



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday, 20 October 2020**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 20 October 2020**

**The Speaker (The Hon. Jonathan Richard O'Dea)** took the chair at 12:00.

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

## *Bills*

### **SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT (VENUES NSW) BILL 2020**

#### **STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2020**

#### **Returned**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills with amendments. I set down consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments as orders of the day for a later hour.

### **TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (CLOSURES OF RAILWAY LINES IN NORTHERN RIVERS) BILL 2020**

#### **Returned**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

### **STATE INSURANCE AND CARE GOVERNANCE AMENDMENT (EMPLOYEES) BILL 2020**

#### **First Reading**

**Bill received from the Legislative Council, introduced and read a first time.**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the House that I have received a written authority from the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, MLC, advising that the member for Canterbury will have carriage of the bill in the Legislative Assembly. I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.

## *Business of the House*

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: QUORUMS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (12:01:34):** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide that the resolution of the House of 15 October 2020, regarding the procedure to apply for the establishment of a quorum under Standing Order 41 for the remainder of 2020 sittings, be amended by omitting paragraph (4) of that resolution and inserting instead:

- (4) Members shall present themselves for the counting of the quorum by entering the left and right doors to the Chamber from Speaker's Square and, after a quorum has been established, each Member will exit via the Chamber side doors to the Speaker's corridor and the Wentworth Room.

On 15 October the House agreed to a resolution to ensure that the current social distancing requirements in the Chamber could be observed while the Speaker counts the House to establish a quorum called for under Standing Order 41. Subsequently, the member for Liverpool raised a concern that the procedure agreed to by the House might be inconsistent with the explicit provisions of section 32 (1) of the Constitution Act, which requires the presence of 20 members—exclusive of the member presiding—for the establishment of a quorum. The proposed amendment, which states that members will not commence to exit the Chamber until after 20 members have been counted as being present in the Chamber at one time, ensures that the provisions of the Constitution Act are clearly met.

**Motion agreed to.**

*[Notices of motions given.]*



*Bills***STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2020****Consideration in Detail****Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.***Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 15 October 2020***No. 1 GOVT No. 1 [c2020-176B]**

Page 7, Schedule 1.13, lines 28-33. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 2 GOVT No. 2 [c2020-176B]**

Pages 9 and 10, Schedule 1.18, lines 20-33 on page 9 and lines 28-31 on page 10. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 3 OPP No. 1 [c2020 -167D]**

Page 14, Schedule 1. Insert before line 1-

**1.26A Independent Commission Against Corruption Regulation 2017****Appendix NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct**

Insert after Part 3 in the Schedule to the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct —

**Part 3A Commissions from property developers****Note**—This Part also applies to Parliamentary Secretaries, and a reference to a Minister in this Part includes a reference to a Parliamentary Secretary.**16A Commissions from property developers**

- (1) A Minister must not accept or seek payment of a commission from a property developer, either directly or through a third party.
- (2) In this clause —

*property developer* means a property developer within the meaning of Part 2, Division 7 of the *Electorate Funding Act 2018*.**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (12:19:29):** I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Three amendments were agreed to in the other place. Amendments Nos 1 and 2 were Government amendments. Amendment No. 1 omitted provisions amending the Dams Safety Act from the bill after concerns were raised by The Greens. Amendment No. 2 omitted provisions relating to the variation of permits under sections 37AA and 37A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 after concerns were raised by the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. The amendments were suitable for inclusion in a statute law revision bill. However, in order not to delay the passage of the bill, the Government was willing to withdraw the provisions from the bill after concerns were raised by members. Amendment No. 3 was an Opposition amendment that the Government did not oppose.

As the Parliamentary Secretary noted in the other place, the Government is prepared to consider sensible amendments as they arise. Although the amendment ordinarily would not be suitable for inclusion in a statute law miscellaneous bill, there was no other appropriate legislative vehicle immediately available to deal with the matter. I commend the amendments from the other place to the House.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (12:20:48):** The Opposition supports the three amendments from the other place. In particular, we support the amendment regarding commissions from property developers whereby a Minister must not accept or seek payment of a commission from a property developer, either directly or through a third party. This is an incredibly important amendment given the state of affairs we have experienced in recent weeks. Labor wishes to clean up politics in New South Wales and this is a great start, so I am pleased that the Attorney General has indicated the Government will support this very important amendment.

Certainly, from the Premier's actions and words, it is clear she feels there is nothing wrong with members of this Parliament receiving sales commissions from property developers. If that is her view, she will be judged by the community on that matter. Since it is the Premier's view that corruption of this kind is acceptable simply because it is not unlawful, Labor wants to make it crystal clear that corruption of this kind—

**Mr Stuart Ayres:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 73. If the member for Swansea wishes to move a substantive motion based on improper motive, she has the opportunity to do so. Self-evidently, the Premier

supports the bill because the Leader of the Government in this House just said the Government is supporting this position.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I note the Standing Order. The member for Swansea has the call.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** I make the observation that I am using the Premier's words here and her observations—not mine. The amendment before us does just that and it must be supported because we cannot have a situation where corrupt parliamentarians can use their public office for profit and where the halls of power can be accessed by businesspeople who are willing to pay a fee. In a democracy we should all have equal access to Parliament and to its representatives. I have long been uncomfortable with the distortion caused by the donation culture in politics and it is a long-held view of mine that parliamentarians should not be forced to focus on raising money and soliciting donations from anybody. Just as donations are restricted to prevent distortions in our democracy, we must also restrict all types of payments to parliamentarians and those that they receive in their capacity as small business operators because it blurs the lines between public and private interest.

We cannot and we must not allow our democracy to be run for profit by the very people elected to this place to represent our communities. No constituent—whether they are a property developer, dental nurse or streetsweeper—should have special access to Ministers and advisers, or indeed the Premier's office. No constituent should be able to buy their way into a private hearing with decision-makers. Of course, every constituent should be heard. They should feel that they have been represented and they should be given consideration, but they must not be allowed to buy their way in the door. That is precisely what has been going on. Daryl Maguire was selling his office, his position and himself to private business interests. He monetised his parliamentary and electorate office, and he used them to access Ministers. And if that was not bad enough, the Premier knew all along and she did nothing about it.

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. Attacks on members must be done by way of substantive motion.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The member will return to the leave of the debate.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** I will, because yesterday on 2GB the Premier told Ben Fordham that Daryl Maguire did nothing wrong. She said that so long as Mr Maguire reported his income, there was nothing wrong with taking a commission from a property developer. I was shocked to hear those words come out of the Premier's mouth. If you take her word for it, a member could walk onto Macquarie Street and hustle people in Martin Place for access to this Parliament. So long as they declare it on their disclosure, it is Rafferty's rules. Daryl Maguire—or any current member—could go to Martin Place and sell tickets to the ministerial wing of Parliament House. The Minister might even get a visit, but I am not sure how much his tickets would cost. But that is technically what is being said. It is not allowed and it should not be allowed, but the Premier said that it is allowed. It is just wrong. We cannot allow a situation where it is legal, acceptable and considered normal to sell access to the ministerial wing of this Parliament.

Along with the crossbench in the upper House, Labor has said to the Government that enough is enough. Our democracy is not and will not be for sale. It cannot and will not be undermined like this. Nine years ago it was illegal donations in brown paper bags handed over the back of a Bentley. Ten Liberal MPs went to ICAC for those illegal donations. We all remember it. What the Premier is saying now is that Mr Maguire found a way to get around those rules. He had his part-time job. He found a way to take that dirty money from property developers, and the Premier turned a blind eye. If the rule is not in black and white, the Premier will not pull you up on it.

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. Attacks on members must be done by way of substantive motion.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The member will return to the leave of the debate.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** The Premier looked the other way, and that is why we must pass this amendment.

**Mr Stuart Ayres:** Point of order: Again I take a point of order under Standing Order 73. There is appropriate latitude to be able to debate the amendments that are before us. They have been through the Legislative Council. The Leader of the House has indicated that the Government supports the motion. There is no reason whatsoever to continue to pass reflections on members of this place. If members wish to do that, the standing orders provide an opportunity for them to do so by way of substantive motion.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. I ask the member for Swansea to return to the leave of the amendments to the bill.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** The issue is simple and black and white: There is democracy and then there is corruption. They do not and cannot coexist. If the Premier will not do anything to stop the corruption of her Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, then Labor will. Labor will fix the failures of leadership and the collapse of integrity in our Parliament by passing these amendments today. Amendment No. 3 makes it illegal for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to accept commissions from property developers. I am pleased that the amendment will pass and that it was the Labor Party and the crossbench that brought it to the House. I commend the amendments to the House.

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (12:30:49):** I draw the attention of the House to several amendments in the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020. I specifically support the amendments put forward by my parliamentary colleague the Hon. Adam Searle, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, and the members of the Labor Opposition, who seek to amend the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct. The reforms arise from the disturbing matters that have become apparent over the past week at the Independent Commission Against Corruption. I support the amendment to the bill proposed by the Opposition as it is essential to ensure the ethical dealings of all who work in the Parliament. New section 16A explicitly states that no Minister in this Parliament shall:

... accept or seek payment of a commission from a property developer, either directly or through a third party.

New section 16A (2) states that "property developer" has the same meaning as it does in the Electoral Funding Act 2018. Further, part 3A is highly significant as it notes that any unethical dealings in the New South Wales Parliament also apply to Parliamentary Secretaries.

The passage of the amendment is essential following the outrageous revelations last week regarding disgraced Liberal MP Daryl Maguire and his dealings with third-party property developers. However, a long list of unethical dealings between New South Wales Liberal MPs and property developers have contributed to the necessity of the amendments. For example, in 2013 ICAC's Operation Spicer investigated allegations that New South Wales Liberal MPs used associated entities to disguise donations from donors banned in the State and those from property developers. During that time 10 MPs were forced to quit politics or were moved to the crossbench. Further, members must not forget the Ray Williams scandal, where the multiculturalism Minister collected thousands of dollars from donations—

**Mr Stuart Ayres:** Point of order—

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Prospect will resume his seat.

**Mr Stuart Ayres:** I take a point of order under Standing Order 73. The member for Prospect just named the member for Castle Hill. If the member wishes to move a motion that passes reflections on another member of this place he can do so by way of substantive motion.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I warn members that I will start calling members to order. I ask the member for Prospect to return to the leave of the amendments to the bill.

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT:** Many may argue that at least implicitly the Opposition amendment is dealt with under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Regulation 2017 and the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct. However, those pieces of legislation do not specifically deal with the actions of Parliamentary Secretaries. It is imperative that this Parliament continues to propose legislation which sets a firm precedent and ensures that unethical dealings will not be tolerated by Parliamentary Secretaries, Ministers or the Premier. We must remove all loopholes and gaps in our State legislation to ensure the unethical dealings of Mr Maguire are not repeated in the future by any other Parliamentary Secretary or any other member of Parliament. The behaviour is simply unacceptable and the New South Wales Labor Opposition is committed to ensuring the Government upholds higher standards of integrity.

Standing in this Chamber is an honour. We are privileged to represent the residents living in our electorates throughout New South Wales. We must vow to continue to represent them in an ethical manner. It is critical that all members of the House, Ministers of the Crown and Parliamentary Secretaries realise this honour and ensure they do not take part in and are not complicit in criminal actions, morally questionable acts or unethical behaviour. That is the community's expectation, that is what the community deserves and that is what we must all do. I support the amendments to the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020. I thank the Hon. Adam Searle for moving these essential amendments and I call on the New South Wales Government to not oppose the sensible amendments proposed by the New South Wales Labor Opposition. Any delay in accepting the amendments or the Government opposing these amendments will only encourage and, in fact, endorse these unacceptable actions. I thank the House.

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (12:35:38):** I speak in favour of the amendments, part of which states:

- (1) A Minister must not accept or seek payment of a commission from a property developer, either directly or through a third party.
- (2) In this clause—

*property developer* means a property developer within the meaning of Part 2, Division 7 of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*.

The member for Swansea had it absolutely right, maybe not according to the rules of this Government, but according to the rules of ethics and standards, that you cannot sell access to ministerial officers in a government. That has to be the outstanding and clearest definition of wrong moral behaviour. We all have to make decisions when we come into this place. I was very proud of my time in business in which I had a 20-year career prior to being elected into this place. I employed 35 staff. I made the decision when I came into this place and was appointed to shadow Cabinet—not even to Executive Government, but to shadow Cabinet—to leave my business and eventually, but quite quickly, to sell that business. It was not at a time that was convenient or would give us the most money, but it was to ensure that there would never be even a sniff that I was acting for my own financial benefit in the decisions that I made as part of the Labor caucus, as a shadow Minister and as a member of this House.

I take those issues so seriously because like many members in this place I sat with my colleagues who were elected in 2015 as we watched member after member of Parliament on that side of the House go before ICAC. I have been sitting on this side of the House for nearly six years now listening to the purported moral superiority and arrogance of those opposite, who actually have none of that and should be ashamed of what they have allowed to happen. Nothing has changed in the 10 years since those 10 MPs were brought before ICAC and we have seen the most shocking revelations in the past week. We know that it is not enough for people to say that someone is "not very good at corruption" and that their processes then caught it when that corruption sits at the very heart of the Government. You cannot excuse the potential for corruption to be in a system on the basis that the people doing it are not very good at it—but that seems to be what we are hearing.

We all make sacrifices to sit in this place and we all need to support an ethical and correct moral code. There are some people on the other side of the House who do not understand that code, so these amendments make it crystal clear. They make it extremely clear forevermore that if you sit in this place as a member of the Executive side of Government, when you have the opportunity to change the lives of people you must do that for the good of New South Wales only and you cannot in any way accept or seek payment of a commission for the decisions that you make or that your party is going to make.

This Government has a poor record on development and corruption. We have seen its lack of ethics writ large over the past week. It is time for it to end. This Government is a decade into governing and the person in the highest office is still unclear about where the moral compass should sit. This amendment sends the message that the Opposition and the people of New South Wales know where it should sit. Hopefully, the Government will learn that. I commend the amendments to the House.

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (12:40:11):** I speak on the amendments to the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020 agreed to in the other place. I understand that the Government will accept those amendments, and I understand why it would do so. Given the current circumstances and the doubts about the integrity of this House and this Parliament more broadly, it is appropriate that we clarify the expectations that the people of New South Wales have of members of this House. The situation that we witnessed recently has been absolutely extraordinary. I do not think any member in this place would defend what has occurred with the former member for Wagga Wagga.

We have heard a lot of discussion about the history of corruption in this place. Time does not allow me to list all of it because it goes back a mighty long way. Members of government have the greatest opportunity for corruption and the highest risk of being identified as corrupt. Generally the Opposition has the greatest opportunity for moral indignation. Certainly we are hearing that in this place today. As a crossbench member who has been in this Parliament for quite some time, I do not think either side of this House owns the issues of corruption. We know that that is the case so we should not be too quick to judge one side or the other. However, we need to continue to push for improvement.

I have said in this place in relation to a number of matters, including contributions to political parties, that as we look to strengthen the rules there will always be others who look for opportunities to get around them. That is simply the reality of what happens in this place. So it is incumbent upon all members of the Parliament—not only on Government members—to continue to identify the risks and to stand up when we see something wrong. That does not mean any one of us will not fail from time to time. However, it is a genuinely and strongly held expectation of the people of New South Wales that we will do the right thing in this place. That is what we are here for, as the member for Maitland said. We are here to work for the people of New South Wales who do not

accept that a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary should have some sort of secondary earner on the side, whether through direct or indirect benefit, during their time here or, hopefully, after that.

The amendments to the bill are not the end of what we must do; they are the start of it. We must continue to look at this issue. It is early days in considering what has happened but the amendments to the bill are a good start and I will—along with other members of the crossbench, I am sure—fully support the amendments.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (12:43:55):** I support the amendments to the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020. Being a member from the Hunter region who, under Operation Spicer, saw two members of Parliament resign from the Legislative Assembly and from this Parliament following allegations of corruption relating to property developers, it would be remiss of me not to contribute to the debate. I concur with the member for Lake Macquarie that this should be just the beginning of these changes. The amendment about commissions refers to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries but it should apply to all members of Parliament. That is where we should be headed with this good start.

I entered Parliament on the back of a by-election after an ICAC inquiry that swept through the Hunter and the Central Coast about a Lord Mayor who called himself "The Walking ATM" and handed out brown paper bags containing wads of \$10,000 from the back of his Bentley. All of it was exposed in the ICAC transcripts and was very disturbing. It is unfortunate that it appears this Government has not learnt from this experience. The people of Newcastle and the Hunter are keen to see the laws tightened around this issue so that sort of behaviour is never repeated anywhere in the State. On the issue of donations and influence from property developers, I quote from the ICAC transcript of evidence by a member who was in receipt of \$10,000 for a painting. Asked if it was an effort to try to bribe him, the response was, "Yeah, it was definitely an effort to try and curry favour."

Donations from developers—or anyone else—simply cannot be received. The ICAC transcript shows that a developer provided money and the member of Parliament clearly stated that yes, it was an effort to try to curry favour. We do not want to hear those words from any politician in the State or the country. As the member for Newcastle, and as one of a number of Hunter MPs, I support the Opposition amendment. It is a good start. Let us work on it and expand the legislation to include all members of Parliament.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (12:47:12):** My contribution to this debate will be relatively short because the issue we are discussing in the bill, as amended by the Labor Party in the Legislative Council last week, is plain and simple. It is black and white. The amendment moved by Labor will ban Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries from receiving dodgy commissions from property developers. I am astounded that this proposed law is needed, and I am sure I am not alone. As members have seen over the past few weeks under this Liberal-Nationals Government, it is more than just needed; it is absolutely necessary to restore some sense of decency and transparency to the Parliament and the Government.

All members know how staggering it has been to learn of Government MPs using their influence to advance dodgy property development deals and then earn undeclared commissions on those deals. Mr Maguire was running his business out of an office mere metres from where we are standing now. That is the evidence before ICAC. He was a member of this Government. All members know how shocked and appalled the community has been to learn of these deals. Sadly, after too many people have undermined trust and confidence in the Parliament, we run a real risk of never being able to restore people's faith in this important institution. The behaviour of these people and its acceptance by those around them as being okay diminishes all of us and it undermines democracy. But instead of facing up to these issues and working to restore faith, the Government has been tripping over itself trying to shut down debate and avoid scrutiny. Its entire justification seems to be a smear campaign that relies on blaming the Labor Party, even when faced with undeniable evidence of corruption by one of its own members.

The bizarre effort to hark back two decades to previous wrongdoing is a pitiful attempt by the Liberal Party to act as if that somehow gives it a get out of jail free card. It does not. All corruption is wrong, regardless of which party someone is in. To be clear, corruption is not just something we read about in the papers; it harms communities and hurts people when the interests of developers are put first. In Port Stephens and the Hunter we know that all too well. The member for Newcastle described what it was like for the people of Newcastle and the Hunter when we were put last and developers were put first, above and beyond those in the community, and influence was obtained by those in positions of power. It hurt us as a community. In this Parliament right now we have a Labor leader, Jodi McKay, who reported corruption to the ICAC at great personal and professional cost, and we have a Liberal leader, Gladys Berejiklian, who turned a blind eye when faced with the same thing.

**Mrs Shelley Hancock:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 73, which has been referred to several times.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** What for?

**Mrs Shelley Hancock:** Reflections on members of the House should be done by way of substantive motion, which you understand and so should the member for Port Stephens.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Port Stephens will return to the leave of the amendments, as I previously instructed both the member for Prospect and the member for Maitland. Members are reminded that proceedings of the House are to be carried out in an orderly and dignified manner. I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON:** We are here because the Liberal Government has set a new, impossibly low standard for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. That is why the Labor Opposition in the upper House amended the bill to prohibit those dodgy commissions that should never have been legal in the first place. In my wildest dreams I never would have thought it appropriate to work for a property developer alongside my sworn duties as a member of Parliament and as a shadow Minister, nor would I have considered that anybody in this place would ever do that. I have worked hard to build trust in my community and, as a lawyer turned politician like many members here, I know that that is difficult. To have that happen in this place and for us to not respond would be appalling. I am here—as many of us are—to work for those who elected me, not for anybody else.

The Government seems to have no problem with the situation. On multiple occasions last week we heard that it is all fine. But it is not. We do not think it is fine and we do not think it is legal, and that is why Labor has formulated the amendment to make sure those dodgy deals are illegal. In what world is it okay to have donations from developers banned yet commissions from developers acceptable? That is an outrageous situation and one that must be corrected right here, right now.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (12:52:25):** You could have knocked me over with a feather when I found out that we needed legislation to ban members of Parliament from taking commissions on their way through. I thought that was already covered pretty well under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act. I thought that that Act clearly spelt out the fact that the 400,000 public servants in this State were not entitled to use their public office for personal gain. Anybody can read the Act and get a pretty clear picture of what is and is not allowed. But in this instance, we have to introduce legislation to be a little bit more prescriptive for certain members. As with all corruption that has occurred in this place, the taint falls on all of us.

The reality is that 99.9 per cent of members come into this place for the right reasons, with all the right moral fibre and lineage to understand their responsibility and the esteemed privilege of being here. But we have some dodgies. The difference in this instance compared with some others is that for 9½ years I have heard relentless slander thrown across the Chamber about all Labor MPs being corrupt and all of us supporting and endorsing the behaviour of people like Eddie Obeid, Joe Tripodi and Ian Macdonald. Not once have I heard a person from the Opposition side of the Chamber try to defend any of those three characters—because what they did was wrong. Even as recently as last week the Premier of this State during question time made some sort of allegation, suggesting, "Well, who over there was in Cabinet with these corrupt officials?" The insinuation, of course, was that if members had known what those officials were up to they should have reported it because the legislation is pretty clear that they have a responsibility to report. Good on the Premier for making that point last week because it is the very same question that is now being posed to her about what she did and did not know.

In July 2018 it came to light that the former member for Wagga Wagga had been taking commissions on arrangements and deals that he had been trying to progress through this place. I think that we all took a deep breath and thought the appropriate course of action was for him to be removed from this place. I do not recall anyone lifting a finger to support him at that time because we all thought that taking a commission was clearly the wrong thing to do. It turns out now, after the ICAC inquiry has progressed and we have heard multiple recordings of conversations between that member of Parliament and the Premier, that in July 2018, when this House was appalled and no-one lifted a finger, apparently there was one person in this House who thought that was not necessarily the wrong thing to do.

To that point, I have heard the Premier say repeatedly in the past two weeks that it is perfectly fine for a person to have a second job or to derive an income from other means. I have heard that repeatedly. From the ICAC transcripts we know that the Premier had been in a relationship with a person for the past five years knowing this occurred. This piece of legislation that has now been agreed to by the Government is contrary to the position of its Premier and leader for the past five years. That is staggering to me. As recently as yesterday the Premier held a press conference in which she defended the right of people to have a secondary source of income, like a commission from a developer.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I ask the member for Cessnock to return to the bill.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** Yet here we are dealing with a piece of legislation that is going to clearly and explicitly explain to all members of Parliament, including the Premier, that that was wrong and has been wrong for the whole five years that she knew about it. [*Time expired.*]

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

**Motion agreed to.**

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2020**

### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from 14 October 2020.**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (12:58:21):** I lead for the Opposition on the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill. The Opposition does not oppose the bill. The bill is presented as containing a number of disparate amendments that are said to address developments in case law, support procedural improvements and close apparent gaps in the laws, although it seems to do more than that. The overview to the bill says, "The object of this bill is to amend various Acts and a regulation relating to the Communities and Justice portfolio, and to make other miscellaneous amendments." It is similar to what was once called a justice legislation amendment bill but it is the third bill in recent weeks to bear a much more Orwellian title to do with the Stronger Communities cluster.

The bill contains a number of COVID-related provisions. Schedule 2.4 amends part 12 of the Interpretation Act. These provisions, which were introduced earlier this year in response to the pandemic, allowed statutory time periods and limitations to be suspended, modified or waived. It also allowed altered arrangements for physical attendance at meetings. The provisions were limited until the end of this year, when the part was to be repealed. This bill uncontroversially extends the sunset provision until 26 March 2021—that is, another three months.

Schedule 1.9 amends the Evidence (Audio and Audio Visual Links) Act in relation to a COVID-19 provision also introduced earlier this year. This provision makes clear that an accused person at liberty is able to appear via an audiovisual link from outside the State as well as from within the State. Schedule 2.3 amends an Act to which I am very attached, having introduced it as the industrial relations Minister, the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave Scheme) Act, which was amended earlier this year to assist workers facing financial hardship. The Act was specifically amended to remove the requirement that workers covered by this Act had to wait 20 weeks for payment of long service leave entitlements when leaving the industry. This change was to expire at the end of this year. This bill extends the expiry until 26 March next year.

There are a number of amendments to the Criminal Appeal Act, legislation that is now more than 100 years old. These deal with the Court of Criminal Appeal. One amendment allows the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to make arrangements for the transaction of the business of the Court of Criminal Appeal. Another allows the Chief Justice to designate a single judge of the Supreme Court to exercise certain procedural or interlocutory powers without having to constitute the court for that purpose and then designate a single judge. Among the changes is a confirmation that the rules of the Court of Criminal Appeal may confer powers of the court on the registrar or other court officers and provide for the review of their decision. These modest changes are unexceptional. If there is a criticism, it goes precisely to their modesty. Six and a half years ago the Government received Report 140 of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission entitled *Criminal appeals*. That report made sweeping recommendations to criminal appeals in this jurisdiction. For example, the first recommendation was to repeal the Criminal Appeal Act 1912 and the Crimes (Appeal And Review) Act and replace them with a new criminal appeal Act.

That report was commissioned by this Government; however, there seems to have been no substantial action at all taken on the report and its recommendations. It simply has lain gathering dust in someone's in-tray. Its existence makes these otherwise unobjectionable amendments look quite derisory. Why the Government actually commissioned the report to then steadfastly ignore it appears to be a complete mystery. The law relating to criminal appeals in this State needs a far more thoroughgoing reform than contained in this bill. There are also proposed changes to the law concerning intimate images and their unauthorised disclosure. Schedule 1.8 now includes offences under section 91P, 91Q and 91R of the Crimes Act as prescribed sexual offences. I might add that the explanatory note to this schedule has an apparent typographical error where it refers to item [1] when it should refer to item [2]. These three offences are: record intimate image without consent; distribute intimate image without consent; and attempt to record or distribute intimate images. This means the victims of those offences will have the same protections in court as other victims of sexual assault.

Schedule 1.4 amends the Crimes Act by adding a new subsection 1A to section 91S. This will allow a court to order the removal, retraction, recovery, deletion or destruction of an intimate image threatened to be distributed

in breach of section 91R of the Crimes Act. The Government is quite proud of these changes and issued a media release about it. The changes are certainly unobjectionable, but the Government's self-congratulation hides how limited the rectification provision actually is. As I pointed out in 2017 when some of these provisions were introduced, rectification can only occur after someone has been convicted. That is way too long for images to circulate or be published. There needs to be a much faster mechanism. The rectification mechanism applies only to the defendant, not to any third parties. A much better option was suggested in the cross-party and unanimous recommendations of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice in its 2016 report entitled *Remedies for the serious invasion of privacy*. That report recommended giving take-down powers to the Privacy Commissioner. That model was incorporated in my private member's bill, Civil Remedies for Serious Invasion of Privacy Bill 2016, which I reintroduced last year. The current law simply does not go far enough.

There are several amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act that concern the case management of criminal trial matters. In his second reading speech the Attorney General said that the amendments will give effect to a number of findings from the review of case management in higher courts conducted by the Chief Judge of the District Court, the Hon. Justice Derek Price, AM. I do not have a problem with the amendments, but I would rather like to see the review upon which they are said to be based. I ask the Attorney General to indicate in his reply if the report is publically available and if so, where. If it is not, when will it be available? The final items I will mention are the two amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act related to the tendency and coincidence evidence amendments processed earlier this year. These changes are said to result from a COAG process that was in turn a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

One of the changes is to create a legislative presumption in favour of joint trials where a defendant has been accused of multiple offences and the prosecution is seeking to rely on tendency or coincidence evidence that relates to more than one of the offences. This is not limited to sexual offences but applies to all criminal matters. Because it is still subject to section 21 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Act, the court still has the power to separate the trials. I am told by one experienced practitioner in this field that he has never known trials to be severed where there is tendency or coincidence evidence. In practical terms then this might not actually make that much of a difference, but for that reason it is not something you would want an express allusion to.

The second amendment, schedule 1.2 [8], inserts new section 161A into the Criminal Procedure Act. This implements recommendation 48 of the royal commission criminal justice report of 2017 and provides that a jury is not to be directed that tendency or coincidence evidence needs to be proved beyond reasonable doubt. If such evidence is also an element of the offence then for that purpose, but that purpose only, it must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. The other exception is where there is a significant possibility that the jury will rely on the evidence concerned as being essential to its reasoning and reaching a finding of guilt. I note that there are, in addition, quite complex transitional provisions dealing with those sections. As I indicated, the Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (13:05:34):** The Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020 was introduced by the Attorney General, who is doing an excellent and outstanding job during these difficult times. He has introduced a vast amount of legislation to improve the justice system right across this State. I welcome the opportunity to speak in support of the bill, which will make a range of amendments to criminal procedure in New South Wales. I will highlight several amendments that will improve case management procedures for serious criminal matters. The amendments are important as they will contribute to the ongoing work of this Government to reduce delays in criminal proceedings in higher courts and ensure that cases are resolved as early as possible.

Case management refers to the comprehensive set of tasks that parties must undertake at various stages of the criminal process, such as pre-trial conferences, timelines for the service of notices and readiness hearings. Effective case management is critical to ensure that matters progress through the courts without undue delay and are finalised as fairly and efficiently as possible. One way that this bill will enhance case management procedures is by introducing a clearer time frame for the prosecution and defence to file their pre-trial disclosure notices with the court. Parties will now be required to file notices with the court in accordance with the timetable made by the court, rather than as soon as practicable after giving it or as otherwise required by the court, as is currently required under section 149 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1986.

The relevant timetable for filing is currently set out in District Court and Supreme Court practice notes but may be varied by the court in appropriate circumstances. Clear time frames for filing requirements encourage parties to comply with disclosure obligations and support the courts in meaningfully managing cases to prevent delays. The bill will require parties in trial matters to give earlier notice of an alibi—namely, 56 days before the day on which the trial is listed for hearing, rather than 42 days as currently required by section 150 of the Criminal Procedure Act. This amendment would mean that alibi notices are required to be served by the trial readiness hearing, which takes place 56 days before the trial is listed to begin. This will give the court, the prosecution and



the defence greater opportunity to participate meaningfully in the readiness hearing and in turn will enhance the utility of readiness hearings as a mechanism for case management.

Another key change in the bill is to increase the utility of pre-trial conferences by extending the list of issues to be considered by parties during these conferences to include identifying the issues in dispute for the trial, any issues that will involve pre-trial argument and any further matters as directed by the court. Currently, parties in trial matters are required to engage in pre-trial conferences prior to their readiness hearing. Pre-trial conferences are an opportunity for parties to identify key issues in trial matters to facilitate their earlier resolution and reduce the risk of delay. Introducing these additional mandatory conferences will increase efficiency by ensuring that parties are ready to inform the court at the readiness hearing of all issues in dispute, any issues that will involve pre-trial argument and any other matters that may be directed by the court. This amendment will assist the court in enabling these issues to be resolved in advance of the trial and in determining correct trial estimates.

These amendments will complement the recent changes arising from the review of case management processes recently undertaken by the Chief Justice of the District Court of New South Wales, the Hon. Justice Derek Price, AM, with the Department of Communities and Justice. The review was intended to reduce delays in criminal proceedings in higher courts and led to the implementation of a new District Court practice note in April 2020, which introduced earlier deadlines for notices to be filed, mandatory pre-trial conferences and mandatory readiness hearings for trial matters. These measures improve case management, facilitate earlier resolution in appropriate circumstances and prevent avoidable delays in serious criminal matters. These amendments will also build upon the progress of recent New South Wales Government reforms that have streamlined and enhanced criminal processes for serious matters, particularly the early appropriate guilty plea reform, which I will briefly detail.

The early appropriate guilty plea reform commenced on 30 April 2018 with a commitment of over \$93 million over a four-year period to support the implementation. The reform changed the way that serious indictable criminal cases progress through the criminal justice system. The reform addressed late guilty pleas by introducing new committal procedures in the Local Court. Key features of the reform include early disclosure of evidence by the NSW Police Force, charge certification by senior prosecutors, mandatory criminal case conferencing between senior prosecutors and the defence, flexible case management and prescribed statutory sentencing discounts based on the timing of a guilty plea. The purposes of bringing guilty pleas forward in time are to avoid wasted court costs incurred by justice agencies preparing for trials that may never occur, to reduce stress for victims and witnesses and to enable offenders to be sentenced sooner. The reform also provides for an investment in Legal Aid NSW and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions so that the same senior lawyers can be involved in a case from start to finish.

This reform is in addition to significant investment in the District Court. The New South Wales Government has invested more than \$264 million since 2016 to tackle District Court backlogs. This includes the appointment of 12 new judges, which brings the total number to a record 75 judges. Taken together, these amendments are another step in ensuring that case management procedures are effective and that delays in criminal cases are avoided where possible. The New South Wales Government will continue to support efforts to facilitate early appropriate resolution of serious criminal proceedings and to enable such matters to progress through the criminal justice system efficiently, as these efforts improve the quality of justice and provide better outcomes for the community as a whole.

