



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday, 17 November 2020**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 17 November 2020**

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

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

### *Business of the House*

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ROUTINE OF BUSINESS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to amend the resolution of 12 November 2020 to permit the consideration of government business after the conclusion of proceedings on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills until 2.00 p.m.

**Motion agreed to.**

### *Motions*

#### **PARLIAMENT LIVESTREAMING**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** By leave: I move:

That this House authorises the livestreaming on Facebook:

- (1) Today of the Treasurer's second reading speech on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills.
- (2) On Thursday 19 November 2020 of the Leader of the Opposition's speech on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills.

**Motion agreed to.**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Treasurer, I remind members to extend to the Treasurer the usual courtesy for the Budget Speech to be delivered uninterrupted.

### *Bills*

#### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2020**

#### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2020**

#### **PAYROLL TAX AMENDMENT BILL 2020**

#### **First Reading**

**Bills introduced on motion by Mr Dominic Perrottet, read a first time and printed.**

#### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (12:03:45):** I move:

That these bills be now read a second time.

#### **Rising to the challenge**

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Exactly one year ago – to the day – the first known case of what we now know to be COVID-19 was detected in central China.

Three days later – some 8,000 kilometres away – the normally glittering Sydney Harbour was blanketed in smoke.

As many in NSW were gearing up for Christmas, no-one knew what the year ahead had in store.

Catastrophic fires.

Destruction of homes.

Loss of life.

A global pandemic.

The world economy grinding to a stop.

And a million Australians out of a job.

It's a year that will be forever etched in our memories.

A year that will be marked in history.

And through it all, the people of NSW have dug deep.

We had a budget built to weather any storm.

And when the storm came we had the reserves to respond without hesitation.

Today we deliver a Budget to build on our response so far.

A Budget to keep our people safe today and create the jobs we need right now.

But a crisis doesn't change our ultimate responsibility of leaving this State a better place than we found it.

So this is a Budget about recovery and reform – to forge a brighter future for our people.

This Budget is our plan for a prosperous, post-pandemic NSW.

### **Responding to the economic and fiscal challenges**

We look to the far horizon, because we have a long road to tread.

Australia has faced its first recession in almost 30 years.

In NSW, State final demand fell by 8.6 per cent in the June quarter – the worst contraction on record.

Between March and May, almost 270 thousand NSW workers lost their jobs.

Along with the Reserve Bank and the Commonwealth, we took decisive action, to limit the damage and cushion the blow.

### ***Health response***

We resolved to invest whatever was needed to keep our people safe.

We put the health system on a war footing.

We quadrupled ICU capacity.

We mobilised more health workers.

And put in place the testing and tracing resources that would prove to be the difference.

This early investment gave NSW a precious opportunity: to balance an open economy with keeping the virus at bay.

What the pandemic has put beyond dispute is that the NSW health system is the best in the nation.

That is no accident.

Year after year our Government has built it up, and in our State's time of need, it was ready to go.

I want to pay special tribute to the testing and tracing teams in NSW Health.

Your efforts have given us the freedom to keep going while all around us the world is grinding to a halt.

### ***Keeping people in jobs and businesses in business***

When international borders closed, Sydney became the primary gateway back home to Australia.

Since mid-September, 71 per cent of COVID-19 cases recorded in NSW were acquired overseas.

And we have managed the case load with phenomenal success.

This has not just been a service to NSW, but to the entire nation.

We are proud of our State, but first and foremost we are Australians and we will always put the national interest first.

When we fought to keep our economy going, we knew it would keep Australia going.

We deployed targeted support to keep people in jobs and businesses in business.

Almost \$6.4 billion in tax relief, and more than \$860 million in grants.

We axed charges, waived fees and cut red tape – anything to free up cashflow and help households and businesses adapt and stay afloat.

People like Kate, from Dubbo, who was able to keep her shop going and take it online with the support grants she received.

And I'm very proud to be wearing the tie I bought at Kate's shop last week.

Our health and economic response was the largest of any State.

And it has made the world of difference.

### **Economic outlook**

Our State economy is forecast to have ended the 2019-20 fiscal year contracting just 1 per cent – while nations like the UK, Italy and Spain contracted by more than 5 per cent.

Now there are signs of hope.

In the four months to September, NSW added almost 175,000 jobs.

Business confidence rebounded.

And in September, retail spending was up almost 10 per cent on last year.

But as Europe and the United States make very clear this pandemic is not over.

Our economy is expected to contract by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a percentage point in 2020-21, before rebounding to growth of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in 2021-22, and strong growth in the outer years.

### **Budget result and fiscal strategy**

When the pandemic broke, we made a conscious decision: to put the economy before the Budget.

In the past we have been criticised for the size of our surpluses.

But this is why we run them.

When things are going well, good governments stay disciplined.

We used asset recycling to strengthen our balance sheet.

And we locked away \$10 billion in the Generations Fund, which is expected to grow beyond \$70 billion by 2030.

It meant that we had the firepower to go big when it mattered.

And now we can inject new stimulus to fill the temporary private-sector void.

This strategy is reflected in the operating result.

In 2019-20, NSW recorded a deficit of \$6.9 billion.

And for 2020-21 we forecast a deficit of \$16 billion.

This isn't just increased spending. Forecast revenue is down by \$25 billion over five years.

Net debt is expected to peak at \$104 billion in June 2024.

But despite the increase in borrowing the cost of debt has never been lower.

In fact this Budget includes borrowings around five times the amount in 2010 – yet as a proportion of revenue, the cost of servicing that debt is almost the same.

Record low interest rates are a golden opportunity to get our economy moving.

Doing nothing would inflict long-term damage on future generations and we won't let that happen.

Our stimulus will be unprecedented in scale and quality – tenaciously targeted to generate jobs.

But make no mistake: Public spending is not a permanent solution.

Stimulus today does not mean stimulus forever.

We will generate momentum in the short term, then reinforce our finances with the discipline that has defined our time in office.



This Budget includes \$12 billion in economically sensible fiscal repair measures over the next four years.

We will continue to swap old assets for more productive ones, but only when it's in the public interest.

Net proceeds from any WestConnex transaction will allow us to keep building the next generation of world-class infrastructure, like Metro West.

This strategy will deliver shrinking deficits over the next four years, with a return to surplus forecast in 2024-25.

And it will bring our net debt to GSP ratio below 7 per cent by the end of the decade.

So when the next challenge comes we will be ready again.

### **Help in hard times**

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#### **Staying ahead of the virus with a world-class health system**

This Budget enhances the health systems that have made our State a standout success - including \$190 million to keep our world-leading pathology testing and contact tracing at the cutting edge.

This brings the total investment in our health response to COVID-19 to more than \$3 billion.

It's part of an unprecedented \$29.3 billion budget for NSW Health.

#### **Support for those most affected**

This year has taken a toll on our wellbeing, and this Budget delivers more help for the people who are most affected.

For families, our pandemic policy of 15 hours free preschool per week will extend to the end of 2021.

And a major \$337 million investment will provide intensive tutoring next year so school students don't get left behind.

We will also fund 100 more mental health nurses in schools – part of the biggest mental health budget in our State's history.

The strain on mental health is one of the pandemic's most insidious hidden costs.

And we will not allow this global health crisis to cascade into a mental health crisis down the track.

Female-dominated professions have been hit hard this year.

So a range of support measures will help women get back into the workforce – including return-to-work grants of up to \$5,000.

And a new \$50 million fund will help charities and not-for-profits adapt, to safely keep helping those in need, after a year when they have been run off their feet.

In some cases, the crisis has brought areas of pressing need into even sharper focus.

Earlier this year I met William, who had been sleeping rough on and off for a number of years.

When national restrictions came into effect, he needed urgent help, because social distancing isn't an option when you have nowhere to go.

At first he found that help with our temporary hotel accommodation program.

But since then, we have adapted it into something more permanent – and for the first time in a long time – William is thriving.

He has a secure home, with his guitar taking pride of place.

He has access to wraparound social and health services. And his employment agency has just put him forward for his first job in years.

That is the difference our Together Home program is making for 400 rough sleepers.

And with this Budget we are doubling it to assist 400 more.

### **Kick-starting the economic engine**

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#### **Reopening the economy**

At the height of NSW restrictions, the cost to our economy was estimated to be \$1.4 billion every week.

Sometimes big numbers like that hardly feel real. But the impact they have had on our people is very real.

People like Ben, who runs my favourite coffee shop in Gloucester Street in Sydney, and who told me that his revenue had dropped 90 per cent.

For people with a secure job, that is almost impossible to fathom: a 90 per cent pay cut and no guarantee your job will survive.

That's why we fought so hard to keep NSW open.

And doing that has put an additional \$1 billion a week back into our economy.

It has also generated green shoots right across our State, as we relax more restrictions and give Sydney and NSW more room to breathe.

Families and friends have been reunited.

40,000 people at the NRL Grand Final.

12,000 at the Everest.

Agricultural shows in regional NSW are starting up again.

Gigs with our Southern Nights program are lighting up the cities.

And next month Sydney will launch the first major musical theatre production to open anywhere in the world since the onset of the pandemic.

We will continue to lift restrictions and as we do that, a wave of excitement and optimism is rippling across our State.

### **Timely, targeted, temporary stimulus**

When economies come to a virtual standstill, government's role is to give the private sector the confidence it needs to get moving again.

Timely, targeted stimulus has never been more appropriate.

Jobs have been lost on an epic scale, and this Budget will bring them back in a big way.

It is not just the amount of a stimulus that matters – the quality counts even more.

Every dollar must ease the burden on jobseekers and struggling businesses.

Today I can announce new stimulus and support which brings our total pandemic response to \$29 billion – the largest of any State – and as a percentage of own-source revenue, even bigger than the Commonwealth's.

Small projects will keep creating jobs in every suburb and every region.

We are fast-tracking maintenance, like replacing lights in almost 700 public schools with long-life LEDs.

And we're partnering with school communities to accelerate facility upgrades.

There are large-scale investments that will change people's lives.

This Budget commits \$812 million for social and affordable housing – to deliver more than 1,200 new dwellings, and upgrade over 8,000 more.

Once again, the numbers don't tell the full story.

We talk about cycles of poverty.

This Budget sets in motion cycles of security to lift future generations from disadvantage to opportunity.

Secure a house – secure a job.

Secure a job – secure a family.

Secure a family – secure a childhood.

And if you secure a childhood – the sky is the limit.

Our hardest hit sectors are in need of help too – like tourism, hospitality and the arts.

A \$175 million commitment to support the NSW TV and film industry will retain local talent with world-class job opportunities.

It means that NSW will leapfrog other States to become the premier destination for production Down Under.

One of the biggest casualties of this pandemic has been the Sydney CBD.

In a global city with borders closed, workers and businesses feel the pinch.

CBD job numbers have fallen at more than double the rate of our State.

This Budget will get our city's mojo back, with support for late-night opening across cultural attractions, al fresco dining, art and music.

And today I can announce half a billion dollars in stimulus for NSW restaurants, visitor sites and cultural attractions through the Out and About voucher.

Every adult will receive \$100 worth of vouchers to the cost of eating out and going out in NSW.

Businesses are the lifeblood of our community. Today we ask people to go out and enjoy the best that our State has to offer, and support businesses that are doing it tough.

### **Our vision for a stronger future**

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The challenges we face will not be short lived.

But we view the future with optimism and determination.

We will turn this period of adversity into a new era of opportunity.

### **Building a better NSW**

And that begins by building a better NSW.

We have long been the infrastructure capital of Australia.

And we will be for years to come with another record four-year infrastructure program totalling \$107 billion, up from \$93 billion in last year's Budget.

A few weeks ago we opened NorthConnex.

Saving time. Saving stress. All those traffic lights, gone.

That is why we build, and this Budget keeps delivering.

Our growing Metro network will reach Western Sydney Airport in time for opening in 2026.

The final pieces of WestConnex will fall into place, linking the east with the west like never before.

We'll deliver 200 new and upgraded schools and 47 new and upgraded hospitals.

When sport was put on hold this year, you could hear the breaking of the hearts of millions of kids. The club legends and weekend warriors were letting out cries of despair.

Because community sport is at the heart of our State, and this Budget will get it pumping.

We are investing \$100 million over two years to upgrade community sports facilities and build new ones.

This is an investment in every sport and every kid who dreams of running onto the field under the big lights one day.

The \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund will continue to keep transforming our regions.

With \$100 million for high-quality internet in regional communities.

Our new Renewable Energy Zones and pumped hydro projects will attract billions of dollars in regional investment.

This is a huge economic opportunity for our State – to lock in lower prices, generate jobs and position NSW as a climate leader, and the clean energy powerhouse of the Asia-Pacific.

The scale of our infrastructure pipeline is unprecedented, supporting tens of thousands of jobs each year.

This state-building pipeline will drive our recovery. It will strengthen our State, so we can stand tall today and lift future generations higher.

**Delivering quality services for everyone in NSW**

Even in a crisis, a government's core mission is to deliver the services our people rely on.

This Budget delivers on every front.

Record funding in health, education and transport.

More nurses, more teachers, more police on the beat.

And extended funding for 1,000 additional Service NSW staff.

Two years ago we provided funding to help a facility Adele House, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre near Coffs Harbour. A few weeks ago, with the local member, I visited Adele House and met many men whose troubled lives have been transformed by that investment.

This Budget will deliver a new centre in Dubbo – a town that has been hit hard by the ice epidemic – so more people can experience that life-changing help.

And we will keep fighting the scourge of ice with a formal response to the Special Commission of Inquiry in the coming months.

