagement with peak bodies in the car dealer, real estate and telecommunications industries, as well as face-to-face engagement with the NRMA, Australia Post and the banking and finance industry.

There is evidence that the digital driver licence is already being used by industries that have no legal requirement to view a digital driver licence, including telecommunications and car rental companies. I note that while the bill provides a mechanism to exempt an agency or body from accepting a digital driver licence if there are practical reasons they are unable to do so, the Government has not found any circumstances where a driver licence can be used under law where a digital driver licence cannot be used. I know that my colleagues in this place are still to outline the merits of the reforms that will allow increased photo and information sharing amongst licensing agencies, as well as the security of the New South Wales digital driver licence, but given the numerous benefits of the digital driver licence it should come as no surprise that I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate interrupted.**

#### *Condolences*

#### **THE HON. JOHN JOSEPH FAHEY, AC, FORMER PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the presence in the public gallery of the family and friends of the late John Fahey: Mrs Colleen Fahey, Amber Fahey, Steven and Helen Fahey, and Ross and Peggy Stone. I remind members, further to my ruling earlier today, they should refrain from sitting in the Speaker's gallery during the condolence motion.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:00:31):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges with great sadness the passing of the Hon. John Joseph Fahey, AC, a former Premier of the State.
- (2) Recognises Mr Fahey's extraordinary service to the parliaments of New South Wales and Australia, and his leadership of significant reform that has brought enduring benefit to the people of our State and nation.
- (3) Extends to the family the deep sympathy of members of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained by the death, on 12 September 2020, of the Hon. John Joseph Fahey.

It is with great sadness, but also with much honour and respect, that this House marks the passing of the Hon. John Joseph Fahey. John Fahey was the thirty-eighth Premier of New South Wales. He served as Premier from 24 June 1992 to 4 April 1995; as the member for Camden from 1984 to 1988; and as the member for Southern Highlands from 1988 to 1996. He also achieved the Companion of the Order of Australia, the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great, and he was a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and dear friend. On behalf of the Parliament and the people of a grateful State I extend my condolences to John's wife, Colleen; their children, Matthew, Melanie and the loving memory of Tiffany; grandchildren, Amber and Campbell; and the Fahey and McGurran families. I am pleased that Colleen, Amber, Steven and Helen Fahey, and Ross and Peggy Stone could join us today as we reflect on John's life of public service.

It was a rich life, with achievements on multiple fronts—personal and professional, local and global—and it is our privilege to reflect on them today. We all remember John's gravity-defying leap when Sydney won the right to host the 2000 Olympic Games. That moment on 23 September 1993 catapulted John into living rooms around the world and Sydney onto the global stage. I remember the euphoria of that day and the sense of opportunity we all felt as a result of that. It was a moment that changed us forever. It led to the transformation of Homebush Bay and western Sydney. It opened Sydney and New South Wales to the world for the twenty-first century. It was a moment that changes us still, as we continue to build on that legacy. The Sydney 2000 Olympic Games opened greater western Sydney for the even more ambitious projects that we are building today such as the aerotropolis. While John would say winning the 2000 Olympic Games bid was a team effort, many years in the making, the New South Wales that is taking shape today is an undeniable part of his personal legacy.

John Fahey was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1945. His family migrated to Picton when he was 11 and so began a love for the Macarthur and western Sydney regions that would endure for the rest of his life. His career could have taken many paths. His uncle was his parish priest and it was logical that the priesthood called. He lasted a year in the seminary, I am told. Rugby league was a great passion—a sport he learned at primary school from an Irish nun, Sister Kevin. John was a star in group 6 and went on to play 37 reserve grade games for the Canterbury Bankstown Berries—as they were then known—with a couple of first grade run-ons. He was a great friend of the legendary Peter "Bullfrog" Moore. But other career pursuits beckoned.

John studied law through the Solicitors Admission Board and practised as a solicitor. He was first articled to a firm in Sydney's south-west before he established and ran his own legal practice in Camden, John Fahey, Searle & Co., for 11 years. When he entered Parliament, his firm merged into Marsdens and John maintained a lifelong friendship with the Marsden brothers and John Adam. While working in the law, John honed his prodigious work ethic, his phenomenal eye for detail and his frightening photographic memory that would haunt colleagues and public servants for many years to come. He also saw firsthand the everyday hardships people encountered, which imbued in him a sense of fairness that would inform his politics and policies.

In 1984 John entered the New South Wales Parliament as the member for Camden, winning the seat from the Australian Labor Party with a swing—a very handsome swing, I might add—of 7.2 per cent. On an Opposition bench brimming with talent, John's potential stood out. He was promptly appointed to the shadow ministry and, on the election of the Greiner Government in 1988, became Minister for Industrial Relations. He later added further education and training and employment to his ministerial responsibilities. In industrial relations, John made sweeping changes to workplace law, introducing voluntary unionism and enterprise bargaining. Nick Greiner remembers John pulling together about 1,000 pages of changes. Others recall how he stood at the bar of the Legislative Council, patiently answering MLCs' questions about the legislation in forensic detail. Long after he left politics, John cited those reforms—later adopted by Liberal governments across Australia—as a career highlight. He was proud that the changes had democratised workplaces and made them more productive, while boosting the economy. Most of all, he noted, "A stronger economy increases our ability to be generous towards those who are not so fortunate ..."

This was at the heart of his political service: an unswerving dedication to the people he represented. John Fahey was a heart-and-head Liberal. He always understood what mattered most to people and the struggle for many to put food on the table, clothes on their back and a roof over their head. During his political career he also developed an abiding respect for the public sector. He later told Western Sydney University graduates that before entering Parliament he had wrongly believed the private sector to be superior to the public sector. He said:

... I can assure you that some of the most skilful lawyers, accountants, economists and managers reside in the public sector and if you are contemplating a career in the public sector, I would encourage you to do so. The methodologies, disciplines and accountability in the public sector is a wonderful training ground for other career pursuits.

John was shattered by the resignation of his leader, Nick Greiner, in June 1992. He had personally led the negotiations with the three crossbench MPs to save Nick Greiner's premiership. He did not celebrate his own election by the party room as leader and Premier. He never wanted to be Premier at Nick's expense. Friends say they had never seen a person so devastated to achieve high office. John told Parliament it was the saddest day of his life. A reporter put it to him that most people would not know him from a bar of soap, and John agreed. "That's probably true," he said.

He assured the party room he intended to follow Greiner's reform agenda, and he did. He faced an incredibly difficult task in running a minority government—every achievement hard won in a hung parliament. His reforms brought enduring benefit to the people of this State. The NSW Seniors Card, launched in 1992, has become a staple for more than 1.7 million citizens, or 90 per cent of New South Wales seniors, keeping them actively engaged in their community. Compulsory retirement at 65 was abolished from 1993 for all New South Wales employees, giving people greater freedom over their careers and lives.

The first New South Wales Minister for the Status of Women was appointed by John in 1993—what a wonderful reform. The Disability Services Act 1993 legislated the rights of people with a disability to greater independence, employment opportunities and the ability to reach their maximum potential. The State Bank of New South Wales was sold in 1994, extracting government from a risky business, with the proceeds being used to retire State debt. In the same year the M2 contract was signed, paving the way for the State's global leadership in infrastructure financing. Politically, John Fahey faced five by-elections in less than three years in government-held electorates and won every one of them. It is a very difficult feat for a government to win five by-elections in three years. Along the way, the people of New South Wales warmed to their Premier for his common touch. Those impressions were reinforced by John's Olympic leap of joy and, of course, his takedown of Prince Charles's would-be attacker at an Australia Day ceremony in 1994.

Unfortunately, the Fahey Government was narrowly defeated at the 1995 State election, despite securing 51.2 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. John wrongly blamed himself for the election loss, believing he had let the team down. The truth was the Coalition came within a handful of votes of an unlikely win. It outpolled Labor by more than 77,000 votes but was denied office by a mere 367 votes in two seats: 107 in Badgerys Creek and 260 in Gladesville. John remained in the New South Wales Parliament for another year before entering Federal Parliament in 1996 as the member for Macarthur. Immediately appointed Minister for Finance and Administration, he was tasked with finding \$7.6 billion in Commonwealth savings in four months for the Howard Government's first budget. He spent hours—as we know he did—meticulously tracking the thousands of exit points in Commonwealth spending, learning the value of programs and how they would be impacted by spending cuts. The Expenditure Review Committee process has unlikely seen a tougher marker. He led the public sale of Telstra by public offering—Australia's biggest ever privatisation—and made a vital contribution to reducing Federal government debt.

John's Federal political career was cut short by lung cancer in 2001. He was given a one-in-four chance of living until Christmas and a 5 per cent chance of surviving five years. He actually received extreme unction in anticipation of his death but, against all odds, he rallied. He was always a fighter. Reflecting on it years later, John believed he was given a second chance in life to care for his wonderful grandchildren, Amber and Campbell. John and Colleen became the children's full-time carers shortly after his illness and were made permanent guardians following their daughter Tiffany's, untimely death in 2006. We also remember her today. In typical fashion, John packed a lot into those years. His career post politics was varied and prolific. He returned to lifelong passions and dedicated himself anew to public service. In 2007 he was appointed president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, becoming a global figure in the fight against drugs in sport—a long way from group 6 rugby league. His philosophy was simple. As he put it, "If we can't remove cheating in sport, then sport dies. That would be a tragedy."

John's passion for sport was further channelled into directorships with the Bradman Foundation, where he was a life member; and the Men of League Foundation, with his lifelong friend Ron Coote. He became its patron and was made a life member in 2015. He also chaired the Australian Rugby League development board and served as patron of his beloved Canterbury Bulldogs for 27 years. John became an advocate for a holistic approach to cancer treatment and the development of comprehensive cancer plans for patients. He became a director of Petrea King's Quest for Life Foundation, the Cancer Institute of New South Wales and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, as well as an ambassador for Cure Cancer Australia.

Having instigated the Gyles royal commission into the New South Wales building industry in 1990, John later chaired the Australian Government Reconstruction Inspectorate, overseeing spending in major reconstruction contracts associated with natural disasters. In 2017 he became chair of the Australian Building Codes Board to pursue improved compliance and uniformity, greater affordability and a reduction in red tape in the building sector. In 2016, 23 years after chairing Sydney's successful Olympic bid, John was appointed chair of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. John was proud to call himself a son of greater western Sydney. Accepting an honorary doctorate from the Western Sydney University in 2012, he said:

This region has been good to me and my family and I am proud to have been part of it for most of my life. I have experienced its growing pains and its development into a thriving, progressive contributor for the greater City of Sydney. On more than one occasion at the annual World Economic Forum in Switzerland, I took delight in reminding the international audience that the gross domestic product of Singapore was broadly the same as that of greater western Sydney.

Throughout it all, there were two constants in John's life: his family and his faith. Colleen was by his side for 52 years of marriage. They faced triumph and tragedy together. Theirs was a true team effort; Colleen shares in John's many achievements and is equally deserving of his accolades. The other enduring influence in John's life was his Catholic faith. It was his moral compass. In parliamentary debates and times of challenge, his fingers would automatically find his rosary beads, which were always in his pocket. He was, he said, "Looking for strength, looking for guidance, looking for direction, looking for wisdom."

In 2014 John became Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University. Last year John was made a papal knight—one of the Catholic Church's highest honours: a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great. Accompanying the Companion of the Order of Australia award he received in 2002, it was a profound achievement to be honoured at such a high level both by his country and by his church. He accepted it with his customary humility, saying, "I just feel terribly unworthy." John has been described as the least likely of Liberal Premiers, given his Irish working-class roots and Labor-voting parents. He disputed that. "Liberalism", he said, "is not about the north shore and the eastern suburbs. It's about ordinary people because that's my background."

John Fahey lived a rich and fulfilling life, grounded in family and faith. He achieved office beyond the expectations of a working-class boy from south-western Sydney. He mentored and inspired a generation of Liberals such as me who will forever be grateful for the patience and generosity he showed towards us on many occasions. He changed perceptions about the Liberal Party. He broke stereotypes. New South Wales and Australia are richer for his leadership. We will never forget his contribution. We honour him here today and we continue to build on his legacy. I commend the motion to the House.

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (15:15:18):** My thoughts are with the family, friends and parliamentary colleagues of the Hon. John Fahey, AC, who served the people of New South Wales with great distinction as Premier from 1992 to 1995 and as finance Minister in the Howard Government from 1996 to 2001. I note the presence of John's family in the gallery and I pass on my sincere condolences and the condolences of the Labor Party in New South Wales. John Fahey dedicated almost two decades of his life in service to his State and to his country and will be remembered as a person who always acted with the highest integrity. His ability to reach out across the community made him both a formidable political opponent and someone who was respected across the political spectrum.

The Fahey family migrated from New Zealand in 1956, settling in Picton when John was a boy. He grew up to value family, faith and football. In Colleen he found his partner in love and life. They married in 1968. John studied law through the Solicitors Admission Board. His career as a country solicitor lent him a deep commitment to fairness and justice, which he brought into the New South Wales Parliament in 1984 as the member for Camden. During his time in politics he helped deliver major reforms to New South Wales, including the introduction of the Disability Services Act, the introduction of the NSW Seniors Card and the swearing in of the first New South Wales Minister for the Status of Women, something of which his family can be very proud.

One of his most memorable achievements as Premier was overseeing Sydney's winning bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, which will go down in history as one of the greatest Olympic Games to be held and as an event that changed our city and our State forever. John served a year in the seminary studying for the priesthood in 1963. He later said he knew he was not destined for such a vocation when, during a week of solitude, he heard the news that JFK had been assassinated but could not break his vow of silence to tell anyone. The way he conducted himself in both public and private life was deeply informed, as Premier Berejiklian said, by his Roman Catholic faith. Like many of his ilk, he carried his rosary beads with him at all times. John credited his parents, Stephen and Annie, for instilling in him the virtues of compassion and respect for others, which he displayed through his strong commitment to community service.

I spoke to Bob Carr about John Fahey. He said to me he was "a formidable opponent but a very decent one". Bob recalled John's impressive bearing through the period from late 1993 to early 1994 when a bushfire crisis befell the State and which he faced, Bob said, with "very cool-headed leadership". He was perhaps the first Premier to fight the "climate fires" to which we have now become so accustomed. For Bob Carr, John's ability to act decisively and in the moment was characterised by his valiant Australia Day 1994 defence of Prince Charles. People across Australia and the world will never forget how he put his own safety at risk. Bob described it to me as a matter of John "deploying his considerable footballer prowess" to protect the Prince from an apparent gunman.

After his time in politics was over, John was hardly content to live a quiet life. He continued to serve the public as Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, a director of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and chairman of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. A lifelong sports lover, John was also head of the World Anti-Doping Agency and chaired the Australian Rugby League development board. He will be greatly missed by everyone around him, particularly by those in rugby league and by the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, who he first served as a reserve grade player and then as joint patron of the club from 1993 until his passing. I send my condolences to John's wife, Colleen, and their children and grandchildren. I was honoured to join the Premier and all the family in attendance at a State memorial service in recognition of John Fahey's long and distinguished service to the people of New South Wales. I commend the motion to the House.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (15:20:27):** On behalf of The Nationals in New South Wales it is my privilege to acknowledge a one-in-a-million bloke. I was given this privilege today by my acting Leader, the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, who said "Mel, you knew him. You should speak on behalf of our party." I am so proud to do so. Like the Premier and the Leader of the

Opposition, I was taken aback when I walked into St Mary's Cathedral to attend the requiem mass. The cathedral was resplendent with the most beautiful flowers—the twentieth anniversary flowers of the Olympic Games. A beautiful bouquet was on John's coffin. I am so proud of my friends Fiona, Nickson and Ralph for making the cathedral look so beautiful with those flowers that also acknowledged the twentieth anniversary of the games with their colours and their stories. It was truly spectacular.

What would Annie and Stephen Fahey have thought if they saw the splendour, sadness and pride and if they saw a Governor General, the Governor of New South Wales, a former Prime Minister, a former Premier and a protégé foreign affairs Minister of Australia deliver beautiful eulogies that told his story and his tale in such a way? I know John would have been proud. But I also wonder what Labor-voting Annie and Stephen would have thought about the opportunities they gave John and his family by moving to this magnificent country from windy Wellington to join their beloved uncle, the priest at the local parish. Earlier today I spoke with Colleen and asked what it was about John that made him seize those opportunities.

Colleen said that he had an incredible drive. He also had something we should all have in our lives—that is, the opportunity for the best education. A nun saw his talent, the spark in his eyes, the drive in his brain and his capacity for hard work and put together an application for a bursary for him to go to Chevalier College, Bowral, which made all the difference. It gave him the opportunity to have an incredible education. It did not matter where he came from or who his parents were; he put the work in and took the opportunities that this great country can provide.

That is why John was so loved by so many. He was a man of the people. He was the people. I think Nick Greiner put it no better than when he said, "He was not meant to be a Liberal politician. He naturally was a Labor politician." John had a natural authenticity and a belief in self-endeavour that led him to the Liberal Party. I also know that he loved the National Party. I often saw him in the rooms late at night in a sitting period, because that is where the fun was; that was where the people were.

**Mr Adam Crouch:** That's where the best food was.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** That is where the best food was. Yes, of course it was all about the food. But he did love us. I wonder whether it was because, as Colleen reminded me, his dad also worked on a dairy farm around Pheasants Nest and they grew vegetables. I think it was that earthiness, and that is what we loved about him—that genuineness. He was genuinely loved by members of our party. I have reached out to a few of them today, people including Robert Webster—who is not actually a member of our party anymore, but that is another story. He said he first met John at the Moss Vale Show in 1984. He stated:

We immediately became firm friends, having adjoining electorates, and during the next seven years we both rose to become Cabinet Ministers.

It was in that 1990 redistribution that we lost Robert from the lower House and Colleen got to stay in her beautiful house in the Southern Highlands. But that friendship remained, along with that trust and respect—those were Robert's words. He stated:

There was great trust and loyalty between us, and John gave me the tough job of reforming the HomeFund scheme and preparing Homebush Bay for the Olympic Games. John was fair, tough, generous and honest. I admired these qualities in him very much. He was an outstanding parliamentarian, Minister and Premier, as well as being well respected by both sides of politics.

Carolyn and Robert Webster wish Colleen all the very best. I think they caught up for lunch last year, and I am sure Colleen will do that again. I also asked Wendy Machin for her thoughts. John Fahey created the first ministry for women in 1993. He was very proud of Wendy Machin being the first Cabinet Minister in Australia to give birth while a Minister.

In fact, so proud was he that Martin Debell, who was the Premier's press secretary when I was working for Wendy Machin said, "You have got to get it on the news." I had to arrange for a camera crew to pool the footage so that we could go into the birthing suite of Wendy Machin a few hours after she had delivered Georgia. Wendy has forgiven me for that; I am not quite sure why. But we got the news out there. That was a very special moment for women in politics in New South Wales and Australia. John Fahey was a supporter of women. I have had some dark moments in my political career, and he was always supportive and encouraging. We could see all that in Marise Payne's address at the St Mary's Cathedral service. He really did support women in politics, and I thank him very much for that.

I asked my husband, Warren, for his favourite story. It is a sad story, but a happy one too. When John Fahey became the Premier of New South Wales on 24 June 1992 he was quoted as saying it was the saddest day of his life. Afterwards he went down to level 4 of Parliament House, where the parliamentary drivers were. He went up to Warren and said, "Can I have a cigarette, mate?" Warren congratulated him, and John said, "I didn't ask for

this." John had the cigarette and he left. A day that was meant to be one of celebration was a very heavy day in his heart. It was an incredible day in State Parliament.

I recall that Wal Murray went into The Nationals party room on that day to resign, to give John Fahey an opportunity to work with a new National Party leader, and The Nationals party room said, "No, Wal, you stay. We need the continuity and we need the respect. You need to work things out with John and you will go at another time." That is exactly what happened: Ian Armstrong took over 12 months later and Wal retired in 1995. John Fahey appointed Garry West the first police Minister from the National Party in New South Wales, after a tumultuous period in that ministry. There had been an interesting Minister at that time. John respected Garry West and had faith and trust in him. Garry did a great job in very difficult circumstances, and John Fahey allowed him to do a great job. That is the message that Garry West wanted me to relate to the House.

So many people loved John Fahey, and his life continued well beyond State politics. But the addresses from the Prime Minister and Nick Greiner were particularly important in highlighting the guilt that John felt about that 1995 State election result. He should not have. As the Premier outlined in her contribution, it was just those two seats—Gladesville and Badgerys Creek—and a promise to get rid of a toll. That is what it all came down to. John needed to hold his head high. We could all see the guilt he had. When John Howard became Prime Minister in 1996 he said to John, "We need you to come to Canberra to be part of the new administration". John Fahey did a fine job, a fabulous job. He did a great job of everything he touched in his life. Whether it was winning at marbles, growing roses or finding the prettiest girl, he certainly excelled—even playing that funny game, rugby league. We are proud of him and his contribution.

In particular, I note how proud we are of Melanie and her speech, which was recorded and played at the service at St Mary's. What a beautiful voice she has! It was incredible to hear her. It was as if she was there—even though, as members know, she is in Connecticut. She has done incredible things with her life: senior vice-president of a beauty product company, following in her mother's footsteps. Hers was such a wonderful speech to hear played throughout the cathedral. In Colleen's presence, I also highlight two extraordinary young people, Amber and Campbell. I say to them they have given their grandparents such joy, and continue to do so for their grandmother. They have been so proud of them and their studies—Campbell, studying hospitality at Manly, and Amber, studying graphic design. The strength and sadness of Amber and Campbell on the day of the service was profound. They should know they have given their grandparents such joy and the privilege of raising them. It was an honour for me to see it. I pass on the condolences of The Nationals family. John Fahey was a very special man—a one in a million. I was very proud to know him.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (15:31:51):** I extend my deepest condolences and sympathies to John Fahey's family, who are present in the gallery today. Members extend their deepest sympathies to Colleen, Melanie, Matthew and all their families. I assure them that they are in our prayers. Nothing and no-one can replace John, but in commemorating his life today members can at least share the warmth of a great man, a quiet giant of Australian politics whose life of service touched so many people. John Fahey was among the few people we can say really changed our State and our nation for the better. In some way, John was responsible for my own passion for New South Wales and he was an inspiration who pushed me towards a life of politics.

Like many of my generation, my most vivid early memory of John is the iconic image of his leap for joy when Sydney was selected to host the 2000 Olympic Games. I had just turned 11 and I could not help but be swept up in the excitement and optimism of that moment like many others—we all felt like winners. In the years leading up to the games there was a sense of unity and purpose that drove New South Wales forward. We were determined to realise our full potential. We did so, and the result was spectacular. John lit the firecracker under New South Wales. It enlivened in me a deep passion for our State and opened my eyes to what New South Wales was capable of. John's vision for our State—his optimism for what we could achieve—remains an inspiration for many of us in this place. We work to continue his legacy by leaving our State and our nation a better place than we found it.

From the outside, John's path was illuminated by the virtues he nurtured within. His integrity was unimpeachable and his loyalty was legendary. John was stoic in the face of adversity, be it political or personal. He battled and saw off lung cancer and, importantly, overcame the unforgivable crime of being a New Zealander by birth. John left nothing in the tank. He worked hard at everything he did. He was a man of many talents and he made the most of every one, generously giving his time and effort for the benefit of others. His service as a member of this place and as Premier were true to his brand of hardhead and soft heart Liberals. Among many other achievements, he privatised the State Bank while delivering major reforms in disability services in New South Wales.

When he swapped Macquarie Street for Canberra he brought a wealth of wisdom, intelligence and political nous that was immediately recognised by his colleagues. Prime Minister John Howard set him to work in finance and he worked alongside Peter Costello to get the Federal budget back in the black. After an exhausting 17 years in politics he did not slow down. He continued to give back in tertiary education, world sport and countless other

fields. Everywhere he went and in everything he did, John won the respect and admiration of all because the virtues that shone the brightest were his warmth and his compassion for people. That warmth is a credit to the people around him who loved him and supported him through his life. It also reflects the unifier of faith that burned within him.

John truly was a giant of Australian politics and he will be dearly missed. His passing reunites him with his beloved daughter, Tiffany. As he passes on to his heavenly reward we can picture him with that trademark grin being greeted by St Peter and quoting St Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I finished my course, I have kept the faith." We all aspire in this place to serve as John did. Vale, John Fahey.

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (15:35:57):** At the outset I pay my deepest condolences to John Fahey's family, especially to Colleen. I met John Fahey only once. It was a couple of years ago and I wrote about it when I heard of his death. He was the Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University when I gave a keynote speech at a graduation ceremony for education students. I remember that he was running a bit late, which was unusual because normally I am the person who is running late. He was very apologetic and I said, "That's okay. You're a former Premier. You can do what you want to do." We had our photograph taken and we joked about being on different sides of politics, but what I was struck by more than anything else was the genuine sincerity and warmth with which he spoke to me. We had never met but we knew of each other, each other's beliefs and the things that drove us.

What I took away with me at the end of that night was his sincere advice and encouragement. A lot of people will give you advice and encouragement but sometimes the advice is not good to take and the encouragement is shallow. Mr Fahey's insight was quite deep. We talked about the speech, we talked about politics and we talked about a range of other things. In listening to what different people have said about John Fahey, if I were a member of his family his sincere advice and encouragement would be what I would be most proud of. It is what people say about you when you are not around or when you have passed away that reflects on the life you have led, the type of person you have been and the impact you have had. Having been a Premier, regardless of what side of politics he was on, is something to be respected.

The Treasurer and everybody will always remember that famous leap at the announcement of the Olympics venue. I think it was Rod McGeoch who was sitting next to him and whose shoulder was put completely out because of the way in which John Fahey launched himself when Sydney was announced as the next venue. That is an endearing image. Shortly after that I read a book by Bob Carr in which he described being the Opposition leader at that time and how difficult it was. He was thinking about having a go at John Fahey but did not because John was such a decent man and the Olympics bid had gone really well. He wrote about the time when someone attempted to attack Prince Charles. Who leapt up? John Fahey did, putting himself at risk by doing what any decent person would do—he wanted to protect somebody. The funny part to the story is that we can just imagine Bob Carr saying, "What more can I do? This man is pretty incredible." I remember reading that and thinking it was a pretty impressive comment on John Fahey.

The Treasurer referred to John Fahey as having been born in New Zealand. That is okay. We will accept that. My wife's family is from New Zealand so that is all good. As the member for Lakemba, I know we could use a John Fahey right now for the Bulldogs. He gave us a bit of time but we could definitely use him again at the Bulldogs, not only as a player but also as a patron. We used to have a bit of a laugh about the Bulldogs. He asked me whether I barracked for them, but I am actually a Dragons supporter. Now that is on the record it is probably not good for my political career. We talked about rugby league and a range of other things but it was his brilliance as an individual that was really important.

When we reflect on how we serve in our public lives sometimes it is not the great speech that we deliver or that one moment when we appear on the news or in a great Facebook post. It is actually the things that we do, the decency we share and the type of person that we are that might inspire somebody to be better than we are. Upon his death, people from all political persuasions spoke pretty much about the same thing—the Hon. John Fahey. He was honourable. They all spoke about decency, integrity, respect and honesty. Those are the types of qualities that any member of the public wants to see from their elected members. Those are the things that I know during these very tough times will get his family through. Those are the sorts of things that carry them as a family—that and their faith and belief in one another.

This is a pretty tough place, and for someone to be known as having a hard head but a soft heart is a pretty good combination. We have to make some tough decisions but we must never lose sight of our compassion, our decency and what is really important. People know John Fahey as a humble and authentic person and as a person who was able to get along with everybody. That is the mark of a good person regardless of the position they choose to take up in life. Again a keyword keeps coming back—decency. John Fahey was spoken of, even by people who had not previously met him, as honourable and his reputation preceded him within not only politics but also beyond. We know that there is tragedy in the life of the Fahey family but we admire the way in which

John Fahey dealt with it and took in his grandchildren. As a family they stuck together during some of the most difficult times.

John Fahey was so well respected that he was made the head of the World Anti-Doping Agency. The way to bring credibility to an organisation was to ask him to be involved in it. International positions are not won easily and they do not come along because of favours that one person wishes to bestow on another. They are won because the hard work of establishing respect and being trusted, as well as being good to people, has been done. I do not care which side of politics a member of this place is from. If they hold the values of decency, respect, kindness, honesty and compassion we can get past everything else because those are the values on which people rely. That applies to whether we sit in the New South Wales Parliament or the Federal Parliament or whether we are in a non-elected position. We are responsible for the wellbeing of others. Those qualities are what I imagine gets Colleen through these really tough times. Those are the reminders of the principles by which she and her family have lived for many years.

I have notes that contain a history that would support someone being awarded the honour of Knight Grand Cross. Let me list some of John Fahey's qualities. We know he had a distinguished career. He introduced the portfolio of Minister for Women; he introduced the Disability Services Act. Someone said that he does not sound like a Liberal Premier, but if you are a good Premier, you are a good Premier. If you are a good person, you are a good person and you look to help people in whatever way you possibly can. When we leave Parliament, all that we will have left are the things that we spoke about, the values we represented and the things we accomplished. John Fahey's life as a solicitor prior to entering Parliament was solid in his Catholic faith and in his upbringing that meant life is all about justice, it is all about fairness and it is all about sticking up for the person who cannot stick up for themselves. It is also all about making sure that, if you are lucky enough to have a career in politics, you do some good with it and you leave a positive impression behind by making things better for other people. Certainly that is what John Fahey did.

I have not heard anybody say negative things about him and that is not because he has passed. People do not have negative things to say and that is because the good far outweighs anything negative. That is what makes his family's heart swell. They can point to his achievements and say that this is what their dad, granddad, husband or relative did. That is the thing that creates pride. It is not necessarily while you are alive that people say the things that they need to say. Sometimes you never get to hear it, but they say it as a reminder to the family of the impact that an individual had on them.

So for this gentleman who had a hard head and a soft heart, who was authentic, who was humble, who excited us all when he did the big leap for the 2000 Olympic Games and who said when he saved Prince Charles, that he felt like he had let other people down when really it was not in his hands, who then went on and motivated others, inspired others, kept his family together in the most difficult of times but never lost faith in the person that he was, never lost sight of his faith and never lost the value of the importance of looking after others, I extend to his family my deepest condolences and those of my family. I met him only once and it had an impact: All the things that I heard about the Hon. John Fahey in that one meeting came true. He was honourable and remains honourable. May he rest in peace. Vale.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:45:42):** As Government Whip I make a brief contribution to debate on this condolence motion. In doing so I acknowledge Mr Fahey's family members and close friends who are with us today: Colleen, Amber, Steve, Helen, Ross and Peggy. Thank you for being here under these strange COVID-19 circumstances. Today we all speak in appreciation of John Fahey's long and meritorious public service to both the people of New South Wales and of Australia. Other members have already mentioned it, but I also note the length of time that Mr Fahey held a position of public office. Between 1984 and 1988, he was the member for Camden; between 1988 and 1996 he was the member for Southern Highlands; between 1988 and 1992 he served as a Minister; and from 1992 to 1996 he served as the Premier. Unlike the Treasurer, I was not a sprightly 11-year-old but a sprightly 21-year-old when Mr Fahey took that leap into the air, which we all remember so well. To see a Premier of New South Wales throw himself in the face of danger was something to behold and a testament to the man himself. I will never forget the images of him on stage that day for as long as I live. He then served in the Federal Parliament between 1996 and 2001 as a senior member of the Howard Cabinet.

Mr Fahey's contribution in New South Wales and Australia continued well beyond his departure from Parliament. I understand that he chaired the Liberal Party committee in 2015 that helped to deliver the fantastic election victory of the Baird Government, and I thank him because that was the year I was elected. His contribution will never be underestimated. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Fahey only once; I wish there had been more occasions. He was truly a giant of a man, incredibly humble, incredibly dignified and, as so many have said, honourable. Whether it was his commitment to the Liberal Party or to the Government, or more generally, I am grateful for the example of public service that Mr Fahey set for all of us in this place and in the Federal Parliament.



Unfortunately, I did not know him personally but from all the accounts we have heard today, and I know that we will hear more later, Mr Fahey was truly an honourable and humble man.