That last paragraph goes to the heart of the legislation that is before us today. Efficiencies in the justice system bring numerous benefits that are not only financial. There is certainly a large and significant effect on victims within our community. They not only suffer from the effects of being victimised by criminal acts against them, but then have to face the most difficult circumstances of having to attend court to retell significant and difficult stories of experiences that they have faced whilst being a member of the community. If those can be avoided through appropriate early pleas of guilty, if those court cases and trials can be resolved in the most appropriate circumstances, then those benefits will flow right across the justice system and right across the community of New South Wales. This great State of New South Wales will benefit in numerous degrees.

**Debate interrupted.**

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

*Bills*

**ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENSING) BILL 2020**  
**TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (CLOSURES OF RAILWAY LINES IN**  
**NORTHERN RIVERS) BILL 2020**

**Assent**

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

*Question Time*

**DARYL MAGUIRE, FORMER MEMBER FOR WAGGA WAGGA**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:17:10):** My question is directed to the Premier. In July 2018 the Premier knew that the ICAC was investigating Daryl Maguire's dealings with Country Garden and his commissions from property developers. We now know he told the Premier about Country Garden and we now know he told the Premier about the commissions. Why did the Premier not report this to the ICAC as she was legally required?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:17:34):** Firstly, I reject the imputations in the Leader of the Opposition's question. Secondly, the Leader of the Opposition asked me the same question last week. Thirdly, we should allow the integrity body to do the work that it has to do while I do the work that the New South Wales' people expect me to do: have the best COVID recovery plan in the nation, have the best and strongest economy and have the best health administration.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order—

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I have concluded my answer.

**THE HON. GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (14:17:42):** My question is directed to the Premier. Yesterday the Premier claimed she has assisted the ICAC "in any way possible". Yet the ICAC needed to tap phone calls, read text messages and summon her to a compulsory examination, all because she did not come forward with what she knew. How can the Premier still maintain that she assisted the ICAC "in any way possible"?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:18:48):** I say again to members of the Opposition and all members of the House to respect the process that is going on and let the process take its course. What the people of New South Wales want during the darkest time in our State's history is a government focused on them and that is exactly what the Liberals and The Nationals are doing.

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier has completed her answer.

**THE HON. GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN**

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:19:26):** My question is directed to the Premier. When Daryl Maguire's misconduct was exposed in July 2018, Minister Stokes advised his staff that if there were any conversations they were involved in that made them feel uncomfortable in light of the revelations at the ICAC they should talk to the ICAC. Why did the Premier not follow the advice of her Minister and tell the ICAC what she knew back in 2018?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:19:55):** I acknowledge the similar question again and say to every person in this place, let us let the integrity body do the job it has to do. But what the people of New South Wales want is a government focused on them and that is exactly what it is doing.

**INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:20:17):** My question is directed to the Premier. The Premier has rejected three funding requests from the ICAC in five years, including while the ICAC investigated Daryl Maguire for corruption. Will the Premier accept the recommendations of the Auditor-General and finally support independent funding for the ICAC?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:20:43):** I firstly reject the proposition in the Leader of the Opposition's question. I am pleased to say that since we have been in government the ICAC funding has increased by 50 per cent. In the last two financial years supplementary funding of \$1.72 million and \$1.68 million was provided. Over the course of the next four years the ICAC will receive \$104 million in funding.

When we received concerns about the level of funding for all of our integrity agencies, this Government referred it to the Auditor-General and the Auditor-General's report is handed down today.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question is about whether the Premier will accept the Auditor-General's recommendation for independent funding. Will the Premier accept an independent funding model?

**The SPEAKER:** I will take the next question. Is there a fifth question?

### SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY HOUSING

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (14:22:01):** My question is directed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer ensure that the budget supports the most vulnerable, including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, through the provision of new social and community housing?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:22:12):** I thank the member for his great question, which is focused on social outcomes and economic benefits, in particular during the pandemic. The member does not ask many questions in this place but it is quality over quantity. He has asked many questions in relation to the pandemic, which the Opposition seems to have missed. I acknowledge his interest in social and affordable housing. As the member is aware, the Government is focused, particularly during this time, on keeping as many people in work, creating jobs and ensuring that the stimulus projects—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Canterbury will come to order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** —that the Government runs and is investing in during this time go towards providing strong social outcomes. What the member will see in the upcoming budget on 17 November is a continued record investment from the Liberals and Nationals in social and affordable housing. The member will note that on 23 March the first announcement was made in relation to a \$2.3 billion investment, a substantial investment in terms of social and affordable housing. The Government allocated \$60.5 million for maintenance works and upgrades on public housing properties and \$47 million was allocated to the Land and Housing Corporation for maintenance.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** The Government sold \$330 million in properties last year and \$429 million was earmarked this year to sell.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The Leader of the Opposition had a chance to ask a decent question and she failed. The Government has allocated \$13.5 million to the Aboriginal Housing Office. It is important to note, in particular for the National Party, that of that investment 50 per cent is in regional New South Wales. There was some \$34 million announced in support for those at risk of homelessness, including extra funding for temporary accommodation and assistance packages, of which \$20 million is to accelerate and secure stable housing in the private rental market and \$14 million is to increase the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation across New South Wales, including accommodation suitable for self-isolation. In addition, there was \$30 million to boost the Energy Accounts Payments Assistance Scheme. Just after that announcement I, together with Melinda Pavey, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, visited the Arncliffe housing estate, as the member for Sydney would know. There were around 13 units in that property that were fit for purpose. As part of that announcement, we have now increased that from 13 units to 142 housing units. Importantly, we met a lot of the construction workers—

**Mrs Melinda Pavey:** The tradies.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The tradies, as the Minister says—about 55 to 60 workers on that site during that time. It is a great outcome. Not only is the State getting a great social benefit but, importantly, we are keeping people in work during the pandemic. In fact, for every \$1 million that the NSW Land and Housing Corporation spends on building new social housing it creates around five to six new jobs. Recently we also announced construction in Newcastle of two projects worth \$8 million, with 22 new homes and many construction jobs off the back of that investment.

It was not too long after that in June that we made a further announcement—this time with the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—in relation to securing housing for the homeless. It was interesting to hear what the Opposition was saying because it was the largest housing response dedicated to rough sleepers in New South Wales history. A program to secure homes rapidly from the private rental market is underway. The Together Home program will be delivered by the New South Wales Government in collaboration with 19 community housing providers, specialist homelessness services and healthcare workers. We went back to Arncliffe where we met William, who was sleeping rough and is now in housing as a result of this investment. These are the types of projects, particularly as we are seeing a slowdown in population growth and a softening in the housing market— *[Extension of time]*

I say to the member for Sydney that these are exactly the types of projects that are easy to get up and running: shovel-ready projects that can support the slowdown in construction, particularly in that tail. We will continue to invest in those areas. I note that during the pandemic more than 570 people who were previously sleeping rough have been helped into secure housing as a result of the Government's work. These people have been supported from sleeping on the street into temporary accommodation, which is run by the Minister. They are now living in safe and stable housing with wraparound support from specialist homelessness services. We saw that firsthand.

It was great to see that in a very short period of time—from March to June. There had already been a benefit not just in the jobs that we had created but in great social outcomes. Without wanting to today give away the first announcement of the budget, I say to the member for Sydney—and I thank him for his interest in this space—that the Government will continue to invest in social and affordable housing. We will continue to make those record investments that our Government has made over the time it has been in government and the member will continue to see investment in social and affordable housing, driving construction and driving great social outcomes off the back of it.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Mr Speaker—

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Maroubra that five questions have been asked. Is the member asking a question or taking a point of order?

**Mr Michael Daley:** I seek the leave of the House to move a motion to suspend standing and sessional orders to allow the Leader of the Opposition to ask another four questions of the Premier. I have never seen a weaker or more deceitful performance by a Premier in any Australian parliament than I have from the Premier today.

**Leave not granted.**

#### *Documents*

### **ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 35 of the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014, I announce receipt of the report of the Advocate for Children and Young People for the year ended 30 June 2020. I order that the report be printed.

### **OMBUDSMAN**

#### **Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the special report to Parliament by the NSW Ombudsman entitled *More than shelter—addressing legal and policy gaps in supporting homeless children: A progress report*, dated 19 October 2020. I order that the report be printed.

### **INSPECTOR OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION**

#### **Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 142 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Annual Report 2019-2020: Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997*, dated October 2020. I order that the report be printed.

### **AUDITOR-GENERAL**

#### **Reports**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt of the special report of the Auditor-General entitled *The effectiveness of the financial arrangements and management practices in four integrity agencies*, dated 20 October 2020.

#### *Committees*

### **LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **Reports**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS:** On behalf of the Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislative Review Digest No. 22/57*, dated 20 October 2020. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS:** I also table the minute of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 21/57*, dated 13 October 2020.

*Bills*

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

**Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (14:31:28):** The Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020 updates and amends several pieces of legislation related to the formerly Communities and Justice cluster in New South Wales. Although these are relatively small amendments, they will have a significant impact on our legal system. I join my parliamentary colleague Paul Lynch, the shadow Attorney General, and the New South Wales Labor Opposition in not opposing the bill. However, there are a few amendments that I raise before the House.

Firstly, the amendment to the Crimes Act 1900 adds a new section to the Act allowing a court to make an order that an intimate image be removed, retracted, recovered, deleted or destroyed if it is threatened to be distributed in contravention of section 91R of the Crimes Act. Section 91R of the Act discusses the recording or distribution of intimate images. This offence will be punishable by a fine of up to \$5,500. It is currently an offence under the Crimes Act to threaten to distribute an intimate image of another person without their consent. However, the current provisions do not give the court power to compel a person who has made these threats to destroy the images or attempt to recover it from another individual. A study by RMIT University found that one in five adults have either had an intimate photo of themselves shared without their permission or have been threatened with the sharing of such images. Other studies have put this figure as high as one in three.

These actions cause real harm to victims in our community. Many experts use the term "image-based sexual abuse" to describe these actions and give appropriate weight to the harm that these actions cause. The offence can cause ongoing anxiety, fear and depression in victims and survivors. The impact that this abuse can have on the lives of victims is immense. It can make victims too afraid to leave their house and too anxious to apply for employment, out of fear that a potential employer may simply google their name and find the intimate images. This is an essential amendment to the Crimes Act 1900, helping to ensure that the Act keeps pace with changes in our society. It is imperative that the court can intercede and force the destruction or return of intimate images. Victims who have suffered threats of having private and intimate photos shared must be able to receive reassurance that the photos will be destroyed or returned. Further amendments regarding the sharing of intimate images are made as part of the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986. Under those changes, the recording, sharing, distribution or threat of recording of intimate images without consent will be classified as a prescribed sexual offence. This raises these offences to a deserved level of seriousness under New South Wales law.

Beyond the reforms relating to the sharing of images, this bill further makes reforms to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 perfecting the use of coincidence and tendency evidence. Reforms to those areas were made earlier this year to the Evidence Amendment (Tendency and Coincidence) Act, which I supported at that time. Two further changes are made regarding the use of tendency and coincidence evidence. Firstly, offenders charged with model offences in a single indictment or whose charges are listed together will have their proceedings held together if the prosecution intends to use tendency and coincidence evidence. Secondly, a jury may not be instructed that tendency and coincidence evidence must be proved beyond reasonable doubt for the jury to consider. This is a logical amendment as such evidence can be used to prove the guilt of a perpetrator, not on its own but in the totality of evidence and actions.

Although procedural in nature, these amendments are vital for our community's confidence in our criminal justice and judicial system. Tendency and coincidence evidence is especially important in the most heinous of crimes and is vital for the ability of our law enforcement officials to obtain convictions against some of the worst offenders in New South Wales. Another reform made by the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act is in relation to the appointment of a children's champion. Children's champions play a vital role in our criminal justice system, supporting and advocating for children who are complainants or witnesses in proceedings under the child sexual offence evidence pilot scheme. Criminal investigations and proceedings relating to child sexual abuse are traumatic for the victims and for witnesses to the crime. Our criminal justice system has a special responsibility to support children during this time and to ensure that their trauma is not unnecessarily extended and repeated as they provide their evidence before a court.

Children's champions play a vital role in that regard and often build a special bond of trust with these children. Under this amendment the children's champions are not excluded from being appointed to a child because they have previously been or are currently a champion of a child for the purpose of a criminal investigation. This will allow a children's champion to continue to advocate for a child throughout proceedings using their unique knowledge of that child to help protect the child from additional harm through the court process while ensuring that child is able to produce the most useful evidence towards a prosecution. A further amendment is made to the Criminal Procedure Act to improve the pre-trial conference process. Currently, pre-trial conferences can be used only to determine agreed evidence and facts that will be admitted at trial. The amendment increases the areas of discussion during the pre-trial conference. Under this reform the prosecution and the defendant will identify the critical issues of disputes and identify issues that need to be resolved before the trial commences.

The court may also direct the prosecution and defendant to determine any other matters required by the court. This amendment should have the effect of making trial proceedings more efficient by determining the key areas of the prosecution and defence so that a child can focus on these areas to come to an appropriate outcome. The bill also will amend the Bail Act 2013 and reform the conditions under which a bail decision can stay while the Supreme Court considers a matter. Current legislation allows this to occur only on the bail applicant's first appearance before the court or authorised justice. The amendment will reform the Act to allow a stay to be put in place if no decision or application has previously been made in relation to an offence. This has the effect of still allowing bail stays if there has been an adjournment in a hearing. This reform is entirely sensible.

The intent of the law at the time that it was passed was to allow for bail to be stayed for dangerous criminals if the Crown believed that they posed a threat to the community and that the decision to grant bail by a court or an authorised justice increased the threat to our community. There is no reason that this ability to impose a stay of bail should be reduced simply because of procedural differences in bail applications. The safety and protection of our families and our community must come first in bail applications.

The bill also provides clarification of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act 1999. The amendment ensures that offenders who have lodged a written plea, and who have been excused from attending court, are classified as an absent offender. This reform ensures that inappropriate penalties cannot be issued to such an offender when they do not appear in court. Although these penalties should not have been applied previously—it is within the court's discretion—it is nonetheless essential that our laws are as straightforward as possible. These are sensible reforms to the New South Wales criminal justice system, especially those that focus on supporting victims and survivors of crime. In particular, I welcome the changes relating to the sharing and threatening to share of intimate images, which can have a devastating and often an underappreciated impact on victims and survivors. I also welcome any reforms to the judicial system that assist children who have been victims of, or who have been witness to, sexual crimes. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (14:40:49):** I thank the member for Prospect for speaking during debate on the important Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020. I welcome the opportunity to speak in support of the bill. In particular, I will deal with the amendments related to image-based abuse, which is colloquially referred to as revenge porn. In 2017 the New South Wales Government introduced legislation that criminalised the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. The reform followed the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice's inquiry into remedies for the serious invasion of privacy in New South Wales in 2016. While a major concern for the committee was the issue of revenge porn, it did not make any particular recommendations on that issue because the consideration of criminal law was outside the inquiry's scope. However, the committee suggested that the New South Wales Government consider recent recommendations of the Commonwealth Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee to introduce offences directed at this behaviour.

The Crimes Amendment (Intimate Images) Act 2017 amended the Crimes Act 1900 to make it a criminal offence to intentionally record or distribute, or to threaten to record or distribute, an intimate image of a person without their consent. The three new offences, under 91P, 91Q, and 91R of the Crimes Act 1900, are indictable offences and carry maximum penalties of up to three years imprisonment. Intimate image abuse can have severe impacts on the victim, their reputation and their loved ones. The introduction of the new offences reflects the New South Wales Government's commitment to strengthening this area of law and providing a clear remedy for such serious invasions of privacy.

In 2017 researchers from the Monash University conducted a survey of more than 4,200 people and found that 20 per cent of respondents had suffered intimate image-based abuse. The rate was much higher in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It was also higher for young respondents. The most common types of abuse reported were taking intimate images without consent, which accounted for 20 per cent of reported abuse, distributing images without consent and threatening to distribute images. In line with this commitment, the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020 contains two important amendments

that will further increase the protections and support available to victims of such offences by extending to them special arrangements for the giving of evidence during criminal proceedings, and by empowering the courts to make rectification orders for a wider range of intimate image offences.

Schedule 1.8 [2] to the bill amends the definition of "prescribed sexual offence" in the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 to include the offences of recording or distributing intimate images without consent and of threatening to record or distribute intimate images under sections 91P, 91Q and 91R of the Crimes Act 1900. The prescribed sexual offences currently include, amongst others, all sexual offences against adults and children, grooming offences and offences involving the failure to reduce or remove the risk of a child becoming a victim of child abuse, to mention a few. Offences which have been classified as prescribed sexual offences afford complainants a number of statutory protections when giving evidence. These include the right to give evidence via audiovisual link or other alternative arrangements, the right to have a support person present, the closure of a court while giving evidence, and the right not to be cross-examined by an unrepresented accused. Section 578A of the Crimes Act 1900 also provides a statutory prohibition against any publication identifying a victim of a prescribed sexual offence.

Given the nature of intimate image offences, complainants can be subjected to further distress throughout criminal proceedings, as intimate videos and photographs of them are played in open court, with few statutory protections available. They may be required to examine and comment on intimate imagery of themselves and be questioned around the context of the material, including its creation and distribution. This amendment will provide important and necessary protections to this class of victims. Improving the experience of victims may help to reduce barriers to reporting and encourage victims to participate in the criminal justice process. In addition to providing victims of intimate image offences with appropriate protections when giving evidence in criminal proceedings, schedule 1.4 to the bill also makes amendments allowing a court to order rectification in relation to a wider range of these offences.

Under section 91S of the Crimes Act 1900, a court that finds a person guilty of an offence of recording or distributing an intimate image without consent can order the person to take reasonable actions to remove, retract, recover, delete or destroy any intimate image recorded or distributed by the person. However, such orders cannot currently be made for an offence of threatening to distribute an intimate image under section 91R of the Crimes Act 1900. There may be cases where an offender uses images that were consensually recorded or shared in order to threaten and harass. Such legally obtained images should also be subject to the court's rectification powers if they are being used against a complainant. Extending rectification powers to these offences will ensure that courts will have the discretion to order the removal or deletion of images and also prevent any future threats from being carried out by the offender with those images.

In recent years, threats by domestic violence abusers to distribute legally obtained intimate images of their victims have become evident in a growing number of cases. The amendments in this bill will provide greater protection for domestic violence victims from abusers who employ this type of coercive controlling behaviour, both when giving evidence in criminal proceedings and in the remedies that may be available upon conviction of the offender. I also note that the rectification orders under section 91R are not the only power available for victims to remove intimate images shared without their consent. For example, on 31 August 2018 the Enhancing Online Safety (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Act 2018 commenced and introduced Commonwealth take-down powers for intimate images.

The Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 allows the eSafety Commissioner to issue removal notices requiring a social media service, electronic service, internet service, hosting service or end-user of a social media service to remove an intimate image. Failure to comply with a removal notice attracts a civil penalty of 500 penalty units, which is over \$100,000. In conclusion, these amendments will ensure that victims of intimate image offences are afforded protections which will lessen the stress and trauma associated with giving evidence in criminal proceedings. They will also ensure that rectification orders will be available for a wider range of these offences in the event of a future conviction. I am pleased to support the amendments in this bill, which may encourage greater participation in the criminal justice process. I commend the bill to the House.

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (14:49:50):** I will take particular note of the legislative changes which relate to children and young people in the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020. The bill amends the definition of "prescribed sexual offences" under section 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act to include offences relating to the recording and distribution of intimate images without consent. I welcome the move to expand the definition to capture these appalling and increasingly common offences. This will further enshrine in legislation recommendation 4 in the 2016 report of the Committee on Children and Young People titled *Sexualisation of children and young people*, which called on the Attorney General to introduce legislation to create specific offences of distributing or threatening to distribute an intimate image.

Amendments to the Crimes Act in 2017 made it a criminal offence to record and distribute intimate images of a person without consent, imposing potential financial penalties and custodial sentences on people found guilty of doing so. Those amendments also made it an offence to threaten to record or distribute intimate images. The expansion of the definition of "prescribed sexual offence" under part 5 of the Criminal Procedures Act is important. When giving evidence, special arrangements will now be extended to victims of prescribed sexual offences. This extra layer of protection will help shield victims from the stresses of court. It will allow them to see their exploiters prosecuted without being retraumatised by the often confusing and onerous procedures required by the law of them in the prosecution of these offences.

The recommendation to criminalise the non-consensual or malicious sharing of intimate images was borne out of the committee's inquiry into a variety of topics related to the sexualisation of children and young people. This included what has become known as revenge pornography, which is the practice of sharing intimate or sexual images without the consent of the subject or subjects involved or for malicious purposes. The committee noted in the report:

... the typical revenge pornography scenario is one where a person has an intimate or sexually explicit image or video of themselves posted online by their ex-partner without their consent.

There are even dedicated revenge porn websites that encourage people to upload intimate content featuring their former partners without the consent of the other party. The objective of a revenge pornographer is clear and that is the humiliation of their former partner. That humiliation is made possible by the heinous exploitation of that former partner's trust. It is unacceptable in any form. The harm caused by intentional or malicious sharing of intimate images without consent has been widely acknowledged, both during the inquiry and in the years since.

I applaud moves to help protect victims from being retraumatised when their matter is heard in court. Making revenge porn or threatening revenge pornography a prescribed sexual offence entitles victims to a number of extra layers of protection. These include: allowing for the proceedings to be held in a closed court while a victim of revenge pornography, or of any prescribed sexual offence, is giving evidence; providing the option to give evidence via CCTV, or other alternative arrangements; and allowing complainants to have a support person present while giving evidence. Often, victims in the witness box are called upon to examine and to comment on intimate imagery of themselves, including during intensive cross-examination regarding the context of the intimate content.

While these offences do not necessarily involve the occasion of a physical assault, they are still deeply traumatic for the victim—a victim who is, statistically, going to be a girl or a young woman. These offences involve a deep trespass against the victim and often cause lasting harm, and we should do what we can to ensure that the court experience does not deepen those wounds any further. The extent of harm that can be caused by revenge pornography was outlined by the Advocate for Children and Young People, at that time Andrew Johnson, who told the committee:

The non-consensual redistribution of sexts can cause significant harm to the victim, affecting the young person's wellbeing, health, school, employment, family and peer relationships. Young people may find themselves the victims of humiliation, bullying, harassment, threat, punishment (from school and/or parents) and criminalisation.

The changes to the legislation will offer victims of revenge pornography the same protections as victims of other sexual offences while participating in the criminal justice system. That is an appropriate step to support them through a very difficult time. I am also glad to see amendments to the Act which will further strengthen the court's ability to make restitution orders related to the distribution or threatened distribution of intimate images. The amendments will ensure that victims who have suffered fear and trauma as a result of threatened revenge porn are able to access the same remedy as those who have had intimate images distributed without their consent. The court will also be able to make orders which prevent future threats from being made with images in the offender's possession.

I remember going over the submissions to the inquiry on this topic as a member of the Committee on Children and Young People. It made for harrowing reading. The lasting impacts of revenge pornography are still not completely understood, but the position we in this Parliament must take is absolutely clear. The sharing of intimate images without consent is never acceptable. The distribution of those images in order to get back at an ex-partner is a disgusting act. Those who violate this law should be prosecuted and those who have been violated should be protected. I am pleased that the bill will strengthen legislation relating to these crimes and go some way towards better protection.

I also note the efforts in the bill to clarify the role of children's champions in all the relevant stages of investigation and prosecution. As I have outlined, the court process, especially from within the witness box, can be confusing and retraumatising for victims, and this can be compounded for children. Children's champions are there to assist young witnesses to give their best evidence, ensuring that questions put to child witnesses and the



answers they provide are understood by all parties. They work to make sure that the child's developmental or communicative needs are met, and they have a duty to the court to impartially facilitate communication with the witness so that they can provide their best evidence. An amendment in the bill will remove legislative ambiguity about the role of a children's champion throughout the investigative and prosecution processes, and that is a step forward in supporting young witnesses.

The bill will amend the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act to provide an express power for entry and inspection of the residences of authorised carers, those applying to become authorised carers and prospective guardians. I note that those powers are subject to consent for prospective guardians and those applying to be an authorised carer, but it is a condition of authorisation that home inspections are undertaken for those with a child in their care. The aim of the amendment is to ensure that carers, applicants and prospective guardians are providing a safe and secure environment for a child. This is a continuation of efforts to transfer the provisions of the Child and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation into legislation. The ongoing project is also reflected in the insertion of an express power into the Children's Guardian Act to manage information for the purposes of registers kept by the Children's Guardian. It is a necessary step in the establishment and operation of the new register of residential care workers. That express power will secure the flow of information necessary to protect the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people in out-of-home care. I join my colleagues in not opposing the bill.

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (14:59:12):** I support the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020, in particular the proposed changes to the Criminal Procedure Act which will further support the admissibility of tendency and coincidence evidence. Two of the provisions in those changes signify the completion of the important work that the New South Wales Government has undertaken in response to the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in relation to tendency and coincidence evidence. The royal commission was a significant and groundbreaking inquiry conducted over a five-year period. It examined the experiences of people affected by child sexual abuse in an institutional context and revealed the extent of the horrific abuse that has occurred within this nation. The royal commission received more than 42,000 calls and over 25,000 letters. It also held more than 8,000 private sessions as well as 57 formal public hearings and heard evidence about the abuse of children from over 1,200 witnesses.

The royal commission released a criminal justice report in August 2017 and a final report that was presented to the Governor-General in December 2017. The final report contained 409 recommendations, 85 of which had already been made in the criminal justice report. The significance of the work done by the royal commission and the value of the comprehensive response of the New South Wales Government to its recommendations is to be commended. Eight recommendations were made relating to tendency and coincidence evidence that sought to facilitate greater admissibility and cross-admissibility of these types of evidence and more joint trials in child sexual offence proceedings. They are detailed at recommendations 44 to 51 of the criminal justice report.

The Evidence Amendment (Tendency and Coincidence) Act 2020, which passed in June 2020, has already introduced provisions to ensure greater admissibility of that evidence. In doing that, the New South Wales Government became the first uniform evidence law jurisdiction in the nation to implement those reforms. The reforms were developed in consultation with stakeholders through a New South Wales-led Council of Attorneys-General working group.

The bill will further achieve the objectives of the royal commission by ensuring that tendency and coincidence evidence will be able to be more readily relied upon by a jury when determining the guilt of an accused. Specifically, the bill will implement recommendation 48 through a provision which clarifies that a jury should not be directed as to the standard of proof required in relation to tendency and coincidence evidence. It will also support recommendation 44 by reforming the law to "facilitate greater admissibility and cross-admissibility of tendency and coincidence evidence and joint trials". While there was not a specific recommendation for a legislative presumption in favour of joint trials made by the royal commission, the reforms on tendency and coincidence evidence in the bill reflect "the sentiment that there should be more joint trials", as expressed in the royal commission's criminal justice report.

These reforms together with the reforms made by the Evidence Amendment (Tendency and Coincidence) Act 2020 will have an important impact upon prosecutions, especially child sexual offence prosecutions. The admissibility of tendency and coincidence evidence can often impact whether a joint trial is held to determine charges against an accused by multiple complainants. That is because a joint trial is less likely to proceed where tendency and coincidence evidence is not cross-admissible. If a joint trial is not held, often not all evidence is able to be adduced in order to convey the full picture of the accused's alleged criminality to a jury, which can also make it particularly challenging for complainants to give evidence and strip them of the opportunity to be afforded

a sense of mutual support for one another. These reforms continue to strike an appropriate balance between all parties in criminal proceedings, including the right to a fair trial and the rights of victims to be supported by the justice system. The bill represents the final step in a strong and effective response to the recommendations handed down by the royal commission. I am pleased to support the bill and these provisions.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:04:46):** I make a contribution on behalf of The Greens to debate on the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020. The bill makes a number of technical but important changes. The Greens support the bill, but flag that David Shoebridge will move amendments in relation to sections 1.6 [1] and [6] to propose that provisions around alternatives to prisons are offered to as many offenders as possible. I note that he will also address in more detail the provisions around tendency and coincidence, which previous members have also outlined. I particularly reference the proposed amendments to the definition of "prescribed sexual offence" in the Criminal Procedures Act 1986 to include changes to sections 91P, 91Q and 91R of the Crimes Act 1900. I also note the proposed amendment to section 91S of the Crimes Act 1900 to include a reference to section 91R. This would allow a court to order that a person found guilty of an offence under section 91R must remove, retract, recover, delete or destroy an intimate image.

The Greens strongly support increased protections for victims of so-called revenge porn and for those in situations where threats have been used to use intimate images. One of the most significant improvements in the bill covers situations where someone threatens to use images. Currently, this is not an offence and there are no proceedings or take-down orders available in relation to threats around this. This fix is very welcome and will have a huge impact on many people's lives.

The law has lagged significantly behind community attitudes regarding recognising the seriousness of these offences, as well as the need to protect those who have been victimised by these types of threats and appalling behaviours. We have heard way too many stories in the media of people, particularly young women, seeking to raise the unauthorised and malicious distribution of personal images with police yet not receiving an appropriate response. In some cases, the lack of sensitivity with which these matters have been handled demonstrates insufficient training on the matter. It is hoped that these changes will not only send a message outlining the changes that are required and emphasising the respect that needs to be shown to the victims of these threats and offences, but also that they will send a clear message to all in the justice system, including those on the front line, highlighting just how serious these offences are.

The Greens support necessary measures that will take out of circulation and away from the offender an image that was either shared or threatened to be shared. Beyond the scope of the current bill, service providers need to promptly and permanently remove such images from their platforms, and stop subsequent transmissions. It is not enough to look just at the offender—the service providers as well as those who put these images onto other platforms for subsequent transmission also need to be looked at. There should be alternatives to the police and the criminal justice system for victims who are either unwilling or unable to go through these traumatising systems. These alternatives could be funded and independently run through a privacy commissioner, or through another statutory authority. This would increase the likelihood of justice being done, with images and offences being taken care of outside of traditional systems.

It is important to recognise that while these threats and attacks can impact all people in the community, women in particular bear the brunt. We are sick to death of the damage they do. We are sick to death of the threats of harm that the system and the systems that support it make on women's ability to participate in society. We are sick to death of the intimidation, harassment and fear that is waged upon us when we seek to engage in public debate and interact with our friends, communities and families. It is important to recognise that while these threats of harassment, intimidation or aggression are made by individuals, it is individual women who are the victims. The systematic failure of our systems—the justice system and the laws, and government policies and processes—has prevented any progress on this matter. Violence towards women, as well as their harassment and intimidation, demonstrate that there is something very sick and wrong with our society. It is a failure of the laws that have been put in place to create and entrench patriarchy and inequality in our society that perpetuate a lack of respect for women regarding these issues.

These changes are welcome and essential. However, we need to recognise that, while there are still women who face these real and present dangers every day but feel uncomfortable and unsafe to report them through the formal channels, the police or other mechanisms of the justice system because they do not have faith in the patriarchal structure that has oppressed women for so long, other avenues are available. We should be telling women to be angry about this. We should continue to call this out. Threats to women's participation in society when patriarchal systems that oppress women are in place need to be called out, and I will continue to call them out in this place.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (15:11:46):** I make a contribution in support to debate on the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020. In particular, I highlight the

amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 to clarify the role of a children's champion, also known as a witness intermediary. In 2015 the Government made a commitment to pilot a specialist child sexual offence evidence pilot. This included the introduction of children's champions to facilitate communication with child witnesses through the trial process and an expanded use of prerecorded evidence in criminal court proceedings. The pilot commenced on 31 March 2016. In 2019 it was extended until June 2022 and renamed the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Program. The program operates in two locations: the Newcastle District Court and the Sydney District Court at the Downing Centre. It targets child sexual offence witnesses who are under the age of 16, as well as those aged 16 or 17 who have communication difficulties. The program aims to reduce the trauma experienced by child witnesses in the criminal justice process while preserving the rights of an accused to a fair trial.

A children's champion is appointed by the court to assist with the communication needs of a child witness. They are accredited professionals from primary disciplines, including speech pathology, social work, psychology, teaching and occupational therapy. Their role involves assessing a child's communication needs prior to giving evidence; communicating to the witness questions put to them, if needed; communicating to a person asking a question the answers given by the witness; and also explaining such questions, so far as necessary, to enable them to be understood by the witness, or the person in question.

A children's champion is not a support person. Rather they are an independent officer of the court who has a duty to impartially facilitate the communication of and with the vulnerable witness so the witness can provide their best evidence. Children's champions provide assistance at all stages of the child giving evidence and play an important role in the trial process. A child's evidence-in-chief usually consists of a prerecorded interview with police which is then played in court by the prosecution once a trial has commenced. The content of the video serves as a substantial part of the evidence-in-chief, if not all of it.

Although the children's champions' involvement at the police interview stage is a well-established practice that was anticipated from the commencement of the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot, the legislation does not currently specifically discuss the use of children's champions in police investigations or interviews. On occasion this has led to a lack of clarity as to whether a children's champion who was engaged at the police interview stage may be used at trial. The amendment to clause 89 of schedule 2 to the Criminal Procedure Act contained in this bill will make clear that a person is not prevented from being appointed as a children's champion for a witness during the trial proceedings if the person assisted as a children's champion during the investigation stage. This amendment will ensure that the policy intent of children's champions' involvement in the Child Sexual Offence Evidence Program can be met and the established practice is affirmed.