This Budget also makes another significant investment in palliative care, to secure 5,000 more End of Life home support packages.

And we will support up to 20,000 training places in aged care over the next 12 months.

Because although the responsibility for aged care lies with the Commonwealth – we will do everything we can as a State Government to affirm the dignity of older generations.

Every year, hundreds of pregnant women in NSW suffer from a debilitating disease called hyperemesis.

As if carrying a baby wasn't hard enough, hyperemesis adds crippling nausea, stress and exhaustion to the mix.

Many of us know a mum who has had it, and yet very little is known about it.

So in this Budget, we are funding research to work towards better treatment, and practical support to ease the strain. We all need to be supporting those who are caring for the next generation.

This Budget takes the lessons of last summer to increase our resilience to natural disasters and help communities rebuild and rebound.

We will invest \$192 million to implement the Bushfire Inquiry's recommendations.

Almost \$150 million will set up Resilience NSW with the resources that it needs over the next four years.

We have fast-tracked hazard reduction ahead of the bushfire season.

And we're investing in 190 new and upgraded firefighting trucks in this financial year alone.

Last summer left a scar on our State and our people.

None of us ever want to see that happen again.

This Budget ensures that whatever the future brings, we will be better prepared than ever.

**Investing in our people and their future**

Great government services are a vital support to help our people reach their full potential.

In our schools we will continue to drive curriculum reform and improve teaching standards by fast-tracking the best and brightest into teaching.

Our education system has never had more funding – and we must focus those resources on getting better educational outcomes for our kids.

In the current climate - many school leavers, and jobseekers are worried about getting into work.

So we will support more than 100,000 training places over two years under the State- and Commonwealth-funded Job Trainer program, 300 youth apprenticeships including social housing tenants, and more than 400 apprenticeships and traineeships just across government agencies.

We will also deliver a new Trades Skills Pathways Centre, based on recommendations from the Productivity Green Paper.

It will develop new trade training pathways, to boost female and mature-age entry into these professions and deliver the skills that our economy needs.

We will also help more women stay in the workforce, with a paid parental leave policy for the NSW public sector – making 14 weeks leave available to all eligible workers.

### **Making it easier to run a business**

A skilled workforce is one side of the economic coin – a booming business sector is the other.

Just three years ago, NSW was not competitive on payroll tax.

Both our rate and our threshold were in the middle of the pack.

We want NSW to be the most attractive place to build a business and create jobs.

So we took action, with a plan to raise the threshold to \$1 million by July 2021.

When the pandemic hit, we brought that target forward by a year.

Today we go further.

From July 2020, the Budget will reduce the payroll tax rate in NSW to 4.85 per cent for two years – the equal lowest headline rate in the nation.

And we will permanently raise the threshold to \$1.2 million, almost double Victoria's.

These changes mean around 36,000 businesses will save on average \$34,000 each year for the next two years – including 3,500 businesses who will pay no tax at all.

This adds to the thousands of businesses who have already benefited from our changes.

And our smallest businesses, who do not pay payroll tax, will get a \$1,500 digital voucher to put towards government fees and charges.

We will also recognise interstate licences and qualifications, so workers from any State can ply their trade in NSW.

It's all about getting government out of the way so businesses get on with business.

### **Strong local industry, big global outlook**

This Budget broadens the industrial foundations of our State and sets up NSW to take on the world.

At the height of the pandemic our local manufacturers adapted to produce the medical supplies we needed.

This Budget will bolster our advanced manufacturing industry, supporting a new strategy to create thousands of jobs.

And we'll keep developing our industrial precincts – from Tech Central in Sydney to the Special Activation Precinct in Parkes – to grow the sectors that will grow the jobs and careers of the future.

We are working with the international education sector as well towards a return of students in 2021.

And we will invest \$728 million over four years to attract tourists to NSW while overseas holidays remain on hold.

This Budget also continues our work to establish a bigger, better trade and investment network through Global NSW.

And through our \$250 million Jobs Plus program we will entice more Australian and international businesses to make NSW their home. We know – as the world knows – that Sydney is Australia's only truly global city.

We're taking NSW to the world, and we want the world to come to us.

These are the foundations of a resilient economic future and we are building them today to secure tomorrow.

### **A reform agenda for lasting prosperity**

Our greatest challenge is to ensure that today's adversity does not become our children's disadvantage.

This Budget opens the door to intergenerational reform.

Reform is hard in any system.

But in our federal system the odds are stacked against it.

States that reform get penalised, while States that don't, get paid.

But I believe we can do better.

There is a willingness in the community to embrace new ideas.

There is goodwill among the States and the Commonwealth to work together.

This Budget leads the charge with a reform agenda that covers the field.

Planning reform for a fairer, faster and more flexible system.

\$1.6 billion for digital reform to maintain our position as the most digital Government in the nation and one of the most digitally progressive jurisdictions in the world.

Digital health, transport, planning, business services, and even courtrooms.

Not just for the sake of it but because it puts services in your pocket, cuts red tape, and above all, improves people's lives.

One area where the pandemic has revealed scope for sweeping change is regulation.

We've lifted regulations because we had to, and it has unleashed the innovative instinct in business owners and workers right across our State.

Brewers like Young Henrys in Newtown went from making beer to hand sanitiser in the space of a few weeks.

Bars and restaurants went from dining in to taking out.

You couldn't go to a pub, so the pub came to you.

Shops went online or adapted their products.

All of this happened and the world didn't end.

This pandemic is a rebuke to unnecessary red tape.

And if there's no reason to put these regulations back, we won't.

We will stay out of the way and let the entrepreneurial spirit of our State soar to new heights.

### **Tax reform**

For State governments, the reform with the greatest potential to unlock prosperity is tax.

Report after report has recommended action, including our own Review of Federal Financial Relations.

Today we turn theory into the first firm step, seeking feedback on a proposal to transform our property tax system.

This proposed model would give buyers a choice to axe stamp duty at the point of purchase and choose an annual property charge instead.

For those who opt in, the new system would not just eliminate stamp duty. It would eliminate any land tax liability as well.

There would be no impact unless you are purchasing a property and you make the choice to change.

For everyone else, everything stays the same.

This model would give NSW a realistic pathway to achieving the most important economic reform in the last half century.

Stamp duty is a relic from a bygone era where you picked one career, started a family, bought a home and basically settled for life.

It adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of the biggest financial commitment most people ever make.

If you want to move, change jobs, switch careers, upsize or downsize to match your family size, stamp duty can be the spanner in the works.

It is holding our economy back at a time when we need to go full throttle.

That's why we believe that reform is the best way forward.

Our proposal would give more people the opportunity to own their own home, and more freedom to live in a home that's right for them.

Over time it could generate 75,000 new jobs and add an extra \$3,300 of income for every household in NSW.

This would be an important step towards a tax system that propels the NSW economy forward.

And when NSW goes well, Australia goes well.

Our proposal today is just the first step on a journey to design a better system together with the people of our State.

We will be seeking feedback from the community and the next step will reflect that conversation with the public.

Our vision is big and it is bold, but it has to be.

Because the challenges we face will demand every ounce of effort, ingenuity and imagination our State can muster.

### **The Premier State**

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For many people the end of this year cannot come fast enough.

But I believe that we will look back at 2020 as the year that forged our resolve to build a better future.

This year has shown us what we are capable of.

From start to finish everyone has done their bit.

Our fireys – putting it all on the line.

Our health workers – keeping us safe.

Businesses adapting to find a way through.

Employees working wherever and however they could.

Families reducing their time together.

Millions of people getting millions of tests.

Millions of students learning from teachers on screens.

We've kept our distance when we've had to.

And reached out when someone needed a hand.

If you look all around the world I believe that there is no State or nation better placed than NSW.

We are open for business – the virus is under control – the health system is set – and the economic engine is raring to go.

It is a phenomenal achievement.

And it is just the beginning.

Recovery comes first, but our vision stretches far beyond the here and now.

One tough year doesn't change the fact that we are NSW – the Premier State.

We will build on what we are so lucky to enjoy.

And fulfil our obligation to future generations: to leave our State and our nation a better place than we found it.

This is our Budget to rise to that challenge.

And like so many things that we have achieved this year, the people of NSW will do it together.

I commend the bills to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Documents***FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019-20****Tabling**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (12:33:57):** In accordance with Standing Order 266, I announce the electronic tabling of copies of the following papers:

- (1) Budget Statement 2020-21 (Budget Paper No. 1).
- (2) Outcomes Statement 2020-21 (Budget Paper No. 2).
- (3) Infrastructure Statement 2020-21 (Budget Paper No. 3).
- (4) Agency Financial Statements 2020-21 (Budget Paper No. 4).
- (5) Report on State Finances 2019-2020.

I move:

That the papers be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise members that copies of the budget papers are available at [budget.nsw.gov.au](http://budget.nsw.gov.au) and that hard copies of Budget Paper No. 1 have been delivered to members' offices by Treasury staff.

*Bills***ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BILL 2020****Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 10 November 2020.**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:34:55):** It is a pleasure to follow the Treasurer and I congratulate him on delivering an amazing budget. New South Wales will be all the better from what we have heard today. In my contribution to debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 on the last sitting day I discussed the renewable energy zones and the plan to create a competitive, low-cost market which will deliver resilient energy supply and, importantly, also put downward pressure on electricity prices. A key action in that strategy is to deliver three renewable energy zones in the State's Central-West Orana, New England and south-west regions. As I said last week, discussions have also been had with regard to zones in the Hunter and the Central Coast. As the Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast, I welcome consideration of the Hunter and the Central Coast.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Members will resume their seats and remain silent so that I can hear the member for Terrigal.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** The pilot zone in the Central-West Orana alone will deliver 3,000 megawatts of capacity, while the second zone in the New England region will deliver 8,000 megawatts of capacity. The NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap builds on the NSW Electricity Strategy, articulating a coordinated framework to guide New South Wales through the energy transition and to deliver those important renewable energy zones. In his contribution to debate on the bill last week, the Assistant Speaker outlined how he and his electorate will benefit from that outstanding piece of legislation.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** It was a very significant contribution.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** Indeed, it was Churchillian. The bill before the House will give effect to the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. In doing so, it is expected to deliver up to \$32 billion in private investment to 2030 and support over 6,300 construction jobs and 2,800 ongoing jobs in 2030. Those are phenomenal numbers. It will also support the State in moving towards a significantly cleaner and more sustainable electricity system. Under the roadmap, a mix of transmission, generation and storage investment is forecast to reduce New South Wales' power sector emissions by 90 million tonnes by 2030. The House may be familiar with the concept of a renewable energy zone. It is the modern-day equivalent of a traditional power station, bringing together a blend of low-cost solar and wind with transmission and storage to help meet our future energy needs.

As the State's existing power stations get older and approach retirement, the Government must ensure that renewable energy zones are delivered where and when the State needs them. The private sector is ready to invest in New South Wales' renewable energy zones. Recently the Government put out a call to developers to register their interest in the pilot Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. The response was absolutely overwhelming. There were proposals for 27,000 megawatts of power from developers who registered their interest in the region. That equates to \$38 billion in new private capital, which is nine times the amount that is needed to



make the renewable energy zone a reality. Those are fantastic and phenomenal numbers. However, if it is left to existing market signals, that investment could come too late to prevent price spikes and reliability issues—or, even worse, it may not come at all.

The regulatory and market frameworks are not set up to enable the private sector to deliver the renewable energy zone infrastructure in the time and at the scale that it is needed. Transmission projects have long lead times and can take many years to develop. The delivery of transmission and generation projects needs to be coordinated to ensure they are scale efficient and in the long-term interest of consumers and host regions. Generators need some certainty of revenue and insulation against the risks of congestion on the network to be able to secure finance. The market lacks a mechanism to ensure that the right mix of technologies can connect at the right times. In fact, Australian Infrastructure Partnerships in its 2019 investment report found that despite rising investor interest, policy and regulatory uncertainty continues to limit the private sector's willingness to invest in the energy sector. The bill creates the framework to provide that certainty. It overcomes those barriers to deliver renewable energy zones when and where they are needed.

The bill introduces an access scheme for renewable energy zones. By controlling who connects to the renewable energy zone network, the scheme will help to reduce the risk that a generator cannot export power because of limited network capacity. That will provide more certainty to investors by incentivising them to commit to projects in the renewable energy zone. The bill also introduces the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard as a key component of the road map. The infrastructure safeguard provides an investment signal to deliver the new electricity infrastructure that New South Wales needs. It is a framework for technologies to compete to deliver the energy services that they are best placed to deliver under different development pathways.

For renewable energy zone projects, long-term service agreements would give generators the option to sell their electricity at an agreed price. Options contracts give generators assurance of a minimum price for their electricity, while a competitive process maximises value for consumers, which is so important. That contains the risk of higher prices and ensures that consumers pay less than they otherwise would. In that way, the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard provides targeted investment signals, aligning the financial incentives for the private sector with the changing needs of the electricity market in New South Wales. The infrastructure safeguard also ensures that new energy infrastructure in renewable energy zones will optimise the benefits for consumers at the lowest cost by encouraging new low-cost generation, keeping project costs down, reducing the risk of delayed investment and price spikes and ensuring sufficient capacity in the system to keep the lights on when demand is high. *[Extension of time]*

In addition, the bill provides a framework for delivering the network infrastructure that is required for renewable energy zones. It introduces an infrastructure planner and a consumer trustee to support that process. Communities are so important. Crucially, the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap provides a framework to ensure that regional communities benefit from the investment in the infrastructure that they will host. A coordinated, consultative approach, led by the Energy Corporation of NSW, will improve regional community outcomes while protecting their agricultural interests, their heritage and their environmental character.