In conclusion, I thank Mr Fahey's family members, some of whom are here today, for loaning this incredible man to the people of New South Wales during his 17 years in office. We often forget the sacrifices that families of parliamentarians make; that can never be underestimated. My condolences go to his family—Colleen, Matthew, Melanie and his incredible grandchildren—and friends. It is an incredible privilege for me to acknowledge the great contribution that he made to the people of New South Wales. Vale, John Fahey.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (15:49:01):** I express my condolences to John Fahey's family who is represented in the gallery today by his wife, Colleen, and Amber, Steven and Helen, along with Ross and Peggy Stone. I note the heartbreak that befell the Fahey family in 2006 following the tragic car accident that took the life of daughter Tiffany. Many in this House will talk about John's legacy in the world of politics, both as the Premier of New South Wales from 1992 to 1995 and as Minister for Finance and Administration in the Howard Government. John achieved many legacies, including leading the winning bid for the 2000 Olympic Games. So far every speaker to this motion has referred to his great leap of joy when it was announced that Sydney would host the games. As part of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, Blacktown City was very happy to have the athletics training centre, baseball and softball facilities built in the Doonside-Rooty Hill precinct. Today they are still very important facilities and we appreciate that legacy.

John was the first New South Wales Premier to appoint a Minister for the Status of Women and provide opportunities for women. He also addressed key issues regarding employment, education, health and safety. Even today domestic violence, health, quality of employment and education continue to be important issues, particularly in Sydney's west, and his appointment of a Minister for the Status of Women is a valuable legacy. Our political paths never directly crossed, apart from me handing out for Labor at election time. However, as a former mayor of Blacktown I was fortunate enough to meet him. At that time I was leading Blacktown City Council's exploration team to find a suitable university that would not only deliver courses but also undertake active collaboration with the community of Blacktown. I met John in his role as Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University [ACU]. The Australian Catholic University Vice Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven, AO, spoke about John's important role at the ACU, and I quote:

John was greatly loved as Chancellor. He was profoundly committed to the idea of a Catholic university, and brought to office courage, wisdom and dignity

In 2019 Pope Francis awarded Mr Fahey the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, one of the Church's highest awards, in recognition of his significant and distinguished service to the Catholic Church in Australia including ACU.

During his time as Chancellor the University's reputation as a Catholic university has been enhanced. Much of this was due to the personal convictions that Mr Fahey had on the critical role that the university plays in the life of the Church in Australia. This was reflected in 2015 when ACU was awarded the Ex Corde Ecclesiae medal, the highest award of the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

As Chancellor, Mr Fahey encouraged ACU to develop into a national university of stature. Under his stewardship, the university underwent a long-term, sustainable expansion strategy that encompassed a rise in the numbers of both students and staff, the establishment of two new campuses, enhanced research capabilities, deepening partnerships in Australia and internationally, and greater engagement with our communities.

Whilst I was mayor we initiated a search for a university that wanted to have a comprehensive collaboration with the local community. We did not want just a shopfront university with limited course offerings, seeing students—whether local or foreign—as commodities in a financial transaction or being an ivory tower with little connection to the local community and business.

Blacktown City is a vibrant, multicultural community with a current population of approximately 400,000—estimated to be 612,000 by 2041—and a gross domestic local product of over \$18 billion, which over the past five years has grown by 4.6 per cent per annum. We needed some pastoral care from a tertiary education facility that understood the needs of the local area, given the financial and social challenges of western Sydney. The Australian Catholic University, under the leadership of John Fahey and Greg Craven, understood the needs of Blacktown City. In particular, those men understood the strong multi-faith community and the needs and challenges of our region. I thank John Fahey for his strong leadership in establishing a university in Blacktown. I recall fondly the time he visited CEO of Blacktown City Council Kerry Robinson and me at Parliament House. We discussed the need for ACU to have a campus in a working-class area as opposed to one in the centre of a capital city. John spoke of the need to connect with the community and provide opportunities for all. He saw that students could play a role in supporting the local community through their learnings. Their chosen field of study would support local community or sporting group activities.

After we finished our meeting I asked him whether he would like to come to the Chamber for old times' sake. Even though he was reluctant at first, I said to him, "Wouldn't it create a great stir and confusion in the

Chamber that a Labor member is hosting a former Liberal Premier?" With that, a smile broke out across his face and he said, "Let's go." When the Speaker recognised the presence of Premier Fahey and the fact that he was introduced by the member for Blacktown, a boisterous response came from all in the Chamber. I felt privileged to be with him as he spoke about his time at the dispatch box. As a Labor member, it was a great privilege for me to sit next to a person who achieved the great office of Premier, to hear his experience, understanding and foresight of what was happening in Parliament and to listen to him reflect on his days here.

John was a man of great integrity and deep faith. He was humble, courageous and principled. He had a multifaceted career as a lawyer, politician, industry leader and administrator. In 2002 Mr Fahey was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for his work in the political arena and for his facilitation of industry growth. From 2007 to 2013 John was the president of the World Anti-Doping Agency and was a driving force for new initiatives to increase and enhance drug testing in sport around the world. While John undertook his various roles in community, charities, sport, industry and education, he was dealing with difficult personal issues like aggressive cancer, which resulted in him losing a lung in 2001, and more recently leukaemia.

John Fahey, we thank you for your integrity and for making our community a better place to live, work, study and play. Thank you for your role in establishing an ACU campus in Blacktown City. I thank Colleen and the Fahey family for allowing John to spend his time and effort on improving quality of life across the community. The family has sacrificed so much because of his service to the community, but they can rest assured that he has made a difference and we are all better off for his efforts. May the Hon. John Fahey, AC, rest in peace.

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (15:58:02):** It is a true honour to stand in the Chamber today as The Nationals' Whip and remember the life and achievements of former Premier John Fahey. I offer my condolences to John's wife, Colleen, and to his children and grandchildren. It is moments like these when we have the opportunity to pause and reflect on a life well lived, contributions made in a lifetime of service and the seeds of legacy planted by a man who was respected by members on both sides of the Chamber.

During John Fahey's tenure as Premier a devastating drought gripped more than 93 per cent of the State and crippled rural and regional communities. In this very Chamber Mr Fahey spoke at length about the need for the Commonwealth Government of the time to abolish asset tests, which saw primary producers—particularly in New South Wales—blocked from receiving assistance. He argued passionately for the need for agricultural workers to be paid an unemployment benefit so that they could remain on properties when their employers could no longer afford their wages. He championed regional New South Wales to its city cousins, telling those in Macquarie Street that a drought that sees a wheat crop fall to a fraction of its normal level would raise the price of bread in the cities. He reminded everyone that drought does not just hurt regional communities; it impacts on everyone. His drought relief considered every aspect of life, from the daily task of farming families transporting children to school to the highest level of the Federal Government that was deciding what areas were considered to be drought affected.

He was a man who was not afraid to admit his failings, but he will be remembered for his long list of successes—the decisions and policies that continue to benefit our communities. The twentieth anniversary of the Sydney Olympic Games has reminded us all of a time when we passionately united as a State, a nation and a people. We came together to show off our wonderful country to the world. We were forced to confront trouble in our past, we celebrated the triumphs of our athletes and we shared in the despair of missed Olympic dreams. That unity is the result of a mammoth effort in the Olympic bid to which John Fahey made an enormous contribution. The attitude of a nation was captured in the unbridled joy he showed when Sydney was named as the host city. It is remarkable that Mr Fahey was able to see the seeds of his own legacy blossom in his lifetime.

In his final speech to this Chamber, before moving into Federal politics, Mr Fahey gave a word of advice to his colleagues, saying, "Please do not lose your way, or your principles." He believed in this institution, in this form of democracy and in what individuals can achieve when they come together and put the interests of their communities first. But, of course, he still had the humour to refer to it as "the bearpit of New South Wales". His death is not only a loss to his family and loved ones but also a loss to our institution, our State and our nation. I can only end my words today with those of the man himself, spoken 25 years ago as he gracefully took his leave of this House and said, "I urge you to continue to work for the people of your constituency, or otherwise to work towards making things just that little bit better." May we all live up to the weighty legacy he has left us. Vale, John Fahey.

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (16:02:47):** To Colleen Fahey, her family and her grandchildren, I express my condolences and honour the memory of John Fahey. I think I am probably the only one left in the House who worked with John as a member of Parliament. It was a different time when I came here in 1991. I think John came in 1984 and, along with Nick Greiner, he was very much at the forefront of getting our Liberal Party and National Party colleagues into government. When they won in 1988 it was an incredible inspiration to all of us who had an interest in good government. There was no

question that John was always going to be pivotal to what came after that. I think they were very challenging times.

Nick Greiner won a handsome majority. By 1991 when I was elected, it was basically a hung parliament. John stood out as one of the people to whom I could talk as a new MP. No matter what position he held within the Government, he was approachable. That was something that really helped me in my first years in this place. For those of you who now work here and have no idea what it used to be like, let me tell you that they were long days. We used to sometimes sit until three, four or even five o'clock in the morning. They were tough years and John had massive responsibilities. I think it was in June 1992 that we faced the challenges of ICAC and issues to do with one particular member who had left us. John Fahey stood out as someone who one could talk to and someone to whom I certainly could relate. He was a knock-around guy who liked to drink and smoke, but no matter what was going on or how busy it was you could go into his office—and I did—and sit with him and talk about the challenges that you were going through.

Most members come into this place with no idea what it is really like. In those days, it was seriously rough and tumble in many ways. It is a lot more contained these days. I must say, when I arrived I contemplated whether this was really a place I wanted to be. I remember sitting in John's office and him giving me wise counsel just after he became Premier in June 1992. He did not belittle me because I was having doubts about being here. Instead, he gave me wise advice on how to manage my life in politics and told me what I should be doing if I were going to choose to stay. Whilst I did contemplate my position at that stage, John's advice was to keep going if I thought that I could really do some good. That is what he had done since he entered this place in 1984, and what he continued to do for many years. I remember reflecting on that and thinking, "Well, am I going to walk away from this and not do what I came in here to do?", which was to try to make a difference, particularly for my local residents but also for the broader area of New South Wales. To a great extent, over the years I have modelled myself on Colleen's husband. I could not play rugby league, but I could certainly try to relate to people in the way that he did.

John did not seem to ever hold a grudge. He sometimes got feisty and wanted to really get into it, but he always came round to being just very decent. I know that there have been tough times for John's and Colleen's grandchildren and children, but I say to them that John was a role model outside of politics. He was the sort of person who everybody could aspire to be like. In the early days things were different in the sense that on our side of politics only a few people came from the Catholic faith, but John was strong in his Catholic faith. I remember him talking to me about that at the time and I remember him talking about his history. He, like me, was previously a lawyer. He had done his Solicitors Admission Board course, from memory. He was a great mate of John and Jim Marsden. We had many hours of discussion about how we could make a difference for the New South Wales community.

He made a huge difference in this place. I particularly remember the day—and there have been many which were tough and which I do not talk about—when John was elected. It was horrible circumstances, where former Premier Greiner had been forced to resign by a group of Independents who felt that they knew best. They also effectively forced out Tim Moore, the then environment Minister. It was some months later that the Supreme Court on appeal pointed out the failings of the ICAC in that decision-making. On that day, and in the days leading up to it, I remember that it was hard to know whether or not John really wanted to be Premier. I had a sense that it was with sorrow that he was doing what he was doing, but it was between himself and Bruce Baird. I still remember the meeting and the vote that day. The room was full of sadness for what had happened, but there was also a great sense of joy because John had been elected. There were obviously people supporting both men, and both would have done well, but people knew that John was going to be the person who would take us forward in a way that related to people. Of course, after that we saw that so often.

We heard those things talked about at St Mary's Cathedral by Marise Payne and John Howard and others, as well as by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, who clearly knew John, Colleen and their family well. We know those tales well, so I do not intend to go over them again. John was a role model to the rest of us, both in this place and later when he became Federal finance Minister. He was the sort of bloke who we all aspire to be like. He was a bloke who I will always look up to. To have the love and care that he had both for his family but also the community was a tough balance to try to strike. I am sure that, at times, Colleen would have wondered how that was possible. What spouse does not wonder about that? This place is so all-consuming when you are trying to do what you have been elected to do by 40,000, 50,000 or 60,000 people. You are trying to do the right thing by them but you are also trying to do the right thing by your family.

I thank Colleen for sticking with John during those tough times, because they were tough times. I thank Colleen and her family for sharing him with the rest of us. John was a great guy and his love for them and the community will go on through all of his family. I thank them for sharing him with us, and particularly for sharing him with me and letting me learn from him.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney)**  
**(16:12:19):** I apologise if I break down during my speech, but I will try to get into a bit of a rhythm. I thank Colleen, Steve and Helen for coming. It is great to see Amber here. I know that if Campbell could be here, he definitely would be. I know that Melanie and Matthew wanted to be here and that Tiffany definitely would have wanted to be here.

Camden and the Southern Highlands produced an absolutely fantastic industrial relations Minister. We heard from the Treasurer about John's reform capacity and his ability to change what takes place in communities. That is a hallmark of his contribution to New South Wales. Even last week, the pieces of the industrial relations framework that John put in place to make sure that we strike the balance between the worker and the taxpayer were still delivering for the people of New South Wales. We have heard a lot about the Olympics, which was such a defining contribution of his time as Premier. There is something quite nice about the fact that John decided to leave us at around the time of the twentieth anniversary of the Olympics. He wanted to own that and he used it as an opportunity to really leave an indelible mark. The recent anniversary reminded us all of the joy that John was able to bring to New South Wales and the nation. That success of winning the Olympics was a watershed moment for the people of New South Wales. It reminded us that we belonged on the world stage, and John Fahey helped us to achieve that.

I think about the election in 1995. I was a young teenager starting to get engaged in politics. I think about issues that were floating around then that he was passionate about, one of which I am pursuing right now: raising the Warragamba Dam wall so that people who live on the floodplain in western Sydney get the same protections that exist in other locations around the country. He took that issue to the election and lost, but this Government is carrying it forward today. I will make sure that we get those contributions and the safety that people across western Sydney deserve.

As for his time as a Federal Minister, it was a great loss that John was not able to spend more time in Parliament because his health got the better of him. He lost a lung. We may well have forgotten that at the time other members of Parliament were leaving and forcing by-elections. It was quite a difficult period for the Howard Government. Even after surgery to have his lung removed, John stayed for the entirety of his term. He served to the end because of his loyalty and his commitment to the team. That was a great reforming government—a government that had to completely reshape the finances of the nation. Peter Costello is regarded as one of the nation's finest Treasurers but I have always felt that history undersold John's contribution during that period.

I was going back through old newspaper articles and found a headline that read, "The axeman with a heart"—the guy sitting on the Expenditure Review Committee taking money out of programs, getting the budget back in black and putting the nation's finances in order. John was able to make those changes and take Ministers on that journey. I do not know many people who would be able to do that in the way that he did, with his particular persona and his ability to take young and older people on the journey and make them understand what their responsibilities were. I have no doubt that Peter Costello and John Howard would never have been able to make those changes to the nation's finances without someone like John Fahey sitting at the table with them, with that experience and guidance.

After John left Parliament his contribution did not change. In fact, his engagement with me started long after he left Parliament. We have heard about his immense passion for sport. If you are a person who is passionate about sport and the concept of integrity is ingrained in you, it is such a natural fit that you end up leading the World Anti-Doping Agency. No matter how competitive he was—do not get me wrong, the guy loved to win—John wanted a fair fight for the win. He wanted a fair contest every step of the way, so it was logical for him to find his way into that role—and at a time when world sport was going through the Lance Armstrong saga and people had the same faith in athletes as John had in the church. He wanted to make sure that that faith was warranted. His commitment to keeping sport clean long after he left the Parliament has no doubt had a huge impact on international sport, and particularly on the Olympic movement.

I was lucky enough to be the sports Minister who had the chance to appoint John as chair of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority—for me, another natural circle-of-life moment for the guy who won the Olympics for Sydney. The Sydney Olympic Park had meandered somewhat for a period and I sensed that it needed some new—perhaps "refreshed" might be a way to describe it—leadership. It was not that there was criticism of what existed; it was more about bringing in a new way of doing things. John attacked that job with such vigour and changed the way Sydney Olympic Park is today. It went from being a place that hosted the Olympics to being a thriving precinct where people choose to live, a fantastic location with sport fundamentally imbedded in its DNA and a great place to work. There is no doubt that without his leadership the second phase of Sydney Olympic Park would not have eventuated. I am incredibly grateful for that.

His commitment to western Sydney and the church have been discussed by many others. I loved listening to the contribution of the member for Blacktown because I remember talking to John about western Sydney and

the Australian Catholic University—the ACU talking about where it wanted to be, and me suggesting to him and to Greg that Blacktown is a good place. Lots of other universities have overlooked that part of western Sydney, with its wonderfully diverse cultural community and a strong commitment to faith. I am so glad to see that John's leadership helped the ACU make that decision, and I have no doubt it will fundamentally change the lives of many young people across western Sydney, particularly in Blacktown. John was recognised for his contribution to the church by being named a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great—I wanted to make sure we got that out there. I know he was always humble but I think he really liked getting that recognition. I think that one meant a bit more to him.

John was incredibly passionate about sport. He loved his rugby league. My interactions with John started to get much stronger through my relationship with Marise. I listened to the contributions of Melinda Pavey and Dominic Perrottet. People have said that John Fahey was not the natural Liberal politician. The impact of someone's contribution to society or organisations is often the way they change them. Dominic stands here as a Catholic. I stand here as a Catholic. The Liberal Party is our home now. It is our home because John Fahey changed the Liberal Party. He made this party open to more people. That hard-head, soft-heart principle is now owned by so many people in the Liberal Party. John made that part of our culture and part of our DNA, and it will carry on for a very long time.

I did not know about that until I was sitting in the pew at St Mary's the other day. We have heard ICAC mentioned a few times today, as John Fahey came to the premiership through what happened with Nick. I put the following in the ICAC category. My version of ICAC, and the intense questioning you get there, happened one night when Marise had said to me, "We've been hanging out a bit. I'm going to invite John Fahey around to dinner." So John came to dinner. It was just the three of us, and I think Marise spent most of the time as far away from the two of us as possible. I deadset went through an interrogation—it was question after question after question.

I like to think I entered the contest on some reasonably solid ground. I was a card-carrying member of the Liberal Party, which I think was a good start. I had Catholicism on my side, I think I scored a few extra points because I wore a Claddagh ring and I did not mind a bit of sport. I did not know until I was sitting in the church the other day that John wrote Marise a letter after this event—a kind of endorsement letter, the "you can stay" letter. That is what she said. Hearing that was really powerful. I never got to meet Marise's dad. John was the closest person in the world that Marise had to a dad, so in many respects it was like losing my father-in-law—at least that is what it has been like for me over the past 10 to 12 years.

Then beyond the personal interactions through Marise came my professional engagement with John. Back in 2010 we had come off the horrendous 2007 State and Federal losses. Marise and I were working on trying to find candidates for the Liberal Party in western Sydney and we did not really have a good candidate in Penrith. One night at home in the kitchen I stupidly said, "This is terrible. Why can't we find anyone?" Marise said to me, "Well, if you think you're so bloody good why don't you run yourself?" I thought, "I don't really have much of a comeback for that." I said, "I need to talk to someone about what this is like. I can talk to you but I think I need to listen to someone else." And the first person I went and spoke to was John Fahey—it was like, "If I'm going to do this, what do I need to do? How does this work? Will it work with me and Marise?"

From that moment on, John was my go-to guy for advice and guidance. Whenever the phone needed to be answered, when I needed to ask some questions about how a policy would work or about personalities, he had a story for how it happened 10, 20 or 30 years ago and you could replace the characters from his time and anticipate what would take place now. He brought that to both his rugby league and community leadership, to his engagement in schools, to what he did with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, with the World Anti-Doping Agency and with the Australian Catholic University. His ability to bring his personal experiences was incredible. I doubt I would have been a member of Parliament without his mentorship and I do not think Marise would have achieved the things that she has without his mentorship.

People who have worked for John speak with such passion about how he went out of his way all the time to make them better people, and the opportunity to now talk about that and how their lives have fundamentally been improved by what he has been able to do far outstrips all of the political and policy outcomes. His ability to make people better is what made John Fahey a great human being and a great Australian. At least once a year John Fahey, Marise Payne, Ross Drinnan, John Brogden and I had dinner—I always felt like an interloper because I came a little bit late to the group—but if our diaries could make it work we would do it twice a year. On those fantastic and awesome nights we would talk about life, politics, listen to John's stories and talk about the challenges that were happening in our lives. I know we will all miss those dinners immensely. The other day after his funeral we all had lunch and somewhat continued the tradition. I know that he was watching very closely, engaging in and listening to the conversations.

John Fahey was a remarkable human being, an amazing father, a wonderful Premier, a reforming Minister and a person who was committed to his faith. In life he was dealt some unbelievably tragic cards and he still fronted up every day. He has made an unbelievable contribution to New South Wales and Australia and he will be greatly missed. He will be greatly missed by Marise, John, Ross and his close group of friends. He will be greatly missed by his family who represent him today. He has changed New South Wales. He has changed the Liberal Party and western Sydney. Today, in front of his family, members are telling their personal stories and from that I hope that his family will take away how important he was to us. I hope that his family will understand that the personal sacrifices each of them has made by allowing us to have him a little more than they did has made us better people. This job requires some very difficult sacrifices in life. It is so important for his family to be here. It will help them to understand the size of John's contribution both to our nation and to his family. We are all better for it.

Finally, I want John Fahey to last a lot longer than what often history allows individuals. I cannot think of something other than the one thing we both shared as an immense passion—our love for sport. In this State we are building some great stadiums and I hope that a stand or a stadium is named after him. John Fahey brought the Olympic Games to this State and he was incredibly passionate about sport. I want to make sure that his name lives on in the history of this State for a very long time, not because of all of the things that we have said about his contribution to politics and to policy, but simply because when we say the phrase "great Australian" it sits very naturally next to John Fahey.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (16:28:44):** I say g'day to Colleen and Amber, and to everyone in the gallery. It is fantastic that we have this opportunity to pay tribute to John this afternoon. What Stuart Ayres has just said pretty much sums John up. I, like Stuart, got to know John through Marise. There is no doubt, particularly as an incoming parliamentarian in my twenties, to be able to meet John was quite intimidating—his stature and his contribution, particularly given at the time he had served so incredibly well in the national Parliament, let alone as Premier of the State. It was fantastic. There is no doubt that for me he was my lucky charm.

I had the blessing of having John to launch my election campaigns because of Manyana, which I know is a special place for Colleen. It brought enormous joy to John to be on the South Coast, to soak in that magic environment and to take the time to reflect on family and life outside family when it comes to politics. There is no doubt, particularly given some of the early elections I went through, that John gave unwavering support. As Stuart touched on, some of the men and women who served under John are incredible Australians and the only reason they are is because of John's guidance, mentoring and support—the Peta Seatons, Ross Drinnans, Marise Paynes and John Brogdens of this world. I am sure if they had the opportunity to contribute to this condolence motion today they would reflect on that. Indeed, that goes to the testament of who he was as a person. He cared and he wanted to see people succeed. When he spoke to me he talked about progressive politics, not necessarily of a conservative strain, but the progressive nature of what he saw as the right thing to do. That is where this counts.

On reflection, the 1995 period was a hard time politically because of what happened. To win the majority of votes and not to remain in government was almost cruel. However, when one thinks about what happened next—to be part of the razor gang that had to turn the nation around; to have the patience to be sitting as part of the process; to have Minister after Minister come in at the national level with the Costello-Fahey leadership group; to continue to make, in some cases, no doubt, stupid decisions; and to work all hours of the day—as a Minister one would be sitting there shaking one's head on the phone wanting to download. I am sure Colleen enjoyed the benefit of those late-night discussions. This is where—certainly in great political partnerships—we must never forget the contribution that Colleen made to those processes, as well as to who John was. It is not just about John; it is also about what Colleen has done alongside him. It is fair to offer a big thank you for what she has done.

This sad time is also a time to reflect on the happy memories. This afternoon I was very pleased to hear my colleagues talk of those incredible moments that are so much part of our history. Stuart, we will no doubt find a grandstand somewhere—knowing Stuart, he will probably want a stand named after him as well! This is much deeper than a grandstand. If we look at his contribution to the Disability Services Act, what he did for women, what he did in the employment space, what he did as the nation's finance Minister, what he did for sport but also, most importantly, what he did as a mentor to young people in politics, very few of us can put up our hands and say we have achieved that. That takes someone special. To his family, I offer my deepest condolences and sympathies. He was a special friend to me, and no doubt his legacy will live forever.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (16:34:53):** The Hon. John Fahey, AC, dedicated almost two decades of his life to the service of the people of New South Wales and Australia. I commence my remarks by expressing my sincere condolences to his wonderful wife, Colleen, his children and his extended family. John Fahey was a good and decent man who will be

remembered as a great Liberal and Premier who served our State and our nation with absolute distinction. My electorate of Kiama covers parts of John's former electorate of Southern Highlands. One does not have to go too far to find a local who will volunteer a story about John, and they always speak with great pride about his contribution as their local MP, as a Minister and, indeed, as Premier. Like John, I am an unlikely Liberal MP. Like him, I come from a working-class family and, like him, I believe in breaking stereotypes and demonstrating that our party is absolutely about the values that John Fahey held and lived every day of his life.

As Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, I acknowledge that John oversaw the introduction of the Disability Services Act in 1993. That was a very different time for people with disabilities, and it seems light years away from what we know today as the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The objectives of the Disability Services Act still set the gold standard for governments today. I will reflect on a couple of the objectives of that important legislation, which included provisions to ensure the services necessary to enable persons with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential as members of the community. Those objectives included ensuring the provision of services that:

- (i) further the integration of persons with disabilities in the community and complement services available generally to such persons in the community, and
- (ii) enable persons with disabilities to achieve positive outcomes, such as increased independence, employment opportunities and integration in the community, and
- (iii) are provided in ways that promote in the community a positive image of persons with disabilities and enhance their self-esteem ...

As the first Minister for disability services to have lived experience of a disability, I record my thanks for that statement of commitment from the Fahey Government to put people with disabilities at the heart of services as a result of those changes. In passing that legislation, John did not just change the law; he also changed attitudes. Anyone in government can change laws. It is much harder to change the way that people treat, encourage and empower people with disabilities. John's leadership did that, and I thank him for making my life and the lives of people like me less challenged and more warmly included.

As members of the House know, I am fond of history and the people who made it. John was a man of strong Catholic faith. His first attempt at entering the ministry was through the seminary. Like so many in my party, I am pleased that his path to the ministry eventually came through Parliament. Following his parliamentary career, John's commitment to faith and education continued in his role as Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University from 2014 until his passing. Last year he was awarded Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great in recognition of his distinguished service to the Catholic Church in Australia.

John entered the legal profession through the Solicitors Admission Board, now the Legal Profession Admission Board. For those who are familiar with the admission board, it is a very challenging way to enter the law. It requires extraordinary discipline and commitment. Many consider the board more challenging than other avenues into the legal profession. In 1984 John was elected State member for Camden and, as a result of a redistribution in 1988, became the member for Southern Highlands until he concluded his time in State politics. He was succeeded by my friend Peta Seaton, who continued the outstanding representation of that area as the local MP.

Prior to giving this speech, I contacted Peta and she asked me to share with the House the following quote. She said, "From the time I first met John when I was a staffer for Nick Greiner, he always gave people like me the time of day on policy ideas. When I did somewhat surprise him by announcing my candidacy for preselection for Southern Highlands—at that stage, seven months pregnant—he was gracious and encouraging, and on day one after the preselection took me with him to Goulburn and introduced me to as many people as he could, where I found him to be hugely well respected and welcomed. This was the legacy of his very personal and genuine rapport with people and the fact that he was interested in their point of view, whatever their situation. This was particularly so when he took me to visit a special school for children with disability in Goulburn."

During his time in politics, John helped deliver major reforms for New South Wales—not only as Premier from 1992 to 1995, but also as a senior member of the Greiner Government. Earlier I reflected on John's reforms for people with disabilities, but I also note his work to see the introduction of the NSW Seniors Card and the swearing in of the first New South Wales Minister for the Status of Women. As Minister for Industrial Relations, he led a major overhaul of the State's industrial relations system. John faced five by-elections in three years. That would be enough to give any political leader heartburn. But he won them all, which is an extraordinary achievement for any government but particularly a Liberal government at that point in our State's history. John was instrumental in securing the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, which are still regarded as the greatest games ever. Many remember the celebrations that swept the nation in September 1993, after Sydney was announced as the winner. The image of celebrating that evening is, I think, how everyone will remember John.

A lifelong sports lover, John chaired the Australian Rugby League development board and was patron of the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, having also been a rugby league player and coach. Following his time in politics, he went on to be the president of the World Anti-Doping Agency from 2008 to 2013. History will remember him as a brave man for his quick thinking and selfless action to protect His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales from an attack on Australia Day in 1994. Prince Charles sent a letter that was read by the Governor on the day of John's funeral. I attended John's funeral and it was an honour to be there to hear the stories of people who knew John so well. From Nick Greiner's fond recollections of a loyal friend through to Senator Marise Payne's heartfelt memories of a caring and encouraging mentor, the funeral was a celebration of a life that was a unique and generous gift to his wonderful family, his community, our State and our nation. As John's career in State politics came to an end, he told this place in his last private member's statement:

I recall in the early days of 1984 coming to this Parliament with a number of colleagues who are present in the House today. I found the system almost overawing. I found it especially difficult having come from practising the law where I had control of my life, and all of a sudden I was answering division bells and attending a room for rollcall. I could not leave the place at night. I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I also realised that it was a wonderful opportunity, not so much for myself but to serve the community, and that community initially was my electorate. Subsequently greater responsibilities were given to me. Hard work was the only way to achieve anything. To make a worthwhile contribution one had to know what the system was and what was involved and had to work hard to understand it. I relished that opportunity and progress occurred, as those who may look back on my career will see.

As we now look back on John's career, I say with thanks that I could not agree more. Vale, John Fahey. Rest in peace, true and faithful servant.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (16:42:22):** It is my honour today to support this condolence motion and to speak of John Fahey's contribution to public life in this State and this nation. I am not the first and I will not be the last person in this place or in this State to hearken back to that moment that seemed to encapsulate John Fahey's love and enthusiasm for public service: 1993, on an autumn evening in Monte Carlo—as far as you could imagine from John's beginnings on a farm in New Zealand—after a long campaign in which he had, as Premier, convinced not only the notoriously fair and unassailable delegates of the International Olympic Committee [IOC], but also the people of this city, that Sydney was the right place to host the 2000 Olympic Games. Anyone who was around then remembers the pre-Games scepticism with which a lot of Sydneysiders approached the prospect of hosting tens of thousands of international athletes and hundreds of thousands of sports-loving tourists.

Sitting in that Monaco auditorium along with Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games chief Rod McGeoch, who expertly drove the Sydney campaign, John Fahey and the world waited the interminable 15 seconds that it took Juan Antonio Samaranch to produce from his breast pocket that fateful envelope and a slip of paper. It took the IOC chief so long to unfold and orient that sheet of A4 that one would have thought he was practising origami. He was, of course, practising the art of suspense. For every second that went by, the combination of hope and dread would have multiplied in John Fahey's guts—performance-enhanced butterflies.

John loved sport. He was no slouch at rugby league: A player himself, chalking up 37 lower grade matches for the Canterbury-Bankstown club in the mid-1960s, along with captain-coaching the Camden Rams and the Oakdale Workers Club. That was only part of his preparation for the rough and tumble of this place. His support for the code continued throughout his life and he became a patron of his beloved Bulldogs. As chair of Australian Rugby League Development Limited he played an important role in nurturing new talent for the code. He was also patron and director of the Men of League Foundation, which helps ex-players and their families, officials, administrators and volunteers access support in times of need. In this role John Fahey demonstrated one of the most fundamental aspects of his character: compassion. In 2010 he said:

No other sport in this country has demonstrated the same level of care and thoughtfulness for its extended family that rugby league gives through this foundation. Men of League has helped countless individuals who have rugby league in their veins. Few organisations that I have been associated with have given me the same level of personal satisfaction as Men of League.

John Fahey was a lawyer. He was a solicitor. I was a solicitor once and became a barrister—I crossed over from one branch to the other. It is said, perhaps unfairly, that John sometimes did not like barristers. As a solicitor he had been on the receiving end of, perhaps, the brusqueness and snootiness that barristers at that time were sometimes guilty of, but as Premier he did oversee extraordinary changes to practice barriers. He did away with anti-competitive practices that ultimately cost the consumer and he did that with his experience as a solicitor foremost in his mind. As I said, John was a lawyer so forgive me if by virtue of that I do have a bit of a bias towards him.

He started John Fahey, Searle & Co. in the mid-1970s and he stuck with that through his first couple of years in this place. John was elected as the member for Camden in March 1984 and had a one-term taste of opposition in New South Wales under the yoke of the returned Wran Government. In the 1988 election, in which the "cardiganed" Barry Unsworth was defeated by a rejuvenated Coalition under the leadership of Nick Greiner and the inimitable Wal Murray, he ran for and won the newly created seat of Southern Highlands. Nick was a



good talent spotter. The scrapper from the greater west was appointed to the Cabinet and sworn in as the Minister for Corrective Services—quite an act to follow, given a recent predecessor in that portfolio was the entrepreneurial Rex Jackson.