This amendment in this bill will provide an unambiguous legislative basis for the children's champion to be involved at the police interview stage, it will ensure consistency for the child and it will ensure that the questioning of a child in their police interview is subject to the same guidance that is provided to a court. This amendment will enable a children's champion to interact appropriately with a witness in a professional capacity prior to being appointed by the court and will improve the quality of the evidence before the court to the benefit of all participants in proceedings. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:16:44):** I make a brief contribution to the Stronger Communities Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020. I acknowledge that it is not being opposed by those opposite. I also acknowledge the presence of the Attorney General in the Chamber. I congratulate the members for the electorates of Seven Hills, Oatley and Camden. I also congratulate the member for Hawkesbury on her excellent contribution. I welcome the opportunity to speak in support of the bill. In particular I will speak about the amendments to section 27 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999.

Currently section 27 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act sets out eligibility related to victim impact statements for various types of courts and jurisdictions. However, the Children's Court is not listed. Instead section 33C of the Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987 provides that the provisions of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act which relate to victim impact statements apply to any offence dealt with by the Children's Court as if it were the Local Court. As a result, the Children's Court regime for victim impact statements is subject to the same limitations as those set for the Local Court, namely, that a victim impact statement can be made in respect of certain eligible offences but it cannot be made in respect of strictly indictable offences.

Victim impact statements play an important part in the criminal justice process, giving victims a voice and providing them with the opportunity to explain to the sentencing court the impact and harm an offence has had on them. Schedule 1.6 [8] to the bill will amend section 27 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act to clarify that victim impact statements are admissible in the Children's Court for the same offences as in the Local Court. The Children's Court also hears and considers strictly indictable offences. However, the Local Court does not hear strictly indictable offences. Therefore the amendment will extend to strictly indictable offences heard in the Children's Court, consistent with their availability in the District Court and Supreme Court.

This will maintain consistency with the Local Court's victim impact statements regime as far as practical while expanding the Children's Court's victim impact statements regime to include strictly indictable offences. This will resolve what appears to be an unintended consequence of matching the Children's Court's victim impact statement regime to that of the Local Court, where strictly indictable offences are not dealt with. This amendment will also remove the potential for irregular or inconsistent interpretations of existing legislation by expressly providing for Children's Court victim impact statement eligibility in section 27 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act. This will allow provisions related to victim impact statements for all jurisdictions to be set out in one Act. This will reduce complexity and ensure that the victim impact statement legislative regime is clear and consistent.

In conclusion, I am very pleased to support the amendments in this bill. I acknowledge the Attorney General and the great work of both him and his team, which will make the victim impact statement regime clear on the face of the legislation and resolve what appears to be an unintended consequence of matching the Children's Court victim impact statement regime to that of the Local Court. It will also ensure that victims of strictly indictable offences are not prevented from giving victim impact statements in the Children's Court. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (15:20:24):** In reply: I thank the members for the electorates of Liverpool, Seven Hills, Prospect, Oatley, Charlestown, Camden, Newtown, Hawkesbury and Terrigal for their contribution to the debate. The member for Liverpool expressed concerns about the scope of take-down powers, also known as rectification orders, for intimate image abuse offences under section 91S of the Crimes Act 1900, including the ability to order the removal of an image posted by a third party. Currently section 91S gives a court the power to order a person to remove, retract, recover, delete or destroy an intimate image when that person has been found guilty of an offence under section 91P, to record intimate image without consent, or section 91Q, to distribute intimate image without consent.

This bill proposes to extend this order to include the circumstance where a person convicted of offences under section 91R, to threaten to record or distribute an intimate image, may equally have those images available to distribute or upload. This reform is directed at court powers and responses to offences established under New South Wales laws. Any person who has distributed an image without the consent of the person is liable to prosecution under the Crimes Act. They do not need to be the person who actually generated or recorded the image. Sharing it via social media, for example, knowing that the person depicted did not consent or reckless as to whether they consent would make that person liable to prosecution.

However, there are other avenues available to a person who is a victim of intimate image abuse to ensure the removal of an image outside of the criminal justice system in New South Wales. These steps can be instigated at any time. On 31 August 2018 the Enhancing Online Safety (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Act 2018 commenced and introduced take-down powers for intimate images for the eSafety Commissioner. The Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 now provides a civil penalties scheme that allows the commissioner to help with the removal of intimate images or videos from online platforms. Complaints can be made by individuals to the eSafety Commissioner under sections 19A and 19B of that Act to report image-based abuse. This is easily accessible via an online form on the eSafety website.

The eSafety Commissioner can issue removal notices requiring a social media service, electronic service, internet service, hosting service or end user of a social media service to remove an intimate image. Failure to comply with a removal notice attracts a civil penalty of 500 penalty units or \$111,000. In the event that an offender who is prosecuted for intimate image offences in New South Wales has already been subject to a removal notice, section 91S of the Crimes Act provides the court with enough flexibility to take this into account and may only order for the image to be deleted after ascertaining that it has in fact been removed.

The member for Liverpool asked that I provide a report relating to the indictable process review being conducted by the Chief Judge of the District Court, the Hon. Justice Derek Price, AM. This review remains ongoing and is in relation to case management and jury processes in criminal proceedings in the District Court and Supreme Court. The purpose of the review is to reduce delays by streamlining the process for dealing with serious criminal matters. The Department of Communities and Justice is assisting the Chief Judge with his review of possible reforms in case management and jury processes, focusing on improved procedures to ensure trial readiness, better pre-trial case management, the potential for new technology to assist efficiency and case management, simplifying decision-making processes for juries and examining potential for limiting jury use in certain circumstances.

The review builds on 2018 reforms to encourage early appropriate guilty pleas and measures to reduce the workload of criminal matters in the district and supreme courts. The outcome of the first stage of the review, namely with respect to case management, is publicly available in District Court Practice Note 18. The review

included targeted consultation with legal stakeholders to discuss the issues and complexities of case management and to identify areas that could benefit from further court oversight. The reforms in the bill at schedule 1.8 [4] to [7] will support the actions taken by the Chief Judge in ensuring more effective pre-trial case management in the District Court.

I briefly clarify one aspect of the joint trial reforms following comments by the member for Liverpool, who observed that, currently, when the prosecution is permitted to rely on different counts on an indictment as cross-admissible tendency evidence, it would be rare for the counts not to be tried together on the same indictment. However, I note that where the prosecution is not permitted to rely on the counts as tendency or coincidence evidence, the counts on the indictment would ordinarily be severed and would proceed as separate trials. This amendment applies to both of these situations, so that there will be a presumption in favour of a joint trial whether or not the prosecution is ultimately permitted to rely on the evidence as tendency or coincidence evidence.

This reflects the royal commission's sentiment that joint trials should be more common, as well as promoting a more efficient use of time for the courts, the prosecution and defendants. The bill is an important part of the Government's regular legislative review and monitoring program. Many of the amendments in the bill are important steps towards further strengthening our justice system. They address gaps in the law, support procedural improvements, particularly in relation to court processes, clarify uncertainty and correct errors in legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

### Third Reading

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

## SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT (VENUES NSW) BILL 2020

### Consideration in Detail

#### Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.

*Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 15 October 2020*

##### No. 1 **OPP No. 1 [c2020-144D]**

Page 4, Schedule 1[10], proposed section 15(2)(d), line 37. Omit all words on that line.

Insert instead—

- (d) 1 person who resides in the Hunter Region,
- (e) 1 person who resides in the Wollongong Region,
- (f) at least 6, but not more than 8, other persons.

##### No. 2 **PHON No. 1 [42]**

Under Part 3 Venues NSW, Division 1, after section 15 (2) at page 4 of the Bill, add 15 (3) as follows:

15(3) The Board of Venues NSW is responsible for the major sporting facilities in NSW and in particular, the unique heritage and historical role of the Sydney Cricket Ground (since 1854), Sydney Cricket Ground Trust (since 1875) and Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust (since 1952) in the sporting and civic life of the State, when, at various times, the SCG has been the primary home of:

- (a) Cricket: Inter-colonial, Test Match, Sheffield Shield and limited-over international and domestic;
- (b) Rugby League;
- (c) Rugby Union;
- (d) Soccer/Football;
- (e) Australian Football;
- (f) Cycling;
- (g) Baseball; and
- (h) Athletics, hosting the 1938 Empire Games.

And home to military recruitment and barracks during World Wars One and Two; also served as the principal location for the 1901 Australian Federation celebrations; and through the work of the SCG Trust, contributed heavily to charitable and civic-minded causes in NSW.

No. 3 **OPP No. 2 [c2020-144D]**

Page 5, Schedule 1[10], proposed section 17, lines 16–19. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

Persons may be employed in the Public Service under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* to enable Venues NSW to exercise its functions.

**Note.** Section 59 of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* provides that the persons so employed (or whose services Venues NSW makes use of) may be referred to as officers or employees, or members of staff, of Venues NSW. Section 47A of the *Constitution Act 1902* precludes Venues NSW from employing staff.

No. 4 **OPP No. 7 [c2020-144D]**

Page 6, Schedule 1[10], proposed section 19(1)(j), lines 16–19. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 5 **PHON No. 2 [42]**

Part 3A Advisory Committees

At page 9 of the Bill, **after 21E add:**

21F Advisory Committee: Sydney Cricket Ground Heritage

Venues NSW must, within 6 months of the commencement day, establish a body to be known as the 'SCG Heritage Trust', advising the Minister and Venues NSW on:

- (a) The preservation and public promotion of the unique sporting and civic history of the SCG;
- (b) Proposed changes in the design, amenity and management of the SCG that may affect its heritage values;
- (c) Harnessing the skills and interests of historians and sporting enthusiasts to further develop the historical record and status of the SCG; and
- (d) The custodianship of the highly significant historical role and contribution of the SCG Trust.

Members of this advisory committee must be appointed on the basis of their well-established and meritorious sporting, administrative or research/published association with the ground.

No. 6 **OPP No. 4 [c2020-144D]**

Page 13, Schedule 1[14], proposed section 30AJ, lines 6–18. Omit all words on those lines.

Insert instead—

**30AJ No change to dedicated lands except by Act of Parliament**

The dedication of the scheduled lands cannot be revoked, changed or abolished unless it is done by an Act of Parliament.

No. 7 **OPP No. 5 [c2020-144D]**

Pages 33–34, Schedule 1[27], proposed clause 35, line 30 on page 33 to line 20 on page 34. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 8 **OPP No. 6 [c2020-144D]**

Page 34, Schedule 1[27], proposed clause 36(1), lines 22–23. Omit "to reconstituted Venues NSW under this Division—".

Insert instead "under clause 34—".

No. 9 **OPP No. 7 [c2020-144D]**

Page 35, Schedule 1[27], proposed clause 36(2) and (3), lines 1–21. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 10 **OPP No. 8 [c2020-144D]**

Pages 37–39, Schedule 2, line 1 on page 37 to line 14 on page 39. Omit all words on those lines.

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education) (15:27:38):** I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

This is an important reform for New South Wales and while I have reservations about some of the amendments, it is better we accept them and proceed with the reform for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. To recap, we are merging the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and Venues NSW to create a new entity called Venues NSW, which will manage New South Wales' major sporting and entertainment venues in Sydney, western Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. For the first time we will operate these venues as a single network. We will bid for major national and international content with one voice. We will have increased flexibility to place the right events in the right venue at the right time. We will have a single, best practice governance regime.

Because of the size of this network, we accept the desire to have dedicated board members from the Wollongong and Hunter regions. That is amendment No 1. We also support amendments No. 2 and No. 5 which recognise the historic contribution and legacy of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust. Venues NSW will establish an advisory committee to preserve this legacy and tell the story to future generations. Amendment No. 3 and related amendments Nos 7, 8 and 9 will make the new Venues NSW a government sector employment agency. We proposed that the new agency be outside the Government Sector Employment Act to give it more commercial flexibility; however, the Government Sector Employment Act has a lot of flexibility built in and I am sure this will be workable.

Amendment No. 6 is a more problematic amendment. It will require an Act of Parliament before new lands can seek planning approval for commercial or residential development. We had proposed a more flexible and nimble approach where the Minister would approve initiation of a planning process. Venues NSW would then have to move through the normal Environmental Planning and Assessment Act processes and safeguards, which involves appropriate planning processes, zoning and community consultation. Even Opposition members acknowledge in their speeches the need to have measured development of this kind to create vibrant precincts. We look forward to working with the local members and in due course bringing the proposals back to Parliament.

The final amendment, No. 10, removes a proposal to allow Sydney Olympic Park Authority to divest itself of assets. This was never about destroying the Olympic legacy but avoiding a time bubble where assets are assigned to an agency, but can never be moved to another government agency. I acknowledge and commend my Chief of Staff Nicolle Nasr, Office of Sport CEO Karen Jones and Office of Sport Executive Director Feargus O'Connor for their hard work and dedication to bringing the legislation to the House. I also acknowledge and commend The Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and Venues NSW, and the interim advisory board members who contributed much to the legislation: Mr Tony Shepherd, AO; Mr Ian Hammond; Mr Rod McGeoch, AO; Ms Christine McLoughlin; Mr Alan Jones, AO; Mr John Quayle; Mr Tim Reardon; and Mr Mike Pratt, AM. As an effective working party we have delivered this reform in the interests of the people of New South Wales.

**Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (15:31:40):** I thank the Minister and his staff for the collegiate approach they took to the Sporting Venues Authorities Amendment (Venues NSW) Bill 2020. Where we could reach common ground we tried to reach common ground. There are some important reforms of the legislation to protect these important sporting precincts' lands and the lands under the Sydney Olympic Park Authority under its head lease agreements. At the end of the day, as Western Sydney Stadium showed us, the Government undertook master plan processes and started the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements and the environmental impact statements processes then brought the legislation back to the Parliament. At that point it was clear what the Government's intention was. We think the protection of Parliament for any residential or commercial development on what is very important public lands protected by legislation and scheduled by this House should remain part of the Act. I thank all those who put their time and effort into the bill.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Private Members' Statements*

**JODIE AMOR**

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (15:33:21):** I pay tribute to an amazing local Hawkesbury lady, Jodie Amor, for founding and dedicating immense effort to the charity Pink Finss that supports women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and their families. The charity recently raised \$50,000 through Jodie running 10 kilometres per day for 10 days to celebrate over 10 years of the charity's great and important work in our community. This is a wonderful achievement and reflection of Jodie's dedication to women diagnosed with breast cancer and their families. In total, the charity has raised over \$1.5 million since its inception. This has enabled the charity to financially assist over 150 women and their families. As well as the financial assistance, the charity has provided a network and has been the catalyst for community support for the women and their families.

Jodie's journey towards this charity involved her own diagnosis with breast cancer in October 2007. Thankfully she overcame it. During that time she joined a gym and entered the eight-kilometre Mother's Day Classic walk and the 2008 "Tri Pink" triathlon. Jodie and other people who shared her values started to raise money at each triathlon, which they put towards breast cancer research. After Jodie finished her cancer treatment, she and her friends started the Pink Finss charity. She saw through her own experience that it is vital for women who are diagnosed and their families to have a local support group where they can share their hopes, fears and dreams. The Pink Finss charity therefore has three main missions: to create a supportive environment for any woman who is currently suffering from breast cancer; to raise awareness of breast cancer and its effects, while

encouraging all women to be breast aware and have regular check-ups; and to raise money that will be spent primarily on local Hawkesbury women suffering from breast cancer and their families.

What a blessing it is to have Jodie and all those involved in this charity provide financial, emotional and any other method of support that the women and their families need in these tough times. Whenever times are tough in Hawkesbury, whenever individuals and their families are going through certain situations, it is wonderful to know that there are people like Jodie who dedicate their own time and effort to do all they can to assist. I also commend the Hawkesbury community as a whole for contributing to Pink Finss over the 10 years. I remind my Hawkesbury constituents who are going through ill health or any other unfortunate situations that regardless of the issue, there are people like Jodie who care for their health and wellbeing and will do anything in their capacity to assist, whilst motivating others in the community to assist in any form they can too. It is truly an honour to represent a community that includes people such as Jodie Amor. I thank her and all those who play a role supporting the charity and wish them all the very best as they go forward.

### YOUTH SUICIDE

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (15:36:37):** Child suicide is devastating for everyone. Taboos with suicide, shame, guilt or blame compound family grief. This self-recrimination can continue indefinitely and hinders healing. Evidence shows that the most effective preventive is to teach our young that suicide is not the answer to their problems and that support is just a question and a conversation away. Children need to know that there is always someone who they can talk to and who will talk to them and help them find solutions to their problems. Whether it be a family member, a friend, a youth worker or a counselling telephone line, we want someone to always be there for kids. I am saddened to reveal that the Wallsend electorate has experienced a number of youth suicides. This year has been one of the worst school years on record for our young children. Obviously, we know why, and possibly it would be the same around the world. Bushfires, COVID and the subsequent economic and mental health fallout have been catastrophic, especially for year 12 students preparing for their HSC exams, which are starting today—good luck to them all.

The State's youth suicide rate is at its highest level in 15 years at 12.25 per 100,000—a total of 184 youth aged 15 to 19 dying by suicide in 2018. But when we compare our youth suicide rate with that of England and Wales, which have four times the population, we see they have very low numbers: just 5.7 per 100,000 and a total of 187 youth suicides in the same period. What is happening overseas that is working? England and Wales have a significantly lower rate of youth suicide than we do in New South Wales. There is something very different being done in England and Wales compared to New South Wales. What is it? Access to counselling is very important, but that is not the difference between New South Wales, England and Wales. There is currently no standardised access to counselling across England and Wales. What are they doing differently that results in a youth suicide rate that is almost one-quarter that of New South Wales? Why is it that our children in New South Wales do not speak out? Commonly, families say afterwards, "We didn't know that anything was wrong." That must be equally devastating from the parents' point of view.

Do we need to increase the number of counsellors in New South Wales? Would that lead to a reduction in suicide? There is no evidence that those who are suicidal necessarily are seeking counsellors, but we do not know. How many kids who suicided could have got to a counsellor? We are working with very poor data about the types of issues that children are facing: the issues that are geographically specific, the issues that are culturally specific, and the disparity in the level of services available. The counsellor-to-student ratio is a flawed metric that assumes equal distribution of mental health issues across student populations and locations. Particular regions, age groups and cultural groups have very specific issues that can significantly affect access to counsellors. We need to look at the model in the United Kingdom, get an understanding of it, look at what is effective there and work on that. I urge the mental health Minister and the education Minister to look at what is working in England and Wales. We need to do more to prevent youth suicide in our country and community and in New South Wales.

### PENRITH PANTHERS

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (15:41:31):** I stand today in the Parliament of New South Wales as a very proud member for Penrith. It is, after all, Grand Final Week and the mighty Penrith Panthers will be representing the Penrith community and, let us face it, New South Wales, because no-one really wants to see anyone from Victoria win a grand final this week. There is no doubt that the Penrith community is absolutely abuzz in the lead-up to the grand final. This has been an amazing run by an absolutely fantastic team—a wonderful group of young men who have inspired an entire community with the way they have approached this 2020 season. It has been the most disrupted of years. The things that people love the most—those simple joys of life of going down to your local football ground and experiencing grassroots football or even turning up to Penrith Stadium and watching your favourite team play—have not always existed.



In recent weeks we have seen people come back to the footy. We have seen the crowds there. I know seeing the Penrith crowd cheer with all of its might and all of its voice in the first home final inspired so many people across the community. It has been an absolutely remarkable season: 17 wins on the trot. I think it is the highest winning percentage of a team in the home and away season since that great St George team of the 1950s and 1960s. The Penrith Panthers have been superbly led as a club. Dave O'Neill, the chairman of the club, is so passionate about Penrith, about his rugby league and about this club. There has been outstanding leadership from him and the board. We all know that success on the field starts in the front office. It starts in the boardroom and it starts with developing the right culture across the club.

Brian Fletcher works closely with Dave to make sure that the business that makes the club work is going from strength to strength. Dave and Brian have both done an absolutely outstanding job. I congratulate both of them and all of the teams that work underneath them in the administration of this wonderful organisation on such a successful year and on getting our team into the grand final. What an amazing job Ivan Cleary and the coaching staff have done. Last night Ivan Cleary was identified as the Dally M Coach of the Year and the record speaks for itself. The coaching staff has been able to craft those young men into wonderful citizens and we can see it in the way they play their football. We can see it in the smiles on their faces, in the energy and enthusiasm that they bring to the field and in what they bring to their community. We can see they want to change the lives of people around them—whether it is their close family friends or the inspiration they provide to Panther fans every single time they are on the field. Ivan and his coaching staff, the high-performance team, the fitness coaches and everyone who has contributed day after day to make this group to be the absolute best it can possibly be have done an absolutely outstanding job.

I thank captain James Tamou for his leadership. I know he is leaving our club this year. He has left an indelible mark on our community, on the Penrith Panthers club and no doubt on many of the young players who have come through the system over many years and who now make up the bulk of this wonderful first grade side. This is, after all, sport—performance really counts. To the players who have been recognized as part of the Dally M team—Nathan Cleary, James Fisher-Harris, Issah Yeo, Viliame Kikau and Stephen Crichton—well done on being named as the best players in your position. You have been outstanding all year. You are the players who have lead our community and our team.

The team finished as minor premiers but there is still one more game to go. I know that every single person in the Penrith community will be cheering loudly for this team. They inspired us in 1991 and in 2003. I am incredibly confident that they will do it again when they walk onto ANZ Stadium and inspire another generation of people across western Sydney. They are an amazing group of people who have had an amazing season. One more game to go and everyone across Penrith will be behind them when the siren goes, when the national anthem is played and the hairs on the back of their necks stand up and when the first tackle takes place. We all know that this is a grand final for the ages. When the final siren goes, greatness will be there for the team that wins. I know, along with the rest of the members of my community, many people across western Sydney and regional New South Wales will want it to be the mighty Penrith Panthers. This week is all about Panther pride.

### SYDNEY PARALYMPIC GAMES

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (15:46:33):** It must be time to talk about great sport. On 23 October 1993 I remember when I was a teacher in western Sydney and I heard the announcement: The winner is ... Sydney! That was the beginning of our journey to the Olympic and Paralympic games in a city that hosted it for the first time ever in the Southern Hemisphere. In the lead-up to the games Adrienne Smith, a sporting inclusion activist, and also Ron Finneran, who lived with a disability and was the president of the newly formed Australian Paralympic Federation, put pressure on the Australian Government in its bid to actually include the Paralympic Games. It was only when that bid was announced that the games were agreed to be underwritten by the New South Wales Government.

On Sunday night it was my absolute joy to join a bunch of my teammates from those games online as we reminisced about what the games meant to us at the time and the impact it had on our city, families, friends and communities. We spoke of athletes signing autographs for many kids—one of my biggest joys was to sign so many shirts. Those young people did not ask what was wrong with that lady, they said "What sport does that person play?" At that stage they were kids, then they were employees and now they are the employers of the future. Those Paralympic Games set a precedent about access to our city and train lines but also about inclusion and possibility, rather than disability.

I am proud to say that I was at the opening ceremony in front of 6,000 performers, including my own heroes Kylie Minogue and Yothu Yindi at that stage. It was revolutionary. Their performances were so good that the Olympics used them in their closing ceremony. The 3,800 athletes with disabilities from around the world attended the second largest ever sporting event in Australia. It was a time for absolute change in our city. The Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee worked very closely beside the Sydney Olympic Organising

Committee Games for the first time ever in Paralympic history. At that time it was agreed that Paralympic athletes would have the same treatment, conditions and support as their Olympic counterparts, something that was unprecedented and is now the norm for the Paralympic Games.

The organising committee, with my good friends John Grant and Lois Appleby, did an amazing job being responsible for tickets. They opened up the gates for \$20 a day and people piled in. All the information about the event was about education and inclusion. They worked to convert the Olympic venues into Paralympic venues. They carried out drug testing. The broadcasting was awesome and the housing was accessible. They arranged the medal ceremonies. The transport was fantastic. They also set up the torch relay, which was designed to go to all the places from where people would come and cheer us on. It was a huge success. When I was at the entrance I remember being handed the torch by one of my students I was teaching at the time, Hannah Crowe, and I wheeled it in and lit the cauldron at the entrance and crowds of people then came down and watched the games.

I also recognise the member for Heathcote, Mr Lee Evans, who was responsible for organising the food hall for all the athletes. That food hall especially for the Paralympics was amazing. I saw people with no arms twirling spaghetti in their feet and eating it. I saw blind people in a line holding on to each other. It was a thrill to be there with such a diverse community. I remember the opening ceremony. Katrina Webb was an athlete with mild cerebral palsy who passed the torch to Louise Sauvage. For the first time ever at the Paralympic Games in Sydney someone with a disability—Louise Sauvage—became a household name. Louise raced in the Olympics and then raced again in the Paralympics.

I am proud to say it was called the best Paralympic Games ever by the President of the International Paralympic Committee. Australia won the medal count with 149 medals: 63 gold, 39 silver and 47 bronze. This is one of those silver medals. It is a bit bent and does not go quite straight but holy macaroni it has had a good time. We set a world record for ticket sales at 1.1 million tickets and the stadiums were full. It set a precedent for what is now the Paralympics around the world. The organising committee was very bold to support the Paralympians with such equity, but the people who came along and cheered us on, the volunteers who supported us, our team mates, the love and memories that are now part of our hearts is something that was given to us by the Sydney 2000 games. I thank everyone who was involved in this amazing event. It is lovely to be able to remember it. I think it also gave me a voice to be in this place. I thank the Paralympic movement. I will now wear my closing ceremony bucket hat out of the Chamber.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I congratulate the member for Gosford. We are all very excited to hear that she was able to celebrate virtually the twentieth anniversary of her participation in the Paralympic Games.

#### **MANNING BASE HOSPITAL**

#### **FORSTER PUBLIC HOSPITAL**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:51:57):** I seek support for funding both the Manning Base Hospital and Forster public hospital. It has been announced that \$100 million will be granted for the stage two redevelopment of the Manning Base Hospital and that clinical services plans are underway in relation to a public hospital in Forster. When a hospital is built, refurbished and redeveloped, a three-step process is involved. First is a clinical services plan; second is the detailed design of the hospital, for example, architectural and engineering drawings; and third is the delivery and construction of the hospital. The clinical services plan has been underway for some time now. It was delayed slightly by the COVID pandemic but is now complete. I am now calling on the Government to fund planning for the Manning Base Hospital and the Forster public hospital.

When the Government came to office, the Manning Base Hospital was about to lose its accreditation due to its lack of clinical services and the fact that it did not have a specialist to run the emergency department, amongst other things. Since then the Government has doubled the ongoing recurring funding of the hospital budget. For the first time ever it has now got two oncologists, a full-time anaesthetist and paediatrician. Several years ago the hospital could not attract a registrar—specialists do not want to go to a hospital if there is no registrar. It is a horse and cart situation. The professor in charge of anaesthetic has now set up a program and recently over 200 applicants applied for the 10 advertised positions as a registrar. That shows it is not just about the bricks and mortar; it is also about improving services, and that is what the Government has done. The stage one redevelopment of the hospital has been completed at a cost of \$40 million, with a new oncology ward, new renal dialysis ward and new medical imaging centre, and \$100 million has been allocated for stage two of the clinical services plan.

The community has been crying out for a public hospital at Forster for years—so much so that several decades ago the community raised funds themselves, purchased land in Forster and built the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital. It is leased by Health Care Australia, which does a fantastic job, but it is owned and was built by the community, with a board representing the community. The purpose was to have a precinct

set aside in case a public hospital was ever provided. Already, we have public renal dialysis chairs, public chemotherapy chairs and public rehabilitation beds. There are 69 beds, a rehabilitation swimming pool and pathology and X-ray services. A number of medical clinics and specialties surround that precinct. Attached to the hospital is about 32 vacant blocks of land and there is the airspace above.

Today I call for funding to at least begin the planning phase. The clinical services plan is done. Now let us move to stage two, which is the detailed design for Manning Base Hospital and the Forster public hospital. Let us get the funding for those. During the election campaign the Government made a commitment of \$100 million to Manning Base Hospital and a commitment for planning for the Forster public hospital. People ask me about that and I have said that nobody plans to plan for planning's sake. You plan to build something, and that is what we are going to do. I call for the funding now for the stage two redevelopment of Manning Base Hospital and planning for a public hospital in Forster.

**RICKY BUCHANAN**

**MID NORTH COAST TOURISM**

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (15:57:02):** I offer my most sincere congratulations to local Gumbaynggirr man from Bowraville, Ricky Buchanan, who was recently named as the Mid North Coast Local Health District Volunteer of the Year. Ricky is one of those special people who deserves this award, which he received at a special virtual Innovation In Health ceremony last month. As community chair of the Macksville District Hospital Aboriginal Community Reference Group, Ricky was heavily involved in the consultation and decision-making around aspects of the new hospital. He was also the keystone of the hospital street art and sculpture project—a collaboration of Indigenous and community groups which resulted in five major artworks adorning the hospital street. Ricky has been credited with the project's success. Without Ricky, the project would not have been possible.

At the award ceremony, Ricky's dedication and passion for supporting local health facilities was noted. His valuable volunteer contribution was evident in multiple initiatives supporting the new Macksville District Hospital. Ricky is a role model who inspires the next generation of Aboriginal people and encourages them to give back to their community. He has worked tirelessly for the community and the staff are thankful for his time, knowledge and support. Importantly, Ricky is seen as an enthusiastic young man and emerging leader. While the Macksville District Hospital is extremely lucky to have a volunteer of his calibre, it is important to note that the region is lucky to have such outstanding young Indigenous men in our community. Ricky has said his contributions are not slowing down any time soon, and one of his next goals is to have a hand in designing more localised cultural awareness training for hospital staff. I wish Ricky all the best in this next endeavour and look forward to watching him continue to make his mark in our region. With the leadership he clearly demonstrates, he is a popular—and handsome—young man who has a great contribution to make.

Increasingly we are seeing more visitations to the mid North Coast of New South Wales. People are exploring the beauty that we have—whether it is our beaches, mountains or waterfalls—and taking the opportunity to recharge within our communities. We have implored travellers and holidaymakers to support local businesses by booking accommodation, shopping in our holiday towns and dining at local cafes, clubs, restaurants and pubs—and using QR codes. Across the Kempsey shire, for instance, the school holidays provided a welcome boost for Macleay Valley holiday parks, with hundreds of people enjoying our beautiful beaches each day. The five Macleay Valley coast holiday parks on Crown land managed by Kempsey Shire Council were all booked out over the holidays and averaged 90 per cent to 100 per cent capacity. Having stayed at the Crescent Head and Hat Head parks during my Oxley electorate beach walk in September, I can confirm the management staff of those parks were excited about the bookings coming through.

Crescent Head Holiday Park has some magnificent new villas overlooking one of Australia's best surf breaks. Now there is caravan accommodation, camping sites and exquisite villas. Horseshoe Bay Holiday Park manager Nicole Wighton said the park at South West Rocks was full of activity over the holidays—including a visit from the member for Swansea, who goes to that holiday park every October in the school holidays. Nicole said that since the holiday park reopened to guests at the beginning of June it has had a high number of bookings. On top of that, the place is pretty much booked out until Christmas.

As we know, it has been a tough year for businesses with the drought, bushfires and COVID-19. It is great that many of them have taken the opportunity to bounce back and reap the benefits of the huge influx of tourists during the school holidays. I expect this will continue across regional New South Wales and Australia as we holiday at home, exploring our own backyards. We have a great opportunity to increase the capacity and options that tourists have in our communities, whether it is beach walks, waterfall tours or walks through gorges. We have an incredible natural wonderland and the opportunities can be built on with visitations in the short term while COVID has an impact on international travel. It also gives us the opportunity to be ready for more international

travellers in the future. I am pleased to see businesses that have struggled for some time rounding the corner as they look after holidaymakers.

### **HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:02:15):** I update the House on transport initiatives that are occurring in the Holsworthy electorate. Recently, I had the opportunity to announce that planning is underway to deliver approximately 250 additional commuter car parking spaces at Warwick Farm station, thanks to the Government's Commuter Car Park Program. The upgrade will provide a great benefit to my local residents—especially those in Chipping Norton, Liverpool and Warwick Farm. It is a project that I fought hard for. I was pleased that during the election campaign, along with Premier Gladys Berejiklian, I was able to announce the Government's commitment to providing it.

The proposal will seek to add two storeys to the existing multi-storey car park to provide those 250 additional spaces. It also seeks to add a new lift and extension of the existing lift, provide additional accessible parking spaces close to the station, install rooftop solar panels, have the provision for future electric vehicle charging spaces, provide new CCTV, lighting and wayfinding signage for improved safety and security, and build a new footpath through Hart Park to improve connectivity to the station. The investment will deliver benefits for hundreds of commuters and, importantly, will generate jobs in a range of fields including engineering, construction and administration roles. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the delivery of additional commuter parking at Warwick Farm station is being accelerated as part of the Government's Infrastructure and Job Acceleration Fund. The planning documents and concept design are currently online for local residents to view and comment on. I urge them to do so before Sunday 25 October 2020. Subject to planning approval, construction of the project is planned to begin next year and it is expected to be completed in 2022.