Under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard, projects will compete not only to deliver low electricity prices but also to deliver the best outcomes for local communities, and the consumer trustee will support that. The consumer trustee will assess projects against a merit criteria, which will help to maximise value for consumers and provide certainty for investors, while also ensuring positive outcomes for those host communities. The roadmap can also help to droughtproof traditional farming communities. Landowners who host infrastructure that is supported by the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard will receive lease payments. That is a great outcome for those landowners. It is estimated that around \$1.5 billion in nominal lease payments for landholders will be made by 2042.

In addition, in return for the certainty provided by the access scheme, generators will pay access fees, a portion of which will be used for community purposes. Experience with similar community enhancement funds from recent projects demonstrates that under the road map contributions could total up to \$265 million for renewable energy zone host communities by 2042. By pooling these funds, community contributions will go a lot further. Lower energy costs for both small businesses and heavy industry will also improve competitiveness for regional energy-intensive industries and high-value agriculture. It will provide the opportunity for lasting economic benefit in regional communities beyond just construction of energy infrastructure. I cannot stress how important that is.

Finally, in delivering those renewable energy zones the road map provides a balance of affordability, reliability and sustainability, most importantly, for all consumers. It will ultimately drive lower energy costs across New South Wales, with household average annual electricity bill reductions of around \$130 in the coming years. Bill savings will not come at the cost of reliability. The Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard will increase storage and support reliable energy systems, all while reducing emissions in New South Wales. The road

map is forecast to reduce power sector emissions in New South Wales by 90 million tonnes of greenhouse emissions by around 2030. The road map supported by the bill will deliver the country's first renewable energy zones, securing an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy future for New South Wales in the process. I take this opportunity to commend the Minister and his hardworking staff.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Name them.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** If I did, I would probably have to seek an extension of time. I congratulate the Minister and his staff on the great work they have done on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. As the Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast, it is certainly something that I welcome for our region. The discussions have also included the Hunter and the Central Coast. That renewable energy zone has huge potential to produce jobs and growth in our great region. I note the member for Newcastle is salivating at that opportunity.

**Mr Tim Crakanthorp:** Absolutely. Great backflip!

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** These are incredibly exciting times and it is great to see the bipartisan support from both sides of the Chamber for this important piece of legislation. Again, I congratulate the Minister and his team, and all who have contributed to this very important piece of legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (12:48:06):** I note in the Budget Speech the Treasurer did not mention Newcastle once—or the Hunter, in fact. What a disgrace. There is a little bit more to New South Wales than Sydney.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Newcastle will return to the leave of the bill.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP:** I speak in conditional support of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. The bill has the bones to provide for the people of New South Wales. That is not unsurprising, considering it significantly adopts Labor's 2019 election policy, including the reverse auction mechanism. However, we believe the bill can be much stronger and we will move amendments to embrace this golden opportunity to support local manufacturers and local jobs. Sadly, this Government has a disgraceful track record of sending money and jobs offshore. Its addiction to doing this to large manufacturing projects has decimated our own industry and its workforce, as well as the opportunities for kids looking to get their start in life.

Labor's amendment to the legislation will compel the use of locally procured or supplied goods and services to their fullest extent and, importantly, mandate that apprentices and trainees make up at least 20 per cent of the workforce on the particular project. Our kids are facing more uphill battles as they enter adulthood than those of decades past. It is harder to break into the housing market, there is rampant casualisation of the workforce and abhorrently high university fees are blocking more people out of further education. By ensuring that apprentices and trainees are guaranteed a go on these projects, we can commence the rebuilding of our skilled workforce and give those kids the start they so desperately need.

I was also disappointed that the Government did not support the Hunter to be one of its renewable energy zones. The Government has now done a massive backflip on this issue. If this is the case, I certainly welcome it in the Hunter. It would have been a huge lost opportunity for many reasons. The Hunter already has significant infrastructure in place for high-voltage transmission and will be one of the first regions to face the effects of the wind-down of fossil fuel energy generation, with the Liddell Power Station due to close in three years. The region, in particular the Port of Newcastle, is well connected by road, rail and shipping to support the transport and export of sustainable resources. The Hunter is also proving itself to be a powerhouse in the development of renewable technologies, because we all know this is the future.

Recently I had the opportunity to see firsthand two Newcastle projects that look to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The first was at Molycop steel manufacturers, which is transitioning from the use of 100 per cent coking coal in their manufacturing to rubber through recycling of old tyres. It will utilise approximately 75,000 old tyres through this process. Additionally, it has switched to renewable sources to power its plant. I also received a tour of the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources, which has been working on several varieties of clean energy production and energy-efficient solutions. Professor Paul Dastoor has been pioneering small-scale solar installations through the development of printable and flexible solar panels that are already in use by Lane Cove Municipal Council.

Another project the centre is working on is a zero-emissions hydrogen fuel, led by Professor Behdad Moghtaderi. The team has developed a system that harvests water from the air, then uses a solar-generated electrical current to split the water into hydrogen and oxygen before storing the hydrogen as a gas. These projects demonstrate the Hunter's capacity to drive renewable energy generation into the future. The CSIRO Energy Centre at Newcastle is pioneering low-emission technologies, working on grids and storage, energy modelling and forecasting to create value for industry and households and provide the knowledge to guide the country towards

a smart, secure and sustainable energy future. We are one of the best-positioned regions in Australia to lead the renewable transition. I acknowledge the member for Upper Hunter for his support, albeit after he realised he needed to jump on the bandwagon.

I read with great interest indeed that the member planned to move an amendment to the bill to include the Hunter as a renewable energy zone. I was under the impression the member for Upper Hunter was a member of the Government, so it is very interesting that he now needs to amend his own government's bill. Did he originally lose this argument in the party room? Did he just not try? Or was he embarrassed that Labor would amend the bill to represent and look after our community in Newcastle and the Hunter? It is interesting as well that just one day earlier the *Newcastle Herald* quoted him as saying:

... the Hunter doesn't need a "zone" to be included in private investment.

What a backflip! The member for Upper Hunter should eat his words, but I still say well done to him for realising he actually must support the future needs of his electorate and his region. The Hunter wants this and the Hunter is ready. The Hunter may be a region built on coalmining and fossil fuels, but they will not exist forever. This is the time to start setting ourselves up for life after coal. I suggest the Government accept Labor's amendments. We can all agree that reliable, cheap and sustainable energy is necessary for our State's future. I am sure we can agree that the opportunity to enshrine the Hunter's place in this future, and the future of local jobs, cannot be missed.

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (12:55:25):** I speak to the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. It is important that we address the challenge of climate change. The bushfires of last summer brought home to us the reality of increasing temperatures and hotter summers. We are also faced with ageing electricity infrastructure built around coal generation that will need replacing in the coming 10 to 15 years. It is therefore appropriate that the New South Wales Government maps out a pathway to maintain a sustainable and affordable energy supply. The proposed legislation make significant progress on this.

I do not propose to repeat the arguments for taking action on climate change. It is an issue that I and my Independent colleagues the member for Sydney and the member for Lake Macquarie have sought action on, and it is good to see action here. I commend the Minister for his work. I congratulate and thank my Independent colleagues for their years of advocacy on this key issue. It is good to see the focus of jobs in regional New South Wales and throughout the State. Again, I note the contribution of my Independent colleagues on the importance of maintaining and supporting jobs in affected communities. I understand those members will be moving amendments, and I commend those amendments to the House.

I note recent positive comments on the network upgrade made in the media in Wagga Wagga, particularly the opportunities for hydrogen energy and more opportunities for solar. I comment on one particularly important aspect of the legislation: the provisions for community consultation and involvement. As I have said before, government should be exercised with people and for people; it should not be something done to people. Building support to tackle climate change is hard enough without angering people and communities by running roughshod over their local concerns.

Unfortunately, the recent TransGrid consultation approach seems to consider the people affected by a massive infrastructure build as just an afterthought. I have raised these concerns in the House and with the Minister. The Minister has acted on the concerns, and consultation has improved. I acknowledge this and thank him, but the issue is not resolved by a long way. To give the House some idea of what is involved, I quote from a letter written to the Federal energy Minister by Melody McMeekin, a landowner from the Kyeamba Valley who has been dealing with TransGrid recently, on behalf of the Concerned Landholders of the Kyeamba Valley group:

The consultation and design process landholders have been dragged into seems to be in a regulatory no-man's-land between the National Energy Rules (NERs) and state-based planning and environmental approval processes.

The point is that there is little or no consideration of social and environmental concerns in the current process until it may be too late to address those concerns adequately.

The costs to landholders when impacted by the prospect of high-voltage powerlines being built on their property is exponential. The mental anguish, disruption to agricultural practice, forward planning adjustment, potential health impacts, as well as time and money filling in forms, on line maps and providing information and meetings with the network operator are only some of the impacts the landowner has to take into account in this situation. For the landowner to ensure least impact of the transmission line on the property is a draining process.

...

We believe that regulations that govern the building of infrastructure for electricity transmission is flawed.

I have also raised in the House concerns from landowners who have been affected by solar farm developments; developments that unfairly impact on their own land and the environment. Again, the question here is: Has the planning system failed them? Therefore, it is welcome that the Government and the Minister have tried to build

into this legislation a set of safeguards for community consultation. I note the words and the comments of the agriculture Minister when speaking to this bill, that it will achieve what it does without sacrificing existing industry, lifestyle and communities. I certainly believe that should be an aim.

Communities in my electorate dealing with TransGrid would have wanted all of this to come earlier, but at least there is some learning from what has happened and a clear message about the importance of dealing properly with the communities that are affected. As members of my community have been at pains to tell me, there is a problem with the system for planning and approval of these electricity projects in that the community directly affected seems to come last.

There are safeguards in the bill that I welcome. Firstly, there are the objects of the bill, including fostering local community support for investment in new generation, storage, network and related infrastructure. There is also the fact that the Minister may make a declaration in regard to renewable energy zones only if the Minister has considered, among other items, land use planning, environmental and heritage matters, and the views of the local community in the renewable energy zone outlined in section 12.

Section 13 refers to the required public exposure of a draft declaration. Further on, section 19 provides for fees for access schemes to contain a component related to community purpose, being a purpose that benefits the local community in the geographic area that forms the renewable energy zone to which the access scheme applies. Section 22 refers to conditions of the infrastructure planner prohibiting a proponent connecting a proposed infrastructure and specifies conditions that would lead to that prohibition. That applies to the renewable energy zones. I note the Minister's comments in the second reading speech in this regard:

This provision is needed to assure local communities that only those projects which are in appropriate locations and whose proponents take the time to genuinely engage communities and build local support will go ahead.

As the Minister says, we must maintain community support for these projects and changes. Section 23 (5) makes regulations for infrastructure planners for the renewable energy zone network infrastructure processes:

- (5) The regulations may make further provision for or with respect to the following—
  - (a) the exercise of the infrastructure planner's functions under this section,
  - (b) requiring the consumer trustee to provide information to the infrastructure planner,
  - (c) public consultation requirements.

I note the inclusion of the power to make these regulations. I seek the Minister's assurance that these regulations will be forthcoming and will put our communities at the centre of the planning and consultation processes. However, I note that the requirements on the Minister to consider land use planning, environmental and heritage matters, and the views of the local community are not included in relation to priority transmission infrastructure projects—that is, projects that are located in the State and are identified in or form part of an infrastructure project identified in the most recent integrated system plan published by the Australian Energy Market Operator [AEMO] under the National Electricity Rules.

Clearly, these projects are outside the renewable energy zones to which there are, as some have said, a number of caveats that ensure that communities are consulted where they are affected. I will be moving an amendment to ensure that these matters are considered by the Minister for priority transmission infrastructure projects. The Minister has spoken of the benefits to regional and rural communities, for example, in terms of jobs and lease payments. I welcome these and the provision of community support funds. Importantly, the Minister has spoken of working with communities. He has stated that the legislation:

... ensures that our new energy infrastructure supports and contributes to rather than takes away from our communities ...

I agree that these projects must have a social licence. It is good to see the Government planning for the future of our electricity needs in a way that acknowledges climate change and the fact that power stations will not continue beyond the next decade or so. However, it is fundamental that we do not forget the communities directly affected. That is how we should work as a nation. We should not simply accept that some of our people will be disadvantaged by government action, however necessary that might be. We should do all we can to assist those affected and avoid unnecessary hurt or damage.

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (13:04:35):** I speak today in debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020, introduced by the Minister for Energy and Environment, and I do so on behalf of my community in Maitland, for which this bill is very important, given that Maitland is often described as the dormitory of the mines and electricity generation in the Hunter. The Minister claims that the bill will provide a pathway to a lower-carbon economy and that it promises to stabilise the energy market and increase opportunities for the production of renewables. We know that the bill has a good chance of doing this because, based on good foundations, it proposes implementing a substantial part of Labor's 2019 clean and cheaper energy plan.

The concern I have—and it was alluded to by a number of colleagues—is about the tintacks of how we do this. The member for Upper Hunter has said that he will move an amendment—after Labor has moved an amendment—to include the Hunter in the renewable energy zones under the proposed legislation. It has to be a massive oversight that the Government has put in renewable energy zones for the Central-West Orana, New England and South West regions around Hay but has not included the Hunter, where we already have a substantial set-up for this with the networks to the transmissions, the ports, the rail and, most importantly, the skilled workers that are needed for such a project.