We have often heard how John hailed from a background that those opposite would like to claim exclusively for themselves. As the tail of the Great Depression was morphing towards world war, John Fahey's parents emigrated from Ireland, bringing with them hopes of a brighter future in the Antipodes. John described how his parents' departure for Australasia left their families in poverty and helplessness. How remarkable was it that they were able to witness their beloved son become not just a lawyer running his own firm but a Minister of the Crown for both New South Wales and the Commonwealth, let alone Premier of the most important State in the country. John said that his parents taught him "compassion and respect for others". He said, "They taught me to share, to be generous, to contribute to others, to work hard and to recognise God's role and the value of His support in all that we do."

John said the most important lesson they taught him was to think for himself. Indeed, he credited that for leading him to liberalism and the Liberal Party, and the political and public career that we pay tribute to today. He held dearly as a matter of great personal pride that he never voted for the party of those opposite in his entire life. Although it has to be noted, as John left this place for the prospect of public life on the national stage he said:

... the hardest decision will be when I come to the end of my street and have to turn right instead of left. I have never been much good at turning right.

I have absolutely no clue what he meant by that. As Premier, and as Federal finance Minister, he was dedicated to creating the conditions where small business could thrive—could be the engine room of job creation—and he said nothing "could be more Australian". He developed a great regard for those in the public sector, on whom he relied for the frank and fearless advice necessary for a government to serve the interests of all the people. He did not always feel this way, saying in his valedictory speech in this place that he felt as a newbie member of Parliament that the best legal and other administrative skills resided pretty exclusively in the private sector:

As a Minister it did not take me long to realise that some of the best lawyers I met were in the public sector. ... We should never underestimate the skills of those who back us up in what we must do with the responsibilities we are given. I enjoyed not only friendships, but also a great deal of guidance.

John Fahey was known as "have-a-chat", due to his common practice of waylaying almost anyone for a yarn. And it stretched well across the Chamber, as he invited the relatively newly minted Premier Bob Carr for a beer in his Capitol Hill office. Though the sports tragic stopped short of promising to share a game of rugby league with the Civil War scholar. "I'm sick to death", John said, recalling an occasion when the two did once share the field, "of having to explain to him what a knock on and a forward pass are."

John was athletic and courageous. He relied on those two qualities when springing to the defence of the Prince of Wales during that Australia Day ceremony in 1994. The shots fired by the Prince's would-be attacker were from a starting pistol, so they were harmless. But there is no way John Fahey could have known that as he demonstrated his preparedness to adhere to perhaps the most sacred principle of his Roman Catholic faith—showing that greater love, in his preparedness to lay down his life for a fellow man. Prince Charles said in his message to the congregation at John Fahey's State funeral last month that he was "as fortunate to have him on my side that day, as the people of New South Wales always were to have him on theirs." And as fortunate as the people of Australia during his tenure in Canberra. When he left that place in 2001, he had a message to which all of us in this place should have close regard as we continue our public service. He said:

Those things which frequently are and ought always be the most important things in our life are sometimes sacrificed because of the expediency of the moment—it is just so important to win that next election and therefore I cannot afford not to go to this public meeting tonight, or to the school presentation—and, bit by bit, that becomes an all-enveloping existence and, in the process, we lose sight of what is actually important in our lives.

This underscored the importance of his family in being a crucial support during his public life. He served the same area and many of the same voters in the Macarthur region over a period approaching 18 years. After his 17-day stint as New South Wales Minister for Corrective Services, Premier Greiner found other uses for his talents—he became the Minister for Industrial Relations, and later added Further Education, Training and Employment. Due to circumstances upon which we will not elaborate now, he briefly added the Treasury and Ethnic Affairs to his responsibilities before taking the oath as Premier on 24 June 1992.

I started this contribution today with that story we know so well—and that happened a year and a bit later—the climax of the campaign for Sydney to host the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic games. John Fahey said he would "never forget the opportunity to play a role" in that incredible project from which this city continues to benefit. Those games still have the reputation as being the best games ever. In that moment when he displayed his athleticism for the gathered multitude in Monte Carlo, he may well have been celebrating when Juan Antonio Samaranch's finally managed to deliver his halting declaration "the winner is ... Sydney". He leapt so high, a

parliamentary colleague said it looked like a rabbit trap had gone off under his seat. His jump may have been so joyful because, as he later observed, the Sydney 2000 Summer Olympics presented: ... an opportunity and a responsibility to progress our nation, to take a prominent role in our region but, more importantly, to progress the individual lives of all Australians so we may all play satisfying, rewarding and fulfilling roles in one Australia. The winner was indeed Sydney. But thanks to his efforts, dedication, diligence, compassion and humanity, the winners from John Fahey's efforts in public life were, in truth, all of us. Vale, John Fahey. I commend the motion to the House.

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (16:54:45):** I contribute to debate on this condolence motion about the good man I knew, John Fahey. I am one of the few members in this place to have served for a short time—in the other place—when John Fahey was still in this Chamber. I remember him as a good man. He was generous in spirit. He did like to have a chat. He was friendly and he talked to everybody. I knew him a short time, but it was long enough for him to have made a great impression. I remember him as a big bear of a man, larger than life. He was raspy of voice and always had a glint in his eye when we ran into him in the Chamber. He always had a wide, welcoming smile. Those are the things I remember from when I was here while he was still serving in this place.

What came across to everyone was that he was a man of passion and beliefs, and a man of faith. I thank him for his service to the State of New South Wales and the Commonwealth of Australia, and for the seminal role he played in securing the Olympic Games for Sydney. Nobody can ever forget that leap, and people remember the great affection and joy they felt when they saw it. I think the two things that stand out when people speak about the late John Fahey are the leap and the tackle. When I thank him for his service, I also thank his wife and his family.

John Fahey always had a kind word to say to everybody in this place. He always had a nice word of advice and always had that wide, welcoming smile. Even though the Attorney General said in his contribution that John Fahey was proud of all the things he did and never having to vote Labor, it made no difference to him who you were or what your politics were—he was always gracious and always had that kind word for everybody. Sitting here in the Chamber listening to the contributions of members, I felt compelled to say those few words. May God rest his soul.

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:57:24):** I pay my respects to and admiration for the Hon. John Joseph Fahey, AC, who passed away on 12 September. John was no ordinary constituent in my electorate of Wollondilly. He gave a lifetime of dedicated public service, which included being our State Premier from 1992 to 1995. After retiring from this place, he went to the Federal Parliament as the member for Macarthur which, at the time, took in parts of my current electorate. He went on to serve in the Howard Cabinet as Minister for Finance from 1996 until his eventual retirement from politics in 2001.

The circumstances of John Fahey's rise to the premiership in 1992 are well known. It was a time when our State needed someone to reunite, refocus and energise our Government and Parliament. Despite his significant achievements, John Fahey was a humble man. He also focused on positive outcomes for the community, rather than seeking personal glory. This is the mark not only of a great statesman but also of a genuine and caring man. It made him the natural choice to succeed Nick Greiner. John leaves many wonderful legacies and delivered many major reforms for New South Wales, both as Premier and as a senior Minister in the Greiner Government. Without doubt, both New South Wales and Australia are a better place for John Fahey's service.

During the 2019 election campaign John and his wife, Colleen—who I note is in the public gallery today—handed out pamphlets for me at the Mittagong Public School. I feel fortunate to have known John, in recent times as a mentor. The advice and guidance I received during my campaign were instrumental in my election win. John always gave me measured advice based on his many years of experience. Following my election, John was always willing to give his views on the current political situation and steer me in the right direction. I always enjoyed our many chats after six o'clock mass at St Thomas Aquinas, Bowral. Like me, John had a deep Catholic faith, which he held until the end. Committed to a pro-life message on abortion and euthanasia, he was recognised by the Catholic Church for his service with a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great.

John was always interested in my progression as a State parliamentarian and encouraged me to strive to make my electorate and New South Wales a better place for all. I am deeply grateful to John for his advice and for the mentoring he provided to me. It will always remain a constant source of inspiration throughout my future career. One of the last issues I discussed with John was the way we should respond to the COVID-19 crisis. It was on this advice that I established a regional task force covering the Camden, Wollondilly and Goulburn areas. On a lighter note, there was one point of disagreement between us: He played for the Canterbury Bulldogs. Of course, I am a diehard Wests Tigers supporter, and I will not forget the 1988 grand final.

Today it is the norm for exiting politicians to focus on a post-political career in the corporate world. John Fahey was from a different age. He continued to give and to serve. He became President of the World Anti-Doping Agency between 2007 and 2013. Later he was elected as the fourth chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, from September 2014 for five years. Locally, he served as a director of the Bradman Foundation, including a stint as chairman from 2005 until 2007. My electorate has many connections with John. He served in this place as the member for Camden and later as the member for Southern Highlands, both of which include parts of my present-day electorate of Wollondilly. When John first arrived in Australia from across the ditch he lived in Picton and was schooled in Bowral—both key towns in my electorate. To the end, he remained a dedicated resident and active branch member.

Peta Seaton, who also served in this place, wrote to me recently. She is correct in advocating that the local area should recognise the achievements of John Fahey. It is almost 20 years to the day since the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. That is, perhaps, one of John's best-known legacies. Who will ever forget John's leap into the air when the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, uttered the famous words, "The winner is Syd-en-ney"? Before, during and after securing the games, John maintained an enduring connection with sport. In my mind, a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands would be to have a sporting facility named in his honour.

Recently the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government committed more than \$300,000 to fund six netball courts at the Eridge Park complex in Burradoo. On 1 July the Premier also opened the new rugby clubhouse, the upgrade of which was funded at around \$991,000. With two rugby fields, a velodrome, a synthetic cricket pitch and athletic fields, it is a well-utilised sporting complex. There are also plans to build a leisure centre containing a pool and gym facility. One could say it is a kind of mini-Olympic site situated in the heart of the area that John Fahey once represented. Obviously, the decision to rename the park is one for the local council and the wider community—and, of course, in consultation with his family. However, it should be given serious consideration, and it is an idea that I will now champion.

To Colleen, his children and grandchildren, I offer my deepest condolences. I share their loss and will forever be grateful for having John as a friend and a mentor. He was a true advocate for his community, our State and our nation. We are better for John Fahey's public service and leadership. John, my friend, I thank you.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (17:04:00):** Today I pay tribute to the Hon. John Fahey, AC, a man who dedicated decades of his life to public service, which is a noble, very hard and very generous thing. It is unique to have longevity in public service, particularly in politics, but it is even more unique to serve for a long time with good humour, a generosity of spirit and the willingness of helping others to learn the ropes. John did just that. That is why today I want to celebrate his long life and dedication to public service by participating in expressing condolences.

I did not know John for as long as some others did, but our paths crossed about 20 years ago when I joined the Liberal Party. During the 1990s I was living in New York City so I had missed the build-up to the Sydney Olympics and of course that famous jump in the air that is replayed and replayed and replayed—that sheer delight that we witnessed. By the time I met John he was long out of politics and among other things he was serving on a number of boards, such as the advisory board of J. P. Morgan. I remember that our first meeting was against the backdrop of the very expensive use of Sydney Harbour where J. P. Morgan had offices in Grosvenor Place. On that day I had no history in the Liberal Party and no-one in my family had been involved in politics or the Liberal Party. It was early days and I was flying blind.

John loved to have a chat. We all know he loved to have a chat. Indeed he did that day and the catch-up went for quite some time, which will not surprise anybody who knew him. He had this wonderful mellifluous voice that was untainted by the smokes he loved so much. The time for our long conversation went very quickly. It was easy for time to fly. From then on we built a relationship where he was open to having chats whenever I wanted to have one and he was so happy to share his wisdom, which was done generously and warmly and without bitterness that sometimes can creep into people's voices, recollections and sharing if politics treats them in some way they are not expecting.

I crossed paths again with John when I was the Minister for Sport and Recreation. At that point he was President of the World Anti-Doping Agency. From speaking to him then I know that he was personally committed to globally enhancing and increasing drug testing in sport across the world. Because John had a deep passion for sports and had roles in sport, as the Minister for Sport and Recreation I always felt a sense of comfort when he was involved in various activities, such as the Chair of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, over which I had oversight as the sports Minister.

The last time I spoke to John was probably 18 months ago—a while ago—and it was a very contrite discussion about his personal experiences of coastal erosion of his beloved home. It was not a very happy tale that

he had to tell me but, as always, it ended and was characterised by a great sense of warmth and humour. He did not seek to overplay his role as a very eminent person in public service or retiree from public service. In fact, the way he engaged in that conversation was more, for me, to set an example of how to conduct oneself in a post-political life. He did that with generosity, even though he had a personal point to make. That is the way I remember John. I remember him in my office at that point.

For all of those reasons it was wonderful to have the opportunity to join that group—although very much smaller than we would have liked—at the State funeral on 25 September at the glorious St Mary's Cathedral. Yes, it was a COVID-safe funeral. I had not been to one and it did have a different feel about it, but it was solemn, moving and, at the very same time among the COVID formalities, it was a stunning celebration of his life. I know many more people who wanted to attend saw it televised. It was a two-hour service that was amazing. It was a full communion mass, parts of which were in Latin, and as a Catholic I really delighted in that privilege of being with John's family and those who had seen different parts of his life and wanted to be part of that formal farewell and State funeral.

I will always remember John as a man with a very generous heart. I acknowledge John's family here today. I know that John is survived by Colleen and by surviving children Melanie and Matthew, as well as his grandchildren, Amber and Campbell. My goodness, how wonderful they were on the day at that State funeral. I also acknowledge Steven and Helen Fahey, who are with us today, and I welcome Ross and Peggy Stone. I extend my deepest condolences to all of you. John will be remembered for so many reasons that you have heard expressed in this Chamber by all of us for different reasons. Vale, John Fahey.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (17:09:48):** John Fahey lived a courageous and exceptional life. John Joseph Fahey was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1945 to Stephen and Annie—Irish immigrants who left their native Galway in search of a better life. They were devout Catholics. John would later credit them with instilling in him the virtues of compassion and respect for others that he displayed throughout his life. The Fahey family migrated to New South Wales in 1956, settling in Picton. John was educated at Chevalier College in Bowral and later studied law through the Solicitors Admission Board. In Colleen McGurran he found his partner in love and life, and they married on 9 November 1968.

Central to John's life were family, faith and football. He was a Canterbury-Bankstown man through and through. He played reserve grade for the club and had a few first grade run-ons. He later served as club patron. Colleen always said he had a magnificent sidestep, prompting a famous cartoon of him palming off an opponent on the field with his rosary beads laced through his fingers. He was born, lived and died with a strong and unshakeable faith. He carried his rosary beads with him at all times. His uncle was his parish priest. He served a year in the seminary while studying for the priesthood in 1963. He later told the story that he knew he was not destined for such a vocation when, during the week of solitude and against the rules, he was listening to his transistor and heard the news that John Fitzgerald Kennedy had been assassinated. But he could not break his vow of silence to tell anyone.

He was articled to a small suburban law firm before moving to Marsdens to open the Camden office. He later went out on his own as John Fahey, Searle & Co., which flourished in the growing Macarthur region. The firm folded into Marsdens when he was elected to Parliament. Jim Marsden remained a friend for life. John was immensely proud of being a solicitor and maintained his practising certificate as the New South Wales Premier. It taught him attention to detail that later was the dread of public servants who were not over their brief. He initialled every page that he read. But he saw the human side of the law, and how it helped and hurt people—an experience that followed him into politics.

His achievements were born of hard work and merit. His practice as a country solicitor lent him a deep commitment to fairness and justice that he brought into the New South Wales Parliament as the member for Camden in 1984. Subsequently, he contested and won the seat of Southern Highlands in 1988 and he entered the ministry with the election of the Greiner Government. As an Irish Catholic working-class son of a coalminer, he was not the typical Liberal Party member. He was one of the tens of thousands of people who joined the party in protest against Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's economic policies. As industrial relations and employment Minister, John Fahey steered through vital workplace reforms that reshaped the State economy and helped small businesses to grow and flourish.

John's work ethic was legendary. The lights burned in his office until the early hours of the morning as he worked through his briefs, with a cigarette and a cup of black coffee ever present. For many, it is his role in winning the Olympics for Sydney that remains his greatest legacy. The image of John Fahey jumping for joy as the announcement was made of Sydney's winning bid is now part of the pantheon of images that tell the story of the best-ever Olympics. Fahey was a man of courage. He won the admiration of the public for his bravery on Australia Day in 1994 when he leapt to disarm a protester who threatened Prince Charles with a gun. Genuine and loyal, John was deeply saddened by the resignation of his great friend Nick Greiner, but prevailed over a crowded

field to become the Premier of New South Wales. In his almost three years in that job, he delivered significant reforms and new infrastructure that still serve the State today. Part of his success was surely due to his openhearted and generous nature. He was quick to have a yarn over a drink and a smoke, often late into the night. He was always up for a chat, was genuinely interested in the lives of others and was willing to work through differences of opinion with honesty and respect. He wanted to be a Premier for everyone.

A moderate in many of his views, within Liberal circles John remains admired for his ability to unite the party and to reach out to those outside. He was a reforming Premier, introducing the Disability Services Act, privatising the State Bank of New South Wales, introducing the NSW Seniors Card and appointing the first New South Wales Minister for the Status of Women, Kerry Chikarovski. He took the loss of the 1995 election hard because he felt he had let the team down. John was encouraged to enter the Federal Parliament by his colleagues, State and Federal, and with Colleen's backing he won the seat of Macarthur at the 1996 election. He was immediately elevated into Cabinet, serving as the finance Minister. As former Prime Minister John Howard has acknowledged, John Fahey brought immense experience from his time in State politics and worked tirelessly with Treasurer Peter Costello to bring the Federal budget back into the black. He had a photographic memory, startling more than one public servant by asking about a point on page 152 of a particular brief and then reciting it in detail from memory.

His liberalism embraced the big ideas—together with an eye for detail and unswerving commitment to good faith and calm and respectful consultations with all sides. John described his liberalism as having a hard head but a soft heart. He was the kind that combined reward for effort with compassion for those who fell through the cracks. Premier Gladys Berejiklian spoke for many when she paid tribute to John Fahey as a wonderful role model to generations of Liberals. Those who benefited from John's friendship and guidance include Liberals such as Joe Hockey, Marise Payne, John Brogden and Concetta Fierravanti-Wells. He inspired loyalty and his patience, kindness and, above all, his willingness to chat with everyone created an army of people willing to go the extra mile. More than one staff member despaired of his schedule as he genially derailed meetings with questions about rugby, family and life in general. It was a mark of the man that his interest was as deep and genuine in the humblest worker as the most senior person in the room.

I was one of the many beneficiaries of his wise counsel. He was head of the Australian Building Codes Board, overseeing the implementation of the Shergold Weir report and, as Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, I would speak to John often. His advice was wideranging and unfailingly thoughtful, considered and kind. I was proud to call him a friend. His fear of flying was legendary, and many former staff and colleagues have anecdotes about John breaking into cold sweats within five kilometres of any airport and of rosary beads and short acts of contrition mid-flight.

In his valedictory speech from the Federal Parliament he said he wanted to continue to give back to the community. His contribution was immense, and he did exactly that. John served as director of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, chairman of the Australian Rugby League development board and chairman of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. In the spirit of helping those fallen on hard times, he helped run Men of League, a charity that looks after ex-league players and their families who have found themselves in need of care and assistance. In 2007 John became chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency where he focused on increasing and enhancing drug testing in sport around the world.

His life was touched by tragedy and illness. Twenty years ago he lost a lung to cancer, but he overcame the disease to live with one lung, short of breath but long in determination to use his remaining time to serve the community. He and Colleen were devastated by the tragic death of their daughter, Tiffany, in 2006 and together they raised Tiffany's two children. He is survived by Colleen, children Matthew and Melanie and grandchildren Amber and Campbell. I acknowledge Amber here today as well. To them all I extend my sincerest condolences. John Fahey believed the Liberal Party stood for all Australians. He showed that you can be an effective politician and a good person. The Liberal Party is deeply saddened and mourns his loss. Rest in peace, John Fahey.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (17:19:25):** It is with sadness but also a sense of great privilege that I make a short contribution to debate on the condolence motion for one of the great Coalition members of Parliament and Premiers of New South Wales, the Hon. John Joseph Fahey, AC. Although I met Mr Fahey on a few occasions after he left the New South Wales Parliament, my admiration for his public service began as a general member of the public well before I became a member of the Liberal Party.

Mr Fahey entered public life by becoming the member for Camden in 1984 when I was in the third year of my studies in law and economics at the University of Sydney. By 1987 I would become a solicitor, like Mr Fahey, and later a barrister. It was his membership of the Greiner Government in 1988 that brought Mr Fahey to public notoriety where he was immediately made a Minister and progressed quickly to become Premier by 1992. The Hon. Nick Greiner, AC, a former member of my electorate of Ku-ring-gai and also a great Premier and kind mentor to me, gave an excellent and personal tribute to Mr Fahey at the recent State funeral in St Mary's Cathedral.

Mr Greiner emphasised the good character of Mr Fahey and the personal support that Mr Fahey gave him at his lowest moment of public life during the controversy surrounding Terry Metherell, which led to Mr Greiner being wrongly found to be corrupt by ICAC—a finding that would ultimately be overturned by the New South Wales Court of Appeal as wrong in law.

Lawyers are trained to help people who are in trouble. Mr Fahey did not seek to exploit Mr Greiner's leadership troubles for his personal benefit; instead, he was a resolutely loyal colleague to Mr Greiner. When the crossbench members of Parliament forced Mr Greiner to resign as Premier, Mr Greiner returned the loyalty that Mr Fahey had given to him. I understand that Mr Greiner rang around the members of the party room telling them that the standout candidate for leader was Mr Fahey. Mr Fahey did prevail in the party room and became Premier. I also understand that Mr Fahey bore no grudges. He made some of those who supported Mr Bruce Baird, his leadership rival, Ministers notwithstanding the fact that they had not voted for him as leader.

As a general member of the public, and without any disrespect to Mr Greiner, Mr Fahey was a very down-to-earth person and in his own right had an attractive appeal to the public. He had a more knockabout persona than the Riverview-Harvard educated Mr Greiner. I thought Mr Fahey presented as a Labor leader with Liberal values, but both Mr Greiner and Mr Fahey had one very important thing in common: Mr Fahey always came over in the media as highly intelligent, like Mr Greiner, and with hard work Mr Fahey steadied the political ship in the difficult circumstances that he inherited as Premier of a minority government.

It is well known that Mr Fahey played rugby league at a high level, helped win and then jumped for joy when Sydney won the Olympics, tackled an apparently dangerous assassin of the Prince of Wales, and more. At the time of the 1995 State election I was not a member of a political party and was living in the Labor stronghold of Newcastle, but I was an avid follower of politics. An accountant friend of mine offered to John Fahey that he would man a booth in Mr Fahey's electorate on election day to help Mr Fahey be re-elected. I agreed to go on a two-day road trip south of Sydney to his electorate in Goulburn to help out. I believed in 1995, still in the Labor-induced recession—the recession we had to have—that the reforms of the Greiner and then Fahey Coalition governments were essential to the future wellbeing of our State. The day went well in the polling booth and my confidence in the result led to devastation when Mr Fahey's Government lost the election by the narrowest of margins. Like many people, I felt that it was an unfair blow to him personally, and that he and his team deserved another term. On a more minor note, it was not a particularly great start to my political participation.

Sometimes with adversity comes new opportunities. The future Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. John Howard, OM, AC, recognised that Mr Fahey still had much to give to public life, and with his encouragement Mr Fahey entered Federal Parliament and became the Federal finance Minister in difficult economic times. Over a million jobs were quickly created by the Howard Government and John Fahey was a major contributor to that by holding a senior key economic portfolio. His service to the Australian Parliament was like his contribution to this Parliament and was made with great distinction.

By the late 1990s I had joined the Liberal Party, and as Treasurer of the Davidson State Electoral Conference I recall Mr Fahey being the special guest at a fundraising event for Andrew Humpherson in the New South Wales Parliament around the turn of the millennium. That was the first time I had met John Fahey in person. Like he presented in the media, he was a very warm person. He was humble. He genuinely considered that it was an honour to be asked back to this place by one of his former colleagues. I think it is very fitting that he is being honoured again today.

In the past year or so I had a conversation with Mr Fahey when I bumped into him while he was on the way to an ACU function in the Strangers' Dining Room. We had a nice chat. The characteristic I remember from the handful of times that we met was his personal warmth. Mr Fahey's life was rich and complex. In addition to his public service in two parliaments, he fought cancer, his family suffered tragedy, he took a role in international anti-doping and he became a papal knight.

Both Mr Fahey and Mr Greiner inspired a generation of Liberals. Many MPs have noted that today and I add to their observations. Mr Fahey inspired the good in people to engage in public service. By all reports, his family was the rock of his life and was probably why he was such a grounded and down-to-earth person. I offer my condolences to the family of Mr Fahey, many of whom are here today including his wife, who must have cherished the opportunity to know such a great man at close quarters. I am sure you miss him greatly. Vale to a great man of the Liberal Party, the Hon. John Fahey. We thank him for his great public service.

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (17:27:05):** I offer my condolences to the family of the Hon. John Fahey, AC, on his passing. To John's wife, Colleen, son, Matthew, daughter, Melanie, in memory of John and Colleen's daughter, Tiffany, and Tiffany's children, Campbell and Amber, I pass on my sincere heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Having grown up on a farm, John became a Titan in his field with a legacy spanning decades. He migrated to the Macarthur region from New Zealand in 1956 and would go on to leave a massive

footprint in the region in both his legal profession and subsequent political career. After attaining his legal qualifications at the University of Sydney, John was admitted as a solicitor and went on to become a senior partner at John Fahey, Searle & Co. from 1975 to 1986. In 1984 John was elected as the member for Camden, but continued to be involved in the Macarthur legal community as a consultant at Marsdens Law Group.

The office he operated out of as a solicitor on John Street, Camden, would later become the electorate office of Dr Liz Kernohan, Geoff Corrigan and my predecessor, Chris Patterson. Today it is my electoral office. This is just one of the many examples of how the legacy of John Fahey continues to be felt to this day in Camden. His tenure in the Parliament of New South Wales as the member for Camden, member for Southern Highlands, Minister for Industrial Relations and Premier of New South Wales saw some of his more well-known accomplishments come to fruition.

I am sure many of us remember the images of John Fahey leaping for joy in 1993 after the announcement that his bid to have Sydney host the 2000 Olympics had been successful. It was this announcement alongside his heroic actions in thwarting a suspected assassination attempt on the life of Prince Charles on Australia Day in 1994 that solidified John as a courageous and energetic leader for New South Wales. This could also be seen in the New South Wales Parliament as he led his party to legislate a number of major reforms. His reforms on industrial relations, the facilitation of high technology and industry growth eventually earned him the Companion of the Order of Australia in 2002—the highest civilian award in the land.

Following the loss of John's Government at the 1995 election, he turned his eyes to Canberra and joined the Cabinet of Prime Minister John Howard as finance Minister after winning the electorate of Macarthur at the 1996 Federal election. Alongside John Howard and Peter Costello, John worked tirelessly to drive what would be remembered as a historic turnaround in Australia's finances during the late 1990s. After suffering health complications the Hon. John Fahey, AC, retired from politics in 2001. Not one to shy away from contributing to the world around him, John was confirmed in 2007 as the next president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, which was a position that he held with distinction until November 2013.

Throughout his life, and as a result of his upbringing, John remained a devout Catholic and carried his faith with him at all times. In 2014 John was appointed as the fourth Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University in Sydney for a five-year term and he received a papal honour for his services to the Catholic Church in Australia. John also held his sporting endeavours very close to his heart. He played 37 games for the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs before becoming a patron of the club. He was also captain-coach of the Camden Rams and Oakdale in the Group 6 Rugby League competition. As many of my colleagues have said today, John may not always have been destined to be a member of the Liberal Party. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has testified to this and said, "As a Liberal he broadened our outlook and connected us with an ever-widening aspirational population." Thanks to John the Liberal Party is now a broad church.

As the current member for Camden I am saddened that I did not have the privilege of personally meeting John. Having said this, everywhere in the community of Camden and the Macarthur region, and through my time as his successor to the electorate of Camden, I have seen the impact of his actions. On behalf of the residents of Camden, the Southern Highlands and the Macarthur communities, I offer my thoughts, prayers and condolences to Colleen and John's family. It was my great honour to be invited to attend John's State funeral, which was a beautiful service and a service at which I learned so much about a great Australian who will never be forgotten.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

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

*Bills*

## **ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENSING) BILL 2020**

### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (17:33:47):** I support the Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020. Digital and online access to resources and tasks is evidently becoming increasingly important for New South Wales citizens as it allows for quicker and more convenient ways to achieve everyday tasks. The digital driver licence has paved the way in this area and continues to support more than 1.7 million people who have downloaded the Service NSW app since its inception. It is now evident that changes need to be made to allow individuals the freedom to choose between the use of a physical or digital licence. The bill aims to give the digital driver licence the same legal status as the plastic licence card so that consumers can use it wherever

legislation requires that a driver licence be used. I believe that allowing both plastic and digital licences to be of equal status will encourage individuals to be more vigilant when presenting their licence when it is required. Furthermore, the safety of the user is safeguarded with security benefits for digital driver licence holders, such as being protected by a PIN, fingerprint and facial recognition. Those checking licences can be assured that its unique features make it easier to verify as well as difficult to fraudulently replicate. Additionally, by allowing the release of information in drives, the digital driver licence will also meet international standards for digital identity products.

Under current legislation, the digital driver licence is legally considered evidence of the issue of a driver licence and can only be used for limited purposes, as set out in the Road Transport Act 2013, or in regulation. To ensure that all drivers can conveniently have adequate identification present, I support the Government's move to amend legislation that allows the digital driver licence to hold the same status as the plastic licence. Information sharing through the digital driver licence is critical to the roles and tasks of licensing authorities. Amendments to the Licensing and Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act will work in conjunction with existing provisions to allow more licensing authorities to enter into arrangements to share customer photos and information with consent.

To ensure the safety of people's personal information, advice from the NSW Privacy Commissioner has been included and ensures that all sharing is customer driven, consent based and subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act. By amending the current legislation, customer information can be shared in a faster and more secure way. It has been found, through four privacy impact assessments, that suggested changes to legislation are low risk. These amendments mean better service to our communities. As the member for Mulgoa, it is critical that my community is supported in a faster and more effective manner, with surety that community members' information is protected by the Government and used to benefit them, especially during COVID-19 and all of the uncertainties that this year has brought.

With all New South Wales government agencies and key industry groups on board, and with the suggested amended legislation, it is time that we bring these positive changes to the community and get the ball rolling in the right direction for the people of New South Wales. I support the Government's move to amend the legislation to include the digital driver licence in the definition of "driver licence", and clarify that it satisfies any requirements under New South Wales law to display or produce a driver licence. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:37:59):** In reply: I thank members for their contributions to the debate. As members have heard, the bill will give the digital driver licence [DDL] the same legal status as the plastic licence card. It will also streamline the process of applying for a licence by allowing agencies to share customer information and photos, with their consent. The bill supports the Government's Beyond Digital strategy and the Premier's Priority to increase the number of government transactions where the customer only needs to provide their details once. It demonstrates that New South Wales continues to be a leader in digital innovation and customer service. The bill is a natural progression for the digital driver licence. The success of the original trial has been built on over the past year. The digital licence has been used across New South Wales not only for driving but also in pubs and clubs as well.

With around 2,000 new downloads a day, its proven popularity makes the case for expanding the utility of the digital driver licence, and gives us confidence that the bill will be welcomed by the great people of our State. The fact that businesses that have no obligation to accept the DDL are already reporting using it gives us confidence that this expansion will be welcomed by the business community as well. After 1.8 million downloads, the fact that there has been no increase in driver licence-related complaints to the Privacy Commissioner or to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner [OAIC] gives us confidence that an expansion will be safe for licence holders. When the DDL has equal status with the plastic licence card, users will not have to worry about which transactions they need to carry their plastic card for. The experience of using the DDL will become simpler and more consistent.

As members have heard, the DDL has the added benefit of providing a no-contact ID check. It can be easily and accurately verified by sight alone. Following enactment of the bill, pharmacists selling pseudoephedrine will have the benefit of being able to confirm the identity of their customers without having to touch their licence card. The bill not only seeks to expand the use of the DDL but also makes important changes to the Licensing and Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act that paved the way for quicker, simpler and cheaper licence applications. The amendments create a framework for sharing customer information photos with consent. Following enactment of the bill, New South Wales government agencies will be able to enter into arrangements to share personal information and photos when the customer asks them to do so.