While planning is underway at Warwick Farm commuter car park, construction has also begun at Edmondson Park commuter car park. Once complete, there will be around 1,000 additional parking spaces for the public to utilise. That car park is expected to be completed and opened to the community in mid-2021. As we had to close some of the car park to construct these new spaces, we also constructed a temporary car park so that there was as little impact as possible to commuters who utilise this station. This was only the first stage of providing more parking at this station as we remain committed to providing up to 2,000 additional commuter car parking spaces at Edmondson Park station. Places for the remaining spaces are being finalised and more information will be available very shortly to share with the community and to get their feedback. Work is also underway for over 60 spaces to be opened at Casula next year. These spaces were closed down when the freight line was built for the intermodal. It is high time they were opened and the community was given a way to get there to enjoy those spaces again.

Since being elected to this place it has been my goal to see more commuter parking spaces available to the residents of the Holsworthy electorate. One of my happiest moments was being able to see the construction of 462 new commuter car parking spaces at Holsworthy station after it had been neglected for so long by the former Government. While these additional spaces were welcomed by our local community, I note that many residents from outside our area flocked to it and we were very quickly at capacity again. I had written to the Federal Government asking if some Australian Defence Force land could be utilised to build more parking, but unfortunately that idea was not able to go any further due to security concerns. Due to this, I had two main goals to alleviate the parking pressures at Holsworthy station. One was to advocate for more commuter car parking in my electorate but also across broader south-west Sydney. The second was to urge the Government to provide more on-demand bus services in our region. With the additional commuter car parking spaces being built at Edmondson Park, as well as Leppington and those under planning at Warwick Farm and at Casula, I hope this will relieve some of the pressure.

I have also written to the Minister for Transport and Roads, the Hon. Andrew Constance, requesting that the New South Wales Government investigate providing on-demand bus services for Holsworthy station for a service that includes at least Voyager Point, Wattle Grove, Holsworthy, Hammondville and Moorebank, and to extend the one operating at Edmondson Park to include Prestons as well, at a minimum. The one at Edmondson Park is quite possibly the best in the State. It is working so well, and I know that if Prestons were to be included it would be very well utilised. I am also glad to see the Mayor of Liverpool City Council has supported my calls to provide more on-demand bus services in our local area. I will continue to advocate for more public transport infrastructure and options for Holsworthy electorate residents, and I look forward to seeing the continued progress of our commuter car parks.

### **PROSPECT CREEK**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:07:25):** I commend the efforts of Mr Lachlan Hyde, with whom I met recently to discuss a proposal to rename Prospect Creek to the Lennox River. Lachlan has been active in

advocating for this change for our well-known waterway for quite some time, and it was interesting and enlightening to see the amount of research Lachlan has done into this particular matter. Currently named Prospect Creek, this particular waterway is in the Georges River catchment and runs through the local government areas of Blacktown, Holroyd, Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown. It is a beautiful stretch of water that winds its way through stretches of parkland, with many wildlife species residing contentedly in this river system.

In 2020 Lachlan submitted a proposal to the Geographical Names Board of NSW to upgrade a six-kilometre stretch of the Prospect Creek to river status. The proposal to rename this section to the Lennox River is in honour of Scottish-Australian David Lennox, who was the designer of Fairfield's iconic Lansdowne Bridge that crosses this waterway. Lachlan has been a fantastic advocate for the upgrade of Prospect Creek to river status. He has had many consultations with local residents near the waterway to hear their thoughts on the matter. His delving into the history of Prospect Creek turned up many interesting facts, including that the creek has been known by many different names over the course of time, such as "Prospect River" or "Fairfield's River". This goes to show that Prospect Creek shows many characteristics of a river and can certainly be seen to be "un-creek-like" in its nature. In fact, Prospect Creek seems to share the same characteristics of a river: wide and deep, with the possibility of being used by watercraft.

Lachlan's proposal to change the status of our creek has been thoroughly researched and he has taken into account the existing natural environment as well as the thoughts of many of the residents whose properties are near the waterway. Interestingly enough, throughout history residents have always referred to this particular stretch as a river, and it seems justified that a proposal of this nature should come up for discussion in the present day. In interviews with local residents, Lachlan found many of them surprised that this proposal had not been considered a long time ago, with many comments adamant about the creek's river-like characteristics. One resident commented:

My family have lived here in Canley Vale since before I was born and I don't think anyone has ever called it a creek. It's a river. Even when it floods, everybody here calls it a river.

Another resident commented:

My boys are often down here kicking a ball around or doing rugby training and I enjoy the parks and walk, which the river is a big part of.

Another resident stated:

We learned about the water in high school and I know it is a creek but it doesn't make sense. I walk over it most days and it seems like a river to me.

Lachlan has also included input from local historians, who have an important role with respect to relating the history of this particular area and waterway. The residents of Fairfield have always been very proud of the Lansdowne Bridge, a heritage-listed road bridge that carries traffic on the Hume Highway across Prospect Creek at Lansvale. I am also proud to note that this magnificent bridge has the largest span of any existing masonry bridge in Australia and is a fine example of Australian colonial architecture. It was constructed entirely by the labour of convicts and is considered a masterpiece of design.

It is fitting that the proposed stretch of river should be named after David Lennox, the designer and building supervisor of the Lansdowne Bridge. It is a fitting tribute to a man who contributed to the advancement of what was then a new colony. His superior design was made to last the distance and the evidence of this remains with us today when we cross the existing bridge. I commend Lachlan for his determination and for all the hard work he has put in so far in an attempt to make this proposal a reality. I look forward to this particular stretch of Prospect Creek receiving an upgrade to river status and to being able to refer to it as the Lennox River, a name change that is overdue and eagerly anticipated by the residents of Fairfield.

### **BEROWRA NETBALL CLUB**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (16:12:10):** I congratulate Berowra Netball Club, which marked 60 years of netball in our local community this year. Berowra Netball Club was started in 1960 when the Berowra soccer club president asked local resident Joan Olsen to find a sport girls could participate in. She managed to get two teams together that would travel by bus to play under the Eastwood Ryde Netball Association. As members can imagine, the players then did not have the amazing courts the players enjoy today. They would practice on the grounds of Berowra Public School, where courts would be drawn with sticks and the goals were made by one of the local dads. They would run into problems when the cattle from the adjoining property would come onto the grass and leave their calling card, which had to be cleaned up before practice. They also had a wide variety of teams they would compete against, including the inmates of Parramatta gaol, who would be escorted from the bus to their positions on the courts by the wardens.

As netball continued to rise in popularity, Hornsby council built an asphalt hardcourt, which could be used for home games. In 1969 Berowra was one of the first clubs to join the Ku-ring-gai Netball Association, whose courts at Turramurra and Pymble were closer to home. Since this time, Berowra has continued to grow from strength to strength. The box-pleat skirt has been replaced by a dress, and the courts and facilities have improved out of sight. I was pleased to assist it in 2014 with a \$30,000 grant as part of the upgrades to the courts at Warrina Street Oval. In 2016 I awarded a sports grant of \$2,000 for the purchase of equipment. With a passionate group of dedicated volunteers, this club has now grown to 28 teams that took the court this season. I was thrilled to hear that the club has been awarded the 2020 Large Club of the Year by Ku-ring-gai Netball Association. It is a well-deserved honour and an award the club previously received in 2017 and 2011.

While the focus is always on fun, the club has certainly had some success on the courts. Despite the shortened season this year, some 12 teams made the grand final, with six taking out the title. Last year it had 29 teams in total and, again, six grand final winners. They have also had a number of players go on to play in representative sides including Susie Davenport, Jenny Loftus, Stacey Doherty, Kate Tomlinson and Mel Soper, who played at district level and State league level, and Jemma Cornius, who played inter-district. Players who have made metro league include Laura Dunkley, Rachel Stephenson, Megan Gow, Amber Hart, Taela Marriott, Liesel Millard, Cassidy Grant, Alice Taylor, Emma, Nina and Tess Rigor, Samantha Hopkinson, Hollie Cameron, Mia Johnson and Karina Conolly. Kaye Scott, who started at Berowra, went on to the sport of boxing where she represented Australia in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Sandra Kamphuis has gone on to Netball NSW as part of the umpire development group.

Berowra Netball has been built on the hard work of many volunteers. I acknowledge current president, the amazing Mick Flarey. Mick has been at the helm for many years and has ensured the continued growth and success of the club. He is assisted by vice-president Gillian Boyd, secretary Debbie Smith, treasurer Kerstin O'Sullivan and registrar Shane Orre. Also on the committee are Christian Kelly, Leigh-Anne Hartwig, Tanya Crosswell, Carolyn Casali, Lisa Tutton, Alison Withford, Christine Blue, Michelle Rae, Letitia Watson-Ley, Marilyn McTaggart, Chantelle Brown, Michelle Steel, Karen Winter, Dana Summerhayes, Amy Dawson, Angeline Gaynor, Sophie Greenhalgh and Kaneeta Flarey.

Along with players, the club has had a number of nationally recognised umpires including Steve Cary, Sandra Kamphuis, Mike McCarthy, Tim Daley, Marilyn McTaggart, Colleen Parsonage, Lyne Dobson, Sophie Greenhalgh and Courtney Flarey. They have also had a number of members serve on the Ku-ring-gai Netball Association committee who continue to contribute to our local community. I also acknowledge those who have been awarded life memberships at the Berowra Netball Club. To receive life membership takes years of dedicated service. I thank Jenny Bentley, Shirley Clarke, Tania Hoy, Fay McKinnon, Mary Nicolson, Lillian Pombart, Jan Hardman, Edna Abbott, Michelle Steel, Kathy Staggs, Jan Garrard, June Kamphuis, Michelle Rae, Vicky Barry, Suzanne Hickman, Jan Jackson, Tina Tritton, Allyson Dunkley, Garry Cornius, Julie Goudie, Belinda Kelly and Gen Funk. I thank them all for their service to the club.

I will highlight some special life members of the Berowra Netball Club including the founder Joan Olsen, whose family has had three generations in the club, Jenny Bentley and granddaughters Karen Wallis and Lyn Shakeshaft. Colleen Parsonage, who joined the club 50 years ago, continues to coach, umpire and mentor. I congratulate Berowra Netball Club. I know they would have never guessed their sixtieth year would have seen such a shortened season—and sanitizer by the truckload. But thanks to their hardworking committee they got out on to the court and were able to play the game they love. I have no doubt there will be another 60 more great years for this amazing club.

### PICTON ROAD

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (16:17:23):** Yet again, I will speak about the state of Picton Road and the urgent need for upgrades to be financed in the forthcoming State budget and subsequent budgets. Many members probably have travelled along Picton Road as they made their way through south-west and western Sydney across the escarpment and catchment area, into the Illawarra and on to the South Coast. It is a vital economic corridor for the Illawarra region, providing a link from Greater Sydney to Port Kembla and the South Coast. I, along with my colleagues the member for Wollongong, Paul Scully, and the Federal member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, have long advocated for improvements for this important road corridor. In a former life I worked closely with former member for Keira and former Minister, the Hon. David Campbell, to deliver what was probably recognised as the first significant tranche of funding of Picton Road during 2007-08, approximately. That was a significant investment. I acknowledge that successive politically opposed governments have delivered funding for upgrading Picton Road.

But clearly, when over 20,000 vehicles use Picton Road every day, with around a quarter of that volume being heavy vehicles, the situation is reaching the stage at which the Government must bite the bullet and accept that Picton Road will need full duplication. As I have said previously, those vehicles are trying to make their way

to and from the port. Those who travel by car are trying to make their way to our great university and our wonderful region where people can enjoy their leisure time, the picturesque scenery and all that the Illawarra region has to offer. But with traffic volumes expected to grow along the corridor with population growth, particularly in south-west Sydney and at Port Kembla, the duplication of Picton Road will need to be done sooner rather than later. Upgrades to Picton Road have occurred and are welcomed, but clearly that is just not enough.

It is with great sadness that I inform the House that over the past few days another life was lost on Picton Road. A young life was taken far too soon. Ty Delaney, a constituent of mine who was a local artist and a Thirroul local surfer, was taken at just 26 years of age. The circumstances surrounding the accident on Picton Road are currently under investigation by the Metropolitan Crash Investigation Unit, but another family will never have their loved one with them again. Mr Delaney was deeply loved by all who knew him. A talented artist and a passionate surfer, he was a mate to all. It is tragic to hear news of any young person losing their life. I send my condolences and pay my respects to Mr Delaney's family, his friends and his community, who I know are experiencing tremendous pain at this time.

Both sides of politics must agree to make Picton Road a priority. I will continue to work with colleagues of all political persuasions to try to secure funding in the forthcoming State budget and in upcoming and future Federal budgets. This road corridor is simply not up to the job and requires significant upgrading to improve its overall safety and efficiency. I will continue to fight for the people of my community for these important upgrades. Picton Road will continue to be my focus. It is vital that necessary safety improvements are given priority. I have spoken to the Minister's office about this and I continue to advocate through written correspondence and speeches in this House. I will continue to make my feelings on this upgrade known publicly. I know that regardless of which political party occupies the Treasury benches, the upgrading of Picton Road must be a priority. It is not good enough that Picton Road has more than double the New South Wales average for the number of fatal and serious crashes per kilometre for similar types of roads.

The population expansion of south-western Sydney alone, with tens of thousands of people expected to move into the area over the coming decade, makes it imperative that further improvements are made on this road to meet the expected demands. The Illawarra Business Chamber, under the very astute leadership of Adam Zarth, has campaigned strongly for the road upgrade. I know my colleagues the member for Wollongong, the member for Shellharbour, the member for Kiama, the member for Heathcote and the member for Wollondilly also recognise the need for duplication of Picton Road—a road that links the Illawarra to the Southern Highlands. Picton Road is an important road and its improvement must be given high priority to ensure not only that we no longer hear of tragic accidents that each and every year take lives but also that the road can cope with population growth, particularly in the south-west traffic corridor. We must ensure a safe and efficient mode of travel is available between those two key economic areas.

### **ALBION PARK CROWS JUNIOR AFL CLUB**

#### **ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (16:22:52):** As members of the House are aware, I am proud to represent such a broad and diverse electorate in Kiama. From the city of Shellharbour in the north to the Shoalhaven in the south, I love being on the ground, meeting residents, working hard and getting results. Today I will focus my private member's statement on the north of my electorate and pay a special tribute to the Albion Park Crows Junior AFL Club. On Friday 9 October I was very pleased to visit the Albion Park Crows Junior AFL Club to present the club with funding for the purchase of new jerseys. I was extremely pleased to have secured this funding grant from the New South Wales Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. This is really fantastic news for the Albion Park Crows Junior AFL Club, and it will help the club to proceed with what the club does well—focus on training the kids and getting great outcomes for the club. I know that the purchase of new jerseys was warmly welcomed.

Albion Park Crows Junior AFL Club is a proud local club that encourages juniors and people of all ages to keep fit and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Last week I really enjoyed catching up with the team prior to their grand final competition. The new jerseys look as slick as the kids do on the field. Crows Juniors have had a very successful season with four teams making the finals in 2020, which is a super effort by all the kids, their coaches and the managers involved with these great junior teams.

A new era dawned on the Albion Park Crows on 26 July 2020 with a new strip, new ground, and the first AFL game on the ground—it lived up to the hype. I acknowledge president George Taylor, vice president Brad Browne, and secretary/treasurer Kristy Brown, Ian and Tracey McDonald, Buddy and Kylie, Nick Treanor and Jake who help with training and personal fitness, for all the work they do for the Albion Park Crows AFL Club. I acknowledge the following Crows junior players, Paris Giddings, Bethany Horton, Nicole Brown, Oliver

Burton and Emily Hollingsworth, who were all recognised in best and fairest categories. James Uitterlinden received the runner up for the Rising Star award for the Illawarra development squad. Great work!

Also a big congrats to all the Crows under 11s, which made the grand final. It was a wonderful effort. You have done our region extremely proud. Whilst you did not quite make it this year, there is always next year. I was delighted to catch up with the Albion Park Crows AFL Club juniors, coaches and club volunteers to present them with the funding that I mentioned. I look forward to going back again soon to work on the barbeque for the 2021 season. Go the mighty Crows!

When it comes to supporting sporting clubs in the north of my electorate, I have worked hard to secure funding for a range of local sporting clubs and community organisations in Albion Park, including the Crows Junior AFL Club; the Albion Park White Eagles Soccer Club, of which I am patron; Albion Park Rail Cricket Club; Albion Park Men's Shed; Albion Park Anglican Church; Mount Terry Public School; Albion Park Rail Public School; and, Albion Park High School. It is a tight-knit hardworking local community and I have been thoroughly impressed by the way local residents and our local RFS, SES, police and all local emergency services have stuck together and reached out to help others in need during the recent pandemic.

I could not talk about the north of my electorate without mentioning the Albion Park Rail bypass. Members of the House may recall that part of the Croome Road sporting complex needed to be moved to make way for the bypass. Our community has seen the completion and opening of junior rugby league fields, grass netball courts, 350 new formal parking spaces for the hockey, rugby league and netball precincts as well as the opening of about 800 metres of new shared paths throughout the complex. Work to reconfigure the Croome Regional Sporting Complex started in March 2018 and has included a new field for cricket and AFL, new grass netball courts, changes to the rugby league fields, recreational areas, new amenity buildings, and improvements to the hockey car park and southern entrance of the complex.

The finished product at this complex is a good outcome for the bypass project and will provide our local community with new facilities to be enjoyed for years to come. I note that some of the sporting clubs have suggested improvements to these facilities and I look forward to hearing further about how I can assist these organisations. I can report to the House that the Albion Park Rail bypass project is ahead of time and on budget. This is a project that will eradicate the only set of traffic lights between Bomaderry and Heathcote. Members of the House have heard me talk ad nauseam about highway improvements in my electorate and this is one of which I am incredibly proud. It will make a huge difference to locals not just in Albion Park but also throughout my electorate.

They will not be stuck in congestion. They will be able to decide what they want to do with their time, which is incredibly important. It is the largest infrastructure project currently underway in my electorate. It has been eclipsed recently with the announcement of the new Shellharbour Hospital, a \$700 million project that will generate around 2,800 jobs during the course of its construction. These investments make a real difference. It does not matter whether it is the smallest organisation or sporting club right through to major infrastructure, I will continue to work hard and get results for my electorate of Kiama.

#### CANTERBURY COUNCIL

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (16:28:06):** The shocking revelations of the ICAC's Operation Keppel public inquiry last week have again brought to the fore the pervasive influence of property developers on planning and politics in this State. The Operation Keppel corruption scandal engulfing the Premier has its roots in another ongoing ICAC investigation, Operation Dasha, which investigated whether public officials, including former councillors Michael Hawatt and Pierre Azzi, and former general manager Jim Montague dishonestly and partially exercised their official functions in relation to planning proposals and applications concerning properties in the Canterbury city council local area. I note evidence presented by Operation Dasha revealed then Bankstown mayor, councillor Khal Asfour, and Bankstown general manager, Mr Matthew Stewart, attended a meeting at the house of property developer lobbyist Mr Bechara Khouri in March 2016 to discuss the council's impending amalgamation.

Also in attendance were councillors Hawatt and Azzi, and Mr Montague. Given the Canterbury and Bankstown councils have since amalgamated to form one of the largest councils in New South Wales, and that councillor Asfour and Mr Stewart have retained their roles as mayor and general manager, this issue resonates strongly with my constituents in the Bankstown region. The ICAC's revelations are particularly timely given the number of concerns that have been raised about the haphazard manner in which planning matters have recently transpired in the Canterbury Bankstown local government area. I am particularly concerned about the degree of collaboration and negotiation that is taking place between local councils and property developers with respect to planning proposals, and the transparency of these conversations. One recent example is the decision last month



by the Canterbury Bankstown council to approve a highly unusual and contentious planning proposal at Chester Square to proceed to gateway.

The council was in discussions with the developer behind this planning proposal, Holdmark, for up to 18 months before any information about the plans were made public. In little over a month since the planning proposal was made public, it has been reviewed by the local planning panel and then approved to proceed by council, strangely, in defiance of the panel's directions to undertake more work before doing so and to undertake a master plan for the entire Chester Hill town centre. What was more disturbing was that during the council meeting some odd amendments were proposed that were not in the business paper. The mayor proposed that the developer should pay the council to undertake these works as a condition of the planning proposal. This raises serious concerns about the degree of involvement property developers are being afforded by this council in the master planning process and the planning proposal process.

At council's ordinary meeting on 22 September, the council passed a number of amendments to the recommendations that had been prepared by council staff on this planning proposal. These included that the council negotiate with Holdmark to obtain funding for the establishment of a community voice panel. Aside from the obvious concerns about the impact this funding might have on the probity of this panel, it is peculiar that this was moved as an amendment by the mayor, rather than as part of the report prepared by council staff. This raises concerns that the mayor, who attended Holdmark's site the day before the business paper for the ordinary meeting was published, may have had discussions with the developer, the mover, or his representative. The mover of the final motion, Councillor Charlie Ishac, was also in attendance at the developer's site that day, as was the council's general manager Matthew Stewart.

It is not clear what discussions took place on Thursday 17 September when the mayor decided to have a lunchtime meeting at the developer's site one day before this matter became an agenda item on the council business paper and five days prior to deliberating the matter before the council. These are all serious issues worthy of closer investigation. We are now witnessing the second ICAC investigation connected to the conduct of the former Canterbury council, and there are serious questions about what auditing of the council's dealings with property developers is taking place. The council has commenced its master planning process for Bankstown and Campsie, and as part of that process the council's local strategic planning statement suggests the council will enter into negotiations for "local developer contributions and works in kind". Given the history of this council and the associated Canterbury council, it is imperative that the government step in and look closely at the relationships that presently exist at this council.

### **GLEN INNES DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (16:33:05):** Recruiting medical staff to rural and remote hospitals is not a new problem, as many of us in this place know, nor is it one that is just isolated to communities in the Northern Tablelands. I have been campaigning on these issues since I first set foot into this place more than seven years ago, particularly in relation to the Glen Innes and Inverell hospitals. Glen Innes District Hospital services a population of around 8,000 people in the broader Glen Innes district, many of whom are elderly, vulnerable or are young farming families. The hospital has long battled to attract and maintain permanent doctors to work as visiting medical officers in the emergency department [ED], but particularly struggles on weekends.

General practitioners who are local to the community working in Glen Innes can visit their own patients in hospital, but are not available for work in the ED on a weekend; obviously they are busy running their own practices. Saturdays and Sundays pose a major problem for the hospital. Hunter New England Local Health District, too, often struggles to fill vacancies with locum doctors from outside the region. This was apparent on Thursday 24 September when I was forced to write urgently to the health Minister, Brad Hazzard, after finding out staff at Glen Innes hospital had been advised there would be no doctor at all on weekend duty for a period of six weeks. There would be six weekends in a row with no medical staff coverage of the Glen Innes District Hospital and the 8,000 people that the hospital services. In response to my representations, I was told that suddenly they had been able to fill most of those weekends and there were only two weekend shifts in October yet to be filled.

The vulnerabilities of not having a doctor on staff were tragically made apparent a month prior. On Saturday 29 August 2020 a terrible, tragic and very regrettable situation occurred when a local woman presented to the Glen Innes Hospital suffering from an aneurism. It is reported that the nurses on duty, with the support of paramedics who attended to the patient, provided medical treatment until the Westpac rescue helicopter arrived with its specialist team and doctor to transfer her to Tamworth Hospital. Tragically, she passed away after her arrival in Tamworth. While it would be improper for me to comment further on this case, it certainly has prompted a flood of emails from devastated constituents around the Glen Innes area questioning why there was no doctor at

the hospital, how often this is occurring and what has been the impact on the hardworking nurses and paramedics who attended the patient.

I thank those staff, and all the staff at Glen Innes Hospital, from the bottom of my heart for going above and beyond to look after the community in the face of difficult circumstances such as this. The pressure placed on the entire health system when one link in the chain is missing is enormous. I implore Hunter New England Health to develop a much better system to service our regional hospitals like Glen Innes, instead of one which relies on outside medical recruitment agencies to constantly fill the gaps. The system can be unreliable and often leaves communities like the ones in my electorate exposed if, for some reason, the locum who was rostered on gets sick or is suddenly unavailable.

It is understood that many health districts in the north of the State have been impacted by Queensland's COVID-19 hard border restrictions, with many doctors from Queensland who previously filled vacancies at hospitals in northern New South Wales unwilling to or prevented from travel into the State at this volatile time. I thank Minister Hazzard for his advocacy, along with many local MPs including myself, in liaising with and forcing the Queensland Government to ensure those barriers were removed. During periods with no doctors in the emergency department, telehealth services linking clinicians from Armidale to Glen Innes are available. While that is welcome and useful in some circumstances, nothing beats having a doctor there face to face, particularly when there is an acute medical presentation. In my opinion, we cannot allow telehealth to replace real-life medical practitioners in the bush. It is not the silver bullet and never will be. Our communities simply will not accept it and I certainly will not accept it for my community.

This goes to the heart of what is being called for in the planned \$20 million upgrade of the Glen Innes Hospital. It is my sincere hope that by using the money to create new staff and nursing quarters on site at the hospital we might be able to attract some new medical staff, including specialists, nurses and midwives and, of course, general practitioners who will service that hospital, particularly on those hard-to-fill days of Saturday and Sunday. It is important that we are not just plugging the gaps with visiting medical officers on rosters in our hospitals but that we have a sustainable and permanent workforce able to service Glen Innes Hospital all of the time. Again, my commitment to the community is that I will continue to fight to achieve that outcome.

#### **KU-RING-GAI DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (16:38:23):** A little over a month ago I spoke in this Chamber about the Ku-ring-gai draft housing strategy and how it proposed inappropriate heights of 20 storeys in Gordon and 15 storeys in Turramurra and Lindfield, and also proposed to extend higher density from the existing 500 metres to 800 metres from those town centres. How were these heights and densities ever seriously proposed in the first place in the housing strategy prepared by council? The short answer is that there is a fundamental mathematical error in the housing strategy which has allowed council to propose excessive new densities.

Prior to March the council and the Greater Sydney Commission agreed to a local dwelling target for Ku-ring-gai of 10,600 new dwellings from 2016 to 2036. I believe that target is too high, but there is insufficient time to explore that today. In my recent speech to Parliament I gave the history of how our current zonings were forced on our area by the Labor Government prior to the Coalition Government coming to office in 2011. There is a great under-utilised capacity within the current Labor zonings. The current zonings provide for already excessive 11-storey heights in Gordon and seven-storey heights in Turramurra and Lindfield, but to date virtually no buildings to those heights have been constructed. The housing strategy to 2036 curiously suggests there is virtually no excess in the existing zonings.

The Ku-ring-gai housing strategy is important because it could support spot rezonings by developers consistent with the housing strategy even if the zonings in the local environmental plan have not been changed. For that reason, any amendments to the strategy need to be carefully scrutinised before they are lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The draft strategy is long—596 pages in total—and consists of a 32-page housing strategy document, a less often read technical document that is 118 pages, and three appendices with a combined length of 446 pages.

As I have already said, there is a major error in the strategy, and the major financial beneficiary of that mistake and the proposed 20- and 15-storey heights that follow from it is Ku-ring-gai Council, whose property values in the town centres would more than double if the strategy is approved. The strategy states wrongly at page 17 that the current zonings will deliver only 2,680 dwellings. That is less than the 3,350 new dwellings predicted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in appendix 2 to council report GB.3 for the July council meeting.

The actual number of predicted dwellings to 2036 under existing planning controls can be found buried in the detail of the technical document at page 90, which states that under current planning controls the Ku-ring-gai

local government area [LGA] has a potential further 5,602 dwellings. Page 86 of the technical document references capacity studies contributing to the predicted 5,602 future dwellings and uses actual constructed dwellings or "take up" rates from the current zonings between 2004 and 2019. Unfortunately, only one of those capacity studies is an appendix to the technical document and that study only addresses part of the LGA.

The technical document wrongly concludes that the gap between the 10,600 target and what will be constructed under the current zonings is 5,058 dwellings, which is derived by subtracting predicted dwellings from the target. That is because the technical document at page 90 fails to give credit for the new dwellings that were actually constructed between July 2016 and January 2020, noted at page 86 to be 2,922 in number. That number must be added to the 5,602 future predicted dwellings because both count towards the local target of 10,600 from 2016 to 2036.

The consequence is that almost 80 per cent of the local target will be achieved from the existing zonings. The number of dwellings that will have to be provided up until 2036 from new zonings will be 2,136, not 5,058. That is less than one-fifth of the target. New zonings to create those dwellings will not be required until the last five-year period, commencing 2031—more than 10 years from now. I call on the mayor and all councillors to immediately commence an investigation into who is responsible for the error in the strategy which has wasted \$2 million of ratepayers' money and endangered the unique character of our area.

#### **SINILIA RADIVOJEVIC**

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (16:43:43):** I pay tribute to a remarkable woman who has dedicated more than 36 years in service to Cancer Council NSW and supported those who need it most. Ms Sinilia Radivojevic has been a volunteer with Cancer Council NSW since immigrating to Australia from Spain in 1984. Back in those days, learning about a cancer diagnosis almost certainly spelled the end for many. When Sinilia started with Cancer Council things were not as they are today. Access to treatment and services was not anywhere near as advanced or readily available as it is today. Clearly, there was still much to do in order to support the many vulnerable individuals who have nowhere to turn for help.

Having been personally affected at such a young age, Sinilia remained driven to do everything in her power to push for better access to treatment and services for all cancer patients. Over the past 36 years Sinilia has committed to being a voice for those without one, championing their needs by making a difference to cancer care in New South Wales. Over the years I have had the great honour and privilege to work alongside her and Cancer Council NSW on their various campaigns, community events and fundraisers. None of us is immune to cancer, and I guarantee that every member in this Chamber has been impacted by the disease in one form or another.

I have seen firsthand Sinilia's great work and dedication to those who either are going through treatment or are in recovery, as well as those who are in remission. But her care reaches beyond patients. Sinilia does her all to look after the friends, family and loved ones who are experiencing this whirlwind ride alongside patients. She truly does it all. Over the years I have been proud to recognise Sinilia for her volunteer work at numerous events, as well as for her ongoing dedication to the community. I was overjoyed to learn that she was selected for the Holland America Line Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of dedicated service. Local residents know Sinilia for many reasons: her championing of the Relay For Life event, her continued advocacy for and support in running local Cancer Council campaigns, as well as for helping at any number of community events throughout the year. She can be found at just about any community event that is aimed at helping others, because that is just the sort of person that she is.

Since its inception, Relay For Life has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for cancer advocacy, research and support throughout the local community and beyond. Over the years Sinilia has stuck true to her motto of "If you're going to do something, make sure that you do it properly." This is reflected in the quality of her care, and the commitment and support she provides to each and every person year in, year out. Sinilia's kindness and compassion truly knows no bounds, and our community is incredibly fortunate to have her. On behalf of the electorate of Cabramatta, I extend our sincere appreciation and admiration to Ms Sinilia Radivojevic for everything that she has done, and continues to do, in our community. We are honoured and privileged to have such a remarkable volunteer supporting those in need throughout our community. Sinilia truly is a remarkable woman who stands as a role model to all of us. I look forward to continuing to work alongside her into the future.

#### **OXLEY POLICE DISTRICT**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (16:47:43):** I pay tribute to and support the police of the Oxley Police District. Since April nine new probationary constables have begun work in the district following their graduation ceremony at the New South Wales Police Academy in Goulburn. This should come as comforting news to our community. Being sworn in as a police officer is a great

honour, and I applaud these new officers for making the brave decision to put the community's safety ahead of their own. I am always proud to welcome new police officers to our region, and I wish them every success in their careers.

The nine new probationary constables brings to 20 the number of officers who have begun their policing careers in the Oxley police district since July 2019. They join a strong and dedicated team that puts in long hours to ensure that our community is safe, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. I pay particular tribute to Oxley Police District Superintendent Kylie Endemi, with whom my staff and I have a close working relationship and whose support we receive every day of the week. Superintendent Endemi said that new probationary constables joining the ranks represents a significant boost to frontline police resources in both Tamworth and Gunnedah. The Oxley police district is well equipped with experienced officers who will guide and develop the new recruits throughout their careers. Superintendent Endemi says she has no doubt that they will prove to be a great asset to the policing operation, in turn enhancing service to the community and supporting efforts to prevent, disrupt and respond to crime.

Recently I welcomed the news that a date has been confirmed for the return of the NSW Police Dog Unit at the Oxley Police District in Tamworth. Assistant Commissioner Geoff McKechnie confirmed that the permanent police dog unit for the Oxley local area command had passed muster and will be on the ground from 8 November 2020 to protect our community. That is great news for our area and for our police, who continually work hard to drive down crime and keep our community safe. Our residents have a right to feel safe in their homes, so the return of the police dog unit will be a valuable addition to help local police to achieve that.

The new unit will play a very important role and will serve as a deterrent to those who think that they can break the law and get away with it. Our local police officers do a fantastic job. I want to keep building their numbers to help keep our community safe. Adding a dedicated dog unit means that our police now have an added resource to help fight crimes such as theft, break and enters, and property crime. The unit will benefit not only Tamworth but also the whole of the Oxley Police District, which will be able to take advantage of this new crime-fighting unit. Crime is crime no matter where it is committed and I am sure that the new police dog unit will send a very clear message that if someone commits a crime, they will be caught. I pay tribute to the commander of the Oxley Police District, Superintendent Kylie Endemi, and her team, who work tirelessly day and night to keep our community safe. I thank them for their service. I look forward to welcoming the NSW Police Dog Unit for the Oxley Police District in Tamworth to support our existing police officers when they arrive in our region.