It is important that when we talk about renewables we talk also about jobs and procurement because there is a whole generation of people who have invested their lives in providing energy to this State, and indeed to our nation and to many nations overseas, through working in the coal industry and other associated industries and we must ensure that they are considered. As my colleague the member for Newcastle noted, just like it has in the budget, this Government has again failed to include the Hunter in a significant piece of legislation—something that has the potential to open up billions of dollars of investment. The one community in the State that has been providing energy to this State since the settlement of New South Wales essentially is not included. I note that the member for Upper Hunter did not refer to the Central Coast and I know that our colleagues on the Central Coast have also had concerns about being missed out. I hope that when the Government amends its own bill it will amend it to include the Central Coast.

It is encouraging that we have an identification and inclusion of the need of industry. We want this bill to work with the infrastructure that is already on the ground and we need to have those jobs not just in the primary energy-producing areas but also in manufacturing and in advanced manufacturing. The amendments brought by Labor have been, very importantly, targeted at delivering real jobs and local procurement as part of this legislation. The Government can talk all it likes about how it wants to move into the future with energy production and to address climate change, but we all know that the Government has been very slow to come to this particular way of thinking and it will need far more than kind words from the Minister to ensure that people in our community do not lose their jobs. We also need to ensure that those industries such as Tomago Aluminium, defence and other advanced manufacturing that have massively relied on this energy have it close by, and that is happening.

I have grave concerns about the way this bill has come to this place. The Government speaks about consultation. It has obviously lifted much of our policy and it is talking to the unions at this stage, but we need it to be a real conversation and we need to ensure that where unions have a say in this they are really close. When we look at the response to this proposed legislation from organisations in the Hunter, such as the business chamber, we know that they are similarly concerned that regions as well placed as the Hunter and Central Coast in existing generation, distribution networks, access to the grid, a skilled workforce and those global gateways must be given that input and export activity in the industry. The member for Upper Hunter said, quite rightly, that he had long been an advocate for coal, but he has not been an advocate for long-term jobs in the sector; he has not been an advocate for the people who live and work in this sector.

I am very concerned about what is going to happen, for example, in 2023 if the proposed electoral boundary changes happen and I lose people in my electorate to the Upper Hunter. The member for Upper Hunter does not represent the views of the mining communities, the energy workers, already in his electorate. I have in my electorate over 2,000 workers directly employed in mining and many, many more in the ancillary businesses and small businesses that support that industry, and many of them live in the area of Maitland that, under the current proposed distribution, will go to the Upper Hunter. This bill shows that this Government and the member for Upper Hunter have no concern about the lives, the jobs, the futures of those people and their families. It is the denial of the member for Upper Hunter of the science of climate change and his denial of the urgent energy and jobs crisis that has created this negligence. He is the person in this Government who is able to be close to talk to the Minister for Energy and Environment.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I am sure a Government member will take a point of order on relevance shortly, but I remind the member for Maitland that the subject of the bill is electricity infrastructure investment and not the member for Upper Hunter, who has just walked into the Chamber. He is a lovely gentleman and, as much as I would like to hear more about the member for Upper Hunter, the bill is not about the member for Upper Hunter. I ask the member for Maitland to return to the leave of the bill.

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON:** I agree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that it is very important that this bill provides for a real jobs task force. The unions in this State that are invested in the outcomes of this legislation on behalf of their workers—the Australian Workers Union, the Electrical Trades Union, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union—deserve more than a talkfest, and so do their members. They have been fighting the politics of this issue. People in the regions are sick of being pawns in Macquarie Street politics. We must ensure that these renewable energy zones

will create jobs in our regions, but we must also look at the jobs in our regions that are at risk through these changes and not just keep picking winners and losers.

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:12:48):** I make a contribution to debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. I will not oppose the bill and I will speak in support of the proposed Opposition amendments. This is an incredibly important bill. Electricity production is essential for households and businesses throughout the State. For the past decade the Government has focused on nothing short of a sell-off of government-owned and publicly owned assets without looking towards investing in the future in any way whatsoever, despite the fact that in the next 15 years we are facing the closure of Liddell, Vales Point, Eraring and Bayswater coal-fired power stations.

We have heard a lot from Government members about how this bill is a visionary statement. It is certainly a huge improvement. The Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap does provide a way forward, if it is delivered, to ensure that we can keep the lights on and our businesses running after all those power stations close down. However, it is lagging behind the rest of the world. The World Economic Forum predicts that in 2026 renewables will overtake coal and gas as the primary generation capacity worldwide. The Minister's big success is not in finally coming to the party and realising that renewables deliver cheaper power and have done so for a number of years; the Minister's big success is herding the cats on the Government's side, which has been incredibly important. Time and time again Government members, mainly from the National Party but also from the Liberal Party, deny the financial reality that renewables are cheaper than coal-fired electricity. The Deputy Premier has been a huge advocate for nuclear power in New South Wales although worldwide it costs on average \$200 per megawatt hour for generation compared with much lower costs of the electricity that we now purchase in New South Wales. We should be—and we are doing it today—talking about driving down prices, rather than driving them up.

In New South Wales, for the past four years, renewables have been consistently cheaper than coal-fired generation. That is just a fact; that is just the way the market works but it is nothing new. Some 20 years ago I did a brief secondment for what was then the New South Wales Government's Sustainable Energy Development Authority and prepared a document similar to the one we have before us but, of course, in very different market conditions when renewables were a lot more expensive. It identified market opportunities throughout the State for renewable investment that were seen as commercially viable and a lot of those were invested in at that time and in the years that followed.

At the time there was not the emphasis on pumped hydro before us today; it is a huge change in mindset to look at pumped hydro as a source of generation. In some ways it is controversial but I think it can be managed well to ensure that it is renewable and sustainable. The Labor Opposition seeks to rectify another shortcoming in the bill by ensuring that it delivers for the people who live and work in New South Wales opportunities for employment in skilled jobs, and for investment in local industry and manufacturing. Renewable energy is far more labour-intensive in the manufacture of its components and in the entire lifetime of generation than coal-fired electricity. But if all those components are manufactured overseas and it is just a case of wind turbines being put on the back of semitrailers and then installed out in paddocks with a small number of people employed in monitoring them and maintaining them, that is a wasted opportunity for the people of the State.

We must create jobs in manufacturing here, which the Opposition amendments will seek to do. I note that 20 years ago Australia was the world's largest producer of solar panels, mainly through BP Solar at Homebush. A few years later the company left Australia and moved to China because it received no support from the Federal Government at the time and received huge incentives to move to China from the Chinese Government. It is disappointing that we do not have that manufacturing capacity here at the level we should. I hope we can use this policy as an opportunity to ensure that there still are people working to create electricity as well as the components for the creation of electricity in the State for decades to come long after the closure of those power stations.

Referring to my earlier comments about herding cats within the Government, I say that the renewable energy zones are a great idea but there is not one nominated in the Monaro. There is 300 megawatts of potential renewable energy capacity in the Monaro and yet it is not identified as a renewable energy zone. I think that does reflect the resistance to renewable energy by members of Parliament representing that area. It is a wasted opportunity for those communities. Also, the initial proposal leaves out the Hunter and Central Coast despite the existing strong transmission networks there and the communities there that are crying out for investment in jobs in manufacturing and exports.

Those things are important. I think a renewable energy zone should be put into the Hunter. I am also concerned about the capacity to create investment in transmission. For a number of years there has been pretty much no investment in transmission in the State. Leaving it to the market has not delivered. There are mechanisms within the road map to encourage investment in transmission. The creation of the renewable energy zones will

encourage investment in a small area and create greater demand for transmission, which will guarantee that transmission is utilised more effectively and will work quite well.

A problem throughout the National Electricity Market—whether we are talking about transmission or generation—is the massive investment needed to secure any increase in capacity. One reason solar panels have been so successful is that it does not need investment in a lot of additional capacity to take advantage of it. But in other forms, whether it be huge transmission or big solar farms, it is a huge financial risk that the demand just will not be there for what you are trying to produce—or will not be there at a lucrative level except in periods of extremely high demand.

If everyone invests on the basis of peak demand, a lot of that capacity will go under-utilised and will not have a revenue stream attached to it. I hope the mechanisms described, particularly around transmission, will deliver. I support the Opposition amendment about establishing a New South Wales renewable energy board, with a wideranging membership to deliver a plan. It is important that it has representatives of industry workers, employers and consumers as electricity infrastructure jobs advocates to ensure that all the things I mentioned before about the bill being a great opportunity are delivered.

The bill is a great opportunity for us to create jobs and investment throughout the State. In some ways it is similar to the policy that Labor took to the last election—our clean and cheaper energy plan—and I hope that if fully implemented, it will deliver cheaper energy. It aims to put New South Wales consumers back in the bottom 10 per cent for electricity costs in the OECD. Around 20 years ago we had the second cheapest electricity in the OECD but, unfortunately, because we have pursued privatisation, a lack of investment and a lack of proper investment incentives, it has blown out time and time again.

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (13:22:55):** On behalf of The Greens, I speak on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill. It is not often that I feel this hopeful. I will not suggest that the bill is a panacea or the answer to all our prayers but it sure as heck is in the right direction. You could have knocked me over with a feather last sitting when the agriculture Minister—a member of The Nationals—talked up the boom in jobs in renewables. It was exciting because for a couple of decades The Greens have been making that case federally and at a State level. The Opposition has also been making the case federally and a State level for a long time.

I will not dwell on negatives but I think it is important to say that the bill is a significant milestone. I do not care how it happened; I am just so glad that it has because climate change was one of the reasons I got into political life. Where we are headed, in terms of life for humans and all the diverse species, we know that a warming planet will be a human rights issue for future generations if not now. I have seen it in the Pacific on a number of occasions; it is real. Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Samoa are planning how to relocate their entire nations. Sea level rise is not an abstract concept. Increasingly in my electorate we are seeing coastal erosion at levels we have never seen before and, of course, we have all been talking about the catastrophic level of the extended bushfires and droughts. This bill is late to the party but it is very welcome.

We have seen 12 years of political inertia on the part of the Liberal-Nationals at the Federal level to harness the renewables boom, which started in earnest nearly 20 years ago in this country and which went overseas because of a failure in leadership. It has been a very long and dismal process. I well remember when Australia was leading the world in solar technologies 20 years ago. When I lived in Broken Hill our researchers were the best in the world; it was a big deal. Then we watched as those researchers and innovators went overseas to lead the renewables boom in China and India. When the Minister talks about a renaissance in manufacturing, I feel a strong sense of the futility of all those intervening years.

We realise that the tail is leading the head, if you like, in that the States have to go it alone. That is very disappointing. When we see members of The Nationals in this place acknowledging there are lots of jobs in renewables and finally believing that economic case—I think the Liberals have been there for a while—then this has a real chance. Sadly we do see this battle of ideology still playing out in the Federal sphere and some in Labor are still doubling down on coal and gas. That is hard to understand. I was horrified to read in a recent article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* that former Labor shadow Minister Joel Fitzgibbon is still talking about the loss of jobs in the same breath that everyone else is finally talking about jobs in renewables.

Not only have The Greens made this case for a very long time but also my community has been leading the way. In my electorate Enova Energy, a community-owned energy provider, provides energy to retail, homes and businesses. Its haystack solar garden and shared community battery and Byron Bay's microgrid pilot are world-class. The Repower Byron Shire project is being led by Community-Owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby, Enova Energy and Zero Emissions Byron. Zero Emissions Byron has been working tirelessly for the past 15 years to keep this matter on the agenda, and it has done such a good job. Southern Cross University's Clean Energy Accelerator in the regions is quite extraordinary. Thousands of our residents made the switch to solar a very long time ago. We are punching above our weight in relation to solar in homes and batteries.

Last year I was very proud to announce \$3.5 million for the Byron Bay Solar Farm project of Coolamon Energy. Four years ago Tesla installed one of the first electric vehicle charging stations at Macadamia Castle in the Ballina electorate. Locally, Gus Moncrieff is pursuing community-owned power generation in Ballina, together with all of our solar providers. I give a big shout-out to them because they have been leading the way whilst governments have been falling behind. The NSW Greens Climate Action Working Group keeps showing up in relation to policy and advocacy. The Greens are very glad that the Government finally believes us when we say there are lots of jobs to be had in renewables.

Every major gas and oil company has already left the dock and transitioned to a renewables focus for their industries. Finally the penny has dropped. The Greens have a plan to see a just transition for all mineworkers in this country who currently work in the fossil fuel industry. It is worth repeating: We have a plan to see a just transition for those workers, and we have had that plan for a while. It is that simple. Whilst we lament that it is the States that are leading the way, we are very glad it is happening. We support the three types of energy infrastructure identified by the experts as the lowest cost replacement for the New South Wales electricity system: first, new transmission that supports the diversification of the grid to renewable-rich areas; second, renewable generation providing very low marginal cost energy to the system; and, third, long duration storage like pumped hydro and firming like gas and batteries to provide dispatchable energy and other services to complement the intermittent nature of renewables.

We know that the grid needs a massive transformation. Money at the Commonwealth level has already been earmarked for that huge upgrade. This plan, if all goes well, will assist that greatly. We commend the Government for investing in the high up-front capital costs needed to set up a twenty-first century grid that will support our renewables boom. It is belated but we support it. We welcome the renewable energy zones that will combine generation, transmission, storage and system strength services to ensure a secure, affordable and reliable energy system. We agree that those zones have the potential to deliver affordable energy and to help replace the State's existing power stations as they retire. For the past decade affordable energy has been used as a way to signal that we should not embrace renewables. So it is such a relief to see that the opposite argument is finally being put.