Currently, strict rules around the driver licence register mean that a driver licence photograph cannot be shared with another licensing agency, even if a person were to request it. These amendments do not remove the legislative protections for the photos and personal information but instead create a framework for sharing in limited agreed circumstances. All sharing must be with the consent of the individual in question. These



amendments will help to reduce the time, effort and costs associated with a licence application and will ensure that the Government provides the high level of customer service the people of New South Wales expect.

I will answer some of the points raised by the Opposition, the first being about digital inclusion and not bringing culturally and linguistically diverse communities along. I note the member for Canterbury's comments around digital literacy. This is an important point and one that this Government takes very seriously. It is determined to not leave anyone behind and will always retain non-digital options for customers. In this respect, it is important to emphasise that the digital driver licence is not compulsory—it is optional—and it offers ease and convenience for some customers. New South Wales is working with other States and Territories and the Commonwealth on broader digital inclusion programs to ensure that culturally and linguistically diverse communities and older citizens can use our high-quality digital service delivery solutions.

In the Canterbury electorate alone more than 27,000 people have downloaded a digital driver licence. That represents around 47 per cent of residents. I congratulate them on their high adoption rates of this digital innovation. In many ways the people of Canterbury are ahead of the curve, because I think the average across the State now is 33 per cent. I am certain that the member for Canterbury will be more than enthusiastic about the DDL, because the people whom she represents love it.

**Ms Sophie Cotsis:** How many actually use it?

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** As I said, 27,000 people in the member for Canterbury's electorate—that is 47 per cent—use it. I challenge her to get out there and say that she does not like it. The problem for the member for Canterbury is that the people are ahead of her. That is a shame. Members should be charting the course and creating the vision. Her people are ahead of her. I urge the member for Canterbury to get on board. I was asked about the recent service—

**Ms Sophie Cotsis:** So then I can have the data breach. It has happened to me under your Government.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** I am happy that the member for Canterbury raises that, because I am about to answer it. The March phishing attack had nothing to do with DDL or access to drives. In relation to the Licensing and Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act [LRUPA] reforms, no transfer of licensing information or photos will be undertaken by email. The member for Canterbury also raised privacy and security as key issues for the Government to consider for its digital agenda. I assure the House that the Government takes the privacy and security of the DDL very seriously. So far during the DDL program, four privacy impact assessments have been conducted on the DDL. This includes a short-form privacy impact assessment on the legislative changes before the House, which found these amendments to be low risk. The NSW Privacy Commissioner has been consulted throughout development and rollout of the DDL, and will continue to be consulted.

As I have already mentioned, there has been no increase in driver licence related complaints to the Privacy Commissioner or the OAIC despite 1.8 million downloads. The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Road Transport Act tightly restrict the disclosure of personal information and provide robust privacy protections. The bill does not detract from those privacy protections. Further, the DDL project is subject to regular ethical hacker programs, or "white hat" programs. An independent security expert was engaged ahead of the rollout to ensure robust security settings. The bill will in fact improve the security of the DDL by allowing it to be verified directly against the driver licence register. This means that Service NSW—and I know, Mr Assistant Speaker, that you love Service NSW—

**Mr Adam Crouch:** Hear, hear!

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** Who doesn't? It should be a crime if you do not like Service NSW.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I got my fishing licence from the one at Hurstville.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** Did you? Is it digital?

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr Adam Crouch:** I got my digital driver licence.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** This should be a chorus—right here, right now. This means that Service NSW will be able to use the driver licence photos and information held in the driver licence register to verify that a DDL is genuine and displaying accurate information. This will increase the integrity of the data displayed on the DDL and allow it to meet international standards for digital identity tools. I note the member's comments about the Auditor-General's 2018 report on the Government's ability to respond to and prepare for cyber attacks. I am pleased to advise that the New South Wales Government has made great progress against the issues highlighted in that report.

The NSW Cyber Security Policy came into effect on 1 February 2019 after extensive consultation with all levels of the New South Wales Government. With strengthened mandatory requirements, agencies now report annually on how they are tracking against the Australian Cyber Security Centre Essential Eight, which includes such practices as regular patching, daily backups, restricting admin privileges and multi-factor authentication. Agencies must keep track of their most valuable or operationally vital systems or information. Cyber Security NSW has led the creation of new cybersecurity governance arrangements—principally, the Cyber Security Senior Officers Group, which includes key agency leadership from across the New South Wales Government. A Cyber Security Advisory Council has been established to provide independent external expertise and advice. Cyber Security NSW has also implemented email advisories for whole-of-government cybersecurity alerts and has developed cybersecurity awareness materials for use across government.

The amendments to the Licensing and Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act allow sharing of customer information and photos in connection with the licensing application, but only with customer consent. Sharing is only allowed between New South Wales government licensing authorities and their service providers, which primarily will be Service NSW. If a licensing authority is using a service provider other than Service NSW, sharing will be allowed only if that provider complies with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act. The NSW Privacy Commissioner has been briefed about these amendments and the department has followed the commissioner's advice by ensuring that all sharing is customer driven, consent based and subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act.

Provisions to allow agencies to enter photo-sharing agreements already exist in the licensing and registration Act. The amendments will update and improve existing provisions to make them easier for more licensing authorities to use. The member for Canterbury mentioned the delays experienced by some customers during the initial launch of the DDL. The DDL has proved hugely popular and, as a result, some customers did experience delays within the first 48 hours of release. Service NSW has processes and controls in place to manage customer demand to protect Service NSW systems, and the overall infrastructure and continuation of services was protected successfully. These have now been resolved, with 10,000 people downloading a DDL every day. Over 1.8 million people now have a DDL—including me. There have been no recent issues of any kind in relation to more people downloading the licence.

I am confident this bill delivers meaningful changes to improve the utility of the DDL and reduce the complexity of applying for a licence. The bill demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to better customer service. I thank the Department of Customer Service and all the staff who have played an integral role in the development of this bill on both the DDL and the LRUPA changes, particularly Sam Kidman, Emily Swain, Kyle Emslie, Rosemary Chandler, Aaron Baril, Natalie Spiridon and Audrey Maag. From my ministerial team, I thank my director of policy, Jane Standish, chief of staff Matt Dawson, parliamentary liaison officer Priya Pagadinnimath and departmental liaison officer Hanine Hameed. I thank the member for Canterbury for her contribution and her good grace. I also thank members representing the electorates of Holsworthy, Miranda and Mulgoa, and the Assistant Speaker. I commend the bill to the House.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PROJECTS**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:50:55):** Today I speak about the active transport investments in and around the Holsworthy electorate. The New South Wales Government acknowledges and recognises the importance of active travel when commuting to work, school or university. Through encouraging and investing in active travel, the Government is supporting a healthy and active lifestyle. In the 2019-20 budget the New South Wales Government allocated \$57 million to more than 130 new walking and cycling infrastructure projects across New South Wales. This decision was made to ensure that walking and cycling becomes a safer, convenient and fun option for civilians when they make their daily commute.

I am pleased to announce that the New South Wales Government is providing Liverpool City Council with more than \$1.7 million in grants to deliver around 1.5 kilometres of shared pathways that will significantly benefit the local community. These grants will directly assist Liverpool City Council to provide some essential sections

of shared paths in the local area, which will make it much simpler and less dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians to transport and move around the area. More significantly, the grants provided by the New South Wales Government will assist in delivering a 2.5-metre wide shared pathway along the northern side of Newbridge Road between Holly Avenue and Epsom Road in Chipping Norton. This will directly allow for the full connection of Chipping Norton along Newbridge Road, from Rickard Road to Epsom Road. Residents in the area will now have greater pedestrian and cycling access. It is particularly important during times of COVID, when we want more space between us, to have these extra wide footpaths.

These grants will also assist in delivering the continuation of the Hume Highway shared path on its western side, between the M5 and Reilly Street. It will also allow for the construction of a shared path on the western side of Governor Macquarie Drive from Newbridge Road to Alfred Road in Chipping Norton. The Government's grants will also assist in delivering service adjustments, the installation of bicycle lanterns and the construction of pram ramps, which I have learnt are incredibly important as well. The grants will also help to deliver the installation of signage and line marking on Newbridge Road at the intersections of Stockton Avenue and Nuwarra Road to ensure that it is safer for pedestrians and cyclists using the road.

I also mention the Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link for which Andrew Constance, the Minister for Transport and Roads, announced the commencement of the first stage of work between Sutherland and Kirrawee. The 11-kilometre shared path for cyclists and pedestrians that will be built between Sutherland and Cronulla will encourage Sutherland shire residents to easily integrate active transport into their lifestyle. It will connect residents to key locations such as train stations, schools, shopping centres, parks and so on, and will greatly benefit the local area. The benefit to us is that when it is eventually finished it will connect my electorate all the way through to Cronulla, which is incredibly exciting—particularly for those who live in Barden Ridge.

The New South Wales Government's Active Transport (Walking and Cycling) Program is part of the Government's commitment to ease public transport networks, while also encouraging a healthy, active lifestyle. We know that walking and cycling are an essential part of the transport system and the New South Wales Government is dedicated to motivating people to walk or cycle as part of their everyday travel. That is why we are putting into the Holsworthy electorate the necessary shared pathways. They will promote an active and healthy option for commuters. Additionally, they will help to relieve congestion on public transport and our roads as it gives local people an alternative option when deciding how they will get to work, school or wherever they are heading.

The creation and completion of these shared pathways, both in the local area and across New South Wales, is a part of our investment of around \$710 million in walking and cycling infrastructure over the next four years. This will bring the Government's total investment to \$1.1 billion, which is the largest in the State's history. That is fantastic. This is on top of the works that are currently in the pipeline to create a better connection between Voyager Point and Holsworthy station. Included in the duplication of Heathcote Road from The Avenue, Voyager Point, to Infantry Parade, Holsworthy, is a new shared pathway. I know that will be a great benefit to local pedestrians and cyclists who want an additional route to Holsworthy station or to connect more easily with the rest of our local area. I am thankful that has been included in this road project and I know it will be greatly used by our local residents. I am very pleased to be part of a government that values active transport and look forward to seeing these projects assist our local area, and the benefit that they will bring to the community.

#### **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY BLACKTOWN CAMPUS**

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (17:56:07):** The Australian Catholic University's announcement of a new campus at Blacktown, which is due to open in 2021, is welcome and exciting news. The Australian Catholic University [ACU] has been working tirelessly this year to ensure that its new Blacktown campus will open its doors in time for semester one of next year. The university has achieved its target enrolment of up to 1,000 students in 2021 and is projected to grow to around 3,000 students by 2025. The ACU, being in the heart of western Sydney, will provide innumerable opportunities for the western Sydney community. Western Sydney residents make up approximately 50 per cent of Sydney's population; however, western Sydney currently has less than 20 per cent of students enrolled at universities.

This indicates that there is a clear gap in the region for higher degree educational opportunities, which this new campus will help fill through the offering of new and innovative courses. In particular, the new campus will improve access for many communities that are historically less likely to attend university, including new migrants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and those whose parents did not attend university. The campus will offer a range of courses with a focus on training nurses and teachers. This will allow students to train locally to be nurses and teachers before going back to their own communities to work in their schools and hospitals. The ACU has always worked closely with the Mount Druitt community. For the past 20 years, the ACU has run the very successful Step Up program in the Mount Druitt area—a program that encourages and supports many first-in-the-family students to enter into teaching and nursing. ACU student nurses undertake placements at

Mount Druitt Hospital, and ACU student teachers undertake their practical placements in schools throughout the area.

The Blacktown campus will make it easier for students to access all their studies locally and will cut travel times for those students. The ACU has also worked in close partnership with Blacktown City Council and an array of local schools, business organisations, community groups and hospitals to enable them to offer courses that benefit all, whatever their sociocultural background or religious beliefs. Furthermore, the ACU is a partner with the Blacktown City Council International Centre of Training Excellence at the Blacktown International Sportspark, which is due to open in 2022-23. I acknowledge the former Mayor of Blacktown City and current member for Blacktown, Stephen Bali, together with his then deputy mayor and now current mayor, Councillor Tony Bleasdale, who were both instrumental in seeing the ACU Blacktown Campus come to fruition and secured for the Blacktown community. The ACU will operate its sport science higher education and research programs from the centre, which will include world-leading researchers who work with elite athletes in high performance, nutrition and mindset.

The ACU has been, and continues to be, heavily involved in the local area. The new Blacktown campus will serve Blacktown's diverse local student body in providing quality higher education courses within state-of-the-art physical spaces for study, recreation and reflection, uplifting the area and the community and providing students with a sense of self-worth and self-respect. I am particularly pleased to learn that the ACU regularly tops surveys for the employability of its students, with the most recent Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching Graduate Outcomes Survey showing that the ACU is number one in the country when it comes to graduate employment outcomes three years after graduation. This is great news for my community, which suffers from low unemployment rates.

It is also great news for the Blacktown area, which will reap the benefits that this new campus presents. The importance of education can never be underestimated for the future prospects of Australia. I am enormously pleased that the ACU continues to invest in my local area. The initiative of a new campus that will provide quality education and facilities, with better employment prospects, will see the whole community flourish with job-ready graduates and bring inclusion and prosperity to western Sydney.

#### **COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE AGRICULTURE**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:01:02):** Agriculture is one of the driving forces of the economy in the Cootamundra electorate. This vast electorate is home to much of the State's canola, wheat, sheep, cattle, wool, cherry and stone fruit production. Many of these industries, particularly in the horticulture and viticulture sectors, remain labour intensive and rely on an army of seasonal workers. With the nation's borders shut this year, the region is missing this vital workforce. I recently invited the State's new Agriculture Commissioner, Daryl Quinlivan, to attend a roundtable discussion with local industry representatives, who gave their time to share the challenges they are facing. In the Hilltops region 3,500 pickers are required for the cherry harvest alone. According to Cherry Growers Australia President Tom Eastlake, we are short hundreds of fruit pickers with harvest rapidly approaching. Mr Eastlake informed the agriculture commissioner that as of mid-September there were thousands of harvest jobs already available nationwide, many of these unfilled. He estimates that between \$41 million and \$53 million is at stake. That is a staggering figure for one sector alone to lose.

The horticulture sector is not the only industry crying out for workers. GrainCorp is forecasting a record crop—its largest in the past three years. But while the wheat heads are filling, the job applications are not. In the dairy industry—already struggling with the high cost of fodder production and low retail prices—the lack of international and domestic workers is hurting. Colin Thompson and Lisa Hindmarsh from the dairy sector spoke about the dependence the industry has on backpackers, with around 30 per cent of staff on Working Holiday Maker visas, and border closures seeing regular workers return to States such as Queensland. These industries face the additional challenges of housing workers, with COVID restrictions impacting on the availability of accommodation.

After years of drought, and more recently the economic impact of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot allow the promising upcoming harvest to go to waste. It is vital that the workforce needed for these sectors is secured. There is a range of opportunities to do this. Through the National Agricultural Worker Movement Code and Help Harvest NSW, we can encourage those not currently working—retirees, school leavers and university students—to take on these opportunities. We are already seeing them have a significant impact. Not every harvest job is out in the field or in the orchard. There are packing, processing, driving and picking jobs on offer, each one offering new skills and the opportunity to get a start in a new sector.

Sadly, we have become disconnected from where our food comes from, comforted by supermarket shelves filled—seemingly magically—with some of the best produce the world has to offer, often grown within a few hours' drive of our front doors. This is the time when the agriculture sector needs our help. Like everything

impacted by this pandemic, we can overcome the challenges of this harvest labour shortage together. The last piece of the puzzle is for all levels of government to work together to solve the issue our agriculture sector faces in securing workers. I have formally called for this in representations to both the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments.

To the primary producers and the hundreds of businesses and the communities that rely on the boost at harvest time, know that I am fighting for you to ensure that your voice is heard and that an unreaped harvest is not a further disaster brought on by the events of 2020. I thank Daryl Quinlivan for his time in coming to the Cootamundra electorate and listening to industry leaders share their concerns. I am incredibly proud that this Government has appointed Mr Quinlivan as the State's first Agriculture Commissioner, whose experience, strong leadership and reputation for being in policy and solving complex problems will be an asset to the industry. I know that the sector has a true champion in its new Agriculture Commissioner and I know he will passionately advocate for this vitally important industry, which continues to be a powerhouse for the nation's economy.

### **LIONS CLUB OF BEROWRA**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (18:05:47):** We have some exceptional local community organisations in Hornsby. Today I congratulate the Berowra Lions Club, which has demonstrated amazing community spirit over many, many years. The Berowra Lions Club began in the seventies, with my mate Bill Bradley as the first president. Since that time, the club has been an important part of our community. It has run barbecues, raised money, sold Christmas cakes and donated thousands of dollars to our local community. However, when the pandemic hit, the club wanted a practical way to assist people who needed an extra helping hand during these challenging times. That is how the Connecting Our Community Project was born. The project aimed to connect those in need with those who were willing and able to assist. Berowra Lions Club put together a group of willing volunteers who wanted to help. The club could then match each job with a volunteer. From collecting groceries to mowing lawns and walking pets—it did not matter what the job; big or small, there was somebody happy to help.

The program helps not only the vulnerable and the disadvantaged, but also those who are finding their current situation difficult. One heartwarming example was a Brooklyn resident with considerable storm damage to the roof of her house. Thanks to the work of current board member Geoff Turnbull and a team of volunteers, they were able to ensure the roof was secure and watertight. This program goes hand in hand with other important work the Berowra Lions Club has carried out in our community since its inception in 1973. The club has donated a staggering \$800,000 and supported 100 organisations. In just the past 12 months the club has recorded in excess of 160 community activities and has donated over \$65,000 to local and national causes. In August the club joined the Rotary Club of Berowra and the Berowra Apex club to build new exercise equipment at Warrina Street Oval, allowing the local community to access free equipment whenever they need. They have installed a defibrillator in the Berowra District Hall, upgraded the signage at Berowra park and encouraged people to put thankyou posters in homes around Berowra to show their appreciation of frontline and emergency service workers.

Other ongoing programs include Youth of the Year, Lions Eye Health Program Australia, Story Dogs, Peace Poster Contest, and the spectacles and hearing aids recycling program. The club has also been holding regular COVID-safe barbecues around our local community. I acknowledge outgoing president Geoff Turnbull and the board, and thank them for their hard work and dedication. Just recently the club welcomed a new leadership team. The incoming board members, led by president Graham Estreich, include Gail Susan Moore, Jackie Beattie, Geoff Turnbull, Brian Engert, Bruce Andrews, Les Howe, John Mann, Colleen Starkey, Colin and Christine Hunter, Jamie Roberts, John and Jenn Bull, Rhonda Engert and Ros Fuller. Recently the club also welcomed Shane Fitzsimmons as an honorary member. I take this opportunity to congratulate outgoing membership chair and incoming president Graham Estreich, who was awarded the club's Lion of the Year award.

The Berowra Lions Club has been fortunate to be guided by many accomplished members over the years, who have received special awards. They include Rosalind Fuller, who was awarded the Lions Secretary Commendation; Colin Hunter, who received the Lions Outstanding Treasurer award; Brian Engert, OAM, who I have previously awarded the NSW Government Community Service Award and who received the Lions Distinguished Service Award; Geoff Turnbull, who received the Lions Outstanding Club Leadership Award; Russell Pinch, who received the Lions Lifetime Service Award; Christine Hunter, who received the Lions Helen Keller Fellowship; and John Bull, who received the Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Within this distinguished list of recipients, I particularly mention the work of Christine Hunter and John Bull. Christine Hunter has been an enthusiastic voice for those with hearing loss. Since 2013 she has been a volunteer with and is now president of the Self Help for Hard of Hearing organisation. I thank her for her enthusiasm and hard work. John Bull received the Melvin Jones Fellowship—the highest recognition given to a member of a Lions Club. John has been a pillar of strength for the club, giving unwavering support to the community, and this is truly commendable. I again congratulate the Berowra Lions Club on its recent Connecting

Our Community Project. The COVID pandemic has hit many hard, and it is awesome to have these amazing volunteers helping get the community through difficult times. I have no doubt the Berowra Lions Club will continue to go from strength to strength. I thank each and every volunteer for their hard work and dedication to our community.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (18:10:08):** I thank the member for Hornsby for his wonderful private member's statement. As the Minister for volunteering, I commend the Berowra Lions Club for the great work that it does—particularly the work that Lions Australia does in relation to sight. Members may not be aware that growing up I needed a specific piece of equipment to undertake my schoolwork: a closed-circuit television and screen. My parents simply could not afford that equipment and the Bomaderry Lions Club came to their rescue so that I could afford that equipment. There is no doubt that I would not have gone on to do the things that I have done—not least of which, becoming a member of Parliament—if it were not for that generous gift from that Lions club. The story of Bomaderry Lions Club has been replicated right across the State, the country and the world. The Berowra Lions Club is clearly an example of a great community organisation supported by a wonderful local MP who knows the value of these community organisations. They are the essence and flavour of each of our electorates. It is wonderful that the member has taken the opportunity to acknowledge Berowra Lions Club in the House tonight.

### **BLACKTOWN CITY LIONS CLUB**

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (18:11:09):** I acknowledge Blacktown City Lions Club, which this year celebrates its sixtieth anniversary. During these COVID times, all Lions clubs provide invaluable service to their respective local areas. Blacktown City Lions Club was established in September 1960—the oldest in our region—and prides itself on giving back the majority of funds to our local community as well as, where needed, international or national relief efforts and projects. From the first club president, Ted Watson, through to current club president Rebel Hanlon and everyone in between, Blacktown City Lions Club continues to build on successful partnerships and provide much-needed support to people in need. Blacktown in 1960 was a very different place from what it is today. Ted Watson, with Blacktown shire president Alfred Ashley-Brown and many others, saw the need to raise money to serve the community and to help people in difficult times.

Over many years the club has had a close relation with Blacktown council, including mayors and councillors, and all my predecessor MPs from Blacktown. A core focus of support has been Blacktown Hospital and, in more recent times, Mount Druitt Hospital—from the first hospital bus shelter in 1961, to current donations of vital medical equipment or rejuvenation of hospital gardens, including palliative care, to recently giving fresh fruit boxes to frontline nursing staff during this COVID crisis. Over the years the Blacktown City Lions have cooked many sausages, sold many lucky raffle tickets and undertaken various fundraising activities to support the community. The club has funded many important community projects and helped individuals in need. A short summary includes table tennis tables, chess sets, bus seats, park benches, breakfasts for school children and mobility walkers for children. At the Blacktown City Australia Day celebrations in 2018, Blacktown City Lions Club was awarded Community Project of the Year for its work in raising funds that were donated to the drought-affected areas of the Liverpool Plains shire.

The relationship struck up between the Blacktown City Lions Club and the Quirindi Country Women's Association saw every school-aged child in the shire accessing life education programs via Harold the giraffe and the issuing of educational scholarships to relieve pressure on struggling families. Blacktown Mayoress Anne Bali was very appreciative of the substantial donation each year for the annual mayoress' Christmas appeal and provision of a barbecue for the annual council Christmas tree light-up. The Blacktown City Lions Club provides support to schools through breakfast clubs so children do not go without a vital breakfast, as well as through annual school presentations. I am particularly proud of the club's donations of books each year on Indigenous Literacy Day.

This initiative makes a significant contribution to supporting cultural development of our First Nation people through the importance of reading and language. As President Rebel Hanlon says, "There is no 'I' in team." Blacktown City Lions has established and maintains highly successful partnerships within the community including Plumpton Rural Fire Service, KidsWest Children's Charity, Greater Blacktown Business Chamber, Bunnings, West Tradies and Blacktown Workers Clubs, amongst others. Blacktown City Lions supports the Lions Foundation and other charities that directly support the residents of our city, including Hearing Dogs, Visual Independence Foundation, Children's Mobility Foundation, Childhood Cancer Research, Prostate Cancer, Diabetes Australia, Leukaemia Foundation, Beyond Blue and Hands and Feet.

Innovation and vision continues to drive club members as it did with members in the past. I thank all club members going back to 1960 for their wonderful and life-changing contributions. It is impossible to count the many tens of thousands of hours donated by club members to raise funds to support the many tens of thousands of recipients that have benefited from their donations. Thank you to Blacktown City Lions Club members for your

massive dedication and service to the community. Celebrating 60 years is a significant milestone but we hope you continue for many more years into the future.

### **COUNCILLOR JOHN MARTIN, OAM**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (18:15:40):** I am delighted to take this opportunity to inform the House of and to congratulate Councillor John Martin, OAM, of Singleton Council who was recently endorsed as Honorary Freeman of the shire. This is the highest civic honour Singleton can bestow upon an individual. John is the fifth person ever to be named as Honorary Freeman of the shire. Councillor John Martin joins a select and distinguished list of only four previous recipients: Colonel—later Brigadier—A. W. Hammett in 1984; Neil McNamara, OAM, in 1999; Major General Peter Cosgrove, AM, MC, in 2000; and Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Lowe in 2011.

Councillor Martin, a Singleton local, was born in Singleton and was the manager of a local building supply company, Gould Brothers. He started in 1949 and spent an incredible 50 years with the company. During that time John was first elected to Singleton Municipal Council in 1965 and he is still a current serving councillor—a total of 55 years as a local government representative. In 1999-2000, he was mayor of Singleton Shire Council and he has served in the deputy's position for 10 terms. In September 2012, John was elected as the first popularly elected mayor for a period of four years.

Councillor Martin, over the years, was also very involved in many organisations. He was a founding member along with his late wife, Jan, with Meals on Wheels in Singleton in 1966. He was involved in OurCare Services, a member of Singleton Apex Club, Singleton Hospital Community Trust and Singleton Tidy Towns, and was also involved in the restoration of the Howe Park Tennis Club. John's contribution was not only limited to his beloved Singleton, but he was also a long-term member of the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils, to which he was awarded life membership in 2019. He served as a delegate between 2008 and 2016, including as a member of the executive committee. He was a driving force in forming the concept and subsequent development of the guidelines that would pave the way for the Resources for Regions program. When John was Mayor of Singleton he was a committed and active member of Hunter Councils, now known as the Hunter Joint Organisation.

Singleton was very fortunate to have Councillor Martin at the helm of Singleton's response to natural disasters, as he was the long-time Division Controller for the Upper Hunter Division of the State Emergency Service with an involvement in the organisation stretching over 60 years. In recognition of his skills and experience in emergency management, he was seconded to provide a leadership role during the 1997 Thredbo landslide disaster as the Second Task Force Commander of SES volunteers. John's commitment to local government and the SES was recognised when he was presented with an Order of Australia Medal in 1994. John and his late wife, Jan, were awarded joint inductees to the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame in 2019 for their contribution to the Singleton community. As we can appreciate, John's achievements are extensive. I congratulate John on his outstanding contribution. I have known John for many years. Singleton is very fortunate to have a citizen of his calibre. His enduring dedication to the community of Singleton and surrounding districts is exemplary. He is most deserving of the accolade as Singleton's Honorary Freeman of the shire.

### **ART NORTH 2020**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (18:19:48):** Earlier this year I had the pleasure of officially opening the Art North 2020 exhibition located on the grounds of Abbotsleigh at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. Art North is an annual exhibition showcasing the extraordinary talent of HSC visual art students in all of the high schools in the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby district. I thank the teachers and staff of Abbotsleigh who dedicate their resources each year in support of the broader school community. It goes without saying how magnificent the pieces of art were this year. Thirty-five students across 19 schools were selected. They submitted superb artwork that provided insights into issues our students find important in today's society.

The participating schools for the 2020 HSC year include: Abbotsleigh, Asquith Boys High, Asquith Girls High, Barker College, Cheltenham Girls High, Cherrybrook Technology High, Hornsby Girls High, Knox Grammar School, Ku-ring-gai High, Loreto Normanhurst, Masada College, Mt St Benedict College, Normanhurst Boys High, Northholm Grammar, Pymble Ladies' College, Ravenswood School for Girls, St Ives High, St Leo's Catholic College and Turrumurra High School. Comments made by these young artists about their art and the process creating them reminded me of a video I had watched of Paul McCartney of the Beatles who told the story of how he wrote the song *Yesterday*. He said that one day he woke up with a tune in his head and humming the tune asked John, George and Ringo and their producer George Martin what song it was, which no-one knew. It was not until after two weeks of doing this, he realised that it was not anyone else's song but his own. He said the tune and the words were something from within him that needed to come out.

That story reminded me of the students showcasing their works at the Art North Exhibition and their explanations for how they created their art. Daniel Wilson did a series of landscapes that were purely imaginative based on subconscious imagery that played through his mind. Jessica Silba from St Leo's Catholic College said her concept in her artwork was the importance and the ability of the mind to be creative and resourceful. Lua Pellegrini from Loreto Normanhurst explored the inextricable connection between the past, present and future fundamental in Aboriginal culture. When we look at art we see various things within our young people. Their reflections on their family, their thoughts on political issues, our ever-evolving environment as well as the role of social media are represented.

One young artist, Enoch Mak from Normanhurst Boys High, eloquently produced a piece exploring how society is so transfixed by modern technology they would not know if a deity appeared next to them on a train. He stated if Jesus were alive today, he too would suffer from the same technological affliction. We see country settings and urban images. There is a tremendous amount of diversity and a range of media through textures, tones, colour, movement and lines. These works celebrate the artistic strength in our local area. The Art North Exhibition entrants are each worthy to be in the statewide ArtExpress. Five excellent art students from the Ku-ring-gai electorate were selected to showcase their HSC art works at the Art Express Exhibit located at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, along with 43 other participants.

From 8,552 submissions from schools across metropolitan and regional New South Wales, the works provide an insight into our young people's creative minds and issues important to them. Congratulations to Catherine Jones from Pymble Ladies' College, Alice Maltman from Ravenswood, Hugo Morgan from Knox Grammar, Jessica Nagy from Abbotsleigh and Charlotte Stuart from Barker College who were all selected. I congratulate all 2019 HSC students who were selected to showcase their work at both the Art North and ArtExpress exhibitions. It is an outstanding accomplishment and they have much to be proud of. Displaying art is an extremely brave thing to do, because it is something that others examine and naturally critique. There was a lot of enthusiastic response to all art on show, from paintings to documented forms, photo media, ceramics, sculpture, textiles and graphic design, to name a few. Every year the students' work delights and exceeds my expectations. COVID-19 has forced us to experience a very different time, particularly for our young people. It will be excellent to see what artworks they produce this year.

#### PAUL ANGUS BRYANT

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:25:00):** I commend the efforts of Mr Paul Angus Bryant, President of the City of Fairfield RSL Sub-Branch, on the recent publication of his book entitled *The Other Half of ANZAC*, a work he completed during the COVID-19 quarantine period. Paul is renowned for writing accounts that are factual, insightful narratives of important military campaigns in Australia's history. Himself a military man, Paul Bryant spent over 13 years in the peacetime Australian Army Reserve, having been too young to go to Vietnam. He rose in the ranks from an infantry recruit to an experienced non-commanding officer before retiring from the military at the rank of captain. In the 2000s he was awarded the Australian Defence Medal and Defence Long Service Medal for his service to our country. He has been a director of the Fairfield RSL Memorial Club for 30 years and has held the roles of director, treasurer, vice-president and president at different times throughout that time. He has been the board's training officer and the chair of the disciplinary committee on behalf of the board, and was awarded a lifetime membership of the Fairfield RSL in 2014.

His many duties and achievements over his years of service include serving on the RSL district council for over 30 years, serving on the RSL State Tribunal for over 10 years, serving as a delegate to the RSL Annual State Congress for over 25 years, serving as a delegate of the RSL District to State Congress for over eight years, and serving as a delegate to the 203 Australian Army Cadet Unit for over 25 years, for which he was awarded the Brigade Commander's commendation in 2018. Finally, he served as a marshal for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services for over 30 years. Paul was awarded the RSL Meritorious Service Medal in 2020 for his service to the RSL, to the local community and to the veterans in our local area and their families. His passion for recording the military campaigns that Australia was involved in throughout our history led Paul to research the involvement of Fairfield servicemen and servicewomen in those various military efforts and their contribution to the protection of our nation. His efforts led to the recognition of all those men and women with the laying of 2,000 inscribed pavers in Honour Avenue, Fairfield, as a tribute to their sacrifice and courage.

Paul Bryant's lifelong passion for Australia's military is evident in his achievements throughout the years. His book also serves to show this passion and takes us all the way from the First World War right through to the war on ISIL in the present day. His pride in the armed forces reverberates throughout the book as he acknowledges the efforts of both Australian and New Zealand soldiers fighting shoulder to shoulder on many campaigns. In fact, Paul has delved deep into the true meaning of the word "Anzac"—the collaboration between the Australian and New Zealand armed forces in military campaigns. Most Australians know about the Anzac legend, with many



Australians able to claim links to distant relatives who were the original Anzacs, as well as the servicemen and servicewomen who came after the Great War.