#### STEPHEN SIM

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections)**  
**(16:52:00):** I recognise the contribution of one of the great members of my constituency, Stephen Sim, who is a role model for our community. It is only fair that I outline some of the amazing work that he has done in the electorate of Lane Cove. The first area Stephen excels in is sport. In the early 1970s Stephen played rugby league for Parramatta and he has also spent many years coaching the Ryde junior rugby club. He also coached the Eastwood Juniors Rugby Union representative squad. In total he has been a volunteer coach of 18 rugby league, rugby union and touch football teams, winning 14 premierships from 18 attempts. Stephen was also instrumental in coaching the cricket team of the Truscott Street Public School, a special needs school that has many disabled children in wheelchairs. Most notably, he successfully organised a Federal grant that funded the construction of a cricket ground, as well as a large shade cloth for the students to make it easier for them to enjoy the playground.

Stephen has also greatly contributed to local community groups. He has helped to plan many community events over the past 20 years, including the Macquarie Park Rotary Club's Carols by Candlelight spectacular, the Granny Smith Festival, the Gladesville Rotary Club's Ryde Aquatic Festival—which raised money for disadvantaged families—as well as many other community projects. Stephen is also a supporter of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, which raises funds for the children's ward at the Royal North Shore Hospital. It is therefore no surprise that Stephen has been extensively recognised for his great work. In 2004 Stephen was inducted as an honorary member of the Rotary Club of North Ryde. In 2010 he was made a Paul Harris Fellow, which is the highest community service award given by Rotary throughout the world. And in 2007 Stephen was presented with a special community volunteers award by the Prime Minister of Australia.

On top of this we have had the great pleasure of being able to listen to Stephen over one of Australia's greatest and largest community radio stations, the North Shore's 99.3 FM, where Stephen celebrates 20 continuous years of volunteer presenting. This Christmas Stephen and his neighbour Jane Meggitt will celebrate their annual street Christmas party, which they have organised for the past 27 years. This bonds their neighbourhood with goodwill and much joy. With such a deep relationship with the community it is also not a surprise to see that Stephen has been a member of the Ryde Chamber of Commerce, the Eastwood Chamber of Commerce and the City of Ryde Business Forum.

Stephen has also served for 11 years as a councillor on North Sydney Council. During that time he managed the transformation of North Sydney Oval into the picturesque sporting ground it is today. We look forward to the North Sydney Bears being back in first grade one day! During the late 1980s and early 1990s he served as a director of the North Sydney Bears Rugby League Club. He was then invited by the South Sydney Rabbitohs Rugby League Club to be their marketing and media manager during the bleak period when the Rabbitohs were removed from the competition. Stephen assisted in the fight for the club's readmission to the National Rugby League competition.

Stephen's commitment and outstanding contribution to the local community and my constituency are absolutely clear. He has played a vital role in so many community organisations and in running countless community events, adding to the sense of togetherness that we so much enjoy. Stephen deserves all the thanks and tributes that are given to him. Many members of Parliament, especially myself, are indeed privileged to call him a dear, sound and loyal friend. It is therefore my great pleasure to nominate Stephen for the 2020 NSW Community Service Award. Again, I am proud to have him in my constituency and to share the amazing work he has done for so many Australians. Thank you, Stephen.

### SHAYNE PLAYER

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:56:42):** Mrs Shayne Player is acknowledged nationally as a leader in education, student engagement, teacher development and equity. Starting as a secondary history teacher at Queanbeyan High School in July 1984, Mrs Player has held teaching positions, including inaugural positions of assistant principal for learning difficulties and head teacher for special education, as well as literacy and learning consultancy, followed by deputy principal. She has been acknowledged as being at the forefront of educational reform and has been tasked to lead many initiatives at regional, State and national levels. Today she is the principal of Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College Tumby Umbi Campus, which is recognised for its delivery of excellence in education and student and community inclusiveness, cohesion and engagement. Awards for impact in the middle years, social cohesion and Aboriginal education are but a few that the school has received.

Since her appointment in April 2005 Mrs Player has transformed the campus academically, socially and culturally for students, community and staff. It is a turnaround school with a reach that has seen community confidence and aspirations lift, be achieved and celebrated. The school has been the subject of much research and review to learn from its success. Mrs Player's impact beyond the school is considerable. She has taken a leadership role in networks, including the Regional Economic Development and Employment Strategy for the Central Coast, university partnerships, Tuggerah Lakes learning community and the New South Wales Secondary Principals' Council. She was the first woman to hold the position of president of the Central Coast Secondary Principals' Council, which she held from 2008 to 2018. She continues to serve as vice-president.

Mrs Player currently co-leads a State reference group to support the shift into new pedagogies for young people in a changing world. Early in Mrs Player's career she was made a Fellow of the Australian Council of Educators, Wollongong, for her services to secondary students with learning difficulties. Her contribution and leadership were recognised in 2012 when she was announced the Australian Secondary Principal of the Year. Mrs Player has been the recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from the New South Wales Secondary Principals' Council and recognised by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership as a distinguished practitioner and role model for aspirant leaders.

Mrs Player will continue her journey as a Kamilaroi woman and purposeful educator with further study planned after her retirement this year. Mrs Player's legacy is one of inclusion, equity and excellence where students, staff and community have been at the centre of strong and impactful educational delivery. As the first in her family to complete year 12 and university, she has for over 36 years been an outstanding advocate for young people, effectively challenging and reshaping generational cycles and thereby changing so many lives for the better. It has been my great privilege to work with her. On behalf of the electorate of The Entrance I thank Shayne Player for her dedication to our State's public education system and education development generally, her strong leadership and the contribution she has made to my community.

### *Public Interest Debate*

### COVID SAFE SUMMER PLAN

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:00:06):** I move:

That this House acknowledges the importance of a COVID-Safe summer to protect the community and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

How good is it to be in Sydney in summertime? Obviously this summer is going to be unusual in the sense that we are in the middle of a pandemic, but that does not mean that we should not be embracing the great outdoors in the way that we traditionally do. As I have said a number of times, move over Madrid; bring on Sydney. We

should be the alfresco capital of the world because we have the weather and the climate. I feel sorry for the Melburnians. They are in a world of pain for a whole lot of reasons. We want them to succeed but at the end of the day, although they might get their house in order in relation to COVID, they will never change their weather. We have great weather at our beck and call and the New South Wales Government is absolutely promoting the alfresco dining option because it is COVID safe.

Being outdoors is much safer, and that is why about three weeks ago the Government set up a task force. I give a shout-out to Liquor & Gaming NSW for captaining the ship, but the task force included a whole lot of agencies from across the board, including Place Management, which has control of The Rocks. It is a lightning strike task force. In three weeks it has managed to turn things around so that small bars, restaurants and cafes are not just opening up but opening out in the Sydney CBD, and particularly in The Rocks. I will have some more to say in relation to Darling Harbour in another few weeks. The planning Minister, the Treasurer and I visited The Rocks recently and it was great to see people already sprawling outside.

The weather is just perfect here in Sydney. We are going to see an increase in revenue of around 25 per cent and the task force believes that up to about four additional staff will be employed at every venue. That is great for confidence and great for the economy—and it is being done in a COVID-safe way. I give a shout-out again to all the agencies involved. To get this up and running in three weeks, they essentially slashed an average of up to seven weeks of red tape. Traditionally, businesses would go through their planning consultation with council and then there would be another series of consultations with Liquor & Gaming NSW and all other agencies and major players, such as transport and planning.

Those agencies have now said, "Forget it. If council has done all the main consultations, we will build all the questions we need answers to into the council process. That way, when it comes to us we will turn it around in three days." So rather than taking up to seven weeks on average in addition to the council process, it is taking three days. It is phenomenal that the task force could turn this around so quickly, but again it is critically important. Of all the industries that have been impacted by COVID, there is no doubt that hospitality and tourism have been smashed and need support from the Government. In The Rocks they had a double whammy hit on tourism and hospitality all in one, so they have really been hurt. A number of venues have come on board and I will record them in my reply. I will give those venues a shout-out because they need help.

Part of the safety component of the COVID-safe summer measures is, obviously, being outdoors. We have announced we have gone to the two square metre rule, which is another big boost to the industry. We made sure we timed the rule with the beginning of the alfresco operation on Friday. That is great news for all on board. I also mention the Service NSW COVID-safe check-in feature. I cannot begin to tell members how important it is. It has privacy by design built in at the front. The Service NSW app is downloaded for free and when entering a venue, a secure QR code is provided and the camera is pointed at the code. Parliament is using it now. The data goes straight through and is deleted after 28 days.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** It had better be deleted.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** It is deleted.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The Minister will address his comments through the Chair.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** The data is deleted within 28 days. Again, this has been overlooked by the Privacy Commission in the design phase. If one enters a business with an ordinary QR code it is a matter for it what it does; there is no requirement to delete the data within 28 days. The business may want to keep the data for marketing purposes. The beauty about the Service NSW app is the data is deleted within 28 days. It is a tell-us-once approach so that the same old story does not have to be repeated time and again. Already that information goes straight to NSW Health. They can then check to see who has been in a venue in the event of an outbreak, so they can pick up the phone and call straightaway. One of the biggest issues that we will have over the summer period is complacency. It would be so easy to sleepwalk into summer, thinking everything is okay. We have seen what has happened in Europe, in the United States and in Victoria. The Service NSW check-in feature is critical. I encourage all businesses to embrace it because it is free, it is secure and there is no paperwork. Gone are the days of pen and paper, which are themselves not a good design for a pandemic.

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (17:07:14):** I thank the Minister for bringing this public interest debate to the House to ensure that we have some things on the record and acknowledge the importance of a COVID-safe summer as we continue the challenges throughout our great State, both in metropolitan Sydney and rural and regional New South Wales. I begin by commending the people of New South Wales. Their resilience and solidarity has put us in a position that may have been worse. I give credit to the people of New South Wales for their diligence, discipline and compliance and for the way they have stood together to ensure that we look after each other. Now is not the time for complacency. That has been displayed in my area of south-west Sydney. I note

my good mate the member for Macquarie Fields is here to make a commentary in relation to COVID. My other good friend the member for Coogee will speak in relation to related matters in the eastern suburbs.

Now is not the time for complacency. Now is the time to continue our pattern of discipline. I thank the frontline workers whose efforts have been diligent and selfless to ensure that our communities have been served and everyone has been kept as safe as possible. Our health staff and our health workers in particular have given relentlessly. They have not just done it because it is their job; they have done it because they want to ensure, like everyone else in the State, that we get through this COVID problem that continues to haunt us. This is a pandemic that we have not seen and, I think it is fair to say, many parts of the globe have not seen before in human history. Without their efforts we would be in a far worse position.

I acknowledge a few factors that are very important. Local economies have been affected, including small businesses, small venues, hospitality, entertainment and the arts. My colleague the member for Canterbury knows all too well the issues with the process of COVID compliance and registration. I ask the Minister to take note of this point for clarification. I ask him to provide them with the support that they need as many of them continue to struggle. The flow-on effect on workers and families as an outcome of the downturn of local economies is immeasurable. Making sure that we have people in work to provide their families and households with an income is vital not only for our local economies but also for the livelihood of every man, woman and child in the State.

We do not see that there is adequate planning for outdoor dining. Rural and regional New South Wales have had to comply with the blanket restrictions and bans that are in place whilst having zero transmissions. We must acknowledge in this House that they are deeply frustrated, and understandably so. Whether a business is in Tamworth, Temora, Dubbo, Dunedoo, Coffs Harbour, Cootamundra, Coonamble, the Blue Mountains or Boggabri, they have all had to wear these restrictions that have seen many businesses close their doors and workers lose their jobs. That is unacceptable and that is why I am proud members on my side of the House called that out. We cannot have a blanket approach to these matters. It needs to be done from a meritorious perspective.

The coastal towns continue to be burdened, particularly those on the beaches—whether in Manly or the Illawarra or on the South Coast, the Central Coast or the beautiful far North Coast. People are rightfully going to the beaches; I am one of them. But local councils are wearing an extra burden without the appropriate level of financial or governance support from the Government. They cannot do it alone. Councils are not equipped appropriately and it is this Government's responsibility to ensure that they are. Right now they are not. I call on the Government to take appropriate action on this issue that I know it is all too aware of. In my capacity as shadow Minister for Local Government—*[Time expired.]*

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (17:12:31):** I support this motion relating to a COVID-safe summer motion as a matter of public interest. Our government is focused on responding effectively to the pandemic while keeping New South Wales running. All our government agencies are working hard to assist businesses in the community with the many challenges COVID-19 has presented. Our New South Wales community is enduring something that none of us could have foreseen, especially after last year's devastating bushfires. Together we are facing the challenges presented by this pandemic.

I acknowledge the efforts of businesses and individuals across New South Wales to comply with social distancing requirements and restrictions that help keep us all safe. We need the support of businesses and the New South Wales community to tackle this virus. We ask individuals, families and businesses to ensure they maintain COVID-safe compliance for the good of all as we learn to live with the virus. Businesses have been an integral part of our response to the pandemic. They have been able to support health workers by transitioning production to personal protective equipment and other goods. We thank the majority of businesses for complying with health orders and ensuring that they and their customers stay safe.

Our public health advice to the community is a critical part of our response to this virus. Public health orders inform businesses and the community about the COVID-safe measures they must follow to protect themselves and others against the spread of this pandemic. Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors have been continuing their usual assistance and compliance activities at venues and businesses throughout the period of the pandemic. In June 2020, in addition to these activities, 27 Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors were appointed as authorised officers under the Public Health Act 2010. On 17 July 2020 a further 18 office-based staff were appointed.

Those appointments allow inspectors to exercise certain powers under the Act, including those involved in enforcing the public health orders related to COVID-19. By 28 July 2020 inspectors had conducted uniformed and covert inspections of 1,391 businesses and 1,042 engagements with licensees and business owners, with a major focus on hotels and registered clubs. In earlier phases of the public health order, inspectors from Liquor & Gaming NSW took a lead role in providing education and advice to pubs and clubs across New South Wales. From 6 July 2020 the compliance approach shifted from education to enforcement. Liquor & Gaming NSW has

issued penalty notices for breaches of the public health orders to The Star Sydney, the Golden Sheaf Hotel, the Auburn Hotel, the Royal Hotel and the Hurlstone Park Hotel. Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors are finding generally high levels of compliance by businesses.

Inspections are continuing and are now being performed in conjunction with authorised officers from the SafeWork NSW and Fair Trading NSW inspectorates, along with other agencies. Liquor & Gaming NSW is coordinating the response across the three Department of Customer Service agencies and is focusing on licensed premises. The current enforcement approach allows for a \$5,000 penalty notice to be issued for a first offence. New powers under the Act have been delegated to the Secretary of Customer Service and the Deputy Secretary Better Regulation Division to allow for the closure of venues for up to one week where a second offence has been detected, and up to one month for a third offence. Just last weekend authorised officers reported key issues such as pubs and clubs failing to display the COVID-19 conditions of entry at the entrance to premises; businesses failing to enforce the collection of data from visitors to the premises—namely, their names, contact phone numbers and time of entry; and businesses not having fully completed COVID-19 safety plans.

One of the ways that the New South Wales Government has made check-ins easier, which the Minister alluded to earlier, is via the Service NSW app. It is easy for a business to set it up online; it takes a few minutes and is free. As a customer, it is the easiest way to check in. In Coffs Harbour eight businesses have signed up to the Service NSW check-in. I think that Coffs Harbour can do a little better than that, and I will be working with local media to try to increase that number of eight to a much higher number over the next couple of weeks. Coffs Harbour and many North Coast towns, as the member for Campbelltown said, have been quite busy in the past few months. We are expecting a very busy Christmas holiday, with international borders and some State borders closed. It is a fantastic opportunity for our towns to make some money, but we have to be safe while we are doing it. So far the New South Wales Government has struck a great balance between having good health outcomes and keeping our economy open, but we need to remember we are still in the middle of this pandemic. I stress to everyone the importance of getting tested and following the COVID-19 compliance rules.

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:17:28):** I welcome the opportunity to speak on the importance of a COVID-safe summer. This issue is incredibly close to my heart. While I realise that the Government is using this debate as an opportunity to pat itself on the back and talk about the great job it thinks it is doing, it is incredibly important that we learn from the mistakes of last summer so that they are not made again. At the start of the pandemic, my community made it incredibly clear to me that they were frustrated with the confusing manner in which beach closures were managed and the lack of support from the New South Wales Government. Last summer we saw a great deal of confusion and frustration from people across the east as they struggled to understand the Government's messaging and the lack of clarity it provided around the management and closure of local beaches.

The frustration stemmed mainly from a lack of consistent messaging about the safety of beaches, as well as a lack of support for our local governments from the New South Wales Government. While the police Minister showed up at Bondi Beach to badmouth our council and local community, he did nothing at all to support the local councils at the beginning of the year: no financial assistance for beach marshals and no oversight or directional governance. Here we are again, and there are growing concerns from councils and the community that the State Government is not going to provide overarching support during this period—concerns that I share with Local Government NSW [LGNSW] and Surf Life Saving NSW and that I and the Labor Opposition have articulated to the Premier and the Government for months and months. Those concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

In addition to the Labor Opposition calling on the Government for support, on 3 September LGNSW and Surf Life Saving NSW—two major stakeholders that are responsible for ensuring our council beaches remain open and safe over the summer—sent to the Premier, the Treasurer, the health Minister, the planning Minister, the police Minister, the Minister for Local Government and Commissioner Michael Fuller a letter titled "Ensuring COVID-safe beaches for communities across New South Wales". I am sorry Minister Dominello and Minister Roberts, who is at the table, missed out. The letter is clear and it calls on the Government to commit to two things: a New South Wales Government-funded COVID communications strategy and campaign for New South Wales beaches and open spaces, and funding to support COVID marshals in local government areas with major beaches.

Those two things are absolutely critical to ensure our beaches remain open and COVID safe this summer. However, to date, the Government has refused to commit to them. All it has done is huffed and puffed and made announcements that lacked any financial substance or any direction in governance. As the member for Coogee—home to some of New South Wales' most iconic and well-visited beaches—I am fully invested in seeing our local beaches stay open and COVID safe this summer. The general manager for the Northern Beaches has also written to the Government, asking for funding for COVID marshals. That is yet to be addressed. This summer the people of New South Wales need to hear a consistent message from their Government—unlike last summer—about the way that beaches will be able to operate and what rules will apply. The Government knows full well that councils



do not have the capacity or powers of enforcement required to effectively manage a COVID-safe summer without State Government support.

Since this Government came into power, it has cost-shifted more than \$800 million to local councils. That is a pretty penny. The Government's failure to commit to funding COVID marshals is yet another example of cost shifting. It is vital that the Government provides funds for councils to employ COVID marshals to assist with encouraging compliance with public health orders at beaches and open spaces. We all know that the resources of the NSW Police Force have been extremely stretched this summer. Public health orders and quarantine have increased the work of the police. In my electorate domestic violence has increased by 40 per cent. COVID marshals would take the pressure off the cops and would be a soft direction, with the capacity to escalate non-compliance to the NSW Police Force built into their role as appropriate, along with relevant conflict resolution training.

Both local councils in my electorate have expressed deep concern that their already stretched specialist environmental health officers do not have the capacity to continue to undertake this additional COVID role. In order to keep our beaches COVID safe, the Government must fund COVID marshals for major beaches. It is pretty simple: If the Government wants a COVID-safe summer, it should commit to the two things that are being asked for. It should fund a COVID communications strategy and campaign for New South Wales beaches and open spaces, and it should fund COVID marshals in local government areas with major beaches. It is incredibly simple, which is why I am baffled that the Government continues to refuse to support it.

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:22:34):** I speak enthusiastically and with great support of the importance of a COVID-safe summer. Before I begin my remarks, I bring to the attention of the member for Coogee that the Government launched the COVID Safe Summer Plan in September—although it was in Manly, which is why the member might have missed some of the information the plan contains. Within that plan are five pillars, and the last pillar is about partnering with councils on a new local campaign to showcase alternative public spaces for the community to enjoy. In fact, I think Minister Dominello, who is in the Chamber, was present. We had a wonderful day with the Premier and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, who said that our councils are leading the way by trialling approaches on their beaches such as changing parking arrangements and creating safe swimming areas so that beaches remain safe and welcoming places for the community.

I am very proud that the Northern Beaches Council was able to keep the northern beaches open all summer throughout the COVID pandemic by partnering with and working effectively with the State Government. Direct communication and great support ultimately delivered a fantastic outcome: The beaches there were open for the whole time. A COVID-safe summer is incredibly important. I paint a picture of the community of Manly: incredibly reliant on its hospitality and tourism trade. It has been an incredible struggle through a summer of drought and fires with a reliance on tourists that we simply have not seen, whether in summer or the slimmer winter months. We have relied heavily on JobKeeper and on the COVID grants that the Government has supplied. In the Northern Beaches the State Government received more than 1,500 applications, to the total value of \$4.5 million, to help local businesses get across the line and keep trading through what was a very difficult winter.

I will turn to some fantastic action the Minister has led. I have a keen eye for watching the alfresco dining launch in The Rocks. Since the start of the COVID pandemic in March many restaurants and cafes have seen a significant drop in trade, felt no more so than in The Rocks. Allowing people to dine outside will boost capacity at these venues without compromising social distancing requirements. On 16 October a multi-agency alfresco dining task force successfully launched an outdoor dining pilot in The Rocks. Currently it has 19 participating venues. It is an important milestone in the New South Wales Government initiative to relax outdoor dining restrictions and provide live entertainment. It allows businesses to serve more patrons in a COVID-safe way ahead of summer by streamlining the application process and identifying areas for activation.

I am watching the pilot in The Rocks and I will take those learnings to Manly, where they will work even better. We will see how effective it is in The Rocks and bring all of its elements across to Manly, where we will have an absolutely fantastic COVID-safe summer. The Rocks pilot is a key part of bringing that to life. The Rocks pilot condensed what was previously a three-month process involving multiple agencies into a single application that takes just weeks. For example, the process for approving changes in liquor boundaries was revised to reduce the normal 50-day consultation process to a mere three days. What ordinarily took businesses 50 days to get planning approvals through red tape has been cut down to three.

I know this change will be important to the local people who run the small cafes, restaurants and bars in Manly, and the members of the Chamber of Commerce so they can trade through summer and bring in customers in a COVID-safe way. Sixteen of the 19 venues at The Rocks were open on the first weekend. Three more venues are expected to commence in the coming weeks, two of which are reopening for the first time post-COVID due to this initiative. The opening weekend saw encouraging results from individual venues, including a 15 per cent increase in sales at the Tea Cosy, the best weekend since before COVID at the Sergeant Loc, the biggest weekend

of beverage sales since the start of the pandemic at the Australian and Glenmore hotels and the need for additional staff to manage increased trade at Doss House. Finally, trading capacity was increased at the Fortune of War, with increased sales directly attributed to the outdoor dining area. We have a COVID-safe summertime in action delivering outcomes and results, keeping people in work and businesses afloat, all due to the fantastic work of the New South Wales Government. The Northern Beaches were kept open through summer because of the great work of our council. I do not know what happens down in the east.

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (17:27:40):** I welcome the opportunity to speak in this public interest debate. In many respects this summer will be like every other. Family and friends will gather to enjoy each other's company. They will feast on barbecues and an array of Christmas food. At least this year we will know the maximum number of people to cater for will be 30, according to the latest guidelines that come into effect this week. People will plan their summer holiday getaways and explore a different part of New South Wales or Australia. But, in some respects, this summer will be like no other before.

This year, 2020 started with horrific bushfires that destroyed many communities, took too many lives and destroyed many more homes. As soon as the bushfires were extinguished, COVID-19 came along with all the challenges, tragedies and upheavals associated with this terrible pandemic. Like the bushfires and the magnificent response from the Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, State Emergency Service, first responders and even the military, COVID-19 has seen a similar mobilisation of frontline workers at the forefront of the pandemic.

It is nurses, doctors, health officials, teachers, transport workers, contact tracers and cleaners who are leading the fight against COVID-19. Each has responded magnificently and we are in their debt. Facing a challenge such as COVID does require a mobilisation and a co-ordination of resources. Every frontline worker and, indeed, every member of the community has had a role to play in fighting the scourge of COVID-19. Teamwork has been the key. Teamwork has led the way. It always does. Only a few months ago, I stood in this Chamber to acknowledge the collective community effort in battling COVID-19.

In my electorate, I am proud that people quickly adapted to edicts around social distancing, limiting visitors, and staying home as much as possible. When the clarion call went out for people to be tested, my community responded magnificently. They did not put their heads in the sand. They did not pretend this pandemic was someone else's problem. They played their role in the team even if it meant waiting or standing for hours just to get tested, because it is up to all of us to work together to get through this pandemic. It is up to responsible restaurant and venue owners. It is up to shoppers to socially distance and wear masks appropriately. It is up to commuters to obey the rules. And it is up to governments to provide the resources, advice and strategy needed to get us through this pandemic.

Trust is key to the public believing and following government advice. We can only build trust if there is accountability. It is a pity, in all honesty, that this Liberal-Nationals Government tests the public's trust so frequently on so many issues. A case in point in relation to COVID-19 is the *Ruby Princess* fiasco. There has been far too little ministerial accountability on this matter. The Government is happy to take the credit for all the hard work of our public health officials. But when Government Ministers need to front an inquiry into the *Ruby Princess* stuff-up, they do not show up. Instead, they send the same public health officials to face the flame.

The scene of a public health official breaking down at the inquiry was unfair for a group of public servants who had worked so hard to keep us safe. It should have been a Government Minister facing the inquiry and being held accountable for decisions in their portfolio. The public's patience and trust were sorely tested because no-one in this Government wanted to accept responsibility for a stuff-up with such tragic consequences. Then there was the testing debacle in south-west Sydney, where there were queues for hours during an outbreak in July. The inadequate testing resources and the lack of urgency from the Government was astounding. It is obvious that they just do not want to know about that bit called "ministerial accountability"—the very foundation of our proud Westminster parliamentary democracy.

Complacency has no place this summer as we continue to fight this pandemic. After months of following the rules and making sacrifices, this is not the time to undo all of our good work. A terrific summer will be a COVID-safe summer. I hope the community takes the opportunity to explore New South Wales and discover some of the State's hidden treasures. But let us all remember to follow the guidelines: social distance, get tested if you feel unwell and isolate when required. Like we did so well during the bushfires, let us continue to look out for one another in what has been a challenging year.

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (17:32:26):** I welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to this public interest debate. The development by the Government of a COVID-safe plan for summer is certainly welcome and it is a recognition, I believe, that we have to learn to live with the pandemic and will have to do so for some time. Even though cases are low, a vaccine is, frankly, 12 or more months away and without that we will not eliminate this virus. We will need to continue to rely on public health strategies—the ones we have been using

so far—to halt the spread of this disease. I thank all the healthcare workers but also the emergency services workers and all those businesses that have implemented these strategies, from the COVID marshals through to the distancing, for their work for our State and our country.

An important part of our response to the pandemic has actually been the role of the Government and the Opposition. I acknowledge the fact that our governments in New South Wales and in Australia have, I think, by and large tried to act on expert advice. In a world and at a time when other countries seem to live almost in a post-truth world, it has been reassuring to see government decisions based on science. It shows us the importance of a strong public health service, and university and research sectors. But we have also seen that science itself is limited. In any given situation and especially in a crisis not seen before, science can give us some information, but not all the information we need. Judgements have to be made and it is in this context that government must be open and transparent. I believe that has been the case in Australia and I acknowledge the role of the Government and the critical role of the Opposition.

As the member for Macquarie Fields has pointed out, trust and accountability are critical. It is the Opposition's role to provide that accountability. We have a plan and, like any announcement by any government in this COVID pandemic, it will be made and it will be argued back and forth by all Australians until the cows come home. Eventually, we will get down to doing it but we will put it through the mill. We need a plan to get us back to work. The idea of a summer plan is important. I note the member for Campbelltown spoke of the frustration in regional New South Wales about restrictions existing there despite there being so few cases. Many people in my electorate want to keep the virus out but the easing of the restrictions should be done very carefully. Summer is traditionally a time for us to relax and slow down, but we cannot drop our guard on COVID. We need to look at new approaches to Christmas, family and holidays. The key elements to the plan are to focus on our outdoors, but to ensure we are safely distancing in our parklands, beaches and other public spaces.

The member for Manly and the member for Coogee spoke about their great beaches. It would be remiss if this Parliament did not acknowledge Australia's number one inland beach: Wagga Beach—so named by Tourism Australia's beach ambassador Brad Farmer. Wagga Beach is ninth in the top 20 Australian beaches of 2020 but the number one inland beach. The Wagga Wagga City Council will be ensuring its attractions are COVID safe. It will have its QR scanning and limits on the crowds at the zoo and the beach. I hope they ensure that no-one forgets their sunscreen, because we do not want to end up with skin cancer after spending all this time outdoors.

It is also an important time of year for religious services for many congregations. The restrictions on gatherings of religious organisations and congregations have been a source of stress that has been raised with me. For example, the Inspire Church Wagga, with 2,900 square metres of space, should be able to accommodate 500 or 600 people but is restricted to 100 people. The congregations have done great things during COVID. They have adopted online streaming and increased the number of services. But that ability to share your faith in person is incredibly important. I encourage the Government as part of the summer plan to recognise it is Christmas and other important festivities for different religions. We have to stay the course. Let us not undo the work we have done so far. We have seen the situation overseas rebound to devastating effect. As the member for Macquarie Fields said, it is a question of teamwork. Let us all stick together and do our best.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:37:34):** In reply: I thank the member for Campbelltown, the member for Coffs Harbour, the member for Coogee, the member for Manly, the member for Macquarie Fields and the member for Wagga Wagga for their contributions. I will go through each of their responses in course. Firstly, I agree with the member for Campbelltown that this motion is about the people of New South Wales. But, at its heart, it is about the frontline workers, including people from Service NSW who do not often get recognised, who are in many ways the second line of defence. Whilst they are not on the actual front line, they are seeing people straight afterwards. I thank all those who have put their heart and soul into fighting this pandemic.

The member for Campbelltown raised the issue of having more restrictions eased in the regions, and the member for Wagga Wagga pointed out why we have to play a balanced game. There are people in the regions who do not want to go too far in easing the restrictions. It is about getting the balance right. As we move into the summer holiday period, New South Wales effectively comes into one as people move all around. It is important that we have a consistent plan. I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his contribution and his advocacy about the Services NSW app. I do not have time to go through the statistics but it is performing well.

I suggest that the member for Coogee should look at the member for Campbelltown's contribution, the first half of the member for Macquarie Fields' contribution and the member for Wagga Wagga's contribution because that is what this is about. The people of our State are doing the heavy lifting. It is not about patting ourselves on the back; it is about thanking the people of our great State for getting us to where we are. The reason the Northern Beaches are doing so well is thanks to the leadership of the member for Manly. To achieve a good outcome for

the beaches on the eastern side, perhaps the member for Manly should be invited to show some leadership. The member for Manly is a great local member and a great team player.

I agree with the member for Wagga Wagga about the religious services. Christmas for us is not just about families coming together; it is also about religious celebrations. We need to check how the numbers are going and we will be guided by NSW Health. Let us pray that the numbers head in the right direction and we get some good advice. Again, I thank all the members for their contributions and for their efforts.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

*Private Members' Statements*

**BARWON ELECTORATE**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (17:41:12):** I have three children: Abygael, 19; Gabe, 17; and Aniyah, 15. As a dad, I hope for the best for them. I hope that they will have the educational opportunities, medical services and employment or business opportunities to allow them to have a good, long and healthy life. My wife and I, as parents, have a role to play in that, my kids have a personal responsibility and the State also has a responsibility. It is often said that the best predictor of the future is the past. For many children in the electorate of Barwon, the historical performance of health, education and economic metrics would show that many kids in regional New South Wales are not currently destined for the best life possible.

We accept that the bush is not the city—in fact, we are thankful in many ways that it is not. However, the role the State has to play in the formative years of our children's lives should not allow such vastly different outcomes in metrics based on where they live. In Wilcannia—a great river town—just 1.3 per cent of the Aboriginal population have the benefit of an undergraduate degree. That is against 6.7 per cent of the Aboriginal population statewide and 8.8 per cent of the total population of Barwon, compared to 23.4 per cent of the broader New South Wales population. How did we allow this to happen? We know education levels and income levels are linked to wellbeing, and both support life expectancy and quality of life. How does Barwon fare?

The median income in the electorate of Barwon, based on 2016 census data, shows that the median personal income was \$546 per week, against \$664 as an average for people across the rest of New South Wales. Some locations in Barwon drop to just \$442 as an average personal weekly income. When you take the lower incomes and include the increased costs of food and fresh produce, transport and accessing health services, the disadvantage becomes clearer. From a health perspective, the numbers are not good. We know that life expectancy and preventable death statistically get worse the further west you go. Our medical staff do the best they can, but attracting and retaining medical staff into regional areas is a nationwide problem. If we are to have healthy and happy kids who are ready to learn, we need to support the health services that support that learning.

Oral health is a good example of something that can be addressed and has lifelong impacts for nutrition and wellbeing. At this moment we have thousands of adults and kids in regional New South Wales awaiting dental treatments. How many kids are having trouble engaging with learning where the root cause is tied to discomfort from an untreated oral health issue or poor nutrition that follows as a result? We know that education provides the foundation for long-run social and economic success, both for individuals and for communities. How does Barwon fare in regards to academic performance?