We are concerned that underpinning the road map is a \$32 billion private sector investment. That is a lot of money. We know that the shift to 100 per cent renewables is best achieved quickly and fairly by transitioning to 100 per cent publicly owned energy. I foreshadow that my colleague the member for Balmain will move some amendments. There has been movement towards more publicly owned assets. The Greens will move those amendments to ensure, where possible, that renewable energy is publicly owned and that the materials required to build the infrastructure are manufactured locally. The expected 6,300 construction jobs and 2,800 ongoing jobs in 2030, mostly in regional New South Wales, are welcome. The reduction in carbon emissions in New South Wales by an estimated 90 million tonnes by 2030 is very welcome, as is the expectation that households over the next decade will save an average of around \$130 per year. *[Extension of time]*

We welcome the fact that the Government recognises the urgency for a shift by introducing this bill. The Greens will be working proactively to improve the bill. We want to see local procurement and to deliver a fair return for First Nations people for all projects built on their land. In my electorate the Bundjalung people are native title holders. That is the sort of conversation we want to see with any project across the State. The Greens will be seeking to ensure that this bill provides a just transition fund for coal-powered generation workers and communities and that it includes supporting local manufacturing and local jobs. We also want to see an ability to make payments out of the electricity infrastructure fund to assist in the delivery of green hydrogen firming projects.

We want to allow for contributions to be directed to the electricity infrastructure fund and to recover a proportion of any super profits made by a distribution network service provider. That is about owning the infrastructure and seeing the returns come back into the community, which is very important. The Greens believe that targeted early investment in green hydrogen is critical to rebuilding our local manufacturing base. We must ensure that the investment that flows with the renewable energy boom will deliver not only green power but also local jobs. That means inserting strong local procurement provisions in the bill.

Economic empowerment for traditional owners of First Nations communities is a key priority for The Greens in negotiating the amendments to this bill and we look forward to a cooperative response from the Government. I congratulate the Minister on this very bold initiative. It is belated. It is a renaissance that was well overdue but we are so glad it is here. The case is now on the table for a jobs boom in renewables, to slow down our emissions and do what we need to as leaders in the world and to embrace the full benefits of this investment for communities in this country and across the globe. The Greens commend the bill to the House.

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (13:34:58):** I make a contribution to debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. Given its volume, it is not feasible or necessary for me to



talk on every aspect of the bill. In many respects, the lack of outcome metrics at this stage makes it difficult to measure the effectiveness of the bill in achieving the goals of cheaper, more reliable and cleaner energy. I will focus my contribution to debate on three points: the selection and location of renewable energy zones [REZs], as detailed in part 3 of the bill; the investment in and construction of the new energy grid infrastructure and its implications on consumer pricing and welfare, as detailed in parts 2 and 4; and the economic and employment opportunities from the substantial investment that will be required to achieve the objectives of the bill.

First, our energy production, both historically and currently, is based on non-renewable sources. It is clear that the trend is moving from non-renewables to renewables, as evidenced by technological advances that make renewables more cost competitive; the closure of coal-fired power plants, or closures being brought forward from their expected asset life tenure; and the financial markets increasingly moving billions of dollars towards renewable energy production and technology. That trend, which will only increase in speed, means that communities that have traditionally been sources of energy production will bear the economic and social cost of the significant change. In New South Wales that means that proud, hardworking communities in the Hunter and the Illawarra should be at the forefront of our thoughts and decision-making process when it comes to determining the REZs.

Part 3, division 1, proposed section 16 (1) (a) to (c) details the three REZ locations as being Central-West Orana, New England and South West, around the Hay region. None of the locations chosen to kickstart the billion-dollar investment are located in the Hunter or the Illawarra, which are two of the communities most impacted by the change in energy production. However, I note that recent media reports have speculated that may change, which I welcome. I am not saying that any of the three locations in the bill are undeserving—not at all. On the contrary, I think regional investment is a good thing, but the location list should not preclude the areas that are most impacted by the rapid change in our energy production mix. An experienced cynic would claim that the locations were chosen based on political priorities rather than community need; recent evidence about the allocation of local community grants would certainly support such a conclusion. There is nothing untoward in adding paragraphs (d) and (e) to that list, referencing the Hunter and the Illawarra respectively.

If the bill is to meet the objective of "fostering local community support", as referenced in paragraph (e) of the explanatory notes, then the absence of the Hunter and Illawarra is a glaring omission that does not attempt to foster local community support from those who are most impacted. I note that proposed section 13 (a) requires the Minister to consider a report from the secretary about the cost and consumer effects prior to the declaration of a REZ, with paragraphs (b) to (d) outlining the other consultation required. Paragraph (e) requires that the draft declaration be made publicly available. It is ambiguous under this section whether the secretary's report is included as part of the information to be made publicly available. I suggest that good corporate governance would insist on making the secretary's report publicly available, to ensure greater accountability and credence in ministerial decision-making.

Similarly, transparency and good corporate governance principles in making advice, information or reports publicly available should apply to proposed section 14, which addresses ministerial discretion in REZ declaration, and proposed section 15, which addresses ministerial amendments to a REZ. Ministerial declarations of REZs have significant social and economic consequences for impacted communities and sizeable financial benefits for prospective investors, landowners and speculators. Recent evidence has come to light that Liberal Government decisions on land deals have made taxpayers all the poorer. The public have a right to know how ministerial decisions are made, given the substantial financial sums involved. That will enhance accountability and provide greater integrity in the decision-making process.

The second point I will cover involves REZ selection and the consequences it has for consumer pricing and welfare. The electricity market is highly regulated through various State and Federal agencies to prevent market power abuse, such as unacceptable higher power prices for consumers. At the same time, investors must be provided with a level of certainty in their rate of return over the capital and operational expenditure over the life of the asset, otherwise they will not invest. There needs to be a balance between capital returns over the cost base and consumer pricing to allow the billion-dollar investment in energy production to proceed with fair market value outcomes. The location of a REZ plays an important role in determining the capital and operational cost base in the construction of the infrastructure that is required to store, transmit and distribute the energy to other grids in the electricity network.

Comparative REZ location analysis should form part of the advice prior to a REZ being declared, to ensure that the cost base is kept to a minimum. REZ locations should produce an optimal outcome that is economically sound, to ensure that reliable clean energy also results in affordable power prices. In short, the higher the cost base, the higher the consumer price for electricity, so keeping our construction costs down is essential. The Liberal Government's record in building billion-dollar infrastructure leaves a lot to be desired—the Sydney light rail and WestConnex spring to mind—but under the proposed bill any billion-dollar blowouts will send families and

businesses broke with unaffordable energy costs. Not only are taxpayers being asked to foot the bill for any potential billion-dollar budget blowouts, but also they will be hit a second time when paying higher power prices. To paraphrase a much-loved conservative slogan, the Liberal Government is making electricity prices more expensive again.

My final point relates to the opportunities available within the bill to restore our resource, manufacturing and other related industries, especially in regions and communities that have been adversely affected by the change to the energy production mix. As part of the construction activities there should be a concerted effort to utilise local materials, services and manufacturing in the procurement process. Local proportional content must be stipulated and must be contractually enforceable. It is futile and frivolous to require local content but have no monitoring and enforcement mechanism; you might as well not have it if you cannot enforce it. Local content will stimulate economic activity and employment and generate ongoing income, especially in regional areas that have been adversely impacted by the changing energy mix. The positive economic multiplier effect for the regions and for New South Wales is substantial. This is not a call for protectionism; such a statement implies a lack of economic competitiveness amongst local industries that could benefit from these projects.

New South Wales Labor and I are confident that local industries are able to actively compete on price and quality with the materials required, products to be manufactured and supporting services to be delivered. When sourcing materials and building assets during the construction phase we should examine the cost over the life of the asset and its wider economic benefit to our local economies, not just the cheaper quoted purchase price; applying that method does not take into account the total cost over the life of the asset and could potentially end up costing taxpayers more in the future. We should take the opportunity to support our workers and local economies, especially those that have been hardest hit. That will have a positive multiplier effect on other industries in New South Wales and around the nation. It is about time the biggest economic beneficiaries of those billion-dollar projects are our people and our local businesses, both large and small.

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:44:17):** I thank the Government for introducing the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. Let us see New South Wales finally come on board in recognising the absolutely drastic need to make changes to the future of energy in our State. I thank the energy Minister and my good colleagues the shadow energy Minister and the member for Swansea for their leadership on renewable energy policy development. I thank all of those in the greater Labor family for their work in developing the foundations of the necessary changes to energy supply that we need in this State, in this nation and on this planet to try to wrestle back the incredible impact that we as humans have had on climate change. Let us hope this Government, after dragging the chain with years of inaction, also takes the action needed to support the just transition of those workers who will be impacted, who have historically delivered our electricity across this State, and their communities, which will be displaced by the changes that the Liberal Government has mapped out.

I came into this place passionate about being part of a Parliament that oversees the far-too-late action to address climate change, and I commend the Minister for Energy and Environment for steering the Government into finally adopting parts of the energy policy Labor brought to the 2019 election. It is an absolute pity that the Federal Liberal Government is not so progressive. After years of teaching the importance of climate action to students in my geography classes, I put a poster on the wall of my office that possibly sums this up. It reads, "Don't get mad, get elected". I am proud that I put up my hand to represent the Labor Party and be in this place as this legislation goes through. I was hoping to be in a Labor government—we would actually see better just transition across New South Wales—but the fact that this bill is before the House is very important right now.

This bill is also about the families and small businesses that have seen electricity prices go through the roof under the current Liberal Government. The offloading of many of the New South Wales taxpayers' power stations has allowed private companies to dictate the electricity market. We in this great State once had one of the cheapest electricity supplies in the world, yet under this Government we have now jumped to the fourth highest in the OECD. As a result, sadly, many working families in my community need to line up, humiliatingly so, on Bring Your Bills Day for electricity bill relief. The people of New South Wales want cheap, reliable energy that not only benefits our families and small businesses but also benefits the Hunter, with its aluminium manufacturing and all those other very important manufacturing jobs, and benefits the Illawarra, with its important talents in steel manufacturing and associated industries.

This Government should have been leading the way on climate change since 2011. Some 10 years later we are finally seeing this go into action—and so we should, as industries in Australia respond to investor pressure to make adjustments. I congratulate Woolworths on its commitment last week to reduce emissions, based on pressure from investors and the people of our community to take climate action seriously. Unfortunately, this Liberal-Nationals Government legislation once again neglects workers in New South Wales. It lacks the vision to support all those workers who will be seriously impacted by the changes in energy transmission production. As

the member for Wyong pointed out, the Central Coast will be significantly impacted by these changes. Lake Munmorah closed in 2012, Vales Point is due to close in 2029 and Eraring in 2032.

Today in the New South Wales Parliament I am proud to call out the Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast for not standing up for the people of the Central Coast, who have historically worked so hard in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries. Alongside the Labor members, he needs to ensure that we have a renewable energy zone in the Hunter and Central Coast. I will support the Labor amendments that focus on looking after jobs in our community on the coast. At the last census some 1,554 people were employed in electricity manufacture in New South Wales. At this point the Liberal policy has not delivered support for a renewable employment zone on the coast. Labor will be pushing for amendments to see very clear statements of supporting workers who will be impacted by the changes that will be coming under this legislation, particularly in my community.

Once again, I say that the Government has let the coast down, as it has the Illawarra, Lithgow and my old stomping ground of the Hunter. As usual, this Government is doing its very best to develop energy zones in Liberal- and National Party-held electorates, especially those that might be threatened by a loss of votes to the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, which is clearly listening to the people in the bush and bringing their voices to this Parliament. As ageing assets move out of the system over time the Government must ensure that the people working in these places and the communities that depend on these changes will not be abandoned by the Liberal Government.

I grew up in western Lake Macquarie, where the dads of many of the kids in my class worked in the mines. Those kids also grew up and worked in the mines and in electricity manufacture. The community of my childhood was and still is very reliant on mining and electricity manufacture, yet this Government has made no commitment to this community in this legislation. It was really good to hear that the member for Lake Macquarie is supportive of the proposed Labor amendments calling on the inclusion of a Hunter-Central Coast renewable energy zone. Our area has historically been a powerhouse for power. The expert workforce exists in our community and will be impacted by these changes, and this must be addressed in the road map. The expert and skilled workers represented by the Electrical Trades Union, the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, the Australian Workers' Union, and the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union are concentrated in geographic areas of historic energy supply that are overlooked by this bill. It is great to see that Labor will be making amendments to address this pocket of geographic expertise. It is imperative that we use local skills to manufacture everything we need to see this climate change policy enacted.

This bill has a massive crevasse in its commitment to Aussie jobs. This Government has already sold out on manufacturing in New South Wales: South Korean trains that do not fit the tracks; Indonesian ferries that do not fit under the bridges; light rail made in Spain; and a Premier who tells the massive skilled industry in New South Wales that we cannot make trains in this State. The creation of some 9,000 new jobs is great, yet are these people working for local firms delivering profit into local communities in New South Wales? Or are they foreign companies, foreign exports and foreign workforces coming into New South Wales to deliver Liberal infrastructure once again? At this point, there is no place in this legislation to ensure that these jobs are real local jobs and that this is local profit to stay in our regional communities.

Foreign investment in New South Wales also means profits going overseas. I put on the table that the new intercity fleet [NIF] trains in New South Wales are delivering innumerable Korean nationals working in our rail sector in New South Wales, and the Kangy Angy plant employs many people who are not coasties. Rail safety for the NIF trains is overseen by a company from South Korea and the profit goes back to South Korea. The experts came from South Korea and go back to South Korea. Yet we have been a manufacturing powerhouse in this State. We need every road, bridge, train, ferry, school, hospital and every piece of renewable energy infrastructure to be made in New South Wales.