In his book, Paul Bryant emphasises the importance of the involvement of our New Zealand servicemen and servicewomen to the war effort and also the importance of the collaboration of the Australian and New Zealand armed forces in these military campaigns. The Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam is a prime example of when the collaboration became a necessity, as at one stage of the battle New Zealand artillery came to the defence of the Australian Rifle Company to ward off the North Vietnamese Army and Vietcong. Without the assistance of our New Zealand counterparts in this particular battle, the Australian Rifle Company would have been wiped out. Here in Australia we are all familiar with the name Returned Servicemen's League, or RSL. New Zealand also has an equivalent: the Returned and Services Association, or the RSA.

I recognise and thank New Zealand for its collaboration in military efforts. Paul Bryant's accounts serve to strengthen our knowledge in this area. The Anzac legend lives on in the Australian psyche, not only on Anzac Day but in the way we as Australians carry ourselves—in the way we value mateship, in our work and in our very being. I thank Paul Angus Bryant for his efforts in producing a book of fine calibre that explores this legend. It is a book that will act as a reference point for many generations to come.

### LANE COVE ELECTORATE RECYCLING CENTRE

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections)**  
(18:29:56): Today I am pleased to inform friends in this House and the people of New South Wales that on 14 September this year the electorate of Lane Cove opened to the public another automated recycling depot. This is the second depot to be added in Lane Cove under the Return and Earn recycling policy scheme, which was introduced by this Government in 2017. This depot will assist in contributing towards the largest existing litter reduction scheme that has ever been introduced in New South Wales and will help meet this Government's 40 per cent litter reduction goals.

The response to this initiative within the community has been immense. Some one million returned containers have already been processed through our initial Little Street return point location, which was launched less than a year ago. This necessary addition to the recycling arsenal of the electorate of Lane Cove, and indeed that of the State, will give residents and visitors greater access and convenience to recycle whilst simultaneously incentivising the community by rewarding good environmental behaviours. The new Lane Cove recycling return point, located at 67 Mars Road, Lane Cove, will be a staffed specialist return and recycle location that will accept any volume of containers, be they big or small.

This expansion would not be possible without the unwavering support and commitment of brothers Brandon and Mason Barton. The Barton brothers, who now operate the new recycling depot site, established their own waste collection business after they left school. As recent school leavers, they set out to establish their customer base in local schools, commercial premises and at-home collections. However, the brothers noticed that it eventually reached a point where demand was outgrowing existing facilities, and thus identified a new opportunity to expand their business by partnering with TOMRA Cleanaway to host a new return point recycling facility located within my electorate of Lane Cove.

This entrepreneurial creativity is humbling to see. We have a generation that yearns for a brighter, more sustainable future and showcases a desire to be a part of decision-making at the highest levels. It highlights the resourcefulness of a generation and illustrates to us all that meaningful change, participation and entrepreneurial success does not just necessarily come from university degrees but, rather, a can-do attitude and willingness to succeed and make a change for the better. It is always excellent when government can work and collaborate side by side with businesses—and, indeed, small business owners—on the big issues that face New South Wales. I commend the Barton brothers on the great work they have achieved. I wish them every future success and hope further expansion is on the cards in the foreseeable future.

I congratulate and thank former Minister Upton, Attorney General Speakman and, indeed, my dear friend Minister Kean on what they are doing to ensure we have a sustainable future and are driving these environmental reforms in our communities. I invite members to come and join me in the electorate of Lane Cove from time to time. We do not have the beaches of the electorates of Manly or Kiama, but I am confident that the opening of this second recycling depot will deliver strong environmental and economic benefits across our community. Let us all do our part to further reduce litter in New South Wales.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services)**  
(18:33:52): I thank the member for Lane Cove for using his time in this Chamber tonight to talk about the importance of conservationism. I think the people of Lane Cove well know that they have an outstanding representative in the member, who is not just an extraordinarily strong voice in the Parliament but an effective

advocate for them and their interests around the Cabinet table. I have to say, as a friend and colleague of his for many years, I am constantly impressed by the way he engages not just across his portfolio areas of responsibility but also as a local member of Parliament first and foremost. Having come from local government he knows that the most important thing about politics is being an effective local member. He has been a champion for so many issues across his community in this place. Having worked with him at close quarters, I have seen how effective and diligent he is for his community. He is constantly working and the people of Lane Cove should be very proud to have such a quality local member, as well as a decent and dedicated individual as is the member for Lane Cove. I thank him for his contributions.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery):** He is a brilliant Minister.

#### **TRIBUTE TO SUSAN RYAN, AO**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:34:58):** Susan Ryan, AO, was a parliamentarian, commissioner, publisher, academic and teacher. For women in the Labor movement, she was a mentor, friend and shining beacon of what is possible. I had the good fortune of knowing and working with Susan and of benefiting from her generosity and enthusiasm. I felt incredibly fortunate to have spent time with her. She shared so many of her valuable insights with me, one of which was a simple message—that, as women in Parliament, we have to make every moment count. Susan was first elected to the Senate in December 1975 at a time when there were no women in the House of Representatives. She ran on the slogan, "A Woman's Place is in the Senate", and she was the first woman to serve as the Senator for the Australian Capital Territory. She was 33 years old, a single mum and it was not going to be easy for her or her female colleagues. She said:

Some of the older Senators couldn't really accept that I was there, and kept asking me who I worked for. There was an effort to make sure that our speeches were interrupted. But basically, there's that sense of excitement that, I got there! Now we have to make that count.

Susan made every day count. She will be remembered for many firsts: the first woman elected to the Senate for the Australian Capital Territory; the first woman appointed to a Labor frontbench; the first woman to serve in a Labor Cabinet and the first ever female Minister for the Status of Women. But, most importantly, she was also a port of call for many young Labor women working in Canberra who were looking for advice, guidance or support. She was a founding member of the Women's Electoral Lobby and, like so many prominent women of her generation, was driven less by the desire to be the first and more by the determination that she would not be the last. To borrow a phrase, she did not just open doors; she blew them off their hinges.

Susan's landmark Sex Discrimination Act was introduced in 1984, just three months after the election of the Hawke Labor Government. It was not a *fait accompli*. Susan faced stiff opposition both from the Liberal Opposition and from some of her own colleagues, who begged her to drop it. As Susan described it:

Maternity leave was scarcely available. Women could not get home loans. Girls' education was restricted and fewer girls got into higher education. Much of our community thought this was all OK.

Susan persisted and, through her tenacity, her intelligence, her generosity of spirit and sheer force of will, the Sex Discrimination Act and later Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act became law and changed the lives of Australian women forever. After leaving Parliament, Susan went on to continue making a significant contribution to Australian life. She was the publishing director at Penguin Books and worked as a fierce advocate for superannuation as chairwoman of the Australian Human Rights Group and as deputy chairwoman of the Australian Republican Movement. In 2011 Susan added another first when she was appointed as the inaugural Age Discrimination Commissioner and later the Disability Discrimination Commissioner. At the time she said:

What really annoys me is society's assumption that you are ready to give up and play bridge or whatever. It is always—"Oh, when are you going to put your feet up?" This idea that there is a point at which you give up, I find extremely irritating, for myself and for my peers.

Susan cared deeply about the rights of older Australians. When I was appointed shadow Minister for Seniors and Volunteers, Susan was one of the first people I called. She was passionate about superannuation and workforce participation for seniors. She was passionate about housing insecurity and homelessness, about elder abuse and the need to ensure that older people—women in particular—stayed connected to their community. As the Age Discrimination Commissioner Susan continued to work with those across the political divide to deliver social and economic justice for older people. I would like to record a tribute made by the Age Discrimination Commissioner, the Hon. Dr Kay Patterson, AO, who said:

Susan Ryan championed the rights of women, older Australians and people with disabilities fiercely and effectively with great compassion ...

She was a social pioneer in every way and so many have and will benefit from her passionate advocacy.

It is not lost on me that Susan's passing comes as we have lost other trailblazing and heroic women, including Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, musician Helen Reddy and others. While we mourn the loss of these extraordinary women, we can also wonder at the extraordinary things they have achieved for women and for their countries. Their passing also reminds us that we have so much left to do. I send my deepest condolences to Susan's family, including her partner, Rory, and her children, Justine and Benedict. Susan, I promise you that I will make every day count.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery):** She was indeed a trailblazer.

### **INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT, SYDNEY**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:40:00):** International students play an important role in our economy and are a vibrant part of many communities throughout New South Wales. The higher education institutions who educate our international students are the best in the world. We are internationally recognised as a safe and leading location for people seeking to further their education credentials the world over. Manly is the proud home to one of the world's best. The International College of Management, Sydney [ICMS] is an award-winning higher education institution located on the top of the hill at Manly. Founded in 1996, ICMS is a leader in career-focused quality education where 90 per cent of graduates are employed in their field before graduation. As at April 2019 over 2,300 students were studying at ICMS. Students come from over 50 different countries. It has been the winner of four of the Minister's Student Achiever Awards. In 2017 it received a New South Wales Premier's Export Award:

For outstanding innovation and international success in the field of education and training services, expertise and curriculum ...

The college is an active and valued presence in Manly and across the northern beaches. That is not to say that the two other campuses do not deliver economic uplift for those areas. Not only are the students welcome in Manly but the college employs a significant number of people in New South Wales. It is with considerable anxiety that I speak on this matter as time continues to go by with international students not entering New South Wales and the stresses placed on education providers are becoming unmanageable. No business foresaw this pandemic. Indeed, no-one genuinely believed our borders would be shut for so long.

On 8 May 2020 the Prime Minister released a three-step road map to reopen Australia. Step three includes the consideration of the return of international student travel into Australia. I appreciate the challenges facing both the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments in managing a measured reopening of borders. However, it is worth noting that non-government providers do not have some of the supports of government providers and therefore face different, and in some cases more urgent, challenges. I congratulate the peak body representing non-government supported higher education providers in Australia, Independent Higher Education Australia [IHEA], for its proposal to bring students back to New South Wales. I know that the ICMS, working with IHEA, has created a rigorous self-funded plan to bring approximately 250 international students back to New South Wales. This plan includes a self-funded, secure, 14-day quarantine period for all returning students.

I know personally that the ICMS places the highest premium on student and community safety and welfare. I believe that they would be able to demonstrate a successful pilot program that could be embraced by other States. We must continue to do all we can to ensure we get international students back into New South Wales as quickly and as safely as is possible. I encourage the State and Federal governments to give strong consideration to identifying a specific date in the new year to provide certainty to the likes of ICMS so they can plan for the future and protect jobs in New South Wales.

### **LISMORE ELECTORATE HOMELESSNESS**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (18:44:26):** In July I made a detailed submission, "Housing Ends Homelessness Report and Advocacy Paper", to the New South Wales Government's "A Housing Strategy for New South Wales" discussion paper. The submission that I tendered was informed by a major regional forum that I hosted in Lismore last August and further consultation with a broad range of participants. I now turn to some of the information that was in my submission. When I was elected as member for Lismore, the compelling need to take action on the lack of housing stock, the lack of affordable housing, the unacceptably high number of homeless people and the absence of permanent policy actions designed to address this situation confronted me. It was, and remains, a major legacy issue—of which there are a few confronting the Lismore electorate, and indeed rural and regional New South Wales.

I convened a forum to look at what we could do with what we had and what we need to do going forward. The range of people involved included, in the four local government areas, all the people who work with people who are homeless or need housing and some people who want to do good and work in that area to help people. I was aware that to address the current and emerging need Australia needs to triple its small and decreasing stock of social housing over the next 20 years. A compelling research report was commissioned by North Coast

Community Housing. The Centre for Enterprise Development and Research at Southern Cross University was commissioned to prepare the report, which is entitled *Housing Affordability on the New South Wales North Coast*. It provides really good data and impacts of the three issues within my regional area that were addressed in my forum.

Everybody talks about homelessness—and homelessness is a real problem—but we have to look at housing supply, housing affordability and homelessness. My submission is entitled "Housing Ends Homelessness", which was said not by me but by Michael Timbrell, who was then with the local office of St Vincent de Paul. The key excerpts from the commissioned research report are quite sobering. The number of homeless people increased from 1,300 in 2011 to 1,494 at the end of 2018 in the Northern Rivers region. There have been few new affordable housing planning initiatives from the New South Wales Government since its election in 2011. Another point was that, as a result of changes to housing policy in Australia over the past nearly two decades, the supply of affordable public rental housing has declined and its role has increasingly focused on meeting the housing needs of the most disadvantaged in the community.

None of us would disagree with that, but it does not fix the problem of housing supply. When combined with the dramatic increase in property prices over the past decade, which has far outstripped wages growth, the need for affordable housing for low- to moderate-income households has become ever more urgent. It was also found that there is long-term structural change in the private rental market where there has been an increase in the concentration of supply at mid-market and high-end market options, but a notable lack of supply at the affordable level, and many affordable dwellings are occupied by households with higher incomes. I note with thanks that, during COVID, DCJ Housing in my local area has worked hard with homeless people and has managed to get a lot of them into temporary housing. I acknowledge that.

I also acknowledge that I think \$2.5 million was made available to the North Coast Community Housing Company to address some long-term needs over the next two years. I also acknowledge the \$5 million for assertive outreach that went into Tweed. We want it in Lismore as well. We want more assertive outreach. I have a lot more local statistics and figures, and a lot more to say about housing, but I am conscious that I have 10 seconds left to speak. It is important to raise this issue because we need long-term solutions. We keep throwing money at different programs, we add layer on layer and we do not fix the problem.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (18:49:30):** I thank the member for Lismore for raising the important issue of homelessness in this Chamber tonight. As the Minister responsible for this particular area, I welcome all contributions from all sides of the House on this issue because I know we are committed to doing something about it. As members know, our Premier has signed up to halving street sleeping by 2025 and, as she rightly points out, that involves more housing stock. I was very pleased to see the Treasurer announce earlier in the week that that will be a priority in the upcoming State budget.

To put the matter in context, we have the largest housing and building program of any State or Territory. We are also spending more on homelessness than any other State or Territory. As a result of reforms that I have put in place, we are now pioneering work around the Housing First approach, which the member mentioned—people being brought into temporary accommodation for critical support. But it is also about using head leases through the community housing providers that the member talked about to get people into more permanent accommodation and providing the wraparound to help sustain their tenancies. I quickly mention in the time I have left that, since being the Minister, I have taken assertive outreach from one program to more than 50 across the State.

### LOWER CREEK ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (18:50:36):** I address the House tonight about a burr under the saddle of a number of residents in the Northern Tablelands electorate, particularly the Lower Creek area, which is situated right on the eastern edge of the Northern Tablelands. They feel, quite rightly, that the world has forgotten them because they are in a remote area between the electorates of Northern Tablelands and Oxley, between the boundary of the Armidale Regional Council local government area and the Kempsey shire local government area.

The residents of Lower Creek live at the bottom of Kempsey Road. Kempsey Road used to be a regional road under the road classification system, until 2009 when the former Government—at the stroke of a pen and without notice—handed the road back to the then Armidale Dumaresq Council, with no money and no notice, and said, "It's all yours, guys; good luck." Unfortunately, the road—being some 60 kilometres long coming off the Waterfall Way, single lane and mostly gravel road in some quite precarious country—was simply beyond the ability, and the financial means, of the council to look after.

Fast forward 11 years. The road is in a worse condition today than the day that the then State Government handed it to the council. Armidale Regional Council, as it is now, has received significant funding in recent times to upgrade the road to allow better access, not just for local residents to get their stock produce out of the region and to market, but importantly for tourist traffic to come in from the coast, from the Kempsey and South West Rocks areas directly into Armidale and the New England region.

In the past couple of years councils received \$4.6 million through the Fixing Country Roads program to fix the big hill section; \$500,000 from the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program for the Oakey River stage of the road; \$440,000 from the Fixing Country Roads program round one; and \$212,000 from the Federal Stronger Regions Fund. The issue is that work had started expending a lot of that grant money last year. We had bushfires rage through the Jeogla and Lower Creek areas, which delayed things, and then in February-March this year we had a massive deluge of rain and flooding, which washed away a lot of the preliminary roadworks, and indeed a lot of the bitumen seal. Now council is trying, with very limited engineering expertise within its ranks—with respect to the council—to reinstate the road to its pre-fire and storm damage and then resume expending some of the grant money.

Meanwhile, local residents continually complain to me and, in my view, their complaints are valid. They cannot see any benefit from the grant funds being expended—that is, the road is continually deteriorating to the point where now council has limited the sort of traffic that can travel on the road north of Lower Creek. So anything heavier than four-wheel drive vehicles cannot travel that road. Earlier this week I met on site with Morgan Thompson, a number of residents of Lower Creek, council administrator Viv May and acting general manager John Rayner. I have committed to those residents to work with the council to try to get that restriction lifted so that we can get heavy vehicles and high-mass vehicles back on the road, and work with the council not just to get the grant funds expended but to ensure that we get some engineering expertise in the council that can actually project manage the project properly.

To that extent, I have approached the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Paul Toole, and requested that Transport for NSW allows one of its engineers to be seconded to Armidale Regional Council to be a project manager. Why is that important? It is for two reasons. First, it is important that council has the expertise to properly use the grant money so that we are not wasting taxpayer money and getting another poor result for the community. Secondly, at the last election the Government committed to retake Kempsey Road for the State road network and to reclassify it as a regional road as it should have always remained. It should have never been handed back to a council that does not have the capacity to maintain it.

That process will take approximately 12 months, but in the meantime I want someone from Transport for NSW running this project because after that time it is going to be an asset of the State. It is in the Minister and the Government's interest that the project be managed well. We need that road upgraded for the benefit of the residents. I will not stop until it is upgraded and the people of Lower Creek get what they deserve, which is quality road access in and out of their place of residence.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (18:55:49):** I commend the member for Northern Tablelands—one of the most outstanding members of Parliament. If anyone wants to know how to get things done, they should take a look at this man. He builds coalitions across local government, State government and Federal government to make sure that his community is well supported, particularly when it comes to things like building local infrastructure that makes a real difference to people's lives. I have known the member for Northern Tablelands since 2004, long before we came into this place. He is a great advocate, an intelligent contributor, an outstanding Minister and, most importantly, a ferocious local member. He could not care whether he was part of a government in this place or a government in another place. He will take up the fight to whoever is in charge to make sure he gets things done. The people of his electorate should be very proud to know that they have the most effective advocate in the member for Northern Tablelands. His passion, care and commitment for his community were on display again tonight.

#### **DUBBO ELECTORATE AWARDS**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:56:51):** One of the great privileges of my role is being able to meet members of the community who do wonderful work that often goes unrecognised. Volunteering really is the heartbeat of our communities and last week I had the enormous honour of presenting some very special Dubbo electorate awards. At a special COVID-safe ceremony at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, I honoured eight quiet achievers from the Dubbo community and thanked them for the hours of volunteer work they do for the groups that mean so much to them. The people I recognised last week make up a fairly wide cross-section of the Dubbo community, with interest in things like Indigenous youth, sport, arts, fundraising, health and agriculture. They make wonderful contributions but never seek kudos for the work they do, and I think it is important that they and their families actually get some recognition.

David Ward has spent the past five years involved in the KidzFix Rally, which supports sick and disadvantaged children. Last year he and his brother Andrew, who call themselves Team Two Dads, drove Errol the 1992 Subaru Brumby right around Tasmania, starting and finishing in Devonport. Wardy has been quite amazing in his dedication to raising funds to help provide specialist medical equipment to help regional kids. I know he is very much looking forward to the rally in 2021 after obvious disruptions this year.

Nola Honeysett has been involved in a range of health-related groups and committees for many years, and is currently a member of the Dubbo Health Council. Nola also served on the board of Orana Early Childhood Intervention for many years, which was one of the key backers of the wonderful Yawarra special needs school in Dubbo. Up until recently Nola was a board member for Macquarie Home Stay and certainly helped with the ideas around the construction and operation of stage one. The next award recipient was Fran Rowe, who earlier this year was actually recognised on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Fran is simply a remarkable woman. She has been a member of a number of agricultural groups and advisory boards over three decades. She served on the NSW Rural Assistance Authority board and the Rural Women's Network. She was also named as the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year in 2012.

As many would know, Dubbo has a large Indigenous community. It was great to be able to recognise some of the work done by Lionel Wood. Lionel is a great bloke who has been heavily involved with the Dubbo City Youth Council, especially when it comes to the organisation of Youth Week activities. In fact, one of my first official duties after being elected as the member for Dubbo was to attend the 2019 Youth Week event at Victoria Park where I joined Lionel and a few others in being slimed. Lionel is well respected in the Aboriginal community and he has done some remarkable work with at-risk youth in the city.

Dubbo is quite rightly recognised as the sporting hub of the Central West and Western Plains, but there is little doubt that clubs do not run without an immense amount of work done by volunteers. Jeremy Dickson is one of those people who goes above and beyond in his chosen sports of cricket and basketball. As well as being a partner in an accounting firm, Dicko is treasurer of a number of clubs, including the Macquarie Junior Cricket Club, Dubbo District Junior Cricket Association, Macquarie Valley Cricket Council and Dubbo Basketball. He is also the former treasurer of Macquarie's senior cricket club, the acting referee coordinator for Dubbo Basketball as well as a senior and junior basketball referee. He stays busy. Di Clifford's contribution to the arts made her a well-deserved recipient of an award. Di spent 30 years as a teacher at Narromine, and since her retirement she has ramped up her involvement as a member of the Dubbo Folk Club, a former president of Dubbo Artz and she does lots of work with the Western Plains Cultural Centre. She continues to be a wonderful contributor to the local arts scene and is someone who has a large amount of knowledge.

Earlier this year I spoke in this Chamber about the wonderful feats of Dubbo Cycle Club, which was named as the number one club in Australia at the Cycling Australia Awards. A lot of the credit for that success lies with president Matt Gilbert, who leads a dedicated group of volunteers and coaches involved with the club, as well as an extremely talented cohort of junior and senior riders who continue to achieve outstanding results at State and national levels. Matt has guided the club through the move from its traditional home at Victoria Park No. 1 Oval to its new state-of-the-art complex in North Dubbo where it will be a vital cog in the wider sports hub, which will form part of a new health and wellbeing precinct.

The final award recipient was Brooke Mallison, who does wonderful work with DHUB, which is a program for Aboriginal students in years 5 to 12 in Dubbo and Wellington. Brooke is also involved in a number of sporting groups that work closely with the Indigenous community. She has worked really hard as secretary of the Dubbo Westside Rugby League Club, and has also been a contributor to local netball, the Koori Knockout and the Ella Sevens. I think it is fair to say that all eight people who received awards are wonderful contributors to the Dubbo area who each deserve recognition for what they do. They each go above and beyond, and I thank and congratulate each and every one of them. I look forward to hosting similar ceremonies in other locations around the electorate, and recognising more of the people who contribute to the heartbeat and make our region a fantastic place to live and work.

### **BANKSTOWN MASTER PLAN**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (19:02:09):** The work currently being undertaken to plan for the future of Bankstown as a major centre in Sydney's south-west is an issue of great importance to my constituents. As the member for Bankstown for almost a decade, and prior to that as a councillor and Mayor of Bankstown for a number of years, I have long championed Bankstown's potential to be a major hub and CBD in its own right, despite it not being declared a metropolitan centre by the Greater Sydney Commission. However, for that potential to be realised Bankstown requires proper long-term planning supported by investment, both public and private. Unfortunately, for many years now the Bankstown area has been let down by a Liberal Government that has either failed to deliver much-needed investment or delivered substandard projects. This includes the announcement of a \$1.3 billion Bankstown hospital, which was promised 18 months ago and continues to remain shrouded in

secrecy. It still has no site and there are troubling rumours that it may be transplanted into the middle of the Bankstown CBD against residents' wishes.

With this in mind, I note the master plan currently on exhibition for Paul Keating Park. As I have previously informed the House, I have significant reservations about the City of Canterbury Bankstown council's governance processes. This includes the council's recent decision to overrule the directions of the Canterbury Bankstown Local Planning Panel to produce a master plan for the Chester Hill Town Centre prior to proceeding with a planning proposal at Chester Square. The ideas within the plan to revitalise the park and its amenities, improve its connection with the surrounding CBD and civic precinct, and to create an inclusive space for the whole community are worthwhile, particularly given the projected population growth in the area over the next 20 years. However, I note with concern a reference within the Bankstown master plan report for council to work with local developers to "activate" the surrounding precinct, particularly given the council's recent track record in this area. It is that particular word in the report that concerns me.

Given that the scandal has now escalated to the Premier's office, it is easy to forget that the ICAC investigation into the former member for Wagga Wagga originated from an inquiry into corruption issues involving property developers and councillors at the former Canterbury City Council. Phone intercepts played at yesterday's hearing demonstrate that the former member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire's interest in working with property developers continued well after Canterbury and Bankstown councils amalgamated into this council. I certainly hope that any work by local developers with regard to Paul Keating Park and the surrounding precinct is subject to close scrutiny and proper probity, and includes an assessment independent from the council.

A future issue for our community to cope with is the Sydenham to Bankstown metro. After the revelations at the ICAC hearing yesterday, the motivation for that metro and the planning precincts—as well as all of the issues that residents raised with respect to the metro—now start to make more sense when we learn the interest that the former member for Wagga Wagga had in this particular area. The concern I have is if the Government wants to proceed with the metro into Bankstown, instead of having a proper state-of-the-art metro and substation underground at Bankstown, the community will end up being short-changed with an above-ground station and a disconnect between the heavy rail west of Bankstown. The metro will stop abruptly at Bankstown and will continue the long, unfortunate divide between the southern and northern parts of the Bankstown CBD.

For many years residents and business owners have expressed concern that there is a significant disconnect in the Bankstown CBD. It is difficult to plan for an area when a rail line cuts the two major parts of its centre in two. The metro will not fix this. In fact, it will exacerbate the problem. It is very unfortunate that, at a time when a decision has been made to proceed with the metro, the Government is not considering making sure that the metro is underground in the Bankstown CBD to alleviate many of the concerns of residents and business owners.

#### **PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (19:07:19):** This Thursday, 15 October, is internationally officially recognised as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. It is a time for families and friends to pause and remember those children who lost their lives to miscarriage, stillbirth and sudden infant death syndrome, as well as those newborns who pass away so soon after birth. In honour of the many impacted families and lost loved ones, I am honoured to acknowledge this significant day. The loss of a child is a devastating reality for any family, but sadly one that is all too common. Approximately 150,000 parents experience the loss of a child during a pregnancy or in the early stages after birth each year.

Pregnancy and infant loss is not discriminatory or selective, and can impact any woman at any time during her pregnancy or after birth. Statistics have shown that around one in four pregnancies end in miscarriage, with this most commonly occurring in the first 22 weeks. Every day in Australia six babies are stillborn and two pass away within 28 days of birth. This is known as neonatal death. Despite this, stillbirth is still sadly a relatively understudied area with a lack of detailed information available. For many years the topic of pregnancy and infant loss has not been openly discussed, meaning thousands of families have suffered in silence. Thankfully, with the help of social media platforms and advocacy programs parents are encouraged now more than ever to share their stories with others. This brings awareness to an important topic that is more common than most realise. Open conversations mean more bereaved families find support and strength in each other, as they process and work through the trauma of losing a much-loved child.

A handful of years ago, when I was the mental health Minister, I attended a function to raise funds for the Gidget Foundation. During that event a prominent obstetrician took to the stage. Before addressing the hundreds of people in attendance, he paused and looked across the room. He said that on behalf of the wider community he wanted to acknowledge the fact that "we are saddened that we would no longer know your children, even though you knew that you had that child with you for a short period." It was a very touching and significant moment when

someone completely unconnected with most people in that room recognised and acknowledged the significance of what it means for a woman and her partner to lose a child.

When reading about Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, I came across an important social media hashtag that read #NeverForgotten. Under this hashtag were thousands of stories from men and women opening up about the pain and suffering that they experienced as a result of losing their babies. Many mothers spoke of their broken hearts and how it took them many years to forgive themselves. Those stories moved me deeply as a mother who has known not only what it is like to bring two children into the world, and the struggles that accompanied that process, but also the loss of babies in between my two born children.

As I continued reading, it became evident that Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is not just a time to think of those who have been lost. It is also a time to recognise that the day has become a beacon of hope for the thousands of parents who are encouraged to bravely share their experiences and to not be afraid to speak up about their suffering in the hope of comforting others and, in return, receiving comfort. I honour their bravery, perseverance and open hearts. These traits remind us of the importance of raising awareness around this topic.

Pregnancy and infant loss is indiscriminate. We have recently seen famous people such as Chrissy Teigen and John Legend suffering. Politicians, senior media figures, our own family and friends and perhaps even ourselves have also been directly impacted by the situation. Pregnancy and infant loss is widespread and very common, but it is a situation that no-one should ever feel ashamed of or feel that they are alone in. Simply by reaching out, victims will find a community that will be fully supportive of their journey in recovery.

### LAKEMBA ELECTORATE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (19:12:20):** I extend my gratitude to the many generous community organisations across the State and specifically in my electorate that have supported seniors, students and families in need during these difficult times. My electorate of Lakemba brings together a multitude of cultures, faiths and life stories, and each one complements the other. Despite numerous organisations being chronically underfunded, they punch well above their weight in facilitating opportunities for community engagement by supporting those struggling with financial distress, disability, mental health issues, displacement, domestic violence and substance abuse, amongst so many other issues. To say that it is a community in need of lots of support is an understatement.

I highlight the important role that small community centres play in delivering fantastic services to so many vulnerable people who often fall through the cracks. Recently, I joined members of the Canterbury City Community Centre in Lakemba, known as the 4cs, and Sydney Community College for the graduation ceremony of female students from two of their courses: Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, and Community Services – Introduction. Physical distancing made it difficult but nonetheless it was a beautiful and enjoyable ceremony, as it always is in Lakemba. Since starting in February, students and teachers had to contend with difficulties due to COVID that created many problems for them. They have had to be inventive and flexible, finding new and innovative ways to teach and learn. The fact that every single student who started completed the course is a testament to the resilience of these women.

I note how proud their families are of all their hard work. They have shown their children that with commitment, perseverance and the support provided by organisations like 4cs, people can still get an amazing education even when faced with obstacles like a global pandemic. What great commitment they showed, and what a great example these mums have set for their children. One of the biggest challenges of all was not just learning from home but also having to get access to IT—something that we might take for granted—and learning how to use those new technologies. Many of the students arrived in Australia with limited IT skills. The 4cs course has enabled the women to not only develop many skills but also establish themselves in Australia, their new home.

Those people want to get involved and genuinely participate. With COVID and the need for computers and technology, there was an obstacle but we found a way through and that is the important thing. I call on my colleague in this place the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services to provide funding for more small community centres. They provide fantastic services. I know that the Minister knows that because he has visited one with me and he agrees that the role they play is important. They provide fantastic services for our community and they do it on the smell of an oily rag.

The Canterbury City Community Centre deserves to be properly funded by the Berejiklian Government. The centre should not have to scrimp and scrape for every last dollar, especially when it has supported so many families who have been struggling to cope with the impact of COVID. The centre has filled the gap left by the New South Wales Government. I know the 4cs is not the only local community centre experiencing a funding shortfall. It should be subsidised, for example, for booking out venues to host ceremonies and provide services. The centre needed money to run those classes in bigger centres because of the COVID restrictions but it has to find that money somewhere. The Government's current model funnels money into big organisations and



community groups, often ignoring the groups that can use the money more effectively through their outstanding grassroots programs and connections.

I am privileged to be part of a community that gives selflessly, works tirelessly and comes together equally to spread the message of hope, peace, commitment, resilience and bettering oneself. Canterbury City Community Centre is a wonderful local community organisation and the work of the team is inspirational. I publicly thank and acknowledge Liz Messih—former Lakemba Woman of the Year, I might add—and her entire team for everything they do to care for our community. To give an example, I rang the centre only last week because we have an opportunity to support families in need of food parcels. They were quick to jump on and said they would do anything they could. I call on the Government to stop leaving behind smaller community organisations like the 4cs—previously I have spoken in this place of the Riverwood Community Centre—when it comes to funding. Funding those community services and groups properly ensures that everybody who needs the most help at the grassroots level across the State will receive it.

### NEW SOUTH WALES POLITICS

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (19:17:38):** "Gladys fell in love with the wrong guy." "She's human." That was how Malcolm Turnbull dismissed the latest ICAC scandal. It is a *Fifty Shades of Grey*-style love story, according to Malcolm. As a woman I find that insulting. I find that patronising. That is because what happened this week is not a love story. It is a horror movie that sums up what has been happening in New South Wales politics for years. As a new politician, I am stunned by the lack of rules, oversight and transparency in this place.