The educational results attained in the Barwon electorate are generally lower than the remainder of New South Wales, with attendance rates much lower in some remote parts of the State. A Deloitte study in December 2019 indicated that poorer Australian students were 18 months behind their better-off peers at school, with regional students an average eight months behind at school. The teachers we have are great and they are doing their best—we have some real standouts—but attracting and retaining suitably qualified staff is an ongoing challenge. Providing teachers with the support they need and creating engaging learning environments will develop and raise aspirations in relation to further learning. Kids need an adequate range of electives. I get that rural and remote schools cannot have everything, but if we want kids to be positive about education and learning, we need to provide electives that interest and stimulate them.

There can be substantial costs in accessing further education opportunities. These costs hold some kids back from their potential. Most of the State's universities are clustered in capital cities or regional centres. I do note the benefits of Country Universities Centres and I hope to see more of these in the bush—let us try for Cobarr next. Student thresholds required for TAFE courses in smaller communities are very difficult to meet, and therefore getting courses of choice running in smaller towns often does not happen. This means that kids who cannot travel because of distance or other disadvantage face an uphill battle to access further education, and this just entrenches further disadvantage.

I do not say any of this to be negative about regional New South Wales, where I live—it is quite the opposite. I love regional New South Wales; it is why I am here. I care about what happens to communities, families and kids in regional New South Wales, especially in the Barwon electorate. I want to see kids in the bush get the same sorts of opportunities as kids in the city. I think we members of Parliament have a binding responsibility to make sure that every child in New South Wales is given the best possible start in life: good health, good education and the best prospects for a long and happy life.

### **BRAVERY TRUST**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:45:40):** As members in this place might be aware, I have spent a lot of time advocating for and supporting our veteran community. There are a number of fun, interesting and exciting ways in which that can be done. I do so through lived experience, as the son of two veterans. Not all veterans who transition from the Australian Defence Force are broken, struggling or have challenges. Many transition from the defence force with a wonderful set of skills and are eminently employable, and they transition into civil life with a great skill set. However, many of their colleagues are not in a similar set of circumstances.

That is why this year I am proud to support the Bravery Trust, a nationally operated registered military charity that changes lives by ensuring current and former members of the ADF and their families do not suffer because of their service. The point of difference with the Bravery Trust is that it provides urgent financial support and financial counselling to those who have suffered injury or illness as a result of their service. The trust's numbers speak for themselves. Since 2012 the Bravery Trust has supported more than 4,800 Australian veterans and their families with over \$5.5 million in financial support. I acknowledge the chairman of the Bravery Trust, Mr Garth Callender. Mr Callender would be well known to members in this place, as he was the inaugural manager of the Veterans Employment Program, which this State led and which was a shining example for veteran employment programs across Australia.

I am enjoying participating in the trust's Bravery Trek, which is an annual fundraising event where participants commit to walk the equivalent distance of an iconic military-related route and fundraise to support the important work of the Bravery Trust. This year the selected challenge is the 96 kilometres of the Kokoda Trail. This iconic location was the site of a series of strategically important battles in World War II and was a campaign that exemplified the bravery and determination exhibited every day by Australian service men and women. The Bravery Trust provides emergency financial relief to former members of the Australian Defence Force.

The trek will be starting on 24 October and concluding on 23 November. It commences on the first day of Veterans Health Week and goes for the entire month, meaning people have 30 days to complete the distance of 96 kilometres. One can choose to complete the distance in a shorter time, or even take on extra distance if they would prefer. The 96-kilometre challenge has been broken into five legs. The start and finish of each leg corresponds with a key battle location that tells the story of this historic World War II campaign. Where participants choose to walk is entirely up to them. They could do it up, down and around the lovely electorate of Oatley, or across one of our many national parks in this State, but they can mix it up and explore some parts of New South Wales that they might not have experienced before.

So far I have been able to enlist my brother to do the 96 kilometres with me, but I encourage all members in this place to consider supporting the Bravery Trust this year. They can simply go to the Bravery Trust website and sign up, and it will create a fundraising page for them. Members can then go off to enjoy a walk, trek or run of 96 kilometres over the course of the month. It is all for the great cause of supporting our former ADF members and their families who may have struggled as they have transitioned from the defence forces to civilian life. I thank Mr Callender and the team at the Bravery Trust. It is a fantastic initiative. It speaks volumes about the esteem in which our community and members in this place hold our veterans and their families. I encourage many members in this place to participate in the Bravery Trek this year.

### **EASTLAKES SHOPPING CENTRE**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:50:17):** I bring to the attention of the House my deep and genuine concern about the decision of Marcus Ray of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to grant approval to the Mod 4 development application for the Eastlakes Shopping Centre development on 18 June 2020. This decision was removed from the local council and given fast-track project assessment contrary to the *Priority Projects Criteria* document published by the department in April 2020. At the time approval was given the department knew that this application did not comply with the criteria, as on the day before—17 June 2020—I met with the current planning Minister personally and advised him as such, as well as of the sordid history of this application. At that time, officials of the department were present online.

The applicant, Iwan Sunito of the Crown Group, had been pursuing the redevelopment of Eastlakes Shopping Centre with residential apartments above for many years prior to my entry into Parliament. The then

City of Botany Bay Council had given its criteria for redevelopment repeatedly to the applicant and its representatives. Towards the end of 2010 the applicant sought to make an application under the then discredited part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. After making that approach to the then planning Minister, Tony Kelly, I met with Mr Kelly on site, explained to him what the council was seeking to achieve and advocated that he should allow the matter to remain with the council. Before going into caretaker mode, Mr Kelly allowed the application to be made pursuant to part 3A. At a subsequent ICAC investigation evidence emerged that the applicant had business arrangements with Eddie Obeid, and I believe Mr Kelly was influenced by Mr Obeid.

The current Government repealed the part 3A provisions with this application pending. In about September 2012, when still Mayor of the City of Botany Bay Council and newly elected as a member of this House, I met with the then planning Minister, the member for Wakehurst. I alerted Mr Hazzard to my suspicions about the applicant and the former Government and sought his determination that the matter be remitted to the council for assessment and consideration. The Minister did not intervene and allowed the matter to be considered by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission, which approved the application in very strange circumstances having regard to a number of planning factors. At a subsequent ICAC hearing, evidence was given that the applicant had donated secretly to the Liberal Party through the Free Enterprise Foundation.

Little movement had occurred following the approval, other than on part of the site, when the applicant sought modifications of the approval. Usually when a development consent is "red hot" it also does not work for the developer. Three attempts to modify consent were made by the applicant. All were opposed by the NSW Government Architect, urban design and the council. Suddenly, modification No. 4 is fast-tracked, all opposition other than that of the council evaporates and the application is approved contrary to the department's own guidelines. The following week the applicant conveyed by implication to a local paper that he will commence in a year.

I wrote to Mr Ray and asked him the reasons he was satisfied that the guidelines were followed, and his reply was anything but satisfactory. I just could not understand how the current planning Minister, a highly respected and well-qualified planning lawyer, did not act on the information I gave him. I was about to write to the NSW Ombudsman and request an investigation into the department's conduct when evidence was given in ICAC last week of a telephone intercept from about 2018 between the Premier and Daryl Maguire. It is apparent that Mr Maguire acted in some way for the applicant and that there was some communication with the Premier about him. Whilst I do not know what it was about, I am suspicious about the contact when I add it to all the apparent coincidences relating to the Government's handling of this application.

I have lived near this area my whole life. I have seen Rosebery Racecourse destroyed by poor overdevelopment that resulted in green bans to preserve some open space. These buildings will be the tallest in Eastlakes and will tower over what currently is very dense development. In my view, the high scale and bulk is devastating. I have given very careful consideration to the history of this matter to ensure that I apply an objective mind. I have come to the conclusion that the sheer circumstances, coincidences and history of the matter mean that I am satisfied in accordance with section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act there are reasonable grounds for suspecting there may have been corrupt conduct. Accordingly, I will refer the matter to the commission.

#### **SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL KIOSK COMMITTEE**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:55:09):** I acknowledge the outstanding Sutherland Hospital Kiosk Committee in its sixtieth year. The Sutherland Hospital Kiosk is a separately registered entity and volunteer-run charity that raises money solely for the purchase of medical equipment for our local hospital. As they say, volunteering is a work of heart—and there is no better example of this than the incredibly dedicated and longstanding volunteers at the Sutherland Hospital Kiosk. In this milestone year the committee and volunteers from the kiosk are excited to see the funds raised used to purchase medical equipment to the value of \$200,000, bringing total equipment purchases over the years to around \$3.4 million. In recognition of the loyal support they receive from staff throughout the Sutherland Hospital, the group is focusing on the spread of equipment across wards and departments, including those that have not benefited from equipment purchases for some time. Vital equipment to be purchased includes a transport monitor and defibrillator for the emergency department, an FM30 fetal monitor for the birthing unit and a bladder scanner for the Cooina Ward.

Undoubtedly 2020 has highlighted just how vital our doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers are to keeping our communities safe. Whilst their contribution was undeniable before, the COVID-19 pandemic has shed new light on their hard work and dedication to their patients. Just last month at Sutherland Hospital I joined the Minister for Health and Medical Research to announce that the New South Wales Government had made available \$7 million for the purchase of a new MRI machine. The doctors, staff and volunteers at the hospital have been vocal about this much-needed technology for some time, and I was incredibly pleased to meet with some of those

frontline workers to inform them of the good news. Whilst significant investment has been made in the Sutherland Hospital in recent years, including an \$81.5 million operating theatre upgrade currently underway, the kiosk committee has worked painstakingly for six decades to fill in the gaps.

I acknowledge the hardworking management committee members and daily supervisors whose dedication has been instrumental in securing much-needed medical equipment for our local community. I recognise president Warren Watkins, vice-president Margaret McKerihan, treasurer Shirley Chirgwin, secretary Helen Kerr, Margaret McCarthy, Gail Jensen, Denise Sanders, Wendy Katis, Steve Black, Janet Sawyer, Carolyn Young, Diane Strachan and Dianne Batty. I take this opportunity to also commend the nearly 100 volunteers in total who selflessly offer their services whenever they can. With the indulgence of the House I acknowledge Liz Archer, Judy Bamford, Murray Barnes, Michael Batty, Maria Bettini, Kaye Bowery, Robyn Brydson, Margaret Budd, Reg Chirgwin, Fay Chisolm, Isabel Coote, Jo Coote, Jill Crammond, Fay Chisholm, Lorraine Cussen, Ronald Davies, Vicki Dwyer, Cathy Dyson, Robyn Edwards, Maria Gonzalez, Diane Gorman, Kay Guirgis, Murray Henderson, Carol Hunn and Marietta Hopkins.

I also applaud the charity efforts of Ruth Jackson, Debbie Leonard, Kay McCallum, Emily McDowell, Sherryl McKelvie, John McLaren, Rhonda Malley, Pat Markham, Trish Marshall, Bev Mayer, Jane Mayne, Kay Moore, Narelle Morgan, Margaret Muhlbock, Graeme Peebles, Scott Phillips, Robyn Quinn, Kevin Redman, Margaret Redman, Lynette Reeves, Helen Rosner, Margaret Ross, Margaret Rowland, Leesa Sawyer, Sue Seaton, John Seaton, Gail Seaton, Faye Seddon, Pam Shannahan, Ann Smith, Norm Smith, Roslyn Smith, Steve Smith, Les Strachan, Sera Fena Stratte, Glenys Thompson, Marian Titmus, Stanley Tsoumas, Margaret Turnbull, Camille Valvo, Nello Valvo, Angela Vlander Vliet, Annemarie Wagner, Lesley Walton, Barbara Weigland, Betty Werry, David Wesley, Rhonda Wheeldon, Judy Whitton, Pam Wicks and Priscilla Wood.

Volunteering is the backbone of our community and part of the fabric that makes our shire the best place in which to live, work and raise a family. The members of the Sutherland Hospital Kiosk Committee should be incredibly proud of their efforts. I very much look forward to seeing their good work continue into the future.

#### STATE BUDGET AND NEWCASTLE ELECTORATE

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (17:59:20):** The long-awaited budget is almost upon us and while everyone in this place is jostling for their share, a phenomenal amount of cash can be delivered straight to the Hunter following the Federal Government's \$360 million commitment to the final link of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass. It is not often that an opportunity comes along to reinvest that much money into a region where the breadth of industry is critical to sustaining the New South Wales economy—tourism, manufacturing, major events and education. Newcastle is not a one-trick pony and, as New South Wales' second-largest city, it has a vital role to play in COVID recovery. That is why this Government's saving on the Inner City Bypass project—money that had already been dedicated to the Hunter—must stay. It will not be wasted.

I do not expect the Treasurer or the bureaucrats to sniff out all of our projects: I am not that unreasonable. I have plenty of ideas to offer. If the money is to stay with major infrastructure projects, then let us look at the redevelopment of the John Hunter Hospital—a project we know the Government loves, as only this month the Premier and health Minister were on the campus spruiking it. The first stage is \$780 million but we have not had a commitment to stage two. The Inner City Bypass savings would be a great start. Also in the major infrastructure projects category is the extension of the Newcastle Airport runway. This is something that Newcastle and Port Stephens representatives at local, State and Federal levels all agree is vital for our region. This project is costed at \$65 million but is estimated to generate almost \$13 billion in economic benefits over the next 20 years, as well as 4,500 jobs.

While both projects are just outside my electorate, I am sure my colleagues would agree that they are not just of local or regional significance. Northern New South Wales would significantly benefit from both projects. The John Hunter Hospital hosts the only major trauma centre in New South Wales outside Sydney, while the airport project, with its improved freight and tourism opportunities, will bring widespread benefits to northern businesses. Within my electorate, there is a huge opportunity to develop Newcastle's social, sporting and cultural facilities to the world-class standard that this State's second-largest city deserves. With the FIFA Women's World Cup coming, there is no better time to commit money to the Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct to get this project moving. It was announced with much fanfare in 2017, but it has been on a go-slow ever since.

With the new Venues NSW authority signed, sealed and delivered, and parliamentary oversight guaranteed by Labor on residential and commercial hotel development, there is nothing standing in the way of overhauling this precinct except the cash injection needed to get it off the ground. That legislation was passed in this House today, so we can get moving on this project. Meanwhile, the redevelopment of the Newcastle Art Gallery has been on the table for a very long time. It recently received a \$10 million bequest, which only serves to make the project a more attractive investment. This should be coupled with the restoration of the Victoria Theatre, which is a

heritage-listed building now owned by Century Venues, which has had the plans and development application approved to restore the theatre to its former glory. They just need the cash.

A cash splash on social and affordable housing in Newcastle is also sorely needed. This Government has made tens of millions of dollars selling social housing stock in Newcastle. Meanwhile the wait time for every property type in the Newcastle allocation zone is five to 10 years and assisting local tenants to get basic maintenance done is a never-ending battle. A serious investment in new stock and upkeep of existing stock is necessary. Whether it is from the Inner City Bypass savings or the New South Wales budget, all of these projects are strong contenders for funding. However, there is one thing that this Government can do right now that will not cost it a cent and will deliver countless benefits to all of northern New South Wales: removal of the anti-competitive cap on containers at the Port of Newcastle. That would be \$1.8 billion in private investment creating almost 15,000 jobs nationally. This is the most important project in the region. It is something that this Government must do immediately.

### **PENRITH PANTHERS**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (18:04:30):** Excitement is growing across the greater Penrith region as the Penrith Panthers continue to dominate the footy field and their opportunity for overall victory is now just around the corner. Saturday 17 October saw a phenomenal football game between the Penrith Panthers and the South Sydney Rabbitohs, but once again Penrith came out on top, continuing as the undefeated champions for four consecutive months. Their dedication to the sport and to each other is evident on the field in every game, as they not only play fantastic footy but clearly have fun whilst doing so. The Penrith Panthers have been participating in one of Australia's most loved sports since 1967, when they were admitted to the NSWRL premiership. Their early years of playing in the NRL were filled with achievements that fans still reminisce about today. Those achievements were the stepping stone to the club's long and eventful history.

The Penrith Panthers won their first NRL Premiership in 1991 and won again 12 years later in 2003 against the Sydney Roosters in front of 81,000 fans. I note that one of my residents living on Mulgoa Road in a rural setting has placed on their fence "Go the mighty Panthers" in big letters. Next to it is a cartoon character carrying a large shotgun saying, "I feel like chicken tonight". That is a very apt description of the competition. It has now been a long 17 years since the Penrith Panthers have played in the NRL grand final, but this outstanding team has given their supporters something to hope for as they look to take home the 2020 NRL premiership title for the first time since 2003. Regardless of the outcome, I am sure that all Penrith Panthers fans are incredibly proud of the hard work and effort their team has displayed on the field each week this season.

There is no doubt that Penrith fans have waited eagerly to see their team once again recognised as the best rugby league team in the nation. This year's NRL season has seen its fair share of difficulties due to COVID-19, but through it all the Penrith Panthers have shown outstanding sportsmanship, skill and teamwork that has propelled them to the 2020 NRL grand final. This Sunday is set to be one of the biggest in Penrith history as the Panthers go head to head with the Melbourne Storm for the coveted title. Thousands of fans will be cheering on the mighty Panthers from their homes, whilst others will have the privilege to attend in person. This game will, without a doubt, have all of western Sydney on the edge of their seats and I am certain the Panthers will do us proud. The excitement is brewing in the halls of Parliament House as I speak.

I will now take the time to acknowledge those who have held vital roles in the success of the Penrith Panthers this year. Firstly, I make special mention of coach Ivan Cleary for his leadership of and influence upon the players. It has proven mightily successful. His experience and passion for the game has brought together an unstoppable team that continues to represent the Penrith region with pride. To the support staff, fitness trainers, nutritionists and especially the very influential captain James Tamou, I say thank you for your total commitment and passion for the 2020 premiership. I also thank Mr Peter V'landys and Andrew Abdo for taking on the difficult job of creating a safe and entertaining competition during these challenging COVID-19 times. They have shown a commitment and a dedication that is truly admirable. Once again, I congratulate the Penrith Panthers on an outstanding season. We are incredibly proud of them and I wish them all the best in their final battle for the 2020 NRL premiership title this Sunday.

Given that the Penrith Panthers are the only New South Wales team now in the competition, I urge every person in New South Wales to cheer the mighty Panthers to victory this Sunday night. It is a time when we can all come together legitimately, in unity, under the one banner supporting a New South Wales sporting team into a finals competition. It will be fitting at the end of this very tough year in football and many other sports to see a New South Wales team reign as the winners. I congratulate the Penrith Panthers players, families, friends, partners, wives and children for all the support they have given to this amazing team. Go the mighty Panthers!

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (18:09:36):** Mention of the upcoming NRL finals gives me the opportunity to congratulate my local team, the Sydney Roosters. I noted the comments of the member about her



local team reaching the grand final. I was at Pepper Stadium two weeks ago when the Roosters came within one point of winning against the Penrith Panthers. I congratulate them. It is appropriate for me to say thank you to the Roosters for the valiant effort they have made during this very difficult competition year. It has been a difficult NRL competition. Through the visionary leadership of Peter V'landys, the chairmanship of Nick Politis and the work of coach Trent Robertson, the Roosters have done incredibly well. The eastern suburb residents are incredibly proud of them. I say to the Panthers to just watch out next year. I congratulate them on the finals.

### WAGE THEFT

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:10:51):** Wage theft in New South Wales is almost an art form. Every type of scam is being tried, including receiving no pay slip, receiving cash payments and being incorrectly classified under an award or an agreement. Scams also includes sham contracting, intimidation, unpaid trial employment and the list goes on. Only one State in Australia, Victoria, has made wage theft a criminal offence. For many young and not so young people the intricate employment laws, awards and agreements are difficult to navigate and many employees accept that their employer is doing the right thing. In many cases this could not be further from the truth. A whopping 725 workers have been back-paid more than \$330,000 after a series of Fair Work Ombudsman [FWO] raids identified worrying levels of wage theft in regional Victoria and New South Wales.

Less than three weeks after recovering \$580,000 in stolen wages from regional businesses across Australia's eastern seaboard, the FWO has unveiled the results of another series of inspections in Albury-Wodonga, Ballarat and Wollongong. It found nearly half—47 per cent—of the 489 businesses that received surprise door knocks were in breach of workplace laws, including retail outlets, takeaway shops, cafes and bars. Over a third—35 per cent—of audited businesses were found to be underpaying workers their minimum hourly rates, while 12 per cent were not paying correct penalty rates. The findings are just the latest in a long line of FWO audits identifying widespread wage theft and non-compliance with Australia's workplace laws, particularly in regional areas.

Many well-recognised industrial brands have been caught stealing from their employees. An ACTU report found that 7-Eleven was underpaying its staff, Pizza Hut was using sham contracts, Red Rooster paid migrant workers as little as \$8 an hour, MaDE Establishment underpaid staff to the tune of \$2.6 million and Guava Nitai Ltd intimidated workers with the fear of deportation in order to underpay them. These employees were awarded money for underpayments which their boss later required them to pay back out of their bank accounts. Caltex failed to provide employees with their entitlements. There are many, many more examples. The interesting thing about this kind of theft is that it is not a criminal offence, except in Victoria, although recovery of underpayment of money is enforceable.

The perpetrators of these underpayments almost always argue the underpayment is an accounting error or a mistake. These mistakes are sometimes worth many millions of dollars. It seems saying these underpayments are a mistake is an acceptable defence. They can say, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean for that to happen." The interesting thing about wage underpayment is that the mistakes always seem to go one way—that is, in favour of the boss. God forbid if it ever happens to go the other way; then the employer is quick to get a garnishee order to recover the wages. When the wage theft is discovered by the employee and reported, the employer is quick to go on the front foot by denying it has happened or saying it was a mistake. If the employee is not in a union, they will have to work out how to recover the money themselves. There is no recognition of how difficult and dangerous it is to take the first step. Many workers are scared to come forward with a complaint for fear of losing their jobs. The system relies heavily on individuals reporting these underpayments.

Wage theft is a crime in Victoria because workers, with the backing of the union movement, told their stories and put the issue firmly in the public consciousness and on the Government's agenda. Victorian law now provides for three wage theft offences: the theft of employee entitlements—that is, a "dishonest" withholding; falsification of an employee's record; and the failure to keep employee entitlements records. Companies will be vicariously liable for actions taken by officers, directors, associates and agents within their scope of employment or engagement, and there will be implied authority if there is a corporate culture of wage theft. Like Victoria, New South Wales needs to commit to criminalising wage theft and to recognise it for what it is: pure and simple stealing. NSW Labor has developed a five-point plan: a new wage theft law to criminalise deliberate failure to pay wages and entitlements; new laws to hold head franchisors accountable for the actions of franchisees; widened powers of New South Wales workplace inspectors—[*Time expired.*]

### VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE JEWISH COMMUNITY

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (18:16:05):** The Vaucluse electorate is a diverse community—from Bondi Beach to Watsons Bay and to Rushcutters Bay. I am very proud of that diversity. It is also home to the majority of the Jewish community in New South Wales, with a large number of synagogues and community

organisations based in the electorate. It has not been an easy year to come together as a community and, having kept in regular touch with my community leaders, I know that it has been a particularly challenging time for the Jewish community. They have not been able to share, celebrate and congregate as they usually do and want to do.

The Jewish High Holy Days took place this year in September, followed by the holiday of Sukkot. The High Holy Days include Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—important sacred days that bring the Jewish community together from across the world. I know that many in our Jewish community were not able to congregate and worship. I also know that they have been creative in finding ways to worship together, such as through online webcasts of ceremonies or recordings. I acknowledge their perseverance and commitment to coming together as a community despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies annual general meeting was held online. It was shared with even more people across the Jewish community than would normally be able to fit in the premises in Darlinghurst, so there was actually a benefit to going online.

I commend the work of a number of local Jewish community groups and services during this difficult time, including BINA NSW, B'nai B'rith Rose Bay, Bnei Akiva Sydney, Bondi Mizrahi Synagogue, Central Synagogue, Chabad Double Bay, COA Sydney Incorporated, Dover Heights Shule, the Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe, Gan Yeladim Child Care Bondi, Jewish Education Matters, the Jewish Folk Centre, Jewish House, JewishCare NSW, the Kashrut Authority, Kehillat Kadimah—which I will talk further about—Nefesh Shul, NSW Friendship Circle, Our Big Kitchen, Sephardi Synagogue, Tzemach Tzedek Community Centre and the Wolper Jewish Hospital.

On Thursday 8 October 2020 I visited one of my local shules, Kehillat Kadimah at Rose Bay. It was one of the first community visits I have made since the onset of the pandemic and it was good to see the community continuing to meet in a COVID-safe way. At the shule I was met by Roland Nagel, who invited me for the visit, as well as Rabbi Dovy Rapoport, chairman Barry Meskin, general manager Dr Mervyn Katz and directors Michael Kadoury, Neill Miller, Daniel Winton, Esmond Kilov and Lonn Miller. The community leaders outlined their plans to continue to reinvigorate their important work as a community centre, and they informed me of the services they had continued to offer to the community during these difficult times.

They also enabled my tour of their facilities, including their beautiful sanctuary where they were proud to show me how the seats were marked up for COVID-safe sittings of the shule. I thank the leaders for their time and for welcoming me. I also acknowledge the Kehillat Kadimah board members who were not present on the day of my visit, including Chazan Niasoff, Rabbi Benjamin Simons and other board directors Joshua Bolot, Dale Carr, Ian Charif, David Goldman, Martine Lockstone, Lisa Segal and Shelley Sher. They do a wonderful community service for the broader Jewish community and I look forward to visiting again in the future.

With HSC exams beginning today, I again send my best wishes to the year 12 students in all of the schools in my electorate. I also want to send my special wishes to a number of Jewish schools today given that I am talking about my local Jewish community, including Kesser Torah College, Moriah College and Emmanuel College. Yesterday I was delighted to announce that Moriah College Early Learning Centre, the Saunders Family Campus Rose Bay will receive a \$15,000 grant from the Government to go towards a new play space and play equipment. It was fantastic to hear from Moriah College president Stephen Jankelowitz that the funding will make a difference for their students, especially with the centre at full capacity for 2021.

Thanks to Stephen and the college board, college principal Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler and the Foundation, including president Judy Lowy; secretary Cheryl Bart, AO; treasurer Jeremy Dunkel; Bruce Fink, OAM; Giora Fried; Robert Gavshon, AM; Lauren Placks and Denny Sekers for their stellar efforts in looking out for the school community. It has been a challenging year for all electorates. I particularly single out the work of my local Jewish community as an example of how they have worked strongly together to get through the challenges of the pandemic.

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **1ST TURRAMURRA SCOUT GROUP**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (18:21:16):** I congratulate the 1st Turramurra Scout Group on its 100th anniversary. Since 1920 it has been providing young people between the ages of eight and 25 with incredible opportunities for adventure, learning, friendships and fun, all in a safe and supervised environment. Many of its members have volunteered for the RFS and the SES. They have been members of the armed forces. They have provided community service to our local area, including organising Anzac Day services, which I have attended over the years. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the group's centenary celebrations have been postponed until next year. I congratulate all members on this milestone and wish the 1st Turramurra Scout Group good luck for the next 100 years. Scouts is about getting kids away from devices and back into nature. Like many community

groups, they rely on the families and volunteers to run the organisations effectively. I thank everyone involved in Scouts for giving time to our local community and I encourage anyone—young or old—to support their local Scout group.

### COMMUNITY BEFORE COMMISSION

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (18:22:20):** I acknowledge a great initiative in my local area called Community Before Commission, which was set up by Adam McMahon and Matt Dignam of Dignam Real Estate. The charity provides grants of thousands of dollars to people who are in need or doing it tough. It is funded directly in donations from commissions and is an opportunity for them to give back to their local community. Every year the charity helps a number of local residents or families that may be going through a difficult time. This hardship may be from illness or injury, financial adversity or perhaps an unfortunate event that is greatly affecting someone's life. I congratulate and thank Adam, Matt and the team at Dignam for this great charity initiative, and for supporting community members who are in need or who have fallen on hard times. I also congratulate Adam McMahon on winning the Inspiring Business Leader award at the recently held Illawarra Business Awards.

### PROJECT WALWAAY

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:23:25):** I have spoken in this House before about the incredible success of Project Walwaay—which is a fantastic project—and the difference it is making in the lives of at-risk youth in the Dubbo electorate. It is run by local police and is simply wonderful. Since the program began it has seen charges against young Indigenous people in Dubbo drop by 65 per cent and I am hopeful that it can be rolled out in other locations across the State. Kyle Daley and Jamaul Wright are just two of the success stories. Both young men recently completed their Royal Life Saving certificate, which they achieved through their involvement with Walwaay. Gaining that certificate will not only give the boys an avenue to gain employment; it will also give them confidence and a belief that they can achieve things they set their minds to. It also shows that there are people who care—sometimes that is all that is needed. Kyle and Jamaul's story is at the heart of what Project Walwaay is all about. As the Commander of Orana Mid-Western Police District, Superintendent Peter McKenna, said, "the program is all about enabling the youth to walk with police, rather than run away from them". Well done to Kyle and Jamaul and all the best for their future endeavours.

### SARAH DONNELLEY

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (18:24:27):** I recognise Sarah Donnelley, a music teacher from Wilcannia Central School who is one of four finalists in the Telstra ARIA Music Teacher Awards. "Miss Sarah", as she is known to the schoolchildren, created a reworked version of the song *From Little Things Big Things Grow* by Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly. During the COVID-19 lockdown, when students were not able to attend school, Sarah adapted her music program to keep her students connected. In a remote community where internet learning is not an option, she arranged for the song to be played on Wilcannia's radio station at certain times of the day. Students were then filmed singing the song, and the footage was used to create a sense of togetherness in the Wilcannia community during a time of social isolation. Her music is calming and brings joy to students. I congratulate Sarah on being selected as a finalist for this prestigious award. I admire her initiative and passion for using music as a vehicle to improve the lives of students in a remote community.

### CASSANDRA O'CARROLL

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (18:25:24):** I congratulate conservation and land management trainee Cassandra O'Carroll, who has taken out the School-based Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2020 New South Wales Training Awards. As school captain of Bomaderry High School, Cassandra created the sustainable schools competition where schools compete for a prize by undertaking eco-friendly initiatives. During the bushfires, she applied the skills that she had learned at Kiama Community College to help wildlife. A national parks wildlife volunteer, Cassandra is also a joint recipient of the Victor Chang School Science Award as well as a participant in the Sonder Youth Leadership Program. I congratulate Cassandra on being named the New South Wales School-based Apprentice of the Year, and wish her all the very best as she represents New South Wales at the Australian Training Awards in November.

### CABRAMATTA ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (18:26:06):** Today marks the beginning of a very stressful period for many year 12 students throughout the Cabramatta electorate, as the HSC examinations began this morning. This represents an important time for students as they work towards the end of one era and the beginning of the next. I commend each and every student who has embarked on this great challenge. Irrespective of the outcome, know that your friends, family and community are proud of your hard work and dedication over the years. On behalf of the Cabramatta community I wish all of our year 12 students the very best with their exams, and for all future challenges which lie ahead.

### CAMDEN ELECTORATE NETBALL TEAMS

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (18:26:47):** Due to the COVID-19 lockdown and associated restrictions, the 2020 Camden District Netball Association season has been like no other. I am proud to acknowledge the following teams from the Camden electorate that emerged victorious at the conclusion of the season. The 2020 winners in each division were, in 10A, the Benkennie Beagles; in 10B, the Camden RSL Aero; in 11A, the Mount Annan Fury; in 11B, the Oran Park Mini's; in 11C, the Camden RSL Fighters; in 12A, the Camden RSL Sea Furys; in 12B, the Bringelly Fusion; and in 12C, the Bringelly Dragonflies. The winners in intermediate 1 were the Benkennie Bunyips; in intermediate 3, the Harrington Park Zircons; and in intermediate 5, the Benkennie Bilbies. In junior division 1 the winners were the Harrington Park Aquamarine and in junior division 2, the Benkennie Beauties. I wish all the winning teams every success in the future.

### WYONG ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (18:27:52):** Today students across my electorate start their HSC exams. I wish them all the best in their efforts over the next few weeks. A special best wishes goes to my daughter, Jessica, who is among those students this year. Like all parents and families, I am incredibly proud of her efforts and participation throughout her school life. This has been an incredibly disrupted year, most of all because of COVID-19, but I know that teachers and schools have been working hard to support year 12 students through this difficult period. I especially acknowledge all of the year 12 year advisors, who have ridden the highs and lows with the students—some since year 7. I say to them that they are almost there. Whatever the results, the HSC is one leg of the journey of life—not the end. For young people out there, life is full of opportunities. I wish students at Northlakes High School, Gorokan High School, Wadalba Community School, Wyong High School, MacKillop Catholic College, Lakes Grammar, Wyong Christian Community School, St Peter's Catholic College and those groups offering alternate education opportunities all the best for their HSC.

### ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (18:28:52):** I acknowledge the wonderful St Joseph's Junior Rugby League Football Club. Established in 1964, the Joeys' coaches and trainers continue to keep our kids active, fostering a lifelong love of rugby league across nearly 20 boys' and girls' teams in all age divisions. I congratulate Mitch Roberts and Mitch Tremain, who recently played their 300th games for the club, as well as Clay Harding on reaching his own 200-game milestone. I visited the Joeys a few months ago to see firsthand how renovations to their clubhouse facility were progressing. With the \$35,000 the club was allocated under the 2019 Community Building Partnership program, they are modernising their change rooms, and upgrading the canteen and meeting rooms to provide a more functional and inclusive environment for players, volunteers and supporters. I acknowledge the energetic team of volunteers behind this great club, including Michael Evans, Peter Vanderwert, Peter Sertori, Peter Jamieson, Shaun Spangenberg, Anthony Howard, Michael Schembri and Kylie Jenkins. I congratulate the Joeys on another successful season and extend my best wishes for those still to come.