Years ago, along with lots of girls in the Australian women's Gliders team I got an "Australian Made" tattoo, symbolic of how proud we are not only of this country but also of the importance of manufacturing jobs in this nation. The Labor amendments will introduce a renaissance of manufacturing in New South Wales. Let us see the Government support this for workers in our great State. We need to emphasise local skills, knowledge and resources, and we need a massive commitment to jobs in our communities. I strongly support the residents of New South Wales who will be significantly impacted by this legislation if it is looked after. I do so by supporting the Labor Opposition amendments. That said, I am proud to be a part of the Fifty-Seventh Parliament, which will finally see this important legislation passed in New South Wales.

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (13:53:15):** I speak in debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. As we launch into the 2020s it is worth noting that we have lost another decade to climate inaction. For those of us who care deeply about taking real action on climate change and are deeply concerned about the state of the planet our children will inherit, the past 10 years has been a decade of disappointment.

Time and again the politics of climate have failed us and stalled the progress we desperately need to make if we are to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, reduce emissions and limit dangerous temperature rises. There can be no doubt that politicians on both sides of the political divide are at fault, choosing division when what we really need is unity and action.

The foundation principle of this bill is that we simply cannot afford to lose another decade to climate inaction, nor can we sit idly by as our ageing electricity network is driven slowly but surely into the ground. Four of our State's five coal-fired power stations will reach their end of life in the next five to 15 years. Unless the Government acts now, the lights will simply go out. It is very clear we must act now to build the energy network that future generations demand of us. I am hopeful that this moment in the New South Wales Parliament signals a new chapter in climate policy when true optimistic and genuine bipartisanship help us turn the page and gets us moving when it really counts.

The bill before the House is imperfect; the plan it enables is imperfect. But it is action and I believe it will make a real difference. The bill is a win for evidence and science, which have spoken in broad consensus for quite some time about the importance of action on climate change. It is a win for renewables, the potential of which has not yet been unlocked. There is so much to do when it comes to renewables. I note the exceptional work of the members for Swansea and for Wollongong in already improving the Government's bill. If implemented correctly, the bill will be a real win for workers with opportunities for quality, sustainable, high-paying jobs across our State. The bill also promises a win for electricity consumers, with the Minister indicating it will save New South Wales households an average of \$130 a year and small businesses \$440 a year. That will be good news, if this plan is implemented properly.

It must be said that this bill represents a significant shift from a government and political party that has been divided on this issue. Many people in the community will be suspicious of this move but I must say that, as one who has called out the dinosaurs in The Nationals and the Liberal Party, many of them will be gritting their teeth as this bill passes through the New South Wales Parliament. But I must make very clear today that I am proud that NSW Labor is supporting the bill. Although Labor will move amendments to ensure that the plan is as strong and effective as possible, particularly for workers in the Hunter, the Central Coast and the Illawarra, Labor members genuinely recognise that something has got to give; something has to be done. The communities that Labor represents expect nothing less.

The bill seeks to enact the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap announced by the Minister to replace our ageing coal-fired power stations and acknowledges that the future must lie with renewables. As reported, the plan aims to attract \$32 billion in renewable energy infrastructure in the next 10 years. It aims to generate 6,300 construction jobs and 2,800 ongoing jobs by 2030, the majority of which will be located in our regions. The plan aims to create \$1.5 billion in lease payments for regional landowners from renewable power generation, such as wind and solar, and reduce our State's greenhouse gas emissions by 90 million tonnes. Importantly, the plan will generate three gigawatts of firm capacity reliable energy by 2030 and set an energy security target and monitor to transparently identify and guide how much firm capacity is needed to reliably power our State.

Underpinning the bill is the understanding that industry needs certainty if it is to invest in renewables. For too long investment in renewables has been hampered by a lack of vision and guidance, as well as no leadership by State and Commonwealth governments. Consistently over the past few years the Climate Council's renewable energy race scorecard has listed our State as at the starting blocks when it comes to renewable generation. Last year New South Wales came sixth out of eight, with only 17.3 per cent of our electricity generated from renewables and only 20 per cent of our households using solar energy. Hopefully, this bill will raise our energy stocks in New South Wales. Analysis suggests that the plan could boost our share of renewable energy to 60 per cent by 2030, which is a very good thing.

The bill will do that by establishing renewable energy zones—areas in which the Government can leverage economies of scale in technologies, infrastructure and planning mechanisms to convert multiple generators in the area and attract greater investment. The bill indicates that these zones will be established in the Central West, New England and South West regions. I note that the Minister in his second reading speech said that the Hunter would be a prime location for a renewable energy zone [REZ]. He stated that he was "happy to work with any community in the State that wants to host a REZ and unlock the roadmap's economic benefits."

**Debate interrupted.**

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

**LIQUOR AMENDMENT (24-HOUR ECONOMY) BILL 2020****STRONGER COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) BILL 2020****Returned**

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

*Question Time***LAND TAX**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:17:16):** I direct my question to the Deputy Premier. Does the Deputy Premier support the Treasurer's proposal to charge land tax on farmland for the first time ever?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (14:17:31):** As the Treasurer laid out today, reform is going to play a large part of this budget going forward. The idea of moving away from stamp duty—a lump sum payment—which is an impediment to so many people to get into homes, and going to a land tax model over a period of time is out there for conversation. My understanding is that it does not impact on farms.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** It does.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** My understanding is that it does not impact on farms. As we get to talk this through, over the next few months we will be working through the detail but I am confident that we will end up with a fairer tax system for landholders in this State.

**STATE BUDGET**

**Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (14:18:14):** I address my question to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the 2020-2021 budget delivers for the people of New South Wales?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:18:25):** I thank the great member for East Hills, not just for that brilliantly worded question but for her commitment to her community. She is the best member that East Hills has ever had. This budget puts the people of our State at the very centre; they are at the heart of the decisions that we have made. It is the decisions of the past that have set up our State for future success. We see States around the country dealing with the here and now, stimulating their economies for the present. We are a government with a view not just on the here and now, but focused on the dual horizon of the future to set up our State and our economy for future success. The key tenets of that plan are, firstly, to build a better New South Wales with a \$107 billion infrastructure investment right across the State—that is, 47 new and upgraded hospitals and 200 new and upgraded schools. Everywhere we look New South Wales is building and that is providing around 150,000 direct and indirect jobs.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Guy Zangari:** My point of order is relevance. The Treasurer is misleading the House. He talks about infrastructure but for the people of Fairfield it is three doughnuts. How do you care for the people of western Sydney when, in black and white, three doughnuts?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Fairfield will resume his seat.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** And it has nothing to do with COVID. I will table it.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Fairfield to order for the third time.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** He has gone quiet. He has gone silent.

**The SPEAKER:** The member will resume his seat.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** That was a long way to come for that. We will tell you next time. There is a new budget paper this year called *How to read the budget papers*. It was actually aimed at school kids but we will obviously extend it to the Labor Party. Whereabouts on the weekend were we with Minister Pavey? We were at Fairfield—another seat that will turn blue at the next election—and what did we announce? We announced our \$800 million investment in social and affordable housing. We also had the opportunity to meet many of the young girls working on that site who are coming through our TAFE program. So there you go, Fairfield is winning in this year's budget. As I said, 150,000 direct and indirect jobs as a result of our infrastructure investment and that

will go a long way towards making sure that we continue to transform our great State. We have brought forward shovel-ready projects. On top of that we have maintained and continue to work through that major infrastructure investment right across our State.

We are investing in our school kids, in high quality services and training, in enhanced training through TAFE and apprenticeships and tutors in schools—we probably should have tutors for the Labor Party to help them understand these papers. Funding of \$337 million to put tutors in schools to make sure that no kids get left behind during this pandemic. There will be high quality services in the health space. I particularly thank the Minister for Health and Medical Research for the great work that he has done during this pandemic. A total investment of \$3 billion. The Minister asks for a lot and he gets a lot because he is keeping our people safe right across the State. Areas such as palliative care and mental health will receive funding because we know the downstream effects of this pandemic will be significant. We have invested more than ever. On Sunday I joined the member for Manly, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor and John Brogden at Manly where we spoke about the fact that the suicide rate in our State has not increased. That is on the back of the significant investment that we have made so there are quality outcomes from this Government.

We are making it easier to run a business. These are the biggest payroll tax cuts in our State's history. The threshold in Victoria is \$650,000 and here in New South Wales it is \$1.2 million. That will save businesses over \$30,000 each year. They can invest in their business, bring on more staff and drive economic growth during this period of time. We know that the more we give businesses the more that they will be able to employ people across the State. We are cutting regulations and we are lifting all of those things in order to give businesses the freedoms they need. I was looking at the *Financial Review*, the winners and losers in this year's budget, and the listed losers are "other States". That is how good this budget is. They could not find a loser in New South Wales. They had to go to other jurisdictions to find them. What is that based on the back of? Our payroll tax cuts.

Going down to that record low rate of 4.85 per cent ensures that businesses right across New South Wales will have the most competitive tax rate in the nation by a long, long way. That means that since we introduced that first amount 5,000 businesses are no longer paying payroll tax and now 3,500 will also fall out of the permanent payroll tax increase to \$1.2 million. [*Extension of time*]

Because that \$1.2 million threshold and rate comes in today, for those businesses we will provide a rebate or offset that against the future liabilities of those businesses so they can immediately invest in their businesses and bring on more staff. Importantly, we continue to drive investment in our State. We started this work before and with our global investment—

**Mr Ryan Park:** The member for East Hills has walked out.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** She loves it. She wants to hear it from outside.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Someone needs to give her a tip about how this works.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** We are now on Facebook; everyone is watching. As the Deputy Premier and Premier know, our global New South Wales investment is going to drive significant investment in our State, particularly in the regions, and provide access and opportunities for our local businesses to access markets overseas that they would not have, including training, investment and tapping into emerging markets like India.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** We have also got the planning Minister driving planning reforms. He has become the real shadow Treasurer because it is going to be the planning department that continues to drive the economy by consolidating employment zones and expediting council development. We need to get our State moving. Planning reform is at the helm and tax reform is at the helm as well. We are getting archaic taxes out of the way to drive our economy further through jobs growth and economic growth. This budget delivers for every single person across the State—our families and our elderly. This ensures not only that New South Wales will only come out of this pandemic stronger but also that we set up our State and future generations for future prosperity.

## STATE BUDGET

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:26:38):** Before I ask my question I seek leave to table page 19 of the consultation paper, which clearly indicates a land tax on farm land. I am very happy to share that with the Deputy Premier—page 19.

**Leave not granted.**

**Ms JODI McKAY:** I am happy just to give it to the Deputy Premier. I do not think farmers are going to be very happy with that. My question is directed to the Premier. On 20 March last year, when asked if she would

sell further assets, the Premier said, "No, and if I were, we would have told you up-front." Today her integrity has been shredded even further in a budget that sells off revenue-generating assets. Why has the Premier broken her commitment to the people of New South Wales?

**Mr Mark Speakman:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 128, inference and argument. It is question time, not opinion time.

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** I am happy to answer the opinion.

**The SPEAKER:** I am happy to give way to the Premier's desire to answer the question.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:27:52):** I thank the Attorney General for defending my honour on the matter. I am incredibly proud of the WestConnex project. I am incredibly proud of the asset we created when we came to government. It did not exist. The Opposition actually opposed it. They opposed the road, they opposed the financial vehicle we created, and now they do not want to see that money reinvested into western Sydney. That is the Opposition for you. I congratulate not just Australia's best Treasurer but the world's best Treasurer. There is nowhere in the world—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The question was: Why has the Premier broken her commitment to the people of New South Wales that she would not privatise any more public assets?

**The SPEAKER:** I will hear further from the Premier.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I made very clear to the people of New South Wales that when we needed to put something to them, we would.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Every time we build a project and every time we do reform which keeps our State strong, they oppose it. Every project we announce, they oppose. There is little wonder that nobody knows what the New South Wales Labor Party stands for. Nobody knows what the Leader of the Opposition stands for.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: It is under Standing Order 129. The Premier promised that she would not privatise any more public assets. Once again, her reputation is shredded. Why has she broken her promise?

**Mr Mark Speakman:** To the point of order—

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** It is fine. Don't worry, no-one is listening to her anyway. WestConnex was not even in anyone's imagination until we came to government. It was a financial vehicle we created in order to support our infrastructure investment. Because of our Government's—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Kogarah to order for the second time. Members will remain silent.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I think the people of New South Wales appreciate that since we have been in government, our net worth has grown by tens of billions of dollars. Mums and dads in this State own more schools, more hospitals and more rail than ever before. That is what public assets are. We are building for the future. We are building our public assets. The Opposition stands for nothing. We have the best Treasurer in the world delivering for the people of New South Wales.

## STATE BUDGET

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (14:31:01):** My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the 2020-21 New South Wales State budget will create jobs, kickstart the economy and lay the foundations of a stronger future?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:31:20):** I thank the member for Seven Hills for his excellent question. I also thank him for his hard work in his community. I was very pleased recently to speak with leaders in his community about what it needs and about how his community is stepping up to really deal with the pandemic locally and supporting one another. I know they will welcome a number of measures in today's budget. This budget delivers record investment in health, education and transport—key areas which are supporting our communities. In addition, we know that come March when JobKeeper ends and once there is yet another season of summer gone when we do not know whether the borders will be open but we do know that many of our jobs will be at risk, our State is planning for the future. I commend the Treasurer for focusing the New South Wales people's budget on securing those jobs, creating those jobs and keeping those jobs. This budget does that in a number of ways.