**Mr Mark Coure:** Point of order: The standing orders clearly state that private members' statements need to be about a member's electorate. For the first 60 seconds of this private member's statement, I have not heard the word "Murray"; for that matter I have not heard any reference to her electorate. I am asking that the member for Murray refer to her electorate.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery):** I thank the member for Oatley for the point of order, which I uphold. I ask the member for Murray to refer to something in her electorate at some point. That has generally been the practice. The member for Murray may continue, but I remind her that it is a private member's statement about her electorate.

**Mrs HELEN DALTON:** It is, if I am allowed to continue. An honour system seems to persist despite decades of dishonourable conduct. My first shock occurred just after I was elected. I had to fill the MP's pecuniary interest register. As a farmer I own water in the Murray. I used it to grow crops—I still do, actually. But there was nowhere on my pecuniary interest form to list my water ownership. I was flabbergasted. Over the past decade, water has been perhaps the most lucrative investment in Australia and that impacts on the Murray electorate. Ruthless traders have made millions while farmers have gone broke during a drought. Currently ICAC is investigating National Party water corruption and insider trading. When I asked the Premier why in nine years her Government had done nothing to change the law to make MPs declare their water, she told me we could trust politicians to declare their water interests proactively. Well, when it comes to conflicts of interests the Premier has been anything but proactive.

On Monday she told ICAC four times she did not know what Leeton agribusiness United World Enterprises [UWE] was. Leeton is in the Murray electorate. But a tapped phone call revealed that she talked about UWE with Daryl Maguire back in 2017. UWE actually paid for Mr Maguire to fly to China and look for investors for its business. Why the hell was a member of Parliament doing this for a private, foreign-owned business? Leeton was not in Daryl's electorate. It is in mine. Gladys knew that but she did nothing to stop it. It is not *Fifty Shades of Grey*; it is fifty shades of hay—UWE hay.

That is the story here. It is not a love story. A New South Wales Government Minister is required to report all suspected corrupt conduct. In the past three years Gladys did not report Daryl's UWE dealings. Back in 2014 Daryl told Gladys he made \$5,000 from a property deal. "Congrats!!! Great news!!! Woohoo". That was Gladys' response. Why the hell is a State MP pocketing money from a property deal in my electorate? That should have been her reaction. It was not. In six years she never reported it. That is completely unacceptable behaviour from the Premier.

This is the same Premier who refused to let pregnant women in New South Wales—in the Murray electorate—across the border for treatment in their Victorian hospitals. She refused to let people in country areas travel a few kilometres to say farewell to dying relatives. Why? Because she is a stickler for the rules. She enforced the border closure with an iron fist, no matter how many families suffered. But when it comes to rules for herself and her party colleagues, she is far more flexible. Last month I put forward a simple bill in this Chamber. I wanted all politicians to declare their water interests. I also wanted an online register for all foreign and domestic companies that own water. Gladys Berejiklian voted against it and so did every Liberal and National Party MP.

What is the Government hiding? You could drive a truck through the many loopholes in our pecuniary interest register.

**Mr Mark Coure:** Time has expired.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner):** Order! I remind the member for Oatley and Parliamentary Secretary that I allowed him a substantial amount of time to explain his point of order, although he did not provide the standing order, so I allowed the member for Murray a few extra seconds. I ask the member for Oatley to not rudely call out.

### TRIBUTE TO NORM AND BERYL BUTTERS

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:23:22):** Today I acknowledge the lives of two extraordinary Oatley residents, Mr and Mrs Norm and Beryl Butters, who both sadly passed away earlier this year on the same day, 10 August 2020. There are few people who have made as large an impact on the community as Mr and Mrs Norm and Beryl Butters. Norm and Beryl got married in 1956 and soon after moved to Norm's childhood suburb of Oatley, where they raised their children and together built strong relationships within the local community. Most notably, Beryl was a founding member of the Kogarah Historical Society, which works to encourage the study of Australian history and promote awareness of the history of the former Kogarah municipality. She served as president three times and held almost every office besides treasurer over the past 50 years of membership. Beryl's efforts towards the society have been honoured through the establishment of life membership to the society. She remained eager and involved throughout the organisation until the very end, which is why it sees Beryl as its "corporate memory" for passing on her years of wisdom and experience.

However, the pair's dedication to involvement in the community was not limited to the Kogarah Historical Society. Both were founding members of the Oatley Senior Citizens, which serves as an invaluable society that facilitates meetings and events for the senior citizen community of Oatley. Norm was the society's first president, despite not being a senior at the time. Beryl would also go on to serve as president. They both loved every aspect and every member of the organisation. Together they took an active role in organising activities, including bingo, bridge and even exercise sessions. They were also renowned for their special events such as Melbourne Cup lunches, Christmas feasts and bus trips throughout the community. Everyone always looked forward to those events and that is where Oatley's seniors were able to form so many wonderful memories and everlasting friendships.

It is for those reasons that at the fiftieth anniversary event—attended by the member for Parramatta—the centre was renamed the Norm and Beryl Butters Senior Citizens Centre in their honour. Beryl and Norm have two daughters, Julie and Kerrie, who have fond memories of helping to set up function spaces and being looked after by other members of the society. Beryl was strongly involved with the Oatley Public School and Penshurst Girls High School P&C committees, where she was the secretary of both. Beryl also served as secretary of Oatley Girl Guides and Oatley's 150th anniversary celebrations of the land grant to James Oatley. Beryl and Norm were also the adored grandparents of Matthew, Lauren, Stephen and Daniel, who are already growing up inspired by their hard work and community spirit.

In addition to their passion for community service and improving the lives of those in the Oatley area, the pair both pursued their own individual careers—Beryl being a secretary and Norm a plumber. It is a wonder as to how either had enough time to pursue such careers whilst being so involved in community organisations. This dedication further exhibits the pair's unique spirit, which will never be forgotten. Beryl loved to travel and she spent a lot of her adult years exploring new landscapes and new opportunities with her dear friend and faithful travel companion, Cath Sullivan. Betty Goodger was another close friend of Beryl's. They were never far apart and they loved to talk for hours on end. Cath and Betty were both at the service to mourn the loss of their lifelong friend, reminiscing about their younger years and the incredible memories they had all shared.

In recognition of all their fantastic achievements, they have both been awarded senior citizens Premier's Awards and they were featured in *Kogarah Volunteer Heroes*, published by the council in 2009. Beryl was also lucky enough to receive a Centenary Medal in 2003 and Kogarah City Council's Australia Day Award for Senior Citizen of the Year in 2007. These awards only begin to commemorate and remember the legacies of Beryl and Norm Butters for their outstanding involvement in the local area. The community of Oatley is forever grateful for all their hard work, which has ensured that our community is safe, happy and enjoying of each other's company. They will be dearly missed.

### ICARE

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:28:12):** Insurance and Care NSW [icare] is the scandal-ridden government agency at the heart of the New South Wales workers compensation scheme. The scandals have been widely reported so tonight I put on the public record the experience of my constituent Karen Greentree. Her

experience is the human face of a workers compensation system that is failing to serve the interests of working people in this State. Ms Greentree was injured in 2011—the same year the Liberal-Nationals Coalition Government was elected in this State. Tragically, in the nine years since, her condition has worsened. After her injury Ms Greentree promptly returned to work. She cooperated fully in the rehabilitation program provided and managed her pain as best she could.

In 2014, with increasing pain, she was placed on restricted hours and duties, and by persistent effort she slowly increased her hours to 25 per week. Then, because her matter was ongoing and not resolved, her insurer QBE referred her to an injury management consultant or IMC. That person was a Dr Kafataris—I think he is a quack. After what was described to me as an aggressive consultation, which involved manipulation of Ms Greentree's body to the point of causing her pain, Dr Kafataris pronounced her fit for work and sent her on her way. Ms Greentree's pain worsened and further investigation by more specialist medical practitioners revealed a low back injury, which required surgery and three months off work. If this was not enough, her employer closed its premises and she and her fellow employees were made redundant. QBE resisted her further treatment at every stage and did not approve surgery until December 2016.

I started making representations on Ms Greentree's behalf in 2016, and I continue to do so. I helped her to obtain further surgery in 2018 and her treating surgeon has recently recommended that further surgery is required. GIO, her new insurer, has continued the pattern of this system and declined her request. The circumstances of this refusal of treatment say a lot about this system. The insurer's independent medical examiner, Dr Peter Bentivoglio, made his assessment and refusal without the benefit of the scans that were the basis of her treating surgeon's opinion. He said to her, "Your surgeon has made a lot of money out of you but he hasn't fixed you."

What has Dr Bentivoglio done to assist? Where is Dr Bentivoglio's duty of care? I would suggest he has also made a lot of money and his involvement has not done a thing to improve Ms Greentree's condition. During the height of the reporting of scandals around the management of icare, a damning independent review found that in 46 per cent of claims handled icare failed to follow the relevant law. Karen's experience illustrates this miserable system perfectly. When will the creator of icare and the New South Wales workers compensation system, Treasurer Dominic Perrottet, be brought to account for his creation?

Under the Treasurer's stewardship icare has underpaid workers, overpaid dodgy doctors and paid for political advisors in the Treasurer's personal office. It has tried to eject workers from the system to offset the scheme's growing losses. It has paid commissions to insurance brokers in breach of the law. Its CEO resigned after it emerged that icare gave his wife's business a contract. He and another top executive took numerous trips overseas beyond what is standard for public servants in this State, and that has now been referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The list goes on, and more is revealed day after day. Despite this record, the Treasurer has told Parliament that icare did a superb job. It has not. In the nine years under those opposite icare has not fixed Karen Greentree and many more constituents in my electorate.

#### **GANDHI CENTRE AUSTRALIA**

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education) (19:32:31):** I bring to the attention of the House the fantastic work that the Gandhi Centre Australia is doing for the future. The Gandhi Centre is based at Wentworthville and serves western Sydney communities. This not-for-profit organisation works with children, youth and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The Gandhi Peace Centre aims to reflect peace, harmony and nonviolence for the wellbeing of all. The Gandhi Centre provides Gandhian literature and has donated books to 75 libraries across New South Wales. It provides education programs to teach Gandhian thoughts through essay writing competitions and has provided free language classes since 2001. The Gandhi Centre also helps to promote a safe and family education project. It is comprised of professional social workers, psychologists, doctors and solicitors to help community members who have been involved in domestic violence.

The Gandhi Centre has also been involved with coordinating with Lions clubs, the Community Migrant Resource Centre and the City of Parramatta Council in organising programs and social events. I was fortunate enough to attend one of the events this year to celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the day that the United Nations declared International Day of Non-Violence. Although this year the day could not be celebrated in a large event due to COVID-19, a small gathering with various delegates from the City of Parramatta Council, including Lord Mayor Bob Dwyer, and Consul-General of India Mr Manish Gupta was held at Jubilee Park in Parramatta to showcase peace and harmony. I congratulate the Gandhi Centre Australia on its efforts to build cross-cultural relationships within the community and provide much-needed support to the community. I thank the volunteers for giving their time and effort to support others. It is wonderful to see so many organisations working together and lending a hand to those in need so that we can become a stronger and more resilient society.

Jubilee Park is where the City of Parramatta Council, in partnership with the Indian Consulate-General, installed the Gandhi statue. It is a wonderful place of peace, harmony and reflection and a fitting tribute to the

Harris Park area. Harris Park has not always been a centre of the Australian Indian community. Prior to many people from India moving into the area, it had many people who were born in Lebanon and migrated to Australia. Prior to that, the Greek Australian community had moved into the area. Harris Park has changed over time. It is now going through a renaissance period and a change in the community. It has the largest concentration of people who were originally born in India. Its most common surname is Patel, which is Gujarati. Harris Park is now known as Little India, and one only has to walk down Wigram Street and other streets in the area to see the collection of shops, retailers, fashion and food that makes it a special place to visit.

I invite everybody from right around Sydney to come and visit our own Little India. I commend the council—especially Lord Mayor Bob Dwyer—for officially declaring Harris Park to be Little India. There are many destination points around Sydney such as Chinatown, Koreatown, Cabramatta with the Vietnamese, and so on that encourage people from across Sydney to visit. If the council was able to declare Harris Park as Little India, we could certainly open it up for the mainstream population so that when they think of Indian food, culture and fashion, they come to Harris Park. It would invite people around Sydney, around New South Wales and around Australia to come and visit our own Little India in Harris Park. I commend the council for its initial moves. It has been calling for some 10 years to make the area Little India. I commend Lord Mayor Bob Dwyer for his push to make Harris Park into Little India.

### NATIONAL CARERS WEEK

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (19:37:46):** This week marks National Carers Week—a week in which the 2.65 million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend with a disability are acknowledged. National Carers Week is an opportunity to raise awareness about carers and the diversity of caring roles. In New South Wales there are approximately 850,000 people—some as young as eight years old—providing informal care. According to a recent report by Deloitte Access Economics, carers deliver the equivalent of \$79.9 billion worth of labour by giving informal care to others. That figure has been derived from what it would cost should the government deliver the service of caring. The lost opportunity for carers to engage in income-generating activities, such as employment or running a business, is valued at \$15 billion.

In March, at the beginning of the pandemic, my staff and I made outreach calls to the elderly in the Charlestown electorate—as I am sure many did across New South Wales—to check that they were being cared for. We called hundreds of residents across the electorate. It was heartening to learn that the vast majority of senior citizens were being looked after. Many were receiving informal care from neighbours, family and friends. We heard stories of neighbours running errands and hunting the shopping aisles for rare rolls of toilet paper, delivering cooked meals to the doorsteps of elderly or disabled neighbours and checking in with phone calls, all to make sure the vulnerable people would not have to leave their homes during the lockdown. During the height of the lockdown, many in the Charlestown electorate became informal carers for others and, like many who are carers, they may not have recognised that they were giving informal care.

Recognition of oneself as a carer continues to be a barrier to carers receiving support, especially in Indigenous communities in New South Wales. Those hidden carers do not reach out for help because they do not know that they can and they do not know what support is available. A national survey of carers by Caring Fairly found that fewer than 10 per cent of carers have received additional support during the pandemic. Organisations such as Carers NSW have said that during the COVID-19 pandemic the mental health of many carers has been impacted. Lockdown measures, although necessary, have exacerbated carers' mental health issues. There has been no meaningful additional support for carers by the New South Wales Government during the pandemic. Carers give their labour to support people with a disability, to support people with mental health issues and to support people with chronic illness. Carers give care without nearly enough support and without nearly enough acknowledgement.

Caring duties primarily fall to women. In New South Wales, as much as 80 per cent of the people providing informal care are female. Carers do need more recognition for the work they undertake, but they also need meaningful support. Annual surveys of carers in New South Wales show the cost of caring is high, and that price is paid by the carers themselves. There is the expense of caring: finding money to cover medications, disability aids, health care and transport. An Australian Bureau of Statistics survey of carers found approximately 40 per cent were struggling to make ends meet. Carers consistently rank in the lowest position on the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index. Carers routinely put the wellbeing of the person they care for ahead of their own. The health toll on carers includes physical issues, such as back problems. It also includes mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. The experience of caring often comes with social isolation and missed recreational opportunities.

In 2010, with bipartisan support, the New South Wales Labor Government enacted the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act. The Act was intended as a first step to note the work that carers undertake. It also enshrined in legislation the NSW Carers Charter. Since that time, sadly, there has been little measurable improvement for

carers. The NSW Carers Strategy 2014-2019, delivered under the New South Wales Coalition Government, has largely failed to deliver meaningful reform for carers. The intention of the strategy was to recognise carers and improve their lives over a five-year time line. Many of the actions listed in the strategy simply never came to be. Those that were enacted did little to create change for those who are caring for others. In fact, there has been no final report on the strategy's outcomes and there has been no published evaluation of the strategy. This week a new carers' strategy was launched by the New South Wales Government. Let us hope it does better than the last one, because it is time this Government started to care for the people who care.

### **PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE HEALTH SERVICES**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (19:42:54):** Residents in rural and regional communities across New South Wales know that they are getting a bad deal when it comes to the accessibility and quality of local healthcare services for themselves and their families. As the member for Port Stephens, I see firsthand the differences between communities like mine and those in the city. Too often, these differences are not just an issue of fairness; they are an issue of life and death. Far too often, we have seen heartache and tragedy play out on the front pages of newspapers when the rural and regional healthcare system lets communities down. Right now in New South Wales we have a Government that thinks it is fine to have hospitals without doctors, emergency rooms without nurses and towns without GPs. We have entire regions where the only health care available when people get sick are backup ambulance officers who are based hours away. That is unacceptable, unfair and dangerous.

After nearly 10 years in power, the Liberal-Nationals Government is responsible for the current state of the New South Wales healthcare system, including the following shocking statistics. People in rural and regional communities can be twice as likely to die an avoidable death, compared to people in the city. In Sydney the median age of death is 79, while in remote communities it is as low as 66. Communities in rural and regional New South Wales have the highest rates of preventable hospitalisation and preventable chronic disease. These statistics are shocking realities and they could be very different if the Government had different priorities.

As a regional member of Parliament, for years I have been fighting for better healthcare services in Port Stephens. In my electorate, the Tomaree Community Hospital is an invaluable facility with dedicated healthcare workers who serve a local population of more than 20,000 people, which more than triples in holiday periods. The hospital's operating model is to have a doctor on call, which often leaves patients waiting long periods of time without access to a doctor. That leaves nurses to bear the brunt of the hard work, stress and trauma. My office regularly hears from residents who are actually turned away from the hospital and told to come back the next day either because no doctor is on call or because the doctor on call does not want to deal with their particular issue. This is what we deal with in regional New South Wales. That is what we are dealing with in Port Stephens.

At peak periods during our tourism season our local general practitioners are asked to not refer any patients to the hospital because no doctor is on deck. How can a State as prosperous as New South Wales run hospitals without doctors? It is not fair on nurses. It is not fair on GPs. It is not fair on our tourists and guests, and it is not fair on my community, which deserves so much better. In Port Stephens, like many regional communities across New South Wales, the planning laws of the Liberal-Nationals Government have allowed for rapid expansion of so-called seniors housing, but we know that the Government has failed to keep pace with the expansion of local health services to cater for these residents. On top of that, in Port Stephens we have five aged care facilities. We have a vulnerable aging population.

Another issue facing our community is the difficulty in recruiting and keeping GPs. The absurd rules and guidelines have seen Port Stephens removed as a designated area of need so GPs being trained are forced to leave the areas instead of staying, despite the fact that they would like to stay. When patients cannot see a GP because our medical centres are full, they end up in the emergency room, and the dangerous cycle of stressed resources continues. We do not have local specialists so we even struggle to get onto a list elsewhere to be seen. Mental health services are entirely inadequate and hardly anywhere to be seen. Even our local Youth Mental Health Service, which was created by the community based on its needs, cannot get funding to meet the need.

We know that serious concerns about regional health care are not confined to Port Stephens. This week we learned more about the situation in Gulgong, east of Dubbo. The Western Local Health District apparently wanted to pay less money for a doctor for this service so replaced the doctor with Telehealth. We have also seen situations at Cobar Base Hospital and Tenterfield. I have met with communities in Tumut, Cootamundra and elsewhere where hospitals have no doctors. Such cases show why Labor fought for, and secured, a broad-ranging parliamentary inquiry into rural and regional health care.

I look forward to the committee holding hearings across rural and regional New South Wales and hearing from communities that know what they once had, but no longer have. I also look forward to the committee's recommendations to improve our regional and rural health system to give local families confidence in their local health services—confidence that they deserve to have but no longer have, courtesy of this Liberal-Nationals

Government. I encourage everyone from rural, regional and remote New South Wales to have their say, tell their stories, put forward suggestions and make submissions to the inquiry before 13 December 2020.

*Community Recognition Statements*

**TRIBUTE TO PHIL O'SULLIVAN, OAM**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (19:48:11):** On Saturday 26 September I joined the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club to pay tribute to life member Phil O'Sullivan, OAM, who passed away in August 2020 at age 97. It was also an opportunity to kick off the club's 2020-21 season in Phil's memory in a match against North Sydney Cricket Club. We honoured Phil with a minute's silence and a tribute from club president Jim Maxwell, AM. He had been a club member since 1946 and life member since 1971—a former president of the club who left an undeniable legacy. We were joined by Phil's extended family, including his son, Chris; Chris' wife, Patricia; grandchildren Phillip, Christopher and Stephen; and Cricket NSW chair John Knox. I thank club vice-president Peter Lovitt for the invitation to pay tribute to a very special club stalwart. Phil O'Sullivan, OAM, rest in peace.

**LUCIA WILCOX**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (19:49:04):** I congratulate Lucia Wilcox, who was named as the Hunter's Senior Volunteer of the Year in the 2020 New South Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards. Lucia has dedicated 40 years to Newcastle Netball Association, fostering young talent and instilling the qualities of teamwork, commitment and self-confidence in her charges, as well as their on-court skills and fitness. During this time Lucia has also taken on significant administrative duties and is currently serving as the association's assistant secretary and carnival convener. Administration of community sport can involve long hours ensuring smooth sailing on game days and many more hours spent on prior organisation. Lucia's dedication cannot be understated. Congratulations again, Lucia. Newcastle Netball Association is lucky to have you and so is Newcastle.

**COFFS COAST JUMP CLUB**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (19:50:09):** Coffs Coast Jump Club is riding high with a \$5,000 State Government grant that is helping with the purchase of much-needed showjumping equipment. The club made a successful application under the Local Sport Grant Program, and I recently visited club members at Coffs Harbour Showground to congratulate them. The club is using the funds to buy showjumping poles, showjumping wings, cups and electronic timing equipment. The project aims to increase the number of riders who can participate in showjumping and to help riders improve. The club hopes to increase its membership, participation and competition numbers. Coffs Coast Jump Club is led by founding member, chairperson and acting secretary Sally Hutchison, office manager Pamela Lund, acting treasurer Allan Harrison, technical director Alison Ostenfeld and board member Kirby Gottsche.

**SYDNEY ROHINGYA FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (19:50:47):** Earlier this month I had the pleasure of joining Craig Foster at a training session with the Sydney Rohingya Football Club at Parry Park in Lakemba. The team is an opportunity for Rohingya youth to come together not only to enjoy a game of soccer, but also to benefit from the camaraderie and support from their team mates. It was fabulous to see the great Craig Foster passing on some of his soccer secrets, motivation and skills to the team. And while language may have been a barrier some of the time, there is nothing quite like the language of the great game to bring them all together. It was also nice to be joined by Amnesty International.

I commend the work of the team's coach, Muhammad Younus, for all his work with the team. Like many coaches, he does not just coach the boys on the field, but also provides support in all kinds of ways when needed. At the moment the team is struggling to raise the funds for its registration in the soccer competition due to COVID. Usually the Rohingya community would hold a fundraising barbie for the boys, but have not been able to do so with social distancing. Many of the players have lost their jobs due to COVID, so coach Muhammad has been integral in helping them look for alternative methods to raise funds for registration. I wish the boys all the very best of luck in the competition ahead. I know they will do our local community proud.

**TRIBUTE TO BEULAH MIDSON**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (19:52:11):** I acknowledge the life and passing of Beulah Midson, who served with distinction in the Women's Land Army during World War II to keep the home front alive and worked while the men were at war abroad. Beulah was among the few remaining members of the Women's Land Army in New South Wales. She first enlisted in 1945 at the age of 18 during the final year of the war. She lived a life of service to her country and to her community, having always sought to improve her community for the better. Beulah regularly contacted the Camden electorate office with suggestions on how this

could be achieved. After Beulah's husband moved into the Mary MacKillop Hostel at Carrington Hospital within the Carrington Care community, Beulah undertook initiatives to improve the conditions of the hospital gardens, seeking to help her fellow elderly residents see the same beauty in nature as she did. I offer my condolences to Beulah's family. May she rest in peace.

#### **BATYR**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:53:13):** I sincerely thank Batyr for the great work it is doing with young people on the Central Coast who are experiencing challenges with their mental health, which are magnified during the COVID period. The Batyr Being Herd Pathways program has delivered five workshops on the coast, providing an opportunity for young people to share and validate their mental health experiences. Over 200 young people have been assisted with their confidence and wellbeing in their journey to find meaningful work. Sefa and India from Batyr generously gave their time to visit my office and describe the great programs offered by Batyr across New South Wales. I invited Batyr to deliver to young people at the first Gosford Youth Leadership Forum in 2017 because I know the great job it does using as presenters young people who live with mental health challenges who share their own mental health journeys, and offering solutions to move through challenging stages of their lives. Batyr offers a light at the end of the tunnel for young people living with mental health challenges. I invite the State Government to continue its funding beyond 2020 for its important role.

#### **ONE MEAL**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:54:13):** On 15 June I had the privilege of volunteering for One Meal meal service, a fantastic community organisation doing great work across the State. One Meal helps feed, clothe and support the homeless and underprivileged. It provides nutritious meals weekly to those in need in several locations across Sydney. Its service patrons are provided with one main meal as well as a breakfast pack to take away, and are further assisted where possible with swags, sanitary packs, toiletries, clothing items, blankets and so on. On 15 June One Meal was at Riverwood Community Centre and I simply could not miss the opportunity to help out. It was a greatly rewarding experience, which only increased my admiration for all those involved. Despite challenging circumstances, One Meal has been soldiering on in 2020. I encourage all members to support the organisation and its members. I thank all those involved and, in particular, Emma Williams for her organisation and continued hard work.

#### **LUCILLE MCKENNA, OAM**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (19:55:18):** I am proud to announce that this year's Summer Hill Grandparent of the Year is Councillor Lucille McKenna, OAM. As well as being an amazing grandparent to Kenneth, Patrick, Fergus, Eloise and Lucy, Lucille is also a tireless and dedicated servant of her community. Early in her career Lucille worked as a community nurse for the then Ashfield Council. Years later she became the council's first and only female mayor. In 2017 Lucille was elected to represent her community of Leichhardt as a councillor for Inner West Council. Before politics, Lucille worked for 35 years as a director of nursing in aged care. Along with over 32,000 other retired nurses, she recently returned from retirement to help our State battle COVID-19. Like so many other grandparents in our community, Lucille has balanced her family and professional life with a deep commitment to public service. Lucille makes her two children and five grandchildren extraordinarily proud. I thank Lucille for being a wonderful grandparent and always looking out for the inner west community.

#### **AARON BYKERK**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (19:56:22):** I congratulate Albury student Aaron Bykerk for his success in obtaining a scholarship to study for a Diploma of Event Management. Aaron is one of 12 students chosen to benefit through the initiative provided under the New South Wales Government's \$6 million regional strategy and action plan, in collaboration with Meetings & Events Australia. The Government recognises that the business events sector presents a major opportunity for the visitor economy. Like many young Australians dreaming of success, Aaron worked hard to pursue a career in performance, entering the 2007 *Australian Idol* competition. Previously, the former student of Murray High School has performed at Albury's Carols by Candlelight and starred in the FAME community theatre company production of *Robin the Hood!* Albury is known for hosting successful events. It is encouraging to see Aaron working and studying to bring the necessary skills to boost that sector of our regional economy and to perhaps provide pathways for local border musicians, actors, artists and others in creative fields to find success. Well done, Aaron.

#### **YARRAMALONG VALLEY SCARECROW COMPETITION**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (19:57:25):** The Yarramalong Valley Spring Festival sadly did not go ahead this year due to COVID-19, but the scarecrow competition still proceeded. If members take a drive through Yarramalong Valley they will be surprised to see creative and amusing stories of scarecrows on the roadside that

have been put together by the clever Yarramalong residents. The stories behind those creative scarecrows involve our firefighting heroes, Mario Bros., Bluey and Bingo from the kids' television series *Bluey*, the Grinch and a few coronavirus-themed scarecrows. The public can view the Yarramalong Valley scarecrows online and vote for their favourite themed scarecrow or enjoy a road trip through the valley to see the scarecrows in person. The four winners of the scarecrow competition are *Stockyard Community Farm* by Nicole Hawach for the people's choice category, *Barney Amazement* by Rick Taylor for the creative category, *Flattening the Curve* by Donna Barrett for the humorous category, and *RFS Crow Heroes* by Tim Newbold for the topical category. The Yarramalong Valley Spring Festival has been active since 2008 and is structured to bring the community together and establish the hinterland of the Central Coast with the general public.

#### **DUBBO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (19:58:29):** Recently the 2020 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards were handed out and two high achievers from the Dubbo region were recognised. Joseph McDonnell-Amatto was given the Orana region Young Volunteer of the Year award in recognition of the fact that at the age of 20 he is one of the State's youngest deputy unit commanders with the NSW State Emergency Service. He is extremely dedicated, as evidenced by the fact he is on call 24/7 with the Dubbo unit, ready to perform operations with the unit while holding down two jobs and undertaking training one night a week. Wongarbon's Megan Hamblin was awarded the Adult Volunteer of the Year prize for her work as Volunteer Hub Leader at St John Ambulance in western New South Wales. Megan, who earlier this year was named as Dubbo's 2020 Citizen of the Year, gives up hundreds of hours of her time each year to provide first aid at community events. She is also the secretary of the Dubbo District Deaf Club and a member of the Dubbo branch of the SES. Both Joseph and Megan deserve special congratulations. I thank them for their ongoing dedication to the community.

#### **CASSIE ELBOURN**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:59:30):** I acknowledge my constituent Miss Cassie Elbourn, who is a long-term Girl Guide and member of the Ourimbah Guides group in my electorate. Cassie has achieved her Queen's Guide, which is the highest award a Guide can achieve. I understand that Cassie joined the Guiding movement as a junior Guide at the age of eight and is to this day a senior Guide in her organisation. Cassie has made many friends along the way and undertaken many challenges that have resulted in receiving awards for her efforts. The Girl Guide movement empowers girls and young women in our communities in many positive ways with resilience and leadership skills that strengthen their self-confidence to become responsible community members. I congratulate Cassie on her dedication and strong commitment to the Guiding movement and the Ourimbah Guides group for the past 10 years. She has represented the group with pride and dignity and she is a wonderful ambassador and mentor for current and future Guide members, as well as our community. I thank Cassie Elbourn.

#### **MARRAR CAMPDRAFT ASSOCIATION**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:00:30):** I congratulate the Marrar Campdraft Association following the inaugural campdraft event held at the Marrar Recreation Grounds in early September. The event was a great success, with well over 100 competitors in attendance—all from within a 100-kilometre radius of Marrar—and riders from juniors through to opens taking up the opportunity to perform their horsemanship and cattle-handling skills. The founding committee has had a busy few months with several working bees building the yards and arena. It is fantastic to hear of many local businesses and individuals throwing their support behind the association to get ready for the competition. The next campdraft event is planned for May next year, with a number of clinics to be held at the grounds in the lead-up to it. I congratulate the entire committee, including the Halden, Prior and Bradshaw families, Johanna Graetz, Nick Solway, Tyler Pendergast, Stephen Condell and Nicky Chamberlain. It really is just the beginning of a fantastic community organisation. I wish them all the very best.

#### **CHARLESTOWN AZZURRI FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (20:01:36):** Charlestown Azzurri Football Club went up against Lake Macquarie City FC in a nailbiter of a match last weekend. The last fixture of the COVID-shortened season, the match determined if Azzurri would make it into the finals. Coming hot off a 2-0 victory over the Broadmeadow Magic on Saturday 3 October, Azzurri rode their momentum to another win, cementing what has been a strong season for the side. Scott Smith put Azzurri ahead in the sixtieth minute with a speculator long-range volleyed strike, and Rene Ferguson scored a second goal two minutes later with a header. Their performance at the weekend moved their standing to fourth place, putting the side into the finals for the first time since 2014—a fitting reward for a hard-fought season. I will keep a close eye on the semis and I wish them all the best. Forza Azzurri!



**PENSHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (20:02:31):** I provide the House with an update on a local school in my electorate, Penshurst West Public School. I am thrilled to announce that the \$8.8 million upgrade is now complete, which includes seven new learning spaces and classrooms, a new two-storey building, a new student amenities building with a special programs room, upgrades to the staff carpark and enhanced open spaces. Recently I was delighted to visit the school to announce a \$19,500 grant for the school as part of the Community Building Partnership program. It is always great to visit the tight-knit Penshurst West community. However, that visit was extra special as I saw firsthand the great impact that the upgrades have had. The money will support the installation of drinking fountains and water bottle refill stations, ensuring that students remain healthy and hydrated. I am immensely proud to be part of a Government that is so committed to public education investment, and it makes me even prouder when I am able to see the results firsthand in my own electorate. I hope Principal Ross Angus and the whole Penshurst West Public School community enjoy the upgrades.