### CENTRAL COAST BOMBERS

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:29:55):** I congratulate Killarney Vale AFC, also known as the Central Coast Bombers, on its contribution to equality in sport. On Saturday 17 October I was honoured to attend the prestigious women's grand final of the Black Diamond Cup of the AFL Hunter Central Coast region, held at the Bombers' home ground at Adelaide Street, Killarney Vale. The same Black Diamond Cup is awarded to the winner of the women's and men's competitions. The previously undefeated Bombers women's team, captained by Ashleigh Page, along with teammates Sasha Edwards, Bethany Wood, Chelsea Dawson, Tayla Thorn, Angela Jones, Hannah Page, Kristen Kessler, Teneale Toker, Caitlin Sims, Brooke Hoolihan, Courtney Barnett, Megan Jenkins, Taylah Canobie, Reannon Warr, Holly Buchanan, Skye Bailey, Emily Crookes, Kelsey Acton, Brooke Hulley-Peachey, Maddison Kacarovski and Jasmin Strange, played an outstanding game against Newcastle City. Whilst Newcastle City prevailed on this occasion, I have no doubt that the Bombers will return stronger next year. They are setting a fine example of equality in sport. Well done, Bombers.

### TAWNY FROGMOUTH MAGAZINE

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (18:30:57):** The northern beaches will soon welcome a free mailbox-dropped print publication with a huge variety of content. I congratulate Liam and the team behind the *Tawny Frogmouth* magazine, which from November 22 will deliver to over 50,000 mailboxes from Manly to Dee Why, as well as to other spots on the Northern Beaches peninsula. Each edition will feature unique cover artwork by a local artist and will depict an array of topics about everyday life on the Northern Beaches, including health, education, crime, politics, property, finance, renovations, careers and entrepreneurship. The magazine

will also cover sports such as fishing, sailing and surfing, and, of course, will provide a good overview of the Northern Beaches wining and dining landscape. I congratulate Liam and the team on the *Tawny Frogmouth*.

### **BIGGER BACKYARD CENTRAL COAST**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:31:56):** I commend everyone involved in the Bigger Backyard Central Coast and encourage businesses across the region to jump online this Thursday for the Central Coast's first virtual business expo. The Bigger Backyard is the brainchild of the Central Coast Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Central Coast branch of the NSW Business Chamber, and is designed to encourage businesses from across the Central Coast to support each other. So far, more than 600 local businesses have committed to spending \$28 million for the region. Rather than chasing resources away from the Central Coast, Bigger Backyard has challenged locals to do a bit more research and seek out components, skills, resources, supplies and more from within our own community. Bigger Backyard members can exhibit their business and chat to prospective clients for free in what will be the Central Coast's largest virtual trade expo. In Small Business October, I urge them to join in and promote their business, showcase their goods and services, source new suppliers and distribution channels, sell their products and build their brand from the comfort of their office or home.

### **TARYN RILES**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (18:33:00):** I recognise Mrs Taryn Riles of Boorowa, a learning support officer at Boorowa Central School, who was recently named the 2020 Australian Teacher Aide of the Year. The award recognises the valuable contribution teacher aides make to student learning and wellbeing across Australia. Mrs Riles brings her expertise to Boorowa Central in supporting children with learning and behavioural difficulties. I am delighted that her dedication in her role as the staff wellbeing coordinator for the Stronger Smarter program, which she facilitates, is being recognised and celebrated. The many amazing hours she dedicates to her students is significant and I have no doubt that she has influenced many children for the better. I congratulate Taryn today, and I thank her for all of the outstanding work that she has done.

### **NEWCASTLE OLYMPIC WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:33:54):** It is no mean feat to lead the ladder in your first year of top-flight competition, but the Newcastle Olympic women's premier league [WPL] squad did more than that, taking out the championship in a thrilling grand final affair against Warners Bay. Two fantastic goals from Jemma House gave Olympic the 2-1 edge at half-time before Laura Hall sealed the deal with a third. While Warners Bay fired back and came within one, Olympic put up a formidable defensive effort to hold onto the 3-2 scoreline and earn a large celebration. This is a fantastic credit not only to the players, but also to all behind the scenes at Newcastle Olympic who embraced the opportunity to join the WPL competition and strove for excellence. I congratulate all involved—here's to the back-to-back win in 2021.

### **ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:34:50):** I acknowledge that this year marks the centenary of Albury High School and congratulate staff, students and parents on all that has been achieved at this remarkable regional State school. The school initially occupied a site at the former district hospital on the corner of Thurgoona and Pemberton streets, situated adjacent to the old Albury Gaol. This was during the 1920s. Later the school moved to Kiewa Street, where it remains to this day. Construction of the main school buildings was completed in March 1928, with Mr J. G. Monaghan as principal and Dr Andrews as first president of the P&C association. Formal centenary events have been postponed until October 2021, but I look forward to participating at what those at Albury High School are calling their "centenary plus one" celebrations.

### **YOUNG JUNIOR TOUCH FOOTBALL COMPETITION**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:35:39):** With the new season starting this week, I am delighted to report that there are 230 players registered for the Young Junior Touch Football competition thanks to the hard work of coordinator Shelby Inwood. Young Junior Touch Football does not have any sponsors or even a home oval; the organisers and coaches fit the players in to sporting fields where they can. Helping Shelby coordinate this massive task are Ben Cooper, Susan Cass and Jess McInerney. In 2019 the juniors were back with vengeance after a six-year hiatus, with numbers growing from 175 to 230. This year there are 17 coaches, made up mostly of junior players, training 22 teams with players aged between five and 13 years. I wish the best of luck to all players this season. I look forward to being updated with the results.

### **WYONG ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (18:36:37):** Construction has begun on ING's new purpose-built office in Wyong, with the completion of the building due in June 2022. The building is developed by Gibbens Group, will create up to 600 jobs and includes free parking for 300 vehicles. The sustainably built 4,800 square metre site

has been designed with ING's agile work practices in mind, with an open plan and innovative meeting spaces throughout. The building will utilise natural light and provide vistas, with a sprawling garden giving employees the opportunity to work outside or use the space to recharge, and will also have an onsite cafe. The location at Wyong Business Park was chosen for its great transport links and proximity to shopping amenities, fitness centres and childcare facilities. The Wyong growth corridor is designed to provide thousands of jobs over the next 20 years. I welcome the investment from the Gibbens Group and encourage other companies to explore the opportunity in this area. Gibbens Group has made a great investment in Wyong jobs and will achieve a positive increase for the local community.

#### **TERRY AND KAY TEMPLETON**

#### **HELEN AND ROY ASHPOLE**

**Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (18:37:39):** I congratulate two couples who celebrated their diamond anniversaries last Thursday 15 October: Terry and Kay Templeton of Padstow, and Helen and Roy Ashpole from Chester Hill. Terry and Kay both grew up in Padstow in my electorate of East Hills and met whilst attending the local fellowship group at St John's Anglican Church in Padstow. They were married at the same church in 1960 and are still active members there. They have lived in the same house in Padstow for 60 years. Their family includes their son, Cameron; daughters, Fiona and Nerida—and their husbands, Tony and Rob respectively; and five grandchildren, Lexie, Angus, Leila, Jake and Daniella.

Roy and Helen Ashpole met through the Enfield-Burwood cycling club and married at St Anne's church. Roy and Helen have two daughters, Terrie and Jennifer, who are both now married. They have provided Roy and Helen with six grandchildren. Roy and Helen had a bookbinding business that started off in Milperra and then later moved premises to Condell Park. They retired in 2009. They both have been community volunteers for over 40 years in organisations such as Toastmasters and Birrong and Bankstown swimming clubs. They also volunteered at the Sydney Olympic Games. I congratulate Terry, Kay, Roy and Helen on a lifetime of love.

#### **BRISBANE WATER POLICE DISTRICT**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:38:44):** I often have the opportunity to speak about the fantastic NSW Police Force on the Central Coast in this House and this is another opportunity. On 13 October it was a great pleasure to welcome six brand new cadets straight from Goulburn who arrived on the Central Coast to be appointed to the Brisbane Water Police District. Under the able leadership of Superintendent Tony Joyce, these six new police officers have donned the blue. They are the thin blue line who keep us safe every day. The great news is that all six of these brand new graduates from Goulburn are Central Coast residents. It is great that they have graduated from the fantastic police academy in Goulburn and have returned to their home in the Central Coast to take up their jobs as the thin blue line, protecting the people of the Central Coast, at the Brisbane Water police command. I wish them all the best for their very bright futures in the NSW Police Force.

#### **HUNTER WILDFIRES**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:39:39):** From only having a few weeks' preparation before the competition commenced in July to taking out the division 2 decider, the Hunter Wildfires rugby women have proven they are a force to be reckoned with. Bringing together players from all over the Hunter and making their debut in the Jack Scott Cup this year, the team has shown exceptional growth through the season to seal its place in the grand final with a 29-19 win over Sydney University 2 in the major semifinal before accounting for Campbelltown 29-25 in the decider. This is a fantastic result in the team's first year in the competition. I congratulate everyone both on and off the field who contributed to this team. The Hunter is truly proud.

#### **MITCHELL GLYNN**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:40:34):** In an age where we all tend to want things to happen quite quickly, I recognise the efforts of 12-year-old Mitchell Glynn. Inspired by the fact that there are "kids with no hair", Mitchell has spent more than three years growing his hair with a plan to donate not only his hair but also any money he has been able to raise along the way. With proud parents Luke and Bridgette Glynn watching on, Mitchell recently had a whopping 37.5 centimetres cut off his locks at a special ceremony at the Church Street Cafe in Dubbo. The hair has been donated to Variety as part of the Hair With Heart campaign, while Mitchell has also raised in excess of \$1,500 towards the cause. Church Street Cafe donated some of the proceeds of coffee sold on the day, while the wonderful ladies at JustCuts in Dubbo Square trimmed Mitchell's hair for free over the course of his journey when they heard what he was hoping to achieve and donated the cost of those cuts to the cause as well. Well done, Mitchell. I congratulate you and your family on a great display of community spirit.

**COMO JANNALI JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (18:41:36):** I acknowledge the outstanding Como Jannali Junior Rugby League Football Club for its impact both on and off the field. Established in 1947, the Como Crocs are committed to building confidence, mateship, loyalty and life skills for over 800 registered members. The first club in our shire to achieve NSW Rugby League Blue Shield status, the Crocs ran their inaugural pre-season wellbeing bush camp and took home five premierships in 2020. Off the field, the Mates 4 MENTal Health initiative sees the Crocs working within our community to educate, inform and support men dealing with mental health issues. I recognise the wonderful volunteers behind the Como Crocs, including president Hayden Garn; Ben Beckett; Brett Carroll; David Bruce; David Follmi; Faith Perryman; Gareth Hughes; Heidi Hansell; Llew Dowley; Mark Lennon; Paul Douglas; Sam Isemonger; Sean Bateman; Shane Hedley; Shane Hulbert; Shareen Moran; Sue Lennon; and Tony Robinson. Keep up the fantastic work, Como Crocs.

**BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL**

**Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (18:42:32):** I recently visited Bankstown Hospital with the health Minister to open the new \$25 million emergency department and catch up with the wonderful staff at the hospital, who are led by their excellent general manager, Peter Rophail. This year for Dry July 15 staff members stopped drinking alcohol for the month to raise funds for the Bankstown Cancer Centre. General manager Peter put his hand up to lose the lot and shave his head to encourage people to donate towards the cause. Last year the team raised money for five new treatment chairs and Elena Abraham, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in February, also raised more than \$10,000. Elena was in charge of the best haircut that Peter has ever had and was happy to be a part of the fundraising to say thanks to the team that gave her another chance for a healthy life. Patients were surveyed about what they thought this year's fundraising should go towards. Suggestions included artwork to brighten walls, pamper packs, and magazines and newspapers in various languages. The impressive total of \$17,300 raised will no doubt help to brighten the walls of the centre and the patient experience along with it. I congratulate all of the amazing staff.

**SAMEERA BASHIR**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:43:38):** I congratulate Sameera Bashir from Narrandera, who is aiming to cycle 500 kilometres in 2020 whilst taking part in the Great Cycle Challenge in an effort to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Institute. Over the past two years Ms Bashir has already completed 1,102 kilometres on local cycle paths and raised \$7,856 for charity. As a result of this ride she aims to cycle 500 kilometres and raise \$500, with all proceeds going to the Children's Medical Research Institute. This is an inspiring goal that Ms Bashir aims to achieve. I again congratulate her on all of her achievements to date and thank her for her contribution to this great cause. I wish her all the very best in her upcoming ride. There is no doubt that she has made her family and Narrandera proud.

**TOM SKINNER**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:44:18):** He may be more used to raising the bat for reaching 50 on the cricket field, but Tom Skinner recently reached the half-century in a far more important area. The Newtown cricketer, who also plays Aussie Rules with the Dubbo Demons and helps to run the family dairy farm alongside his father, Don, and brothers Steve and Matt, donated blood for the fiftieth time at the Dubbo Blood Bank. Tom's wife, Elizabeth, has a background in pathology and it was a conversation with her that convinced him to keep going after he had started donating. He posts his donations on Facebook to encourage others to try to help save lives. I quote:

It is something that costs you nothing but a bit of time and it can mean the world to someone else.

I congratulate Tom on his milestone and thank him for his dedication to a cause that is vitally important to people, not only in the Dubbo electorate but also across New South Wales and Australia. Anyone who is keen to join Tom as a donor can call 131495 or visit [lifeblood.com.au](http://lifeblood.com.au). Well done, Tom, and keep on going. Maybe another 50?

**NORAH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:45:34):** It is a privilege to be the Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and I have enjoyed the pleasure of visiting the Norah Head Lighthouse on many occasions—a tourist destination par excellence! I can confirm that the lighthouse will receive funding of \$200,000 through the Government's COVID-19 stimulus package. This great facility will now have upgraded walkways and a shed to provide additional storage. The lighthouse was built between 1901 and 1903. It is effectively in its original condition, with the exception of its actual light upgrade. I congratulate the volunteer team at the Norah Head Lighthouse on the work they do to keep this beautiful structure in pristine condition, along with the wonderful accommodation that is provided onsite. Congratulations to the Norah Head Lighthouse. I am pleased that the New South Wales Government is providing it with \$200,000 of funding.

### GENTLE DENTAL CARE

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (18:46:37):** October is NSW Small Business Month. Tonight I bring to the attention of the House the new practice of Gentle Dental Care in Miranda. Gentle Dental Care, which was founded in 1978, is a family-oriented business. It is led by Dr Gen Russo, who has over 40 years of experience and is one of Sydney's leading dental practitioners. Alongside his sons—Michael, Tony and Dean—Dr Gen and Gentle Dental Care are committed to making each patient's experience as pleasant and comfortable as possible, as well as providing top-of-the-line dental treatment through cutting-edge treatments and state-of-the-art equipment. With the opening of their seventh practice in Miranda, the Russo family is happy to finally be able to offer dental services to the many friends and family they have in the shire. I commend the hard work and dedication of the team at Gentle Dental Care for creating confident smiles in our community.

### ELKA DEVNEY

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (18:47:28):** I recognise Elka Devney of Moree for being awarded the education Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Elka was one of only two students in New England and only 35 students across New South Wales to be recognised with this award. The award recognises outstanding year 12 students who have excelled in their secondary years across academic excellence, sports, culture, community and leadership. Elka has been an active member of the Moree Secondary College's Aboriginal Education Consultation Group. Last year she won the Rotary District 9650's public speaking competition; was a regional finalist in the Lions Youth of the Year competition; and was the regional winner of ABC's Heywire creative writing competition, which saw her participate in the National Youth Summit in Canberra, as well as being named Moree's 2020 Young Citizen of the Year. Most recently Elka was admitted to the New South Wales Hidden Treasures Honour Roll—one of the youngest ever inductees. I commend Elka for all of her fantastic achievements and congratulate her on her success.

### CULTURAL MAPS CENTRAL NSW

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:48:31):** I acknowledge Arts OutWest, Central NSW Joint Organisation of Councils and Regional Development Australia Central West on the development of a new resource for promoting arts and cultural experiences in central New South Wales. Culture Maps Central NSW will benefit both locals and visitors by highlighting museums, heritage sites and trails, galleries and art studios, shops and Aboriginal culture. It also includes a comprehensive map of public art. The map includes 21 Cowra locations, including the Lachlan River Bridge pylons painted by local Aboriginal artist Kym Freeman, depicting the history of the Wiradjuri people, and a new replacement mural of surrounding canola fields painted by Cowra artist Glenn Morton. This initiative is a wonderful way to showcase art and culture in the Central West region.

### ET AUSTRALIA

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:49:34):** Yesterday I had the opportunity to catch up with ET Australia principal Tony Mylan. ET Australia is a fantastic school on the Central Coast, which provides education to students who do not fit inside the norm. I congratulate Tony and the team at ET Australia, who are in the process of relocation. This is a big job as they leave their council-owned building to set up new facilities in the building next door and across the road in the Imperial Centre. I also congratulate ET Australia for allocating all of that work to North Construction & Building—a local company based on the Central Coast. A fantastic local school is moving and it is providing additional trade jobs to a fantastic local company. The State Government was able to assist through the Planning System Acceleration Program, which allowed the school to get the approvals for the construction to be fast-tracked, and the school will be up and running on day one of the first term in 2021. Congratulations to ET Australia.

### ARMIDALE DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (18:50:29):** I congratulate Shona Eichorn, Andrew Starr, Mike Porter and all the members of the Armidale District Cricket Association on what was an excellent initiative—namely, for the first time, last weekend having an official season launch for the Armidale district cricket season 2020-2021. A huge crowd of both young and old locals gathered at the Armidale sportsground to sign up for the new cricket season. Is it not wonderful to have a cricket season, unlike last year, where we have some green grass to play on and some water in the dams so that we can have turf wickets to play on rather than synthetic pitches? It was wonderful to see the youngsters presented with their representative caps for the new season. I congratulate the parents and organisers, particularly the committee, and wish everyone a very successful and happy 2020-2021 cricket season.



### THE LAKES RUGBY UNION CLUB

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Speaker, I rise to congratulate The Lakes Rugby Union Club on making the grand final in all three grades. The grand finals took place on the weekend of October 11 at Central Coast Stadium, and saw The Lakes club enter the Premier 1 grand final as underdogs, taking on the defending premiers Terrigal. The Premier 2 grand final saw the same two teams meet but this time The Lakes Club go in favourites having beating Terrigal in the major semi-final. The club also made the Under 19s grand final where they faced Avoca Beach. In both the Premier 1 and 2 grand finals The Lakes club narrowly went down to Terrigal, while in the Under 19s grand final The Lakes defeated Avoca Beach 23-14. Congratulations to all three grades on a fantastic season, making a grand final is always a special achievement. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and parents involved with the club for their work during a very difficult season.

### GORDON POLLEY CENTRAL COAST VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Speaker, I rise to congratulate Gordon Polley of Chain Valley Bay for being named one of the 2020 New South Wales Volunteers of the Year for the Central Coast. Mr Polley who lives at and has volunteered at Valhalla Village and around the Central Coast for many years. My electorate of Swansea has a number of residential villages and Mr Polley has volunteered his time to assist residents in these villages. I have spoken to residents of Valhalla Village who have spoken glowingly of Mr Polley's work in the community. Mr Polley serves the community as a Justice of the Peace, a member of the local ARPRA branch, Member of the Tenants Union, along with being a conciliator and mediator for 14 local and 23 Hometown villages. I congratulate Mr Polley, he is a very worthy recipient of the 2020 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award for the Central Coast. I would also like to thank Mr Polley for his dedication to our community.

### BANKSTOWN SPORTS ATHLETICS CLUB

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I am pleased to recognise the Bankstown Sports Athletics Club, which will mark its 50-year anniversary during the upcoming 2020/2021 athletics season. This is a wonderful milestone and one of which they can and should be incredibly proud. The Bankstown Sports Athletics Club has been a well-respected sporting group in the Bankstown local government area since its formation, with the Club now boasting a membership of close to 500 athletes. The Club provides opportunities for all members of the community to become involved in local athletics. I commend Bankstown Sports Athletics Club President Colin Whitbread, Vice Presidents Lindsay Watson and Richard Kolodziej, Secretary Matthew Whitbread, and Treasurer Margaret Re, as well as all the coaches, players, trainers and indeed all the volunteers, on a successful 2020 season. I am proud to offer my continued support for the Bankstown Sports Athletics Club as they celebrate 50th years of dedication and commitment to athletics within our local community.

### BANKSTOWN SPORTS AFL CLUB

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I am pleased to recognise the success of the Bankstown Sports AFL Club during the 2020 season and congratulate the Club's two premierships-winning teams, the Under 11s and Under 12s Division 3 on their amazing achievement. I also am pleased to acknowledge the Under 12 Youth Girls, who were named Runners Up in their respective competition. I take this opportunity to commend Bankstown Sports AFL Club President Tim Hall, Vice President Nicole Bradley, Secretary Alison Muldoon, Treasurer Liz Granger, Registrar Margaret Alloggia, Football Operations Manager Jorgi Simpson and Coaching Coordinator Andrew Fanning, as well as all the coaches, players and volunteers, and congratulate the Club on a successful 2020 season. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Club's Committee who have worked tirelessly to promote AFL across the Bankstown local government area since the Club's formation in 2015. I am proud of the Bankstown Sports AFL's achievements and wish the Club the best for 2021.

### NIMBIN HEALTH & WELFARE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I congratulate the Nimbin Health & Welfare Association Incorporated (NH&W) on an amazing 38 years of active service to the community of Nimbin and surrounding areas. NH&W auspices the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Service (NACRS) and the Nepal Housing Project, which has built 12 houses in an area affected by the Nepal earthquakes. It also facilitates the Nimbin Affordable Housing Initiative and the Nimbin Interagency Forum. The association has been instrumental in many firsts over the years. These include the employment of an aged care worker, a weekly consultation by a government dentist, physiotherapy and pathology services, drug prevention work, the Nimbin Physical Activities Centre, supporting the Older Women's Forum's Mulgum House independent aged housing, campaigning for Indigenous well-being and public transport. I recognise and sincerely thank Management Committee members – Chairperson Karen Welsh, Ed Kiefer, Judy Hales, Jan Hendrie, Dr David Helliwell, Jen Ireland, Chibo Mertineit, Faye Scherf, Helen Simpson, Gwen Trimble, Jane Treasure and Shabayah Truscott. The Nimbin Health & Welfare Association

currently has ceased group activities at Bottlebrush Studio due to COVID-19 restrictions, but still offers individual support at the centre, particularly for any isolated older people in the Nimbin Valley.

### **BEST WISHES FOR HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I wish all Year 12 students in the Electorate of Lismore starting their Higher School Certificate exams today, the very best for success after what has been an extremely challenging academic year by any standard. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that these young people had to quickly adapt to remote learning from home for several months earlier this year. Preparing for your Higher School Certificate can be stressful enough, so I congratulate students, their teachers, and parents and care givers for coping with the uncertainty that COVID-19 has thrown up. For 76,000 candidates statewide, the HSC is starting five days later than usual to help recover some of the teaching time which may have been lost during remote learning. COVID-19 has meant that extra precautions are in place for the entire HSC timetable; cleaning of exam halls, bulk hand sanitiser ordered, a limit of 75 students for each exam room, no mingling before or after exams, and back-up venues should any student test positive for the virus. One bright note is that our Year 12s will still be able to celebrate their formals. Students will receive their HSC results on Friday, 18 December.

### **TED NOFFS FOUNDATION**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—Mr Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ted Noffs Foundation and recognise the work that they do across New South Wales, and in my electorate of Coogee. Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Acting CEO of the Ted Noffs Foundation, Mark Ferry, and Wesley Stokes, who works at the Ted Noffs Foundation as an Alcohol and Drug Worker, who told me about the work that they do in our Eastern Suburbs community. The Ted Noffs Foundation works to provide services to socially disadvantaged and disconnected young people, including those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who can face particular isolation in society. The Ted Noffs Foundation has a particular focus on those with drug and alcohol problems, and the mental health issues that arise from these problems, and work to engage and maintain positive social relationships with young people doing it tough. With all of the work that the Ted Noffs Foundation does, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contributions to our community.

### **GO LOCAL FIRST**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—Mr Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of every single small business owner across the Eastern Suburbs. This year has had an unprecedented impact on small businesses and it has been amazing to see so many business owners roll up their sleeves, pivot their offering and continue to provide amazing products and services to our local community. Mr Speaker in the good times, it is our small and family businesses that support our community. Countless sporting clubs and cultural organisations in my electorate are sponsored by one of more local business, who are chipping in to help their local club or organisation play another season or put on another show. It is now our turn to support our businesses. And so I call upon the people of the Coogee electorate to, where possible, Go Local First. The Go Local First campaign has been launched by the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia and calls on local people to shop in their neighbourhoods, to support local jobs and the local economic recovery. Well done to COSBOA and our local chambers of commerce who are continuing to support our wonderful local businesses.

### **EDVINA PREST**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)**—Speaker, I rise to congratulate a great friend of mine, Mrs Edvina Prest, on being awarded the highest Australian Catholic Church lay award, the Dempsey Medal. Mrs Prest received her award from Archbishop Fisher at a High Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on the 28th of July, 2019. Mrs Prest has been serving our local area for decades. Some of her charitable works include teaching Christian values to local public primary schools, supporting disadvantaged young people through the "Youth off the Streets" program and assisting Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor. She has been a member of the St Vincent De Paul Conference for over 20 years, as well as volunteering through the local catechist group. Mrs Prest continues to display values of compassion, service and selflessness in everything she does. Her work has made a huge difference in the lives of many people. On behalf of my electorate, I would like to thank Mrs Prest for all her work, and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

### **COLIN PALMER OAM AND GREGORY CORMACK ESM**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)**—Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss two local heroes in the Oatley electorate; Mr Colin Palmer OAM and Mr Gregory Cormack ESM. Mr Palmer of South Hurstville, was honoured last year with an OAM for his service to youth following nearly 50 years of dedication to the Australian Air Force Cadets. Colin began serving in the youth organisation in 1974 as an adult member. Since then he has worked as Director of Operations, National Coordinator of Ground Training as well as Executive

Officer and Commanding Officer of 318 Squadron. Mr Cormack, a NSW SES Unit volunteer, received an Emergency Services Medal. Gregory is an operational expert in flood rescues, particularly in the Georges River area. He has been a member of the NSW SES for 28 years, starting with the NSW SES Hurstville Unit in 1991 and has been involved in a range of major operational responses. I would like to congratulate both recipients.

#### **KATE WORRELL**

**Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)**—Death and grief are things that we all will experience at some stage in our lives and can be a very difficult thing for adults to talk about, especially to children. New Lambton resident, Kate Worrall, created an illustrated storybook called Little Reminders, as a simple and non-confrontational way for children and their families to discuss and open up about loved ones who have passed away. Kate created the storybook as a tool for her two sons to get to know their late grandmother, Debbie. She wanted her sons to know who Debbie was, and how much she would have loved them. The storybook is able to be personalised to a specific loved one who has passed away by adding their name and photos to the book. Kate's background in psychology and business gave her the skills and experiences she needed to publish a book to improve the wellbeing of children and their families who may have suffered a loss. Thank you Kate, for assisting many families in dealing with such a hard and heartbreaking issue.

#### **KATHY SIMKUS**

**Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)**—Since the age of 15, Kathy Simkus has lived with Multiple Sclerosis. For the last 30 years she has required the use of a wheel chair. Don't think this has slowed her down though. Kathy is a trained early learning teacher and has spent the last 30 years volunteering at Elernmore Vale Public School, assisting students with reading programs for three days a week. She also carried the Olympic torch through Wallsend in 2000. Kathy recently received a NSW Department of Education, Executive Director's Excellence Award, SASS and Community Awards 2020, for her dedication to the School and its students. Along with assisting students with reading, she involves herself with events within the School, such as Book Week, Easter hat parades and the school musical. Students across the School are always excited to go to Kathy to read due to her consistent encouragement, strategies to improve reading techniques and building self-belief. Students always leave the session feeling good about themselves. The COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately hit pause on Kathy assisting at the School and I know she is missing the children terribly. Congratulations, Kathy, and thank you for all the work that you do.

#### **JAMISON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney)**—As the end of the 2020 school year is quickly approaching, I wish to offer my congratulations to the incoming student leadership team of Jamison High School. The leadership team for 2021 includes, Captains: Grace Lees and Nicklas Lusch and, Vice Captains: Sara Baburi, Katie Meier, Rhiannon Paget, Tyler Consolacion, Liam Firth and James Hewitt. Student leader's play an important role and I have no doubt these students will make positive and valuable contributions across their school community.

#### **MACARTHUR LAW SOCIETY**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)**—We are fortunate in Campbelltown and the wider Macarthur region to have such a plethora of organisations advocating for our local area. The Macarthur Law Society is one of those incredible organisations. For years the society has lobbied for a multi-jurisdictional justice precinct to be established in Campbelltown. Recently they had a small but significant win. For many years the Campbelltown Court House has been operating at capacity with demand outweighing supply. Local legal eagles identified this many years ago and have been pushing for a larger, expanded precinct to help cater for that demand. Recently it was announced that funding would be put towards a study to look at the viability of the precinct. While there is no definite about whether the precinct will actually be constructed, it is still a big and significant win for the society. It is also a credit to their hard work and dedication regarding the issue. Local legal eagles know the range of benefits the large precinct would bring and that is why they have been pushing so hard for it. Once again, well done to all those at the society for your efforts regarding this project.

#### **SARAH ABU DAREB**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)**—Talent only gets people so far. Drive, passion and dedication are the factors that really make those who excel in their fields stand out. It is quite clear that Sarah Abu Dareb certainly has all three of those characteristics. The Campbelltown resident was recently awarded the Frasers Property Master of Architecture Scholarship for Women. It's an incredible accolade for the 22-year-old Campbelltown resident and one I am sure her family and friends are incredibly proud of. The scholarship will help Sarah complete her two-year Master's degree at Western Sydney University's Westmead campus. Sarah's achievement was recently highlighted in the Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser, where she spoke about desire

to travel the world designing and building shelters in different schools. While many 22-year-olds are thinking about boosting their bank accounts and partying on the weekend, Sarah is focused on using her knowledge and skills to improve lives for others. It's an admirable and inspirational attitude and one that we should all aspire to have. Once again, congratulations Sarah and an incredible achievement and I can't wait to see the incredible work you do over the next few decades.

#### **BILL CALABRIA**

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)**—I am privileged to recognise Bill Calabria AM for his tremendous charity work for the Griffith community. Bill is a Director of Calabria Family Wines and has contributed significantly to the wine industry but it is his tireless commitment to helping others that I want to applaud today. Being the youngest of nine children to Italian migrant parents Bill knew what it was to go without and this gave him the ability to understand adversity so many others face. Bill has been at the helm of countless charitable events and a volunteer for community events and committees such as the Bacchus Fun Run and Suicide Awareness Walk for Life. His support includes Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Make a Wish Foundation, Fred Hollows, Riverina "It Takes Two" singing competition to name a few, with too many to mention. Bill established the Westend Foundation in 2008, which provides financial support to families facing cancer through CanAssist and Country Hope. Thank you Bill for your tremendous contribution to the Griffith community and your big heart in helping others.

#### **IAN WESTMORELAND**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—Today I would like to acknowledge Hornsby local Ian Westmoreland who has been named the North Shore 2020 Volunteer of the Year. Ian founded the organisation Mentoring Men just two years ago. They offer a free mentoring service for men, and over the last two years have grown to over 140 specialty trained mentors. The group, who are all volunteers, provide one-on-one support addressing issues such as isolation, depression and anxiety. Also named in the awards was volunteer mentor John Ogier, who was named Adult Volunteer of the Year for Sydney North. One of my passions is ensuring people have access to mental health assistance when they need it. The work of Mentoring Men is vital to help men struggling with mental illness. I want to thank Ian, John and all the volunteers associated with Mentoring Men for everything they do for the Hornsby community and congratulations on these well-deserved awards.

#### **CWA OF NSW, GALSTON BRANCH**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—Today I would like to acknowledge the Galston Branch of the NSW Country Women's Association. Having had to suspend meetings due to the current restrictions the group is still trying to reach out to community members who may need a helping hand. They understand many are now looking for jobs so they are offering the community a resume template as well as complimentary editing and resume preparation. They will even print it for you if you don't have access to a printer. They have also joined forces with the Hills District CWA and have been selling reusable and washable facemasks for adults and children for just \$5. Along with sharing their favourite CWA recipes for people to try at home. During CWA Awareness Week in September the group highlighted the issues surrounding domestic violence in the hope they will see more people get help. I want to thank the Galston branch for this amazing work and despite the challenges of not being able to get out in the community they are still doing their bit to help those doing it tough.