I do not mean to brag, but I do not know anywhere else on the planet that has a \$107 billion infrastructure pipeline which is uninterrupted. COVID is not stopping us building projects. COVID is not stopping us delivering for our communities from the north to the south and from the east to the west. We are the only jurisdiction on the planet that is not only continuing our program but has also put more money into it. The figure that we gave last year at the half-year review for our infrastructure pipeline was \$97 billion. The Treasurer has now been able to up that to \$107 billion. Not only that, he has also been able to bring forward \$3 billion worth of smaller sized projects to kickstart jobs in smaller communities across the State. Again, I would love for someone to point out to me anywhere else in the world where this infrastructure pipeline is continuous, ongoing and creating tens of thousands of jobs. Brad, shush. I cannot hear myself. I am losing my voice.

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** Sorry, I did not think you could hear it.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not need to call the member for Wakehurst to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** No, I did it myself. Every time we build a small- or medium-sized project in a rural or regional community, it means the local shops that provide food and beverages for the workers, the local supply chains and the local providers are gaining jobs as well. We are creating not only tens of thousands of direct jobs through our infrastructure pipeline but also those secondary and tertiary jobs which are so critical. It is not just the infrastructure pipeline that is creating jobs. The Treasurer has found money in the budget to increase the payroll tax threshold. We now have the equal best payroll tax threshold in the nation—up from \$1 million to \$1.2 million. That means that thousands of extra businesses now do not have to pay payroll tax.

In fact, rather than pay payroll tax they have an incentive to hire more people and create more jobs and, in fact, keep the jobs that they already have on their books. This is a real win for businesses across the State. We also know that there are very small businesses, micro businesses, sole traders and businesses that might have one staff member that do not pay payroll tax. For them, the Treasurer is providing \$1,500 of relief so that whether it is for State Government taxes and charges or council rates, they have a \$1,500 discount over the next 12 months. We know that, for some businesses, that amount of cash flow makes a difference, especially after the Christmas-New Year period. I commend the Treasurer for having the foresight to provide that voucher system for very small businesses.

Not only are we delivering for small and medium-sized businesses, but also we are delivering for big businesses. We want our State to be the head office capital of Australia. We want our State to be the head office capital of the world. That is why, through our Jobs Plus Program, we have provided four years of payroll tax relief to businesses that either expand their footprint by at least 30 jobs or move their head offices to New South Wales. I can tell the other States: You had better watch it, because all these businesses have been contacting us to move to New South Wales. They are sick of the shutdowns, they are sick of the borders and they are sick of the inaccurate policies. Yesterday all of us got a taste of what the Labor Party would have done if it was in government. Barely had the South Australian figures come out when the member for Keira was out there shouting from the rooftops that we should shut down our State and shut down our borders.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** That gives us a snapshot of what New South Wales would have been put through had that lot opposite been in government. They would have shut down our economy, killed jobs—

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** They would have killed jobs, killed livelihoods and not cared about it. They would have turned their backs on the people of this State. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Prospect to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** What this budget does is not only create and keep jobs, it also highlights to the people of this State what our COVID recovery plan is. I am incredibly proud of the fact that during the pandemic we employed 1,000 extra cleaners, especially through the transport network, and we employed 1,000 extra people through Service NSW. How good is Service NSW, providing grants and support to the people of this great State? We will also make sure—

**Dr Hugh McDermott:** Give them a pay rise then.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I would if I could. We will also make sure that the people who are doing it tough in the hospitality sector and the arts sector, such as cinemas, keep their jobs.



**Dr Hugh McDermott:** That will be in *Hansard* now.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Prospect to order for the third time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We are also pleased that, through the Treasurer's announcement today about vouchers for cinemas or hospitality, not only are we keeping people in jobs by encouraging people to go and frequent those venues, but also we are making sure that households that are under pressure and people who are worried about their own jobs are actually able to afford those things. There is insufficient time to talk about all the budget highlights. It is a budget that is based on the strong economic fundamentals that have really allowed us to build the best budget in the nation.

But we have been happy to forego that strong budget position to put people first—to make sure that we are supporting the vulnerable during this time and to make sure that our health department is not only the best in the nation but is also the most resourced by a million miles. We are making sure that our frontline workers have all the resources they need, making sure that the infrastructure pipeline is continuing and, most importantly, making sure that we take care about the eight million citizens of this State who call New South Wales home. That is what good budgets do and I am incredibly proud of the Government's record. I commend the Treasurer for his outstanding work and the member for Seven Hills for the great question. [*Time expired.*]

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Prospect will come to order. One more word and you are out. I can hear very well conversations in the upper gallery. Members may think that I cannot hear them, but I can hear very well all the conversations taking place. I have been somewhat lenient, but I ask members in the upper gallery to remain silent.

#### STATE BUDGET AND ROUSE HILL HOSPITAL

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (14:38:55):** I direct my question to the Treasurer. The Government has promised north-west Sydney Rouse Hill Hospital for the past six years and at two elections. The budget provides money for land but not a cent for the hospital. Why has the Government not funded Rouse Hill Hospital?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:39:16):** I tell you what we have funded after all these years—he is a happy man today, the member for Blacktown—\$2 million for his Doonside lift. We will not have to hear about it anymore in this Chamber. The member for Bega and I have done it just so we do not have to hear from him anymore. The Doonside lift, the Holy Grail of his electoral request, is finally funded in this year's budget. Good luck to him. He is a good member, he stands up for his electorate, and what a great outcome it is for him and the electorate of Blacktown today. Labor electorates always do better under a Nationals and Liberal Government.

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** The Nationals and Liberals now?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Sorry, Liberals and Nationals. Whoops! Well, you never know with the koala State environmental planning policy. We will see. Anyway, what was the question? There are 47 new and upgraded hospitals and health facilities right across the board. We go through the planning process for many of these hospitals. Earlier the member for East Hills asked a great question, and we know that we are delivering a hospital in her electorate. I mean, members opposite think that it is a game of SimCity—

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** Do you know that western Sydney is not all one suburb, Treasurer? Do you know it does not include Rouse Hill?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Rouse Hill Hospital is going to be great, just like every single one of the hospitals and health facilities we are building right across our State. If you look at that record Health budget today, it has been the significant investment from the Liberals and Nationals—

**Mr Stephen Bali:** Point of order: My point of order is on relevance under Standing Order 129. While I appreciate the Treasurer talking about the Doonside lifts, and I thank him very much for that, does the Treasurer know where Rouse Hill is and that Rouse Hill Hospital has not been funded?

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer is being relevant.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** If the member for Blacktown is not careful, we will take that Doonside lift from him. I want him out there praising the budget all through Blacktown, just like they are—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is on relevance under Standing Order 129. There are tens of thousands of people who are waiting for this hospital, and the Treasurer has not funded a cent for Rouse Hill Hospital. When are you funding Rouse Hill Hospital?

**The SPEAKER:** I have ruled on relevance. The Treasurer will continue.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Do you know where the funding has come from for Rouse Hill Hospital? The poles and wires transaction, a transaction that the Opposition opposed.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** As the Premier has said, we do not know what the Opposition stands for. Every single step of the way Opposition members have opposed our infrastructure agenda. They have opposed the WestConnex and now they question our decision to sell down our residual shareholding. They ran to an election on increasing taxes on every single business in this State.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question is in regard to why the Treasurer has not funded Rouse Hill Hospital. It is a simple question. Why has the Treasurer not funded it?

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer has answered the question.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Hospitals do not get built overnight. I know that Opposition members were the kings of the glossy brochures, but we thoroughly go through these projects. Never before have we seen more hospitals and health facilities being built right across our State. There will be 47 new and upgraded hospitals on every single corner, whether it is in the Tweed or in Liverpool. The member for Blacktown knows this all too well. Why would he not ask about Blacktown Hospital? Because he knows that is a significant investment this State is making in his community.

**Mr Stephen Bali:** Point of order: My point of order is on relevance under Standing Order 129. This Government has cancelled Rouse Hill Hospital on two occasions. It has taken the funding away after it was promised in 2015 and 2019.

**The SPEAKER:** I have ruled on relevance and there is no new point of order. The Treasurer will continue.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I have been warning the member for Blacktown. Seriously, he is really testing me. Is he still going?

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** They have taken it off him.

**Mr Andrew Constance:** He has just lost it.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** No, he can still have it. What about Blacktown Hospital in his electorate? How much was that?

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** Three-quarters of a billion dollars.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Three-quarters of a billion dollars! We provide the best health care for western Sydney, and Rouse Hill Hospital will be another great addition to the 47 new and upgraded hospitals right across our State.

#### STATE BUDGET AND REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:44:10):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Government is delivering record funding for New South Wales?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (14:44:14):** I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question. He is a great local member. In the budget today there is another great investment of \$20 million for the Coffs Harbour foreshores. But that is nothing like the comparison with the \$1.8 billion going into the Coffs Harbour Bypass tunnel that will link the Pacific Highway. It is a unique investment for regional and rural New South Wales, a duplication to carry families safely from one end of the State to the other. The Pacific Highway has been terrible and this Government under our watch, with the transport and roads Ministers and local members fighting for improvements, has been able to make significant investment. I have said before that with past governments rural and regional New South Wales only got the crumbs. Today again we have taken the whole cake.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** This is a big budget for rural and regional New South Wales. When one looks across the regions one can see investment in every corner of the State. Underpinning that is the \$300 Regional Growth Fund. There is also the \$100 million Stronger Country Communities Fund, which means every local government area in rural and regional New South Wales gets its fair share. It is not a beauty contest where councils compete against councils: every council gets a base funding and a population loading. That means we are able to build community infrastructure driven, lead and owned by the community. This year's budget of \$300 million

takes the Regional Growth Fund to more than \$2 billion. That is \$2 billion going into rural and regional communities building local amenities. That is at the heart of today's budget.

Also at the heart is investment in health infrastructure. Over \$900 million will go into new and upgraded hospitals in rural and regional New South Wales. The landscape is changing. Health services in rural and regional New South Wales are improving. We are building facilities, not just for today but for the future. There is \$900 million in this budget. When it comes to education, there is \$650 million for new and upgraded schools right across rural and regional New South Wales. We have invested a record amount of money in education, not just in recurrent funding but also the continued build. This is not only for maintenance but also for new upgrades and new schools right across the State. We are investing in our kids and our future.

When it comes to transport and roads, there is \$8.7 billion going to rural and regional New South Wales. We have the Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Bridges programs. We are building highways and duplicating many lanes, and we get to do it without a toll in rural and regional New South Wales. This investment builds on what is important, that is creating jobs in rural and regional New South Wales. The \$3 billion Job Acceleration Fund is about stimulating the economy off the back of COVID. Out of that \$3 billion, \$1.8 billion is going into rural and regional New South Wales. We have more than our fair share. There are 90-plus projects supported in rural and regional New South Wales to create jobs. Let us be honest: We have had a tough period in rural and regional New South Wales. First it was the drought

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Why are you taxing farmers?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** You know what? When it came to taxing farmers, in the election campaign those opposite wanted to put a tax on tractors. At a time when we were in the depths of the worst drought—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** They wanted to tax farmers' tractors.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Keira to order for the third time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** They wanted to tax trucks and tradies' utes. They called that luxury. We need a tax to survive and do what we do. Again, we are investing in rural and regional New South Wales. We broke the drought, then we had bushfires impact regional and rural New South Wales. In today's budget the total spend around bushfires is close to \$4.5 billion and for drought it is \$4.4 billion. Almost \$9 billion will support rural and regional New South Wales in times of crisis, both drought and bushfires.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Maitland to order for the second time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I hope next year's budget has no increase in those two funds, because it will mean we are not in crisis, we are not having to support the regions because the regions are starting to flourish. We have had rain. Farmers have crops in the ground. There is a rebirth in rural and regional New South Wales, a renaissance of the regions. People are starting to travel to rural and regional New South Wales, not just for tourism but they are looking to the regions to live. We have all had to work off a digital platform during COVID and we now realise what we have always known in the bush: You can live in the slow lane, but still work in the fast lane of Sydney by living in rural and regional New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

Last year there was a bush summit in Dubbo because of what was happening in the regions. I believe the way the renaissance is going, with the rise in tourism and the agriculture sector coming to the fore, that in a few years' time there might be a summit in Sydney because the decline in Sydney will be to the benefit of the growth of regional and rural New South Wales. The investment at the heart of today's budget is significant for the regions. It is about job creation supporting communities, building infrastructure and great cities and towns, and delivering great services.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Maitland to order for the third time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** If we want people to live in the regions we have to give them great health services. We are doing that with a \$900 million investment. We have to give them great education options. We are doing that with the \$650 million investment. We have to build local community amenities. We are doing that through the Regional Growth Fund, which is now over \$2 billion. There are in excess of 2,100 projects in regional and rural New South Wales. We are spending in digital connectivity through \$100 million in data. We made the commitment about mobile phone coverage with \$300 million right across the regions. We have special activation precincts to attract new industries and new businesses to regional and rural New South Wales, building infrastructure, not just creating jobs for today or any jobs, but jobs for the future.

There is also \$100 million in the budget for the regional Jobs Action Package to incentivise businesses to come to regional and rural New South Wales, small businesses and medium-size enterprises that want to not only

grow but also expand and create more jobs. This is a budget to take us off the back of the pandemic and through recovery, but more importantly puts in the reforms and investment that futureproofs the regions from drought, diversifies local economies and investment, and makes our cities great cities. It is not a bush change but a city change. Cosmopolitan cities like Orange, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Dubbo and Queanbeyan are great cities to raise a family, create a job and, of course, call home.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the members for the electorates of Fairfield, Keira, Prospect and Maitland they are on three calls to order. If I have to remove a member from the Chamber that member will be removed overnight.