**MYALL U3A WRITERS' GROUP**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (20:03:36):** When a beautiful community comes together there is no limit to what it can achieve. A testament to that sentiment is a book published by the Myall U3A Writers' Group entitled *Write by the River*, which I was honoured to launch on the weekend. The book is a collection of short stories and poems inspired by the lifeblood of Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest, the Myall River. All good ideas start somewhere, and in this case it was the founding of the Myall U3A Writers' Group by Maggie Buchanan and Lee Anderson. The book was edited by the impressive team of Sue Collingridge, Helen Fitzgerald, Michelle Temby and Ray Keipert and all impressively pulled together by Jane Graham. *Write by the River* is dedicated to two strong women from the group who sadly passed away last year, Patricia Foyle and Narelle Hawkes. I congratulate all contributors. While the book might have been inspired by the river, it is the community's spirit that shines on its pages, capturing its warmth, creativity and connectedness. I thank all the wonderful Myall U3A members for letting me launch their labour of love, for publishing my foreword and for letting me be a part of such a special occasion.

**TIERNAN CARTWRIGHT**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (20:04:38):** I congratulate Tiernan Cartwright of Como for having his work included in the 2019 HSC Young Writers Showcase anthology. Tiernan produced an outstanding critical response on the topic of magical realist novels as well as an author's reflection statement, which captured the creative process that Tiernan underwent to develop his literary work. His response is one of 18 pieces selected for the anthology from more than 1,500 students who studied English Extension 2 in 2019.

English Extension 2 requires a high level of independence from students to produce an extended composition. Tiernan's dedication and commitment to his work not only has made him a published author less than a year after finishing high school but also has earned him a spot on the HSC Distinguished Achievers list. I congratulate Tiernan on this extraordinary achievement and commend the hard work that went into completing his submission. I have no doubt that he will continue to achieve throughout his tertiary studies and extend my best wishes for his future.

**ATUL AND KAMINI KUMAR**

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (20:05:30):** I congratulate the wonderful husband-and-wife team of Atul and Kamini Kumar, who during the past six months of the COVID pandemic have used their home kitchen to cook approximately 200 meals per week, package them and distribute them to various community organisations to support people in need. They have provided food to Pastor Ray Bennett of Blessing Tents in Alpha Park, Blacktown, Community Access Western Sydney in Lethbridge Park Community Centre and Christ Mission. Atul is the managing director of Signature Projects Australia and saw it as part of his corporate responsibility to support those who had lost their jobs due to COVID or who were otherwise disadvantaged. Their great work has encouraged office staff, consultants and associates to volunteer to cook at their homes and regularly drop off food to charities. We thank them for their other wonderful community work over very many years.

**COFFS HARBOUR PCYC**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (20:06:23):** The team at the Coffs Harbour PCYC is still smiling as their brand-new bus does the rounds in our community. The bus is part of the PCYC's Fit for Life program, which received \$130,000 from the New South Wales Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund. Recently I visited the PCYC to see the new vehicle in operation. The Fit for Life program falls under the Commissioner of Police's RISEUP strategy and is delivered by the NSW Police Force.

The program is staffed by experts and gives disadvantaged youth aged 10 to 17 a strong start to their day that includes exercise, a shower, a healthy breakfast, a healthy packed lunch and a ride to school aboard the new bus. PCYC Coffs Harbour has a dedicated team of 10 volunteers and five staff, led by club manager Katrina Vanderzwan, youth case managers Senior Constable Jon Buzza and Senior Constable Daniel Usher, and school liaison officer Senior Constable Bernadette Snow.

#### COMMUNITY FIRST STEP

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (20:07:19):** I take this opportunity to commend Mr John Gilmore, Mr Mark Webb and the team at Community First Step for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time John, Mark and the Community First Step team have worked very hard to deliver frozen meals to individuals, families, schools and others in the wider community. By working together with OzHarvest, the New South Wales Parliament and the Parks Community Network, Community First Step was able to deliver 14,000 meals to people in the Fairfield and Campbelltown local government areas who either lived alone or were not able to leave their homes due to social distancing measures.

Community First Step is a valuable asset to our community in the Fairfield electorate and never was their work more appreciated than through the recent COVID-19 lockdown period. I thank Mr John Gilmore and Mr Mark Webb and the staff at Community First Step for collaborating with other charities to deliver meals, thus providing an essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### PARAMOUNT TENNIS CLUB

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (20:08:22):** Recently the Paramount Tennis Club in Dubbo hosted its 2020 club championships. The club, under the guidance of president Charlie Whiteley and his committee, has been extremely proactive during the coronavirus pandemic, and held the championships in a COVID-safe manner. Fin Edwards dominated proceedings by winning the men's A-grade final 6-1, 6-0 before combining with his dad, Matt Edwards, to win the A-grade doubles final over Paul Wells and Nathan Astri. Chrissy Johnson was victorious in the women's A-grade event, beating Zillah Rogers in the final before combining with Craig Taylor to win the A-grade mixed doubles. In the women's A-grade doubles Mandy Wells and Wendy Cox took out the title.

In B-grade, Asrael Maligaya won the men's singles, Sean Behsman and Bradley Reardon took out the doubles, and Phil Wheeler and Steph Rusden claimed the mixed doubles. Men's C-grade titles were won by Brad Edwards in the singles, while Phil Wheeler joined with Frank Roberts to win the doubles. It was great to see almost 100 players hit the courts during the two days. It was a really good weekend of fantastic tennis. Well done to all involved!

#### INTERNATIONAL ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DAY

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (20:09:21):** Tomorrow is International Allied Health Professionals Day. I take this opportunity to commend the allied health professional workers across the Lismore electorate who are employed in both the public health system and the private system. The commemoration day was begun in 2018 by two UK clinicians and quickly gathered pace across the global. It recognises their contribution to patient care and population health. This year's theme is #celebrate #appreciate #inspire #connect. Suggested ways to celebrate include the traditional morning tea—#appreciate—and an action pledge. My way to recognise their contribution is to call on the New South Wales Government to immediately deploy the 38 allied health workers it promised in the 2019 election in my Lismore electorate. That would be action on its pledge.

#### TEMORA HIGH SCHOOL

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:10:23):** Exciting news for Temora High School, which has received delivery of a partially built *Murphy Rebel* kit plane as part of the Youth Aircraft Build and Fly program sponsored by the Sporting Aircraft Association of Australia [SAAA]. Twenty-five students from years 9 to 12 will participate in constructing the aircraft and, once it is completed, they will have the opportunity of learning to fly it. Construction will be overseen by teacher Brett Inch, with engineering and quality control experts supporting the building project to ensure that aviation safety is adhered to at all times. The Temora Aviation Museum will be lending its support during the construction phase and will be paying the SAAA membership for each of the students participating in the program. What an amazing opportunity for this rural high school. I look forward to seeing the project evolve.

#### MEDOWIE MUMPRENEURS

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (20:11:20):** Thank you to the wonderful Kim Oakhill for kicking off a great local initiative on the weekend: Medowie Mumpreneurs. The event formed part of the NSW Small Business Month, with Kim as an official collaboration partner, having been a former gold winner at the AusMumpreneur awards for her beautiful small business, Helpful Love. While 2020 has been a difficult year for

most small businesses, it has been a challenging year for mums everywhere. After a long time with very little contact with community, it was wonderful to connect with an impressive group of brave women, who are all eager to support each other.

Starting a small business takes courage. Running a small business is hard work. Managing family and parenting responsibilities is stressful and time consuming. Combining both can be sheer madness. So creating a support network for those living the dream is invaluable. Thank you to Zali Morcom for letting us enjoy her delightful business, Little Pantry, and to everyone for sharing their stories. I am sorry I was not able to share any secrets for managing the mythical work-life balance. All of the Medowie Mumpreneurs can work on that and now share what we learn along the way.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (20:12:23):** I acknowledge the wonderful community organisation that is the Sutherland Shire Historical Society. Founded in 1966, members of the group share an interest in preserving and raising awareness of our local history from Aboriginal occupation to the arrival of Captain Cook. They collect artefacts for display in their museum, research and publish histories for their quarterly publication and website, and work to preserve local, natural and built heritage. The society also features a range of speakers at its monthly meetings, to which they always welcome visitors.

For the past 34 years, members of the society have been developing and maintaining a small museum at their headquarters—the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts. The group will soon be relocating to a new premises in Sylvania and I am incredibly pleased to welcome them to the Miranda electorate. I particularly recognise members of the committee including president Pauline Curby, deputy president Bruce Watt, secretary John Doherty, Carol McDonald, Creo Moore, Elizabeth Craig, Floriana Camper, Gloria Hans, Ian Stewart, Joe Hales, Liz Adams, Michael Solari and Peter Moore. I very much look forward to working with the Sutherland Shire Historical Society in the future.

#### **OPTIONS THEATRE COMPANY**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:13:28):** I recognise in the New South Wales Parliament the amazing work of the Options Theatre Company. It has taken the challenges of the coronavirus and turned those obstacles into opportunities for the company's members. Based at West Gosford, the Options Theatre Company is a creative initiative that offers training in the creative arts to people with disabilities. Students learn from industry professionals, undertaking creative workshops and participating in hands-on learning experiences. When the coronavirus put an end to the company's annual sellout show—of which I am an absolute fan—musical director Andrew Samford, assistant artistic director Carolyn McNamara and the team at the Options Theatre Company created *The Friday Show*. This new show gave members an opportunity to create a virtual interactive variety-style program over the course of the coronavirus lockdown.

In the future the Options Theatre Company hopes to turn its studio space into a television studio, complete with professional equipment such as cameras and lights. I congratulate company members on continuing their push for greater representation in mainstream entertainment and showing people from across the Central Coast that all dreams are possible.

#### **COFFS HARBOUR GARDEN CLUB**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (20:14:38):** The Coffs Harbour Garden Club's prestigious spring garden competition is always a much-anticipated fixture on the Coffs coast social calendar. This year the judges inspected some 63 properties and they were impressed by the high standards. Winners in 14 categories were awarded at the club's presentation at Sawtell Catholic Care and I was delighted to attend to present two awards. I congratulate Coffs Harbour Garden Club on organising an outstanding competition and for its warm welcome. I acknowledge club president Margaret Hunt, vice-president Margaret Crawley, treasurer Geoff Bell, secretary and website administrator Maria Bell, and club patron Patricia Roser, OAM. I also acknowledge the outstanding team at Sawtell Catholic Care, led by their CEO Michael Darragh. I conclude by congratulating all entrants in the competition and especially the 14 winners.

#### **BINYA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:15:33):** I congratulate Binya Public School on making the semi-finals of the 2020 Game Changer Challenge. This competitive program pits 420 students from across the State in a competition to use their design and problem-solving skills to find solutions to real-world problems. In a virtual semifinal, teams from 84 primary and secondary schools will be aiming to solve the problem: How might we use technology to bring everyone in our community closer together? Binya has a population of just under 200 people, so this is an incredible achievement and proves that small schools can offer just as many opportunities

as their bigger counterparts. Congratulations, Binya Public School, on your efforts in this competition. I will be cheering as you take on the State.

#### **PAT GUILD**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:16:27):** Today I congratulate Pat Guild, who has won the 2020 Senior Volunteer of the Year award for the Central Coast region. Ms Guild won this award for her services and dedication to Blowfly Cricket, where she has provided her time for the past 11 years. Over this period Pat has assisted with summer sport for children with intellectual disabilities and fundraising, and has represented Blowfly Cricket in schools as a coach. I take this opportunity to commend Pat Guild and wish her many more years of volunteering for Blowfly Cricket and working for the betterment of others. I also commend Pat and her team at the Volunteering Central Coast online awards. Pat's response was so beautiful and heartfelt, and the tears in Pat's eyes brought tears to all of our eyes as we watched this great award ceremony online. I encourage many more members of my community to get out there and contribute any spare time they have during these challenging and unprecedented times to help improve the lives of others and give back to our community.

#### **MID LACHLAN VALLEY RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:17:28):** As I travel around my electorate I love having the opportunity to admire the impressive local artwork displayed on silos, water tanks, bridges and buildings. Mid Lachlan Valley Rural Fire Service has added to this collection with a new mural on its headquarters in Grenfell. The mural is the work of local sign-writers Sharon Fensom from Young and Christine Holmes from Parkes. It features wheat crops in the foreground with the Weddin Mountains as the backdrop. A lightning strike has lit a fire in the hills and RFS crews work hard to contain the fire. The mural is very detailed and seeks to tell the story of how our Rural Fire Service goes to work to keep our communities safe. Congratulations to all who contributed to this project.

#### **MCCALLUMS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury)—**Today I want to recognise the wonderful completion of stage one of a brand new Sensory Garden at McCallums Hill Public School, Roselands. The garden was supported by myself in my capacity as the local state member, as well as the local Federal Member for Watson Tony Burke, and the Lantern Club in Roselands. The school's leadership and the P&C committee shared a vision to convert an unused space into a spectacular interactive open space, which has now been incorporated into the school's teaching and learning. The garden is a beautiful place where students of all levels and abilities are able to visit and stimulate their tactile, visual, hearing sensory skills. The sensory garden will especially help those students with greater needs and will encourage a more stimulating classroom environment. Debbie Waicokacola, General Manager of the Lantern Club, also announced that an additional \$10,000 would be donated to invest into Stage Two of the gardens development. A huge thank you to the school's Principal Mrs Georgia Constanti, and the P&C President Paul Robinson for their continued dedication to student education and well-being. I look forward to visit the garden upon conclusion of Stage Two.

#### **ST MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN, GEORGES HALL**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—**It was my pleasure to visit the Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven in Georges Hall on 9 October 2020, and see the progress being made towards its new security fencing following receipt of a Community Building Partnership (CBP) grant. In 2019, St Mary Queen of Heaven successfully applied for a CBP grant of \$35,000 to replace its aging perimeter fencing with new security fencing. St Mary Queen of Heaven provides a welcoming and supportive community to its more than 15,000 parishioners, and also delivers invaluable educational and community services through the St Mary's Catholic Primary School embedded within the parish. I was pleased to support St Mary Queen of Heaven in securing this funding, and I take this opportunity to acknowledge Parish Priest Father Joseph Kolodziej, Parish Finance Manager Mr Michael Anderson, Parish Secretary Mrs Veronica Denning, and Mr Tony Corkeron of the Finance Committee, as well as Mr Arpi Szobosz who oversaw the project's construction, and commend them for their efforts in securing this grant, and overseeing its implementation.

#### **BANKSTOWN SPORTS AND CUP OF KINDNESS**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—**I acknowledge and commend Bankstown Sports, including its associated venues Bankstown Sports Bowls and Birrong Sports, for its participation in Cup of Kindness Day, which was held on 1 October 2020. Cup of Kindness Day, which takes place on International Coffee Day, sees participating cafés donate a proportion of the sale of each hot drink to Youth Off The Streets, which is a superb charity that for almost 30 years has helped disadvantaged young people overcome trauma and turn their lives around. Bankstown Sports generously donated 50 cents from every hot drink sold across its venues on Cup of Kindness Day to this fantastic cause. I acknowledge Bankstown Sports' Chairman Mr John Murray OAM,

Directors Mr Richard Phillips, Mr Jim Ronis, Mr Vernon Falconer, Mr Martin Klumpp OAM, Mr Jim Hanna and Ms Carolyn Campbell, as well as Chief Executive Officer Mr Mark Condi, management and staff and thank them for supporting this initiative and for their tremendous efforts in supporting our community.

#### **TAYLOR KIRKWOOD YOUNG**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Speaker, I rise to congratulate Taylor Kirkwood of Belmont North for being named the 2020 New South Wales Young Volunteer of the Year for the Hunter. Mr Kirkwood is a volunteer for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance and a fourth year psychology student. Mr Kirkwood has been working with the Lego Therapy Group, a social development program for children with autism development spectrum disorder. Since beginning as a volunteer Mr Kirkwood has only missed one session, when he was off fighting fires as part of the Lake Macquarie Rural Fire Service. During the COVID-19 lockdown Mr Kirkwood has delivered for Cerebral Palsy Alliance residents who have been unable to visit a supermarket. I congratulate Mr Kirkwood, he is a very worthy recipient of the 2020 NSW Young Volunteer of the Year Award for the Hunter. I would also like to thank Mr Kirkwood for his dedication to our community via his work with the Cerebral palsy Alliance and Lake Macquarie Rural Fire Service.

#### **RUSSELL BRIDGE**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr Russell Bridge on his 10 years of service as a volunteer with the Heart Moves program at Gwandalan. The Heart Moves program is part of the Gwandalan and Summerland Point Active Healthy Society, the program runs a number of times a week and helps retirees stay active. Mr Bridge runs the exercise classes and on 10 October he will celebrate 10 years in the role. I have spoken to a number of members of the Heart Moves program who have all praised Mr Bridge for his dedication and have spoken about how the program has helped them maintain a healthy lifestyle. Mr Bridge has also volunteered his time with other community organisations including the Tuggerah Lakes Coral Society and Wyong Dreams Society Group. I thank Mr Bridge for his dedication to our community and his 10 years of service to the Heart Moves program. Congratulations on 10 years of service and enjoy the celebrations.

#### **TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WARREN MCKINNON OF LISMORE**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I was saddened to learn of the recent passing of my friend, the late Warren McKinnon, of Lismore, just days before what would have been his 83rd birthday on September 23. Warren was born in Kyogle, grew up on his family's dairy farm at Cedar Point and was educated at Kyogle Public School before moving into Lismore, where he attended Lismore High School. Warren was a talented hockey player in his younger days and worked in a variety of jobs before a long career as a police officer with the NSW and Queensland Police Forces. Later in his working life, he enjoyed stints as a clerk with Australia Post and as a very effective Lismore-based Electorate Officer with former Federal Labor Member for Page Harry Woods. In retirement, Warren, a member of the Australian Labor Party, took a strong interest in politics and current affairs. He was also an accomplished old-time dance instructor and a member of the Lismore Workers Club. I offer my sincere condolences to his sister Mrs June Kennedy, also of Lismore, his son Stephen, of Bega, his three grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Warren's daughter Roslyn pre-deceased him.

#### **ELECTORATE VISIT BY TIMOR-LESTE AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, HER EXCELLENCY INES ALMEIDA**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—It was my pleasure recently to host Timor-Leste's Ambassador to Australia, Her Excellency Ines Almeida, and her delegation on a successful three-day working visit to the Lismore Electorate to strengthen bilateral ties. The delegation included Defence Attache Colonel Jose da Costa Soares, Consul General Sydney Mr Luciano Valentim da Conceicao, First Secretary Mr Samuel Soares, Consul Sydney Ms Maria Lidia Soares and Executive Assistant to the Ambassador Ms Rahel Alemseged. The Ambassador visited the Bell family's Tabulam Mountain Blue blueberry farm, Drake's Rural Fire Service brigade, Casino's Northern Cooperative Meat Company and the RFS Command Centre. In Lismore, we held events to consolidate the veterans' relationship involving veterans who served as Peacekeepers in East Timor and veterans from other conflicts, and with Lismore City Council and Northern Rivers residents with links to East Timor seeking to form a broader friendship group. We also visited the Winsome Homeless Men's Shelter in North Lismore and met with representatives from Southern Cross University. In Murwillumbah, we visited lawyer and philanthropist Stephen Webb's M/Arts Precinct in the Central Business District, the Murwillumbah Regional Museum, the Tweed Regional Art Gallery and toured Husk Distillers.

#### **ALESCO STUDENTS AT COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—Mr Speaker I rise to recognise the Alesco students who recently volunteered their time to work in the new Forster Tuncurry Community Kitchen. The students have been able to help prepare lunches for the community kitchen while following strict Covid Safe guidelines. And while

their work is benefiting the community volunteering is also helping the students who are gaining experience in hygiene, food safety, food preparation and customer service. Alesco's Head teacher Kate Townsend said allowing the students to volunteer in the community has also helped them to gain perspective, opening their eyes to the idea of giving back to others without expecting anything in return. Students from Alesco have also previously volunteered at Estia Health, Dolphins Daycare, Ted Bickfords, Graffiti busters and Homebases' the loop.

#### **PINK PATROL PACIFIC PALMS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—Mr Speaker, I rise to recognise the women of the Pacific Palms Surf club who recently kicked off patrol season with what they've dubbed a 'pink patrol'. The club's women donned hot pinks patrol shirts and kept a watchful eye over Elizabeth beach as a female only patrol on the 25th of September to celebrate 40 years of women in New South Wales Surf Life Saving. The event was organised by Rebecca Austin, Janet Allen and Jan Moran who hoped their bright display would encourage girls of all ages in our region to sign up to surf lifesaving and inspire those already involved to aim for higher roles within the organisation. The club is now planning to have a pink patrol annually to ensure they're continuing to celebrate the involvement and achievements of women in Surf Life Saving.

#### **LABOUR DAY**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—Mr Speaker, last week was Labour Day and given the economic uncertainty that is facing so many people today, I would like to recognise the rich history and contributions made to our country and our community by the union movement. Whether it be the eight hour working day, workplace health and safety, the establishment of the living wage, the push towards equal pay for women, or the basic commitment to a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, the union movement have been on the forefront of fighting for workers' rights in Australia, and Labour Day is a reminder of all of the hard fought victories that unions have won. I would like to recognise all workers across my electorate and across NSW for their work during this challenging time, and I would like to thank the union movement for their continuing efforts in fighting for workers' rights each and every day.

#### **SURF LIFE SAVING**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—I rise today to acknowledge the important work done by our Surf Life Savers across the state, and in my electorate of Coogee as the new summer season fast approaches. The Coogee electorate is lucky to have some of the most famous and most widely visited beaches in Australia. Our volunteer and professional surf life savers do an amazing job on our beaches every year, yet the summer of 2020 is likely to throw up more challenges than ever. Across the 2019/2020 season, surf lifesaving clubs in the Eastern Suburbs over 1,000 rescues. This year, we are likely to see an even hotter summer, bringing more visitors to our local beaches, with the added complexity of redesigning beach and water safety to ensure both visits and our life savers are COVID-safe. The work that our surf life savers do is so essential to our way of life in the Eastern Suburbs and allows both locals and visitors to enjoy our wonderful, natural assets in safety. So to all of our Eastern Suburbs lifeguards and surf clubs thank you for the amazing work you do and best of luck for the upcoming season.

#### **RANKIN PARK LANDSCAPE**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—Twenty-five years ago, Blue Wren Creek, which runs through Rankin Park, had very few trees, trampled vegetation and hardly any wildlife. Several volunteers came together to form Central Rankin Park Landcare, with the goal of rehabilitating the bushland and creek. It has taken a quarter of a century for Central Rankin Park Landcare to restore and build up the area to what it is today. The area is now thriving, with the creek protected by fencing, plenty of shrubs and habitats for birds and wildlife. The group has planted around 12,500 native grasses, shrubs and trees to form a lush, structured canopy for the local animals to live. Recently the group installed 26 nesting boxes to attract birds and flying foxes that frequent the area. One box is already occupied by some rosellas. Thank you to John Fitter, Karen Ayliffe, John Abernethy, Helen Forbes, Ian McLennan, Rhondda McLennan, Ian Moir, John Mills, Julia Coleman, June Uhrig, Maree Costigan, Shirley Mackenzie, Stuart Mackenzie, Zoe Disher and Mark Disher for your commitment to Central Rankin Park Landcare and improvement to the environment for our wildlife and community.

#### **DR MATTHEW DUN**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—There aren't many things that are more devastating than childhood cancer. Dr Matthew Dun has a personal dedication when it comes to his research on cancers with poor outcomes. His daughter Josephine was diagnosed with the rare brain cancer 'diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma' when she was two, and passed away last year aged four. As a result of Josephine's diagnosis, Matthew and his family created the charity 'Run DIPG' to raise funds for research into treatments and to raise awareness of the rare cancer. This year, Matthew was recognised for his dedication and contribution as a researcher at the University of Newcastle

and the Hunter Medical Research Institute, by being awarded the Young Tall Poppy Science Award. The Young Tall Poppy Science Award's was created by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science to recognise and celebrate Australian intellectual and scientific excellence. Matthew humbly accepted the award, but acknowledged the work of his entire team, and how the award would assist in highlighting cancers that are poorly funded and are not very well known. Thank you Matthew, for your hard work, your research and your research and your charity work. You are making a positive difference.

**MARK NIELSEN JNR**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to acknowledge an extraordinary young man, who I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years. Mark Nielsen Jnr has had an incredible influence on his community through volunteering, fundraising and advocating in almost any organisation or group he can be a part of. In just 17 years, Mark has received countless awards and recognitions to highlight his devotion to the community and his desire to make positive change. A few of those awards include The Fred Hollows Humanity Award (2015), NSW Government Young Achievers Award (2016) and Youth Service Award (Rotary Club of Nepean 2017). Mark's vibrant personality and impactful nature has not gone unnoticed, it has allowed him to meet some of the country's most influential people and even some international figures including members of the current NSW Government, former Prime Ministers Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull, United States Vice President Mike Pence and United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Mark has achieved great things in his 17 years and he is a strong reminder to us all that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Well done Mark!

**SARA DREBBER**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to congratulate Glenmore Park businesswoman, Sara Drebber for being named selected as one of the finalists for the Revolutionary and Best Professional Service Business categories in the 2020 Altitude Awards for her second consecutive year. Sara is a well-known local mum of two, passionate educator, consultant and writer and has an incredible 20 years of experience working in the education field. Sara's many years of experience makes her an asset to any team she is a part of and makes her one of the best in her role as an educational consultant and tutor. Her award-winning business, edUcatered, has flourished exponentially under her leadership since its beginning three years ago. With a passion to create a nurturing, supportive learning and development environment for children, she has achieved above and beyond in these last few years. The finalists in this year's Altitude Awards will be decided by an independent judging panel and the winners will be announced at a gala awards on Saturday 7th November. Good luck Sara and well done on all you have achieved in your business.

**WESTERN SYDNEY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER SINILIA RADIJEVOVIC**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Fairfield constituent and winner of the 2020 NSW Western Sydney Adult Volunteer of the Year Award Mrs Sinilia Radijevic. Sinilia has been a volunteer and fundraiser for the NSW Cancer Council for the past 35 years. She has also generously given much of her time to transporting patients to medical appointments and providing personal palliative care support. As well as her seemingly never-ending energy dedicated to the Cancer Council, Sinilia was also recently active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in putting together care packages for seniors in the Fairfield community in isolation. Always answering the call of someone in need, Sinilia never says no. She is always there to help someone in need and her sunny personality is an inspiration for those around her to do the same. I thank her for all her efforts. I congratulate Sinilia on winning this prestigious award and look forward to her representing Western Sydney as a finalist in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards later on this year.

**KYLIE KEHANE AND RENE CHANG, VERONA SCHOOL**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Assistant Principals of Verona School Ms Kylie Kehane and Mr Rene Chang for their recent awards for outstanding leadership and support of staff, students and community of a complex school setting. Verona School in Yennora is a School for Specific Purposes designed to meet the holistic needs of students experiencing behavioural difficulties which might impact on their learning. Ms Kehane and Mr Chang have consistently worked hard to improve learning outcomes as well as dealing with the extensive well-being needs of the students in their care. Verona prides itself on a holistic approach to learning. Learning that involves not just the delivery of an academic curriculum across key learning areas but also in the teaching of social and living skills. Ms Kehane and Mr Chang have done an outstanding job in building relationships within the Verona School community, enabling them to introduce new and holistic support plans for the benefit of their students. I congratulate them and wish them every success in future endeavours at Verona School.

### BYRON YOUTH THEATRE

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today, in the middle of Mental Health Month, I applaud the success of Byron Youth Theatre in winning the Media and the Arts Award in the 2020 Mental Health Matters Awards presented by WayAhead for the Mental Health Association NSW. Working under the direction of Lisa Apostolides, this group of talented young people were rewarded for their many excellent productions about mental health and wellbeing, including Mind Made Me. Established in 2010, BYT has staged 13 educational performances and workshops on a wide range of issues relating to mental health, including alcohol and drug use, body image, self-harm, sexual identity and health, bullying and abuse. Their consistent high standards and commitment have earned the group an outstanding reputation for their positive impact on the local community and their great contribution to young people's mental health. BYT performed Mind Made Me to more than 1000 young people at special events and at an international conference. The award recognises individuals or organisations that have created thoughtful and informative media and/or artistic projects relating to mental health and wellbeing and I can think of no more deserving a winner than this exceptional troupe.

### IN HEARTS WAKE

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—I congratulate Byron Bay metalcore band In Hearts Wake both on the success of their new best-selling album Kaliyuga and on the members' generous contributions to the community and commitment to the environment. The band recently hosted an event to plant 1100 rainforest trees in the Byron hinterland, the first stage of fulfilling a pledge to "walk the environmental talk" that is the theme of Kaliyuga. That pledge was to plant a tree for every thousand online views of a video of the song Worldwide Suicide off the album, and another one for every copy of the record sold. Kaliyuga was packaged entirely in recycled materials, and the more than 26 tonnes of carbon emissions that went into its production, including flights, food, accommodation and studio electricity, were offset in a bio-diverse reforestation project on First Nations land in Western Australia. All band merchandise is being manufactured using organic or eco materials that involve no pesticides, herbicides or disposable plastics. The band's commitment to others goes further, with frontman Jake Taylor also giving his time to directing an award-winning video of local other-abled musicians Tralala Blip.

### NORMA MARIN

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)**—Speaker, I am privileged to recognise Mrs Norma Marin's contribution to education and the Griffith community. Norma has been a teacher since 1961 except for 9 years to have her four children. In 1979 Norma returned as a casual teacher at Kalinda Special School and Griffith Infants. In 1986 she was appointed permanent teacher at Griffith East Public and later appointed Assistant Principal. Norma's focus was the children's progress. She tested each class for phonemic awareness capability, emphasising the importance for early reading development and remedial work. Norma developed a Perpetual Motor Program for each class to follow using the parents' assistance, based on co-ordination, balance, memory, locomotion. In December 2000 Norma retired and was recognised for her tremendous contribution to the school by having the Assembly Hall named after her. Since retirement Norma cares for her elderly mother and enjoys helping her family especially minding her grandchildren. Norma volunteers with Meals on Wheels, Vinnies Care and Support Centre and her Catholic Church. Norma's dedication to the education of children and Griffith community is greatly appreciated.

### JOSEPHINE GUYER

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)**—We are so lucky in Campbelltown to have an array of dedicated professionals that excel in their field. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one person in particular – Dr Josephine Guyer. Dr Guyer was recently awarded the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners/NSW/ACT GP in Training of the Year Award. It is an enormous achievement and one that Dr Guyer, myself and the entire Campbelltown region are immensely proud of. One of Dr Guyer's biggest areas of focus has been Indigenous health. As such, she has spent a lot of time working with those at Airds' Tharwal Aboriginal Corporation. The health professional is also another added to the long list of Western Sydney University graduates that have chosen to serve our community. Despite receiving the GP in Training award, Dr Guyer is no stranger to the medical field. In fact, she worked as a nurse for 20 years prior to starting her medical degree at Western Sydney University. Once again, congratulations Dr Guyer on a much-deserved award. Our community is grateful for your hard work, dedication and passion.

### MAXINE COLLIGAN

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)**—There are so many women throughout the entire Western Sydney region achieving incredible things every day. Once a year, the spotlight shines on many of those women at the Western Sydney Woman of the Year awards. To be nominated is an enormous achievement. But to actually win really is significant accolade. Recently, the 2020 Western Sydney Woman of the Year award was announced



with one of Campbelltown's very own taking out the top gong. The winner – Maxine Colligan. Maxine decided to follow her passion and embark on a career in the male-dominated automotive industry. Now an automotive refinishing technician, Maxine is not only flourishing in her work place, she is also proving to be a wonderful example for others. As Maxine told the Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser: "It is super important to recognise women in trades, especially women in automotive trades, because we are so few and far between." The Western Sydney Women of the Year award wasn't the only accolade Maxine walked away with on the night as she also collected the award for best tradie. Once again, congratulations Maxine on a wonderful achievement. Myself and Campbelltown are immensely proud of you.

#### **BANK OF QUEENSLAND, PENRITH**

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney)—**I offer my congratulations to the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) Penrith who celebrate their 15th birthday this year. Mr Anthony Walker, Owner/Manager of BOQ Penrith and his team provide their customers with personal service and exceptional banking experiences that have seen this local business to grow and flourish. This fantastic service was acknowledged this year with them being awarded Mozo's 2020 People's Choice Award for Excellent Customer Service. I wish Anthony and his team all the best for their future.