#### **2020 TALK-AND-WALK-A-THON**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on school children's mental health are not totally clear, but school closures and disrupted school routines have contributed to high levels of anxiety amongst many NSW school children, including in my electorate of Davidson. Peer Support Australia is uniquely focused on the mental health and wellbeing of school communities through a peer-led approach. This month the organisation is encouraging local schools to hold Talk-and-Walk-a-Thons. They are an opportunity for students to talk to each other and build connections with other students, while encouraging physical activity. Peer Support Australia has developed a toolkit for registered schools which includes posters, talking prompt cards, social media, newsletter content, letters for parents, information for teachers and event checklists. Schools can choose the date, time, length and level of engagement in the event, making sure it works well for their own particular school environment. Mental health is as important as physical health, and exercise and talking are the key to happy and healthy school students. I encourage all schools, including in my electorate, to participate in this exciting event to support students during what is an unprecedented and uncertain time.

**BUS ROUTES 700, 705 AND 711**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)**—Recently an additional 250 bus services were placed on the public transport timetable for Seven Hills Electorate residents. This is a great win for the local community who have advocated for additional bus services to get to and from education, work and the shops. Bus route 705 between Blacktown and Parramatta via Seven Hills and Wentworthville has 130 additional weekly services. This is beneficial for residents as many are shift workers, particularly local Sydney Trains workers, and healthcare workers at Blacktown and Westmead hospitals. Route 700 will receive 110 extra services between Blacktown and Parramatta. I note the locals who fought for more local services between these hubs and local amenities in the electorate to ensure the elderly, disabled and young people can access parks and services. More services will be allocated to the 711 route between Blacktown, Westmead Hospital and Parramatta. This service provides a vital link to employment hubs and health services for locals. I thank locals from Seven Hills and Wentworthville for their work to secure these services. I thank the efforts of local workers and those who don't drive for achieving more bus services for the Seven Hills Electorate community.

**WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT CHAPLAINCY TEAMS**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)**—I want to take this time to recognise the chaplaincy teams across Western Sydney Local Health District's Hospitals at Auburn, Blacktown, Mount Druitt and Westmead. Our chaplains perform a critical, guiding role for those in hospital care and their friends and families. Chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support for the religious and non-religious and often have a chat or assist patients and their loved ones in a variety of ways during their stay in hospital. COVID-19 has impacted chaplains and their regular services within hospitals across the breadth of New South Wales. But we know despite such issues, our chaplains have continued to provide immense support for those in our state's public hospitals. I was recently informed by a constituent of Westmead Hospital's chaplaincy team providing text message support as another way to communicate with those in need at the hospital. Again, I thank and note the great service our chaplaincy teams across the Western Sydney Local Health District perform for all locals, particularly those from the Seven Hills Electorate.

**STUDIO ARTES**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)**—Studio Artes recently moved into Sydenham, making a new home in the inner west. Established in 2000, Studio Artes supports and empowers people living with disability through their tailored life-skills and creative programs. Studio Artes encourages people with disability to express themselves through painting, dancing, music, drama and cooking. People living with disability have been heavily impacted by this pandemic, with the Disability Royal Commission into the impact of COVID on people with disability finding many feel 'expendable' due to a lack of specialised government support. Organisations like Studio Artes quickly adapted to deliver their services online as the COVID 19 lockdown commenced, ensuring inner westies living with disability remained connected to community and support networks. Thank you to CEO Deb Sazdanoff and all the support workers at Studio Artes for continuing to enrich and empower the lives of people living with disability throughout this pandemic and into the future. Welcome to the inner west.

**ANTI-POVERTY WEEK**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)**—Anti Poverty Week highlights the surging rate of poverty and food insecurity experienced due to the impacts of COVID-19. According to the Foodbank Hunger Report 2020, almost a third of Australians experiencing food insecurity had never experienced it before COVID 19. 1 in every 9 people in NSW live below the poverty line. In my electorate, community groups and charities are stepping up to help tackle poverty and food insecurity caused by the financial impact of COVID 19. Addison Road Community Pantry is providing tens of thousands of people with low-cost groceries and essential supplies, Gift of Bread is supplying repurposed bread, and community pantries have been established across the inner west including the Connect Marrickville Pantry, The Ville Pantry, Tempe Community Pantry, and the Ashfield Blessing Box. Community legal centres are providing support with those facing housing insecurity and organisations like Metro Assist are working to support temporary visa holders falling through the cracks. Anti-Poverty Week reminds us that we have so much more to do to make sure that no-one is left behind as we work together to recover from both the COVID-19 pandemic and build a better economy that supports those who need it most.

**BIG 500**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—Mr Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Bulahdelah District Pest Animal Control who recently reached the milestone of 500 wild dogs trapped or shot. This is a major milestone after the region found itself at crisis point at the end of 2015 facing ongoing livestock attacks and sightings of large wild dog packs. At this point the District decided to take action and was able to kick start a local trapping school thanks to the Pest and Weed Drought Funding Program. The control efforts are now targeted with

Public Reserve managers representing 30% of culls while Private land holders represent the other 70%. The male to female rate also remain at a fairly constant one to one ratio. Reaching this milestone was a joint effort from National Parks, Forestry Corporation, Mid Coast Council, Karuah- Great Lakes Landcare and Private land owners under the leadership of the District Pest Animal Control and is proof the trapping program continues to be a success.

### **HIDDEN TREASURES HONOUR ROLL**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—Mr Speaker, I rise to recognise Sue Thomas and Marelle Robinson who were both recently named on the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll. Sue Thomas has become a prominent member of the Wingham community in the last 30 years. Over the years she has been a vital member of the local cricket community, volunteering as a coach, manager and scorer and acting as the treasurer for Manning Junior Cricket Association for more than 20 years. Marelle Robinson works tirelessly on her family's Dairy farm, alongside this she volunteers an average of eight hours a week to organise meetings, sponsorship and grants for the Mid Coasts Women in Dairy Group. For the last three years she has also taken on the role of Treasurer of the "Bale Up" women in dairy conference committee. She is also part of the current steering committee involved in finding a solution for recycling farm plastic waste and a team member on the committee running the student Agskills scholarship program in the Manning Valley. Both of these ladies are major assets to their communities and the Myall Lakes area.

### **JUNEE GIANTS U12S 2020 PREMIERS**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)**—Speaker, a huge congratulations to the Junee Giants under 12s netball team who are the 2020 Premiers in the 12 Years Division 2 of the Wagga Wagga Netball competition, defeating their opponents Nixons Fever 18 to 14. Well done to the coaches and families on their encouragement and support to these young netball stars. The Junee Junior Netball Association must be praised on their commitment to growing this community sport. In fact, the Association fought for and received a NSW Government Local Sport grant of \$6,000 to upgrade the netball court surface at St Josephs Hall, Junee. All the hard work and training the team has endured over the season amongst these trying times has paid off with the Grand final win.

### **GLEN INNES HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)**—I recognise Glen Innes High School agriculture teacher Jody Lamph and students Toby Lamph, Morgan-May Hay and Jessica Wirth on their wonderful success at the Hoof and Hook competition at this year's Colin Say & Co Led Beef Extravaganza. The students won Grand Champion Carcass Award with their prize-winning steer 'Blizzard' who achieved a score of 92 out of 100. The students received \$1,000 in prize money which they plan to put towards a portable clipping frame for future shows. Glen Innes High School have been entering in the competition for the last four years and with this being their one and only cattle showing competition for the year, I congratulate the students and Ms Lamph on their well-deserved result.

### **TERRY-ANNE SHARPLES**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)**—I congratulate Moree's Terry-Anne Sharples on her recent retirement after 18 years with the Moree Junior Soccer Club Committee. Terry-Anne served as President of the Moree Junior Soccer Club for 14 of the 18 years she was involved with the Club having first joined when her own son started playing soccer. Terry-Anne is recognised as the back-bone of the Club with her dedication and enthusiasm for the sport and youth involvement being highly praised by the community. I commend Terry-Anne on her many years of service to the sporting community in Moree. Sport is incredibly important for the health and wellbeing of our youth and the running of competitions would not happen without people like Terry-Anne. I wish her all the best for the future.

### **WOOLLOOWARE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—

I congratulate the newly elected school leaders for 2021 at Woollooware High School, one of the local high schools in the Cronulla electorate. Jonah Newton and Keira Danes were recently elected as school captains, and Charlie Kennedy and Sophie Burns were elected as vice-captains. Student leadership provides a unique opportunity to grow and develop skills in public speaking, communication and leadership styles. Jonah, Keira, Charlie and Sophie will also now learn the art of relationship building and completing tasks in leadership groups. These skills are not only important at school, also are in the modern workplace and the broader community too.

I commend the extended leadership team who have successfully been elected to their respective positions and wish them all the best in their new leadership roles and studies into 2021.

#### **KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—I congratulate the newly elected school leaders for 2021 at Kirrawee High School, one of the local high schools in the Cronulla electorate. Thomas Duff and Hayley Smith were recently elected as school captains, and Luke Graham and Anna Elyard were elected as vice-captains. Student leadership provides a unique opportunity to grow and develop skills in public speaking, communication and leadership styles. These skills are not only important at school, but are in the modern workplace and the broader community. I recognise the efforts and mature leadership shown by the 2020 school leaders in what has been a challenging year. Cooper Gannon and Arabella de Nett are the outgoing captains, and Tegan Avery and Kieran Weatherall are the outgoing vice-captains. I wish them the best of luck in their HSC exams, which they are currently sitting.

#### **GRAFTON TIGERS AFL CLUB**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)**—I offer my congratulations to the Grafton Tigers AFL Club on their recent win in the North Coast AFL Premiership game, defeating Sawtell 58 – 20. The Club has been through some tough times over recent seasons and had been the cellar dwellers in the past three seasons. However, their win this season is a testament to the dedication and hard work and determination of not only the players, but to the behind the scenes support group as well, with a lot of hard work going into their junior development to ensure that the Club can continue to move forward. Congratulations to the team for their grit and determination, but also to their Coach, Adi Campbell and all of the executive members of the Club.

#### **AIMEE LANDRIGAN**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—Mr Speaker, it's always a pleasure to be able to recognise the wealth of sporting talent that can be found within the Camden community. Today I congratulate Aimee Landrigan who at the age of 16 recently made her debut in the state Premier League's South Coast Blaze under 23 team. She took the court in the fourth quarter for her debut, after having been introduced over the PA system as a Camden player. Aimee, who in 2015 began her representative career with the Camden and District Netball Association as an under 11 development squad player, has also played for both the Currans Hill and Benkennie Netball Clubs. She has been described as a formidable goal keeper and defender who, at such a young age, has had many achievements both locally and through school sports. I commend Aimee for her debut and wish her well in her future netball endeavours.

#### **HARRINGTON UNITED UNDER 16 GIRLS**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—Mr Speaker, I would like to note the outstanding achievement of the Harrington United Football Club under 16 girls team at their recent Grand Finals. Having taken out their grand final in a thrilling final match, their skills and tenacity was on show for all to see. What is particularly amazing about this win is that the Girls achieved a three-peat after winning the Grand Final in the under 14 girls in 2018 and in 2019. I would like to congratulate all the girls who have played in the team over the past three years and for their demonstrated teamwork and support for one another. I would also like to thank the girl's families who bring them to every game and support them from the side-lines, their coach Ray Zammit and the Harrington United Football Club who support the almost 1000 player members. Congratulations again to the under 16 girls' team and I wish you the best of luck in the 2021 season and I look forward to announcing your four-peat in Parliament next year.

#### **HSC 2020**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—Today marks the beginning of the 2020 NSW HSC Examinations when seventy six thousand NSW students will sit down to English Paper 1. This year has been a particularly challenging Year 12 class of 2020 as they have not only had these final examination looming, but have also had to cope with the challenges COVID-19 has thrown at us. Studying from home, isolation, limited interaction with peers and teachers, the uncertainty of what lies ahead – all of these things have had to be dealt with. As they finally reach this last chapter in their academic lives, I would just like to acknowledge the resilience and determination of these young people. We are very proud of these students and their achievements against the odds. My hope for the Year 12 class of 2020 is that although COVID-19 has given them challenges, it has also provided them with enlightenment and strength – two things which they can take with them into what is sure to be a bright future.

#### **2020 EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—The 2020 Emergency Services Volunteer Memorial Service was held on Sunday 11th October 2020. Sadly this year two of our local RFS volunteers from the Horsley Park Rural Fire

Service division were added to the list of commemoration. Geoffrey Keaton, 32, and Andrew O'Dwyer, 36, from the Horsley Park brigade, were in a truck convoy near the town of Buxton throughout last year's horrific bushfire season when a tree fell into their path, causing the vehicle to roll off the road. We will remember them and their sacrifice always. They were dedicated individuals who left home that day to battle fires in what was to be a horror bushfire season. Sadly and tragically, they never made it home. We will continue to be grateful for the service and commitment Geoffrey Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer made to their community by being a part of the Horsley Park Rural Fire Brigade. And we will continue to pray for the families of these two valiant young men, who must now live without them.

#### **CORINA KEMP**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—Congratulations to Corina Kemp for winning the Mental Health Commissioners Community Champion award for 2020. The award recognises achievements across ten categories where individuals and organisations have worked to improve understanding, awareness, service provision and the general mental health of communities in New South Wales. Ms Kemp impressed the Mental Health Commissioner with her efforts to help the Aboriginal community learn about and improve their mental health. Ms Kemp is an Aboriginal Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Clinical Leader with the Far West Local Health District. Ms Kemp was born and raised in Broken Hill and is a proud Dieri/Paakintji woman. This award is in recognition of her dedication, passion and quest to make positive change to Aboriginal communities in Far West New South Wales. We are fortunate to have such a skilled, talented and committed individual working in the Barwon electorate.

#### **COLLEEN BOUCHER OF COBAR**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—I would like to thank Mrs Colleen Boucher on her tireless work within the Cobar community. Colleen was born in Cobar and her family history goes back to when her grandfather drove the Cobb & Co. coach. Being raised on the land, Colleen is not afraid of hard work. At the age of five, she boarded at the Cobar War Memorial Hostel to attend school and now sits on the Hostel Committee. Along with running her fabric, craft and haberdashery store, Colleen has been the backbone of the 221 Army Cadet Corp for 25 years, with a number of her cadets joining the Australian Armed Forces. She is also President of Cobar's Country Women's Association, is a legatee and treasurer of the RSL sub-branch, along with being the treasurer of the Brennan Seniors House. Colleen is an amazing quiet achiever and a well-respected member of the community. She works tirelessly and is very passionate about her community's future. I congratulate Colleen on her achievements and wish her well in her future endeavours.

#### **WAYNE RODGERS**

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I offer my condolences to the family of the late Wayne Rodgers, a well-known and highly respected local farmer who died in an accident recently while working on his Pimlico farm. I recognise his significant contribution to the New South Wales sugar industry. Mr Rodgers came from a family with a long history in sugar farming on the Richmond. His first job was as a cane harvester at the age of 18. He was an active director on the board of the NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative and chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and had been closely involved with the Richmond River Cane Growers Association and NSW Cane Growers. The Rodgers family were quick to adopt new farming ideas. They were innovators in harvesting, cropping, pursuing zero-tillage approaches, weed control and soybean rotations. Wayne's great achievement was the restructure of research and development of the Australian sugar industry. He worked hard to ensure high standards in biosecurity. Mr Rodgers' exceptional abilities as an administrator and leader and his deep knowledge of sugar will be sorely missed. He was an inspiration to his fellow sugar farmers and helped to make the industry what it is today.

#### **GREEN INNOVATION AWARDS FINALISTS**

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I congratulate two finalists in the Green Innovation Awards, in which students are asked to invent, develop and present their ideas for greener living. Standout finalists include the tiny rural school of Empire Vale, where students have created Frog Hotels to increase the habitat for native frogs around their school. Surrounded by sugar cane, the school has a problem with mosquitos and increasing the number of native frogs has assisted with this. Lismore Heights Public School students Chaise Smith and Gavin Williams have spent the year learning about bees, including being mentored by the creators of the successful Flow Hive model. The two boys have developed a fertiliser that has no harmful impact on bees, which they call Bee Friendly Fertiliser (or BFF). A community-based, not-for-profit event, the Green Innovation Awards program has been growing every year, and organisers plan to continue to assist schools to work with industry leaders by making local mentors available to those in the program. The Awards continue to encourage students to engage in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects, with the aim of inspiring a lifetime's passion for green innovation in young people.



### PRATHAM GUPTA RECEIVES NORTH SHORE MEDAL

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Speaker, I acknowledge School Captain Pratham Gupta from Cammeraygal High School who was recently awarded the North Shore Medal. Pratham is a highly valued member of Cammeraygal High School, and is regarded as an exceptional leader evidenced by his consistent involvement in many school based and community activities. Pratham has an excellent attitude and exhibits behaviour that is indicative of his commitment to school culture and values, having participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Program, engaged in over 150 hours of community service at the North Sydney Community Centre, and having organised a number of school events and initiatives for the school community. Pratham has a keen interest in this Parliament and was selected to participate in the 2020 Youth Parliament this year here in the Legislative Chamber, and was also the student regional representative for the NSW Parliament in 2018. Pratham is an extremely bright and committed student, and I congratulate him on receiving this award, and wish him all the best for his HSC exams.

### GRANDPARENTS DAY

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Speaker, every year in October, we celebrate Grandparents Day here in NSW to show our grandparents just how much they are loved and appreciated, and we acknowledge that this year has been particularly tough on our grandparents with COVID restrictions. This year I nominated Mosman locals Beth and Ivan Hodge for the North Shore Grandparent of the Year Award, and awarded them jointly for the large part they play in our community. Many North Shore residents may know Beth and Ivan, as there are not many couples who celebrate their anniversary each year with a brass band and a party that the whole community is invited to. Beth and Ivan are the proud parents of three daughters, and the grandparents of twelve grandchildren. They first met in New Zealand and spent their honeymoon travelling from London to Calcutta in a VW Beetle called 'Love Bug'. They celebrate their anniversary every year with their extended family and the local community at the Balmoral Rotunda, and host a Fire and Rescue Band and Marching team event to celebrate. This year they will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary and I congratulate them as the North Shore Grandparents of the Year.

### ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DAY

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—On 14th October 2020, we celebrated Allied Health Professionals Day. On this day, we acknowledge and celebrate the tireless and incredible work that allied health professionals do in improving our health and quality of life. Allied health professionals, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, and many more, are often overlooked and undervalued. Allied health professionals are vital to Australia's health care system, and make life-changing differences to those recovering from sickness and injury. The COVID-19 pandemic has been tough on allied health professionals, forcing them to adopt new methods of service delivery in primary care. However, nonetheless, allied health care professionals have worked continuously on the frontline of the global health crisis, putting themselves at risk day-in-day-out. Allied health professionals have been crucial in responding to COVID-19, providing physical and mental rehabilitation for those who have suffered from the virus. We have many allied health professionals in the Electorate of Prospect, and I would like to thank these incredible people. I would also like to thank the Health Service Union for supporting allied health professionals throughout the country, to continuously keep us healthy and safe during one of the most challenging years to date.

### FUNDRAISER FOR ARTSAKH

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—On 18th October 2020, the Armenian National Committee of Australia hosted a Fundraiser for the Republic of Artsakh at Café Birkenhead, Drummoyne, to support the fundraising efforts providing humanitarian aid to the Republic of Artsakh. A massive \$420,000 was raised on the night, which was donated to the All Armenia Fund that has already raised over USD \$125 million to support the Armenian people against the unprovoked attacks by Turkey-backed Azerbaijan. I joined Mr Zareh Sinanyan, The High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, Republic of Armenia, Haig Kayserian, Executive Director, Armenian National Committee of Australia and Mr Kaylar Michaelian, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh to Australia. The Armenian community living in the Electorate of Prospect have also joined the fundraising efforts and raised over \$146,000. Their fundraising efforts are continuing this week at the Armenian Cultural Centre, Bonnyrigg. I sincerely thank the Armenian National Committee of Australia and the broader Australian-Armenian community for inviting me to partake in the fundraising efforts to support the Republic of Artsakh and Republic of Armenia during this time of war. I pray for the brave men and women defending their homeland and wish for peace for the Armenian people.

### CONNOR COOK SECOND-GRADE DEBUT CRICKET

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—I rise to congratulate upcoming cricket sensation Connor Cook for bowling his way to a first-grade opportunity in Sydney after taking two wickets in a second-grade cricket

debut. It literally took hours for the 17-year-old cricketer to rise through the ranks to be noticed and selected for his outstanding bowling technique on the pitch. Described as the new phenomenon of the cricketing world, the second grade off-spinner from Port Macquarie impressed the Premier League Selectors two weeks ago by taking 2-19 off 10 overs in Sydney. Whilst the former Port Panthers Pirate is disappointed that he won't finish the season with the local club, he attributes his success on the field to his coach and team mates that have inspired him to strive to perform at his absolute best. The next step for Connor is a chance to play professionally for New South Wales at a first-class level which could be just around the corner as his talents continue to impress the selectors. Connor is a testament to the adage that "hard work pays off" and I along with his friends, family and colleagues congratulate him on his success in reaching this milestone in his cricketing career.

#### **SWIMMING NSW LONG COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—In Port Macquarie we continue to set the bar in sporting excellence, training the next generation of elite athletes that will compete against some of the finest competitors in our nation and indeed from across the world. One club in my electorate that is renowned for producing world class sporting stars is the Port Macquarie Swimming Club which recently entered two competitors in the Swimming NSW Long Course Championships at Sydney's Olympic Park. Selected to compete were Port Macquarie's Nathan Smith and Kiera Hetherington who performed strongly in the pool against some of the top swimmers in the State. True to his form Nathan again achieved a new personal best in the 100-metre butterfly, finishing just 0.6 of a second off the Olympic trial time. The championship saw the 15-year-old take home three national times and a four-second new benchmark in the 200-metre individual medley. It is simply unfathomable that less-than 10 months ago Nathan was recovering from a serious heart-related virus which understandably limited his ability to train and perform. In other commendable results, fourteen-year-old Kiera Hetherington claimed three top 10 finishes from seven races, achieving her own personal best and rivalling the State's finest at the championships.

#### **LAKE MAC OUTSTANDING YOUNG EMPLOYEE AWARD**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—It was my pleasure to sponsor the Outstanding Young Employee Award at the 2020 Lake Mac Business Excellence Awards. Over the course of this difficult year, many of the 13,000 businesses in Lake Macquarie have faced a great deal of uncertainty. These awards are a chance to acknowledge and support both individual and business accomplishments and success during these unprecedented times. The Outstanding Young Employee Award, for young employees aged between eighteen and thirty, highlights the contributions of a single, outstanding individual to a local business. My congratulations to all the nominees, and to winner Daniel Ebbin. Daniel is the manager of child, youth and family services for NSW and South Australia at ITEC Australia, and is based out of Charlestown. Daniel puts his all into his work, having been on the frontline for almost a decade supporting at-risk young people, men experiencing homelessness and people involved in the criminal justice system. My congratulations again to all the nominees and especially to Daniel. His win was very well-deserved.

#### **LAKE MAC BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—I would like to acknowledge all the nominees and winners of the Lake Mac Business Excellence Awards, particularly those in the Charlestown Electorate. Allambi Care, a multi-disciplined leader in the human services field which works across the Hunter Region, took home the Excellence in Sustainability award. Jack Antcliff of Oasis Media, a Hunter-based digital content agency, was awarded Outstanding Young Entrepreneur. Many businesses have forced to take extraordinary steps to adjust to the difficulties of COVID-19, and the award for Outstanding COVID-19 Business Adaption was won by Club Charlestown, the local bowling club. This year has been hard for businesses across the Charlestown Electorate and our broader region, and I thank Lake Macquarie for acknowledging the excellent work of these businesses and entrepreneurs. The 13,000 businesses based in Lake Macquarie provide the foundations of a strong local economy, and help ensure continued growth of our beautiful, thriving city. My congratulations again to all nominees and winners.

#### **LAKE MACQUARIE ROWING CLUB**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)**—I'd like to acknowledge the excellent work of the volunteers at Lake Macquarie Rowing Club at Booragul who have worked tirelessly to promote and develop their sport in Lake Macquarie. Rowing is a sport that is accessible to all members of the community and builds support networks, improves physical and mental wellbeing and provides a safe and enjoyable activity for the community to participate in. At a time when we're seeing an increase in mental health issues and feelings of social isolation due to the current health pandemic, the importance of sports like rowing cannot be undervalued. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the club's Boat Captain, 79-year-old Ray Beeton. For 32 years Ray has done everything from coaching junior and senior crews to overseeing regattas and building things like storage racks for

the club's boats, but it's his work on maintaining and repairing the fleet that he's to be most commended on. Without Ray's tireless efforts the club would not be able to facilitate rowing for new and established members. I commend Ray and all of the volunteers who make the great club what it is.

### **YEAR 12 HSC EXAMS**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—Today marks the commencement of the 2020 Higher School Certificate examination period. This year, more than ever, has posed enormous challenges to our students. Due to COVID-19, students have successfully adapted to enormous change in their study delivery and course lessons. In addition, many students in my electorate of Wollondilly have had to deal with the loss of homes and community facilities due to the bushfires that ravished many townships at the start of the year. I wish each and every HSC student at Bowral High, Chevalier, Frensham, Oxley College, Picton High, Southern Highlands Christian School, and Wollondilly Anglican College the best of luck in achieving your study goals. I admire the way you have handled yourselves this year. Handling bushfires and a pandemic in the way you have is an enormous accomplishment in itself and will serve you well in your future pursuits.

### **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I acknowledge the inspirational work of the Wollondilly Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) for the positive role it plays in my local community. A volunteer organisation based in Tahmoor, the Wollondilly RDA provides therapy, sport and recreation activities for people with disabilities through their interaction with horses. Recently, I was pleased to announce that the Wollondilly RDA will receive a \$7,500 grant from Premier Berejiklian to go towards adaptive saddles, the provision of storage equipment and general maintenance equipment. This grant is in many ways a recognition of the enormous difference the work of the RDA has on the lives of those living with a disability, in particular, young children. I thank the hardworking volunteers of the Wollondilly RDA and I wish them well for the future.

### **2020 HSC STUDENTS**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—As this year's NSW HSC cohort entered Year 12, they knew there would be challenges. None of them could have envisaged the type of challenges they would all experience just to reach the end of their last year of school. Remote learning and social distancing were not part their common lexicon a year ago, nor could they have imagined that an important tool they would have in their exam rooms would be hand sanitiser. This has been an extraordinary year for students and their teachers. Today is a significant milestone, as senior students gather in CovidSafe exam rooms for the first of their HSC exams, in English. No matter how they fare as individuals, as a group they stand tall and should be proud of their dedication, resourcefulness and resilience. I commend all who enter the final phase of their secondary education today, especially those in my Davidson electorate. This includes my third son Matthew as part of the 2020 HSC cohort. I wish all of them every success in both their exams and their futures.

### **RAINBOW FAMILIES**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I'd like to record the Rainbow Families support network. Rainbow Families is an inclusive volunteer group for any lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer person who has a child or children; or is planning on having a child or children. They advocate for, empower, support and celebrate the diversity of families, reinforcing the idea that love makes a family and all children should have equal rights. The group provides lots of peer support for rainbow families, with information resources and education, child friendly social events, LGBTQ+ antenatal classes and playgroups and a children's resilience program. Rainbow Families was an active campaigner during the marriage equality campaign and has continued this advocacy in reports like 'Love (still) Makes A Family' to push for equality when accessing government services, and lobbying for inclusive changes to passport applications and the NSW Blue Book personal health record for parents and children. I thank Rainbow Families for these ongoing efforts to make sure that rainbow families and their children are treated fairly without discrimination, and included in all government programs and services and amongst the wider community.

### **ENDEAVOUR SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL CAPTAINS**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—I congratulate the newly elected School Captains of Endeavour Sports High School on their appointment. Being 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 Harrison Parker and Cassie Brown and Vice Captains Izayah Tuigamala and Reneigh Scott on their successful appointment as captains 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 these student leaders as they continue to embody Endeavour Sports High School's motto of 'valuing individual potential [and] achieving personal best'.

#### **LADIES RUNNING ERRANDS SUTHERLAND SHIRE**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—During Small Business Month I acknowledge Maryanne Steinman of Ladies Running Errands Sutherland Shire for winning a Sutherland Shire Local Business Award in the Sole Operator category. Ladies Running Errands is truly here to help, providing our community with transport services for school runs to day surgery pickups and taking care of one's mail, gardens and home whilst they are away. With an eclectic background and wealth of community expertise, Maryanne wants nothing more than to help as many people as she can. Maryanne's commitment to community and lending a helping hand has meant that Ladies Running Errands Sutherland Shire is not just a job, but an avenue through which to pursue her passions. I congratulate Maryanne for this outstanding achievement and extend my best wishes for the future of Ladies Running Errands Sutherland Shire.

#### **LACHLAN RENDALL**

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)**—Lachlan Rendall's passion for community has seen him recognised as one of Bathurst's seven Living Legend inductees for 2020. Bathurst was the foundation for Mr Rendall's early life and schooling and for the last 52 years he has made it his mission to help people through his knowledge of accounting. Mr Rendall attended Bathurst Public School and Bathurst High School before venturing to the University of NSW to study a Bachelor of Commerce. After a few years studying and working in Sydney, Mr Rendall returned to Bathurst in 1967 to pursue a career in accounting. Throughout the 1970s Mr Rendall started to build a firm community presence alongside his wife, Elizabeth and children, Andrew and Belinda. One of Mr Rendall's first major community roles outside accounting was president of Churches United Soccer Club, at a time where the sport was starting to become popular in Australia. Mr Rendall has also been an honorary auditor for various community groups, including schools and scout groups. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 1970. He served stints on both Bathurst City Council [now Bathurst Regional Council] and the Southern Mitchell County Council from 1987 to 1991.

#### **LIVERPOOL EAGLES JUNIOR AFL CLUB**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—Mr Speaker, today I would like to congratulate the Liverpool Eagles Junior AFL Club for their successful 2020 season. The club caters to players of all abilities from ages five right through to 17 years of age. Recently the club acknowledged their volunteers who played a significant role in ensuring the season ran smoothly and the players were well looked after. I would like to commend all of the club's volunteers who turned up week after week and assisted in all sorts of roles and jobs that ensured the needs of the club were met. The volunteers help to cook the barbeque, carry water, assist in the canteen, act as team managers, help the teams with training and coaching, are goal and boundary umpires and also help in setting and packing up. Mr Speaker, 2020 has been an unusual year with COVID-19 and this year's players and volunteers at the Liverpool Eagles Junior AFL Club are deserving of special recognition. Thank you.

#### **GLEBE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)**—Today I draw to the attention of the house the Glebe Public School P&C for their inspiring commitment to school solar initiatives. I was delighted to award the P&C with a Community Building Partnerships grant of \$17,400 for the installation of a 27kW rooftop solar power system at the school last year in addition to \$78,870 in previous years for upgrades to the school grounds. I want to commend the school community's leadership in promoting renewable energy and for raising the next generation of caring and conscientious students. I would particularly like to acknowledge Kait Gotham who led this project on behalf of the P&C. Change starts when dedicated residents take initiative to make our community a better place. The Glebe Public School community is championing sustainability in our local area and I know I speak for everyone when I thank the Glebe P&C for their efforts to protect our environment and enhance their school.

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—Mr Speaker, today I would like to recognise Hammondville resident Micheline Dannaoui, who recently participated in and completed the STEPtember Australia. STEPtember raises funds and awareness for cerebral palsy. Through participating in the initiative, and completing steps each day of September, the donations raised go towards supporting people with cerebral palsy. Some of the funding is directed towards stem cell studies, providing essential mobility and communication equipment, technology and innovation, accessible sports programs, early intervention strategies and rural and regional support. Micheline Dannaoui and her team came 1st in their zone, and 5th in the whole country, with an incredible 2,355,667 steps! Congratulations to the team, what a great achievement for such a worthy cause. Once again Mr Speaker, I'd like

to congratulate Micheline and all who participated in STEPtember this year to raise awareness and funds for cerebral palsy.

#### **HILLS WINTER SLEEPOUT**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the contribution made by all who participated in the 2020 Hills Winter Sleepout. The Winter Sleepout is a terrific initiative that seeks to give individuals an idea of the difficulties associated with sleeping rough. The Hills Sleepout has been held since 2014 after being founded by now Mayor Michelle Byrne, with the initial 80 participants growing every year. This year's Sleepout naturally included the Covid-associated difficulties we have all faced, but the Charity did well to overcome these. Participants joined in on the online event for the first few hours, before choosing where they slept, having the choice between their backyard, their couch or their car. This year saw over \$27000 donated to the initiative, assisting a variety of Hills Based charities. My thanks go to all involved, both the participants and those who donated, including top fundraisers: Catherine Montgomery, Dave Moreton, Cameron Cortazzo, Farid Zaki, Melissa Monteiro, Gillian Schrickker, Pratibha Bhanushali, Sharnii Emanuel and Joanne Brooker, as well as the team from the Rouse Hill Town Centre and various Rotary Clubs.

#### **PAUL NEWTON**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Dural based artist Paul Newton, who was selected as a finalist in the 2020 Archibald Prize for Portraiture. This is the 14th time Mr Newton has been selected as a finalist for the Prize, having previously won the Packing Room prize twice; in 1996 for his portrait of John Laws and in 2001 for his portrait of Roy and HG. His portrait this year was of fashion and TV star Maggie Tabberer, emulating his 1999 work that was also a finalist. Alongside his Archibald pursuits, Mr Newton has twice won the Portrait Society of America's International Portrait Competition, and was commissioned to paint the interior of Domus Australia Chapel in Rome.

**The House adjourned pursuant to standing and sessional orders at 18:52 until  
Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 09:30.**