#### **TONY JOICE**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—**Mister Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the contribution of Superintendent Tony Joice to the safety and wellbeing of the Central Coast community. Earlier this week I attended Gosford Police Station to welcome six new Probationary Constables to the Central Coast. These Probationary Constables are so fortunate to work in such a fantastic local area, and are so fortunate to have a leader as capable and experienced as Superintendent Joice. Mister Speaker, I want to particularly acknowledge Superintendent Joice's pivotal and unflappable role during the recent coastal erosion event at Wamberal. There is no doubt that Superintendent Joice's sound decision-making and frank advice saved lives. I don't say this lightly, Mister Speaker, but his action did save lives and hundreds of millions of dollars of public and private assets. He filled a gap left by Council being ill-prepared, which I understand would not ordinarily be filled by Police. On behalf of the NSW Government, I want to thank Superintendent Joice for his actions during the recent coastal erosion event, and for his ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of Central Coast residents.

#### **ASHLEY SCOTT**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—**Ashley Scott, a proud Inner West dad of two and founding member of Rainbow Families NSW, is a finalist in this year's Westfield Local Hero Award. In 2015, Ashley helped establish Rainbow Families NSW, the peak organisation in NSW representing LGBTQ+ parents and carers, who seek to foster resiliency by connecting, supporting and empowering LGBTQ+ families. Ashley reports that his proudest achievement at Rainbow Families is the establishment of Australia's first LGBTQ+ focused antenatal classes, partnered with Sydney Local Health District. These classes provide a safe space for expecting LGBTQI parents to ask questions they might not be comfortable asking in a traditional class. Ashley also organises the annual Family Pride Picnic, Mardi Gras Parade entry, Halloween Disco, and the organisation's many advocacy and support programs. In addition to his work with Rainbow Families, Ashley is also heavily involved in the P&C at Marrickville Public School, and has been instrumental in delivering exciting projects like the Community Kitchen, garden and yarnning circle. Congratulations Ashley on his nomination as a Westfield Local Hero and thank you for your ongoing support of LGBTQ+ families in the inner west and across NSW.

#### **MARCEL DE MARIA, GIFT OF BREAD**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—**Marcel De Maria is nominated for this year's Westfield Local Hero Awards in recognition of his work providing thousands of loaves of bread to those in need across the inner west. Marcel established Gift of Bread in 2007 and now rescues over 160,000kg of bread from landfill a year. Gift of Bread re-distributes rescued bread from local bakeries and donates it to over 200 local community organisations, churches, nursing homes, food vans, soup kitchens, school programs, and outreach services. COVID 19 has placed unprecedented pressure on local community organisations in my electorate, who have become a lifeline for many, particularly those facing food insecurity. During the pandemic, Gift of Bread volunteers have dropped off pallets of bread to St Brigid's Outreach Centre in Marrickville, The Marian Centre Women's and Children Crisis Accommodation, and The Exodus Foundation in Ashfield. I know for community groups in my electorate the support they have provided inner westies wouldn't have been possible without a reliable delivery of bread from Marcel. Congratulations on your well-deserved nomination Marcel, and thank you for your tireless work throughout this pandemic and into the future.

### MALTESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—On 21 September 2020, the Maltese community of Prospect celebrated the 66th Independence of the Republic of Malta. This day is marked as a National Public Holiday in the Republic of Malta, celebrating Independence from the British Empire after 164 years of British occupation. Throughout history, the Maltese people have been ruled by numerous foreign rulers, including the Romans, Greeks, Arabs, French and British. Hence, I congratulate my Maltese constituents and the Maltese community across the country for this momentous day. I would like to thank the Maltese community of New South Wales and specifically the Maltese community of Prospect for the outstanding contributions they have made to the State of New South Wales and Australia. We thank you for choosing Australia as your home and complementing our multicultural way of life. I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General of the Republic of Malta in Sydney. I wish the Maltese community of Prospect and New South Wales all the very best during the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to joining them in the near future to celebrate the vibrant Maltese culture and heritage. Happy Independence Day Malta!

### BATYR

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—Batyrr is a preventative mental health organisation that focuses on combatting the social stigma behind mental health issues affecting young people. Batyrr works to create a safe platform for youth to share their mental health stories and experiences. On 25th September 2020, I met with Safa Majidi, Manager of the Being Heard Pathways program at Batyrr. Safa explained the great work and programs that assist young people in the Electorate of Prospect and across NSW. Batyrr focuses on helping the most vulnerable young people in our society, including the unemployed and young people no longer attending school. Batyrr has established a range of programs tailored to different age groups and their needs. To achieve the best possible outcome for young people, Batyrr collaborates with schools, employment agencies and employers, along with providing young people with mentoring. They have reached over 200 young people and collaborated with 190 employment service providers. I would like to thank the entire team at Batyrr for the great work they do in assisting young persons with combatting mental health issues. I strongly encourage schools and organisations to consider collaborating with Batyrr to assist young people in our community combat the stigma behind mental health.

### JUNE LUNSMANN

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)**—Today I recognise June Lunsmann for her longstanding contributions to my local electorate. June moved to the area in the 1960s and has been the backbone of countless local campaigns and initiatives ever since. From her work for the Balmain Association and its newsletter, to the heritage protection of Clontarf Cottage, the Balmain Public Square and the Balmain Post office, to her advocacy for the Ballast Point Park. June has been behind so many of the campaigns that have shaped our community for the better. It's important to remember that the preservation of heritage and public space does not happen by accident, it is thanks to decades of tireless activism by people like June. The Balmain peninsula's treasured heritage and parklands exists because of her hardworking, passionate and tenacious spirit. I speak on behalf of everyone in the Balmain Electorate when I thank June for her dedicated advocacy and for making our community a better place to live.

### DAMIEN CARLTON, ST JOHN BOSCO

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)**—I wish to congratulate Damien Carlton, Principal of St John Bosco College Engadine, as he was recently honoured with a national award recognising his 40 years of service to Catholic schools. Mr Carlton received the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) NSW Leadership Award 2020. I would like to pass on my gratitude to his commitment to teaching and congratulate him once again on this outstanding achievement. A very well deserved recipient.

### MARILYN URCH AND SANDRA HUDSON

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—I thank Marilyn Urch and Sandra Hudson for their extraordinary work to help secure a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit for the Sutherland Shire community at Sutherland Hospital. They co-directed a community campaign to raise awareness of the need for an MRI unit at Sutherland Hospital. They organised a community petition with more than 5,000 signatures and spent many hours preparing detailed extensive research to support their campaign for an MRI. The NSW Government recently announced \$7 million had been made available to install an MRI unit at Sutherland Hospital. When the MRI unit is installed, local patients will no longer have to travel to St George Hospital for MRI services. Marilyn and Sandra have been in regular communication with me over the past year regarding the MRI unit. While I have seen plenty of community campaigns and petitions during my political career, I have never seen such detailed community research as theirs. I relied heavily on their analyses in lobbying the Minister.

**DAMIEN CARLTON**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—I congratulate Damien Carlton on his recent receipt of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders NSW Leadership Award for 2020. This award recognised Damien's 40 years of service to Catholic schools. Damien began his teaching career at Holy Spirit College Lakemba. He has been the principal at Christian Brothers' College Burwood, overseeing its transition to Sydney Catholic Vocational College Burwood. Damien is now the principal of St John Bosco College in Engadine and has been the principal there for over a decade. Damien has influenced, guided and changed many young lives over his 40 year career.

**60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY—RUSSELL AND GAY PINCH**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—I would like to congratulate Russell and Gay Pinch of Mt Colah who recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They have lived and worked in the Hornsby community since they were married. Russell was a long-serving member of the Hornsby Shire Council while Gay has worked in many local businesses in the area. They have also given back to our community with Russell part of the Hornsby Lions Club for over 40 years having previously served in the Civil Defence. He has also given hundreds of blood donations over 32 years to a special project helping pregnant Mums and babies. The couple also hosted many exchanged students and chaperoned 2 blind children from Indonesia that had their sight restored at the Sydney Eye Hospital. They have also been involved with Meals on Wheels, the Cord Blood Appeal and the McGrath Foundation. What an amazing couple. I would like to congratulate Russell and Gay on your 60th wedding anniversary and thank you for your service to our community.

**HUGH MAHON**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)**—I recognise the publication this year of Volume 2 of Jeff Kildea's biography Hugh Mahon: Patriot, Pressman, Politician. It's particularly appropriate that it be published this year. 2020 is the 100th anniversary of his expulsion from Federal Parliament on the disgraceful motion of Billy Hughes. Mahon had been active in the Land League in County Wexford and imprisoned in Kilmainham with Parnell in 1881. Undergoing exile to Australia, he was elected to the Commonwealth Parliament in 1901 as Labor candidate for the seat of Coolgardie. He served for many years in the Parliament and was a member of four Labor Ministries. During the First World War, he was the Minister for External Affairs. He also held the portfolios of Home Affairs and Postmaster-General in Federal Labor Cabinets.

**ALEXI BOYD**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—Today I would like to congratulate Alexi Boyd, small business advocate and someone I call a friend, who earlier this year celebrated 6 years of broadcasting her show Small Biz Matters. Alexi is a whirlwind of energy, she is an expert on everything to do with small business and is passionate about the success of our local business community. She is the Vice President of the Hornsby Chamber of Commerce and is actively involved in her children's primary school Hornsby North Public School. Her show, Small Biz Matters which is broadcast each Tuesday morning at 9am on the local community radio station Triple H where she hosts a range of experts from lawyers and tax accountants to brand strategists - covering every issue important to those who run small businesses. She even has politicians and I have been pleased to appear on her show quite a few times over the past 6 years. Alexi has also been integral in an event I hold each year, the small business networking evening. Congratulations Alexi on 6 years of Small Biz Matters and I am sure there will be many more years of radio success in your future.

**2020 GROUP SIX GRAND FINALS**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—Mr Speaker, I take this time to congratulate the 2020 Group Six Rugby League Grand Finals Winners who, through a tumultuous year, were able to finish their competition with some amazing wins. A number of the winning teams come from right here in the Camden electorate and I congratulate: second grade winners, the Narellan Jets; Under 18s winners, the Camden Rams; the Women's league winners, the Narellan Jets; the third grade winners, also the Narellan Jets; and the League tag 1 winners, the Narellan White. There were truly some amazing games of rugby league played on the grand final weekend and I congratulate all winning teams.

**CUT IT OUT HAIR DESIGN**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—I congratulate Cut It Out Hair Design for having been the National Winner in the 2020 Australian Achiever Awards for Australia's Hairdressing Services Category. I note that Cut It Out Hair Design is a four time winner of this award, having most recently achieved a 100% 2020 Overall Score to take out the prize which was an outstanding achievement. This fantastic award was achieved by Cut It Out Hair Design's staff at both the Camden and Oran Park locations, and is a testament to the effort put

in by founder Charmaine Smith who has grown her business for over 18 years since 2002. I wish Cut It Out Hair Design well in the many more awards to come.

#### **GET READY WEEKEND**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I would like to thank the NSW Rural Fire Service who joined our locals for Get Ready Weekend to prepare for the bush fire season. There were more than 480 innovative COVID-safe events and activities across the state, in person and online. This initiative enabled residents a chance to engage with their local brigade, find out about the fire risk in their area and learn about practical actions they can take to 'get ready'. With the next fire season upon us, it is now more important than ever that residents of Wollondilly are prepared. Get Ready Weekend was a great opportunity for members to support their local firefighting volunteers by being prepared for the bush fire season. Thank you to both the RFS and members of the community for the ongoing support as we head into another summer season.

#### **BOWRAL MEN'S SHED**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I would like to congratulate the Bowral Men's Shed, which, for 17 years, has been a place for men in the community to make friendships, work on projects and support each other in hard times. The Bowral Men's Shed is part of the Australian Men's Shed Association, which is a community-based organisation whose primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly, and healing environment. Within my electorate, the Bowral Men's Shed have made woodwork and metal items for Bowral Uniting Church, outdoor furniture for Bowral Public School and built a mobile jail for the local police. The role the shed plays for the mental health of men in the country cannot be underestimated. I commend each and every member of the Bowral Men's shed on their continued success and growth.

#### **DISCOVERY BY WESTMEAD INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)**—Today I acknowledge the ground-breaking research undergone in the electorate of Seven Hills on human aging processes. The study was led by Associate Professor Natasha Rogers and Dr. Kedar Ghimire and looked at how specific molecules could affect the aging process within the body. Over the last few months the research team utilised state-of-the-art facilities provided by the Westmead Institute for Medical Research. Through their study it was discovered that the protein CD47 played an important role in proliferating aging of vital arteries within the body. This discovery has been demonstrated to produce anti-aging effects in lab mice and similar trials were done on human subjects with successful results. The Westmead Health, Education and Innovation Precinct in the Seven Hills Electorate has consistently been at the forefront of medical innovation and now hosts some of the best research facilities in New South Wales. I thank the incredible research team for their important contribution to medicine. I hope to see more discoveries like this in the near future.

#### **DR JAY CHANDRA AM**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)**—I seek to acknowledge recently retired eye surgeon Dr Jay Chandra AM. Dr Chandra has lead Westmead Hospital's ophthalmology department since its establishment 35 years ago. He has also served as head of vitreoretinal surgery at Westmead. Colleagues acknowledge Dr Chandra has been at the forefront on research and training and established the Vitreoretinal Fellowship Training Program at Westmead Hospital in 1995. Dr Chandra was trained under Dr Fred Hollows and has assisted with providing voluntary, high quality eye surgery in Fiji and India on annual trips since 2002. His work has inspired other surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health workers to join him in aiding those who are underprivileged. For his work in Australia and overseas, Dr Chandra was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2016. I wish Dr Chandra all the best for his much deserved retirement and for his service to Seven Hills Electorate constituents and residents of the Western Sydney Health District at Westmead Hospital.

#### **MATES ROW THE ATLANTIC FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Speaker, today I acknowledge Mosman local Louis Hugh-Jones and his three mates James Samuels, Rob Wells, and Sam Horsely who will be attempting the daring task of rowing across the Atlantic Ocean to raise funds and awareness for mental health. Next year these four childhood friends will push their physical and mental ability in the 2021 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, a rowing race from the Canary Islands to the West Indies. The race covers approximately 5000km, the equivalent of four Sydney to Hobart yacht races, and will take them over a month to complete. Louis, James, Rob, and Sam are competing to raise funds for the LIVIN charity, which has a mission to promote wellness and positive living for young people. They are hoping to raise \$500,000 to fund their race campaign and mental health charity goals, and have already begun training their bodies for the gruelling challenge ahead. I would like to wish these four incredibly inspiring and daring men all the very best for their preparation and journey across the Atlantic Ocean.

### **MOSMAN RUGBY CLUB GRAND FINAL WEEKEND**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Speaker, once again, the Whales at Mosman Rugby Club have finished their Rugby season with their heads held high after a highly successful Grand Final weekend. The Club took home four grand finals wins over a weekend of terrific rugby and I would like to congratulate the 2nd Grade team Premiers who won the Burke Cup against Drummoyne 32-22, and the Colts Premiers who won the Barbour Cup 22-17 against Woollahra. Congratulations also to the 4th grade team Premiers who won the Judd Cup 24-0 against the Blue Mountains, and finally the 5th Grade team Premiers who claimed the Sutherland Cup against Woollahra in a nail-biting 15-14 win. This is the first time that Mosman Rugby Club has won four Premierships in the history of the club, and these victories sealed the Cowboy Cup for Mosman for the third season in a row, naming the Whales the NSW Suburban Rugby Club of the Year 2020. Congratulations to all the players on these outstanding wins, and to the Club President, Tom Jeavons-Fellows, Club Coach Ross Reynolds, and all the coaches, staff and volunteers who contribute to Mosman Rugby Club.

### **CITY OF SYDNEY FOOD AND FACE MASKS**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I would like to commend the City of Sydney for the extraordinary efforts to ensure that no one is left at risk of hunger and ensure everyone has access to face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with OzHarvest and local community organisations, the City of Sydney has funded more than 120,000 meals and 11,000 bags of groceries across the council area. The City's COVID-19 grants have provided \$730,000 in funding to 18 organisations providing food relief. The City of Sydney is also running a community fundraising appeal to support people facing food shortages. The City of Sydney will spend \$200,000 on reusable face masks for vulnerable people who may not be able to afford this protective equipment, with 23,000 already distributed to people in social housing, boarding houses and sleeping rough. The quality masks were produced by Australian manufacturer ClothMaskMe. I congratulate the City of Sydney for these ongoing commitments. Along with council's media and social media messages, these efforts will help make sure Sydney residents can prevent the spread of COVID-19 and avert the worst impacts of the pandemic.

### **KELLY BROWN**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)**—I rise to give mention to Burrill Lake local Kelly Brown, who is one of 12 Media and Events Australia scholarship program recipients. This scholarship will fund her Diploma of Event Management, thanks to the NSW Government. The initiative of the NSW Government's \$6 million Regional Conferencing Strategy & Action Plan, which includes a partnership with Media and Events Australia, and I thank Minister Ayres for successfully running such an important program which will ensure jobs and training expands in rural and regional New South Wales. The 12 recipients were selected by a panel, which included representatives from the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, MEA and the six Destination Networks. A number of former scholarship students graduated with their MEA Diploma of Event Management in the last year, with the skills gained from undertaking the course adding great value to their regions. I note the competitive nature of these scholarships and congratulate Kelly on her success. I hope the diploma help her in her career and is an enjoyable experience.

### **IMOGEN MCDONALD**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)**—I recognise of Inverell High School for being awarded the NSW Education Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Imogen was one of only two students in New England and one of only 35 students across NSW to be recognised for this award, which recognises outstanding Year 12 students who have excelled in their secondary years across academic excellence, sports, culture, community and leadership. Imogen last year represented the Northern Tablelands in the NSW Youth Parliament program and also has a role on the Student Representative Council. I congratulate Imogen on her success in her academic and extracurricular studies. Imogen shines as an excellent role model to all students both within the Inverell community and greater NSW.

### **MICHELE JEDLICKA**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)**—I recognise Michele Jedlicka of Inverell on being the only contestant to have two short films selected to be shown in the finalist showcase of the SmartFone Flick Fest. Michele directed a 16-minute film titled 'Closed for Christmas' which tells the story of a couple in Delungra with a mission to give animals a chance for a better life. Michele also directed 'And So It Went', a finalist film in the Isolation/Lockdown category of the SmartFone Flick Fest where each film is three minutes or less and shot within local lockdown laws. I congratulate Michele on her success and contribution to the community through the medium of storytelling. Michele is an example for many people looking for their community's stories to be heard.

### **JULIE CHARLTON**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Julie Charlton, a 20 year old Parathlete and Disability Advocate within my electorate of Castle Hill. Julie has been tremendously successful in the athletics field, with Australian Age Records in the Discus, Shotput and Javelin, as well as having an International Ranking in the 10000, 1500, 800 and 400 metre events. Julie was also recently awarded the 2019 Sports NSW Young Coach of the Year Award. Julie has been appointed as the chairperson of the NSW Youth Advisory Council for 2020, after previously having been an ordinary member in 2019. The NSW YAC is an important body that advocates on behalf of young people across NSW. Having previously been the Minister responsible for the body, I understand how stringent an application process the Council has, and as such my sincere congratulations goes to Julie for her achievement. I wish Julie all the best for the future of her sporting, coaching, and advisory and ambassador work, and congratulate all the members of the new YAC, and wish them the best of luck.

### **NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—Two weeks ago, NSW took a moment to participate in National Police Remembrance Day, held annually on the 29th September as an opportunity to honour the brave officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. I would like to thank all 273 officers whose name's currently sit on the honour roll, as well as every serving police officer, who continue to put themselves in harm's way every time they go to work. I am reminded in particular of NSW Constable Aaron Vidal, who in June, whilst driving his motorbike home from work, was killed in a car crash in Rouse Hill, just around the corner from my Electorate Office. My condolences go out to the families of all who give their lives in the name of service, and thank them for the dedication they showed to the people of NSW right to the end.

### **LMMHS CARER SUPPORT AND EDUCATION NETWORK**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—This National Carers Week, I would like to acknowledge the Lake Macquarie Mental Health Service Carer Support and Education, which is group to support families, carers and kinship carers of people experiencing a mental illness. Facilitated by a Senior Social Worker at Lake Macquarie Mental Health Service, the group offers psycho-education, support, understanding and an opportunity for carers to share their collective experiences together. Every month the group has an educational focus and commences with facilitated group sharing. It is held at the LMMHS facility on Dudley Road in Charlestown. This sort of service is so important for carers, as they report high levels of isolation and disconnection from the broader community. Mental illness is a major issue in our community and supporting a loved one through it can be draining. I would like to thank the hard-working staff at LMMHS for facilitating this vital service and providing ongoing mental health education and support for carers in our local community.

### **HEALTH MY WAY AT THE PLACE**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—Amongst the many impacts of COVID-19 is the dreaded COVID belly. With lockdowns largely lifted, people are turning to online resources to help get back into shape and develop healthier habits. It can be hard to know which claims to trust, and with the spread of information online it can be difficult to figure out what's accurate and what isn't. Charlestown local community centre, The Place, has been hosting the Good Things Foundation's Health My Way Program, which aims to support people in improving their digital health literacy—learning how to differentiate the good information from the bad. The program has been delivered both in person and via Zoom, and has included information sessions on how to use My Health Record, endometriosis information sessions with gynaecologist Dr Sneha Joshi and a class on finding reliable health-related apps and websites. There have even been Drum Circles for Mental Health and Wellbeing. The sessions are continuing until 21 October. I would like to thank the fantastic staff at The Place for facilitating this important program.

### **PRIDE IN SPORT**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)**—I draw the attention of this parliament to the groundbreaking work of ACON, through their Pride in Sport initiative in promoting and encouraging LGBTIQ+ inclusion in sport. Pride in Sport is Australia's first and only sporting inclusion program specifically designed to assist sporting organisations at all levels with the inclusion of employees, players, volunteers and spectators with diverse genders and sexualities. In a world first, Pride in Sport has teamed up with the AFL, Cricket Australia, Hockey Australia, Netball Australia, Rugby Australia, Tennis Australia, Touch Football Australia, UniSport Australia, and Water Polo Australia to develop and implement guidelines to ensure these sports are safe and inclusive environments for trans and gender diverse people. It is an incredible achievement to have gotten so many sports on board with this initiative and a big step towards an Australian sporting landscape where everyone can feel safe and supported to play the sport they love. Massive congratulations to National Program Manager Beau Newell, ACON's Pride

Inclusion Programs Director Dawn Hough, Associate Director Elaine Czulkowski and the whole Pride in Sport team, all of the sports and community representatives, and everyone else involved in this incredible program.

### **LIFE EDUCATION'S WORK THROUGH COVID-19**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)**—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the work done by Life Education Australia to successfully adapt their Healthy Harold program to ensure children across New South Wales safely receive essential life education. Life Education Australia has been providing Australian school students with the skills and knowledge they need to live a healthy and safe lifestyle for over 40 years. This education is delivered in a way that is both interactive and engaging for students, which allows educators to teach children about vital and serious topics. This service has traditionally been provided through a mobile learning centre; however, to ensure children remain educated on essential topics whilst staying safe, Life Education has adapted its teaching method to provide online modules. These modules stress the importance of key areas such as cybersecurity, resilience and good physical and emotional health. I want to take this time to congratulate Life Education on their successful transition and commend the executive team, Chair, the Hon. Alan Cadman OAM, National CEO Kellie Sloane and New South Wales CEO Jonathon Peatfield for their dedication and commitment to the children of New South Wales.

### **ELIZA MARTIN**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)**—I rise to congratulate an Oatley constituent who has shown incredible commitment and drive in the field of science. Eliza Martin is a 17 year old Oatley local, who was recently awarded the prestigious Western Sydney University Academic Achievement Award at the 7News Young Achiever Awards. Eliza is driven by her passion for medical research and innovation, and has already achieved so much before even graduating High School. In 2017 Eliza invented the Electro-Magnetic Mobility Assister to help facilitate the movement of legs in bed-bound patients, she has represented Australia in multiple International Science Competitions and Conferences. She is now completing research into a new long-term treatment for lactose intolerance whilst studying to complete her HSC. It is amazing to see what the future of medical research looks like and to know that it is in good hands. I would like to once again congratulate Eliza on her amazing achievements so far, and I look forward to reading about her many more in the future. I also hope that Eliza's triumphs and achievements serve as inspiration to other children in Oatley and New South Wales.

### **SYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL CAPTAINS**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)**—I congratulate the newly elected School Captains of Sylvania High School on their appointment. To be democratically elected by your peers demonstrates these individuals' skills and achievements in areas of leadership, communication and integrity. These students should be incredibly proud to have been chosen by their peers, and I urge them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to develop the qualities that shape community and professional leaders in life after graduation. I congratulate School Captains Sara Isaacs and Kalani Terre and Vice Captains Miliyana Doshen and Angelina Kyprianou on their successful appointment as student leaders for 2021, and extend my best wishes for their final year of high school. Although we are currently navigating unprecedented times, I trust that they will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far. I extend my best wishes to this group of fantastic student leaders as they continue to embody Sylvania High School's core values of scholarship, honour and service.

### **GYMEA TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL CAPTAINS**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)**—I congratulate the newly elected School Captains of GyMEA Technology High School on their appointment. To be democratically elected by your peers demonstrates these individuals' skills and achievements in areas of leadership, communication and integrity. These students should be incredibly proud to have been chosen by their peers, and I urge them to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to develop the qualities that shape community and professional leaders in life after graduation. I congratulate School Captains Grace Fradd and Harrison Tse and Vice Captains Emma Hornigold and Harrison Boggiss on their successful appointment as student leaders for 2021, and extend my best wishes for their final year of high school. Although we are currently navigating unprecedented times, I trust that they will capably lead their peers through what will be their most important year of schooling thus far. I extend my best wishes to this group of fantastic student leaders as they continue to embody GyMEA Technology High School's vision to inspire, learn and succeed.

### **MICHAEL WARD, PET SCANNER**

**Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)**—It was a chance encounter with another Wagga Wagga resident that convinced Michael Ward he needed to take action. Mr Ward happened across a distressed woman and, after inquiring if he could assist her, found out the woman and her husband had travelled to Albury because her husband had needed to undergo a positron emission tomography - or PET - scan. Wagga Wagga did not then and does not

now have a local PET scanner, so the woman and her husband had to travel to Albury, but the scan had not been performed, leaving them distressed. Mr Ward decided to launch a petition and gather signatures in a bid to have a PET scanner installed at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, where it could be accessed by all patients, who could otherwise face lengthy trips away from their homes. Since then, hundreds of people have signed the petition, which I have this week tabled in Parliament. Mr Ward has devoted a great deal of time and effort to helping improve the health facilities for the people of Wagga Wagga and he is to be commended for his dedication and selflessness.

#### **MAITLAND VOLUNTEERS FOR PALLIATIVE CARE**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—As Patron of Maitland's Volunteers for Palliative Care Maitland, I was honoured to attend their AGM recently. The organisation has had to severely curtail their services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to quarantine, they could only provide their free respite for only 30 families this year, down from the 55 they normally assist each year. For 30 years, the volunteers have provided the most vital, special and personal care that we could all wish for – in the period leading up to the end of life. While they could not hold the big 30th celebration they hoped for (which would have contributed precious operational funds), I am pleased to hear that they are hopeful of restarting fundraising in November. Congratulations to Lynette Clark who has again taken on the role of Chairperson and added the role of Secretary to her tasks. It was great to see several new faces on the board, and I wish them well over the coming 12 months. You, your volunteers, and your Coordinator Judith Robinson and administration assistant Kathleen Isles provide a vital service and I know our community values their contribution.

#### **GOOD LUCK MAITLAND HSC STUDENTS**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—In just one week, Year 12 students throughout NSW will commence their HSC written examinations in what will be the culmination of six years of secondary education. I acknowledge the Maitland students who will be pulling up a chair next Tuesday to sit their first exam. You will be among 75,000 throughout NSW who will sit 120 written HSC exams this year. To reach this point you have navigated the most unsettled educational period in living memory. Your final year of secondary study, traditionally the most intensive and structured, has instead been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. You were unable to attend school. The delivery of your lessons changed dramatically. Chaos consumed your plans for celebration. You, your families and your educators were forced to accept, and adapt to, enormous change. To the HSC students of Francis Greenway High School, Maitland Christian School, Maitland Grossmann High School, Rutherford Technology High School, Maitland High School, St Joseph's Lochinvar, All Saints College Maitland and Hunter Valley Grammar School, I salute your perseverance and tenacity. I wish you every success in your examinations, and along whatever paths you choose in the future.

#### **HSC STUDENTS**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer)**—Today I would like to recognise all Year 12 students in my electorate as they prepare for their HSC exams. These young students have worked very hard under extraordinary circumstances and I want to wish them all the best for the upcoming weeks and into the future. We all know that 2020 has been difficult. The global COVID-19 pandemic has made life hard for all of us, but it has been especially challenging for school students preparing for the HSC. To the Year 12 students of Epping: we are all behind you all the way. The HSC concludes your secondary education and opens up the next chapter of your life to a world of opportunity. This year you have faced unexpected, unprecedented challenges. Throughout the rest of your life you will encounter new challenges. How will you face them? Hard work, perseverance and fortitude. These are the values that will be tested in the HSC, and they are the same values that will stand you in good stead throughout all your future endeavours. I wish you the best of luck in the coming weeks ahead.

#### **THEO SCHOLL**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)**—Some months ago I spoke in this place about an outstanding young man from my electorate, Mr Theo Scholl, who had been awarded the new school-based Trainee of the Year Award at the North Coast and Mid North Coast Region NSW Training Awards. On Friday night, Theo was again recognised, this time at the virtually held ceremony for the 2020 NSW Training Awards, where he was awarded the People's Choice Award for School Based Apprentice Trainee of the Year. This is a huge achievement for Theo who is a terrific young man who works as a storekeeper for Richmond Valley Council. Theo has completed his Certificate II at TAFE NSW in one year instead of two, is Vice Captain at his school, has won the ADF Long Tan Leadership Award, Casino Lions Club Youth of the Year and Richmond Valley Young Volunteer of the Year and also finds time to be a member of his local Rural Fire Service Brigade where he was involved in fighting the fires that devastated the village of Rappville 12 months ago. What a truly remarkable young man who is a wonderful role model. Congratulations Theo, job well done.



**COWRA UNDER 13S MAGPIES**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)**—Mr Speaker, I congratulate the Cowra Under 13s Junior Rugby League Team on a fantastic grand final win this year. The under 13s side played a close game against Orange CYMS at Jack Arrow Oval in Bathurst ultimately gaining the upper hand and taking out the title with the final score 18-16. Congratulation to all the Cowra Magpies teams who played a great season despite the challenges of COVID-19. It is always inspiring to see so many young sportsmen and women across the electorate representing our communities and I hope that 2021 will bring a smoother playing season for all of those sporting groups. Congratulations again to the Under 13 Magpies side.

**KEN RUTLEDGE**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—I rise to applaud the outstanding efforts of Unit Commander Kenneth Rutledge as he steps down from his role after six years at the helm of Marine Rescue Camden Haven. It is a privilege to acknowledge local Unit Commander Ken Rutledge for his exemplary commitment to Marine Rescue and our community since joining the organisation in 2007. During this time, Ken's dedication in educating the Camden Haven residents on water safety while recruiting additional volunteers has been at the forefront of his contribution to Marine Rescue. During his thirteen years of service, Ken has held a number of positions within the Unit including the watch officer, radio operator and coxswain, before being elevated to the Unit Commander's rank. In 2017, Ken led a rescue involving three men whose vessel capsized in the Camden Haven River which tragically saw a 59-year-old man lose his life. It is during these circumstances that Ken reflects on how essential it is for boating enthusiasts to register their vessel on the VHF 16 Channel so that swift action can be taken in the event of an emergency. On behalf of the community, I would like to sincerely thank Ken for his outstanding contribution to Marine Rescue.

**TACKING POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL—TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—I rise in the House to acknowledge Tacking Point Public School in the Port Macquarie Electorate and in particular commend a cohort of young, analytical thinkers in the fiercely contested regional round of the Tournament of the Minds. Reaching the heights of academic stardom were the triumphant students of team Quo Vadis from Tacking Point Public School; Abel Mace, Jarrod Manning, James Owen, Evie Hewens, Luca Giddins, Drake Houghton, and Mason White who were victorious in their competition against three other teams of the best and brightest young minds in regional NSW. The Tournament of the Minds featured critical thinking and advanced problem solving for their respective age bracket in social sciences including current affairs, history, politics and the economy, delivered through effective communication skills and engagement. On the day all four teams performed superbly and demonstrated an extraordinary ability to problem solve and articulate their focus areas of language and literature, STEM and arts – all teams bringing home honours. I congratulate the students at Tacking Point Public School for diligently committing their time to study and education which I'm sure will lead them on a path to academic success.

**The House adjourned pursuant to standing and sessional orders at 20:19 until  
Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 09:30.**