**Mr Chris Minns:** Mr Speaker, can you go through them again?

**The SPEAKER:** The members representing the electorates of Fairfield, Keira, Prospect and Maitland are on three calls to order. The member for Kogarah is on two calls to order.

**Mr Ryan Park:** All on our side?

**The SPEAKER:** Correct, all on your side, absolutely.

**Mr Ryan Park:** It is unusual.

**The SPEAKER:** It is unusual, but it is unfortunate because that reflects the behaviour that has been displayed today.

#### STATE BUDGET

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:51:48):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Tens of thousands of families hoped today's budget would include funding for the completion of the full Parramatta Light Rail. Is the reason this budget includes no funding for this project that your department bought toxic land from a property developer for three times its value and will have to spend over \$100 million to clean it up?

**The SPEAKER:** I warn the member for Keira for the last time.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:52:14):** I thank the member for Kogarah for the multiple issues he has raised in his question and I will address them. First of all, I thank the Treasurer because the Transport budget today is phenomenal. If one looks further at the infrastructure and capital budget—

**Dr Hugh McDermott:** We can't hear you.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Well, listen. If one looks at the capital program for the State it is more than the rest of the States combined for transport capital. That is about supporting 130,000 jobs. I acknowledge the Treasurer for that. The question raises some issues, which I will address. The first point is that the Government is considering a final business case in relation to stage two. We are getting on and building stage one. I have said this publicly and I am being quite up-front about it, if there are better ways to build something, the Government should look at that. There are things happening around the world, in particular about tram technologies, which are pertinent to look at. That is exactly what we are doing. I reiterate, we are building Metro West right through these precincts. It is about a precinct that will have a major multibillion-dollar rail line servicing particularly Parramatta through to Sydney Olympic Park. Therein lies the key point. We are investing very heavily in transport in this area. Everyone knows the challenges with Sydney Olympic Park. Thank goodness we built the M4 East to that precinct from the city. Again, it was not particularly well supported by those opposite. But we got on with it and we are going to get on with the Metro West because of the substantial commitment that has been made. That deals with the first part of the question.

As to the second part of the question relating to the issues that have been raised publicly about the site near Rosehill, I make it crystal clear that my expectation of Transport for NSW is that it will be fully open, transparent and honest about its negotiations around property. I have signed off on hundreds and hundreds of property acquisitions in the five years plus that I have been the transport Minister. What I have seen in the reports particularly in the past couple of days has concerned me. I expect that someone independent of the agency will step in and have a look at what is going on. This morning I met with the Auditor-General on this issue and asked her to conduct a proper assessment of the actions of Transport for NSW in relation to, first, the acquisition process and, second, the issues around remediation.

A contract was signed to identify a site for Camellia for light rail. It is on the eTendering website and the budget is there for everyone to see. Every site in Camellia is pretty much contaminated because of the heavy industrial practices of the past and we have to deal with that. I see challenges around remediation involving

asbestos right across the city. It is not ideal but we have contractors with a specific purpose to do the remediation work as quickly and as best as they can. That is in train. As I said, my expectation is for the department to be fully open, transparent and compliant with the Auditor-General's assessment of this issue. She indicated that the assessment may take a month or two. This matter involves issues that deserve a public airing and that is certainly what will happen under my watch as Minister.

#### STATE BUDGET AND EMPLOYMENT ZONES

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (14:56:36):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government's reforms to employment zones will create jobs in New South Wales?

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (14:56:52):** I thank the member for Terrigal for his question. He is a man with a zealous and fanatical passion for jobs on the Central Coast—a zealotry bordering almost on the unnatural. The Central Coast needs strong advocates like the member for Terrigal, and it is wonderful to receive his question today. His question relates to one of this Government's many reform commitments in the Treasurer's budget. Naturally I agree with the assessment of the Premier: Not only is this man the best Treasurer in the Commonwealth of Australia but also he is the best Treasurer in the Commonwealth of Nations. All the way from Zimbabwe to the Falkland Islands, you will not find a better Treasurer.

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** The United Nations.

**Mr ROB STOKES:** All nations—in fact, the galaxy. I would go as far as to say the universe, but I would not know that. Certainly this budget demonstrates the Government's commitment to major, lasting, impactful, transformational reform, particularly led by planning because planning is one of the great levers we have to enable innovation through increased flexibility to create more and more jobs. The question really relates to the area of E zones—something that this Government is very passionate about. On this side of the House we are all about E zones—"E" standing for "employment". Our reform to employment zones will be one of the key levers that will pull the New South Wales economy through this pandemic-induced recession.

Employment zones are those planning zones that apply to industrial and commercial areas across New South Wales. Areas zoned for employment are the places where we work, shop, dine and play and they promote jobs and economic growth. Since standard industrial and business zones were first introduced about 15 years ago, the way in which we work has changed tremendously, with digital transformation and disruption, workplace flexibility, social change—the list goes on. Recently the *Productivity Commission Green Paper* set out a blueprint for how reformed employment zones can facilitate flexible, innovative and competitive businesses and unleash investment and jobs growth.

In days past jobs and employment opportunities for residents were often found in noisy, smelly industrial places that were incompatible with residential or recreational areas, so they were physically separated—in an attempt to separate uses from one another—from the places where we live or spend our leisure time. But that does not describe the reality of the way in which we live in the 2020s anymore. We do not all jump in a car and trudge off to the factory or office park in the morning and return to our dormitory suburban neighbourhood at night to sleep and then do it all again the next day.

Life is much more complex, more nuanced and more diverse in 2020. The nature of our work has changed, the way in which we live has changed, and today we have announced that our planning system too is changing to keep us moving with the times. In fact, many of these trends have accelerated with the impact of COVID-19. The COVID crisis has confirmed and underscored the need for our employment zones to be flexible, agile and inclusive. The rise of online retailing, the emergence of advanced and small-scale manufacturing and the growth of dense, mixed-use centres have all fundamentally reshaped how we plan for businesses and jobs today and into the future.

The result of our focus on employment zones will be jobs. We want jobs, jobs and more jobs, and the way in which we can do that, the way in which we can promote workplace productivity and innovation, is through liberalising the things that people are able to do in particular land use zones. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been reminded that while some jobs can be performed remotely from anywhere across the State, other jobs are not only essential but must be undertaken in specific places to maintain services. Already our Government's initiatives, such as Streets as Shared Spaces and Your High Street, are supporting local communities to respond and to adapt quickly to the economic challenges of COVID-19 in a way that celebrates and embraces great local centres and neighbourhoods and makes them even better places to live, work and play.

Our reforms to these new employment zones will reduce and minimise the number of zones and make them much more expansive and flexible in what sorts of jobs and employment activities can go on within them. In that

way, the role of the planning system is rightly focused on critical impact issues rather than on obtuse arguments and rules about how businesses should be defined and how they may operate. [*Extension of time*]

I think the House has been well educated on the impact of our new employment zones but I encourage members to stay tuned because the journey is going to become more and more exciting.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:02:18):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. Noting this Government's and this Parliament's effective response to the pandemic thus far and noting the importance of safe, careful easing of restrictions, will the Government consider a further relaxation of social distancing requirements for churches at the especially significant time of the Christmas season?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (15:02:52):** I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his question. I assure him that the Government is continuing to review every restriction that is currently in place. But perhaps it is wise to set the scene before I go into further detail. Today we celebrate not only an incredible budget from the Treasurer and the New South Wales Government to support Health in its efforts to keep people safe but we celebrate also the tenth day of no community transmission of COVID-19 in New South Wales. I think it was late March when we got up to a maximum number of COVID cases of over 200.

[*A Government member interjected.*]

What is the number? I have said to the Premier many times that she could easily be the health Minister now because she knows more about the detail than I do; she is across all the detail. As we face what is now a further challenging time, particularly because of the recent outbreak in Adelaide, I say to the member for Wagga Wagga that it is wise to still be cautious. I confirm that we have had no new cases of community transmission; that was out of about 8,588 tests. Certainly as health Minister I would like to see a lot more people come forward with any flu-like or cold-like symptoms because we need our community to stay with us on this journey.

The member for Wagga Wagga is a doctor and he would appreciate the value that we should and do place on our frontline health workers, whether they are doctors, nurses, allied health staff, cleaners, administration staff or anyone else on the front line who has worried about their own health at various stages but who has gone to work every day and done what our community has asked them to do. I place on record my thanks to them. I also thank our 12 public health teams located in various places across New South Wales and led by Dr Kerry Chant. We have seen others on the television such as Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Dr Christine Selvey, Dr Vicki Sheppard, who have fronted the cameras. Behind the scenes they are also working away with people like Dr Laura Collie and Dr Michelle Cretikos. In my view we have the best public health physicians in the country, indeed probably in the world. When the Government considers at its regular meetings how to move forward, it takes health advice. Certainly from our point of view we have to accept what public officials tell us, which is that there is less danger of transmission of this very potent virus when people are outside, but inside it can be a huge problem.

We have all probably forgotten, but on 25 March only 10 people were allowed inside a church. We are now allowing up to 300 people, subject to the four-square metre rule. In churches with multiple facilities, if they have a separate area, there can be up to 300 in that separate area. I think the doctors of the public health unit have tried very hard to accommodate people of faith to be able to express their faith in a safe way. I will not name the particular church, but we have experienced a massive degree of transmission and grief for us at one. But we have many examples overseas of churches and communities where people have come together and the aerosols that have come from singers have caused grief. Last Sunday week I was at my church and I saw a very small group of people wearing masks. I would like to see people wear masks when they go to church, although it is not compulsory but it is advisory. I would like people to be able to take part in singing for Christmas. All I can say at the present time is that we are working on it and taking advice and watching carefully. We have also got to be very alert, as evidenced by the situation that has arisen in Adelaide.

### STATE BUDGET AND POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (15:07:57):** I address my question to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the Minister update the House on how the 2020-21 budget delivers for police and emergency services workers and volunteers?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (15:08:18):** What a great day of celebration, and what a great Treasurer. He has been given a bucket of mud and he has turned it into ice cream. He has done a fantastic job with this budget. He has turned water into wine. He has turned coal into diamond. I will call him Tiffany from now on. He has done a fantastic job. I thank the member for Goulburn

for her tireless advocacy for the wonderful city of Goulburn, as well for being somebody who has come from our policing fraternity.

Over the past 12 months, we have seen our police and emergency services responders prove to be world-class operators. They have shown us what the spirit of Australia is all about. They have indicated to us what sacrifice means in the Australian vernacular. They have proven to all of us that no matter what the crisis delivers—the pandemic or the drought—we will always have our fellow Australians to make it right. We need to give those first responders the world-class facilities that they deserve, which is what this budget is giving them. That is what the Treasurer is giving us and what they deserve. I know that the member for Goulburn joins me in congratulating our first responders on their work and acknowledging the wonderful support that they will continue to get.

The hallmark of the last parliamentary election was the extra 1,500 officers that were to be rolled out across the State. We are about halfway through that. I am always so thrilled to attend the Police Academy in Goulburn where police officers are trained and attested. Most people have read the budget line by line already, but it includes a \$60 million investment into the Goulburn academy. For many years that academy has been churning out the State's finest and now it will be upgraded. It will be a state-of-the-art training facility which will include additional classrooms, a new parade ground for our recruits, enhancements in the operational capabilities, and training opportunities for our officers. It is not just a win for the Goulburn community but also a win for every single probationary constable that will progress through the academy to become our rank and file, our men and women in blue. It will also deliver 500 local jobs for workers in the Goulburn area.

This is a record \$4.8 billion investment for the NSW Police Force. It is something that makes me a very happy Minister. I know I can speak on behalf of the 17,000 police officers across the State and thank the Treasurer so much for what he has done for them. As well as the \$60 million for the academy, the investment also includes \$30 million for new helicopters, money for our telecommunication system upgrade and five new state-of-the-art police stations. I have attended so many police stations in the 18 months that I have been the Minister. I am always so thrilled to see the \$52 million multipurpose police station program funding being spent effectively.

Of course, new police stations are being constructed right across the State. They include Cessnock police station in the Hunter Valley; Inverell police station, which is halfway through construction and which the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales has shown me through; Parramatta police station; and Hurstville police station. Earlier this month the commissioner and I went to Broken Hill to turn the first sod at Broken Hill police station, which will very soon be realised and become a reality. The budget also provides \$37 million over two years for capital works at other police stations across the State which will relate to disaster resilience, the provision of female amenities, solar panel programs and security upgrades.

As part of the Government's \$100 million election commitment, \$14 million was allocated this year for capital items including new police stations in Bega, Goulburn, Jindabyne, Perisher and Thredbo. An upgraded education and training facility in Dubbo will ensure that police officers receive the very best training away from the traditional academy environment at Goulburn. The Law Enforcement Monitoring Facility will benefit from \$21 million over two years to ensure that the NSW Police Force is equipped with the technology it needs to protect the community and disrupt criminal operations. The budget also provides \$41 million in 2020-21 to deliver on the Government's \$583 million commitment to recruit 1,500 extra police officers.

**Mrs Wendy Tuckerman:** I am sorry to see that the Leader of the Opposition is not interested in what the Minister has to say, but I certainly am. I seek additional information from the Minister.

**The SPEAKER:** An extension of two minutes is granted.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** The Leader of the Opposition hates the police. We know that. The budget provides \$37 million over two years and \$100 million for other facilities, as I have already indicated. This budget will also provide \$192 million over five years to address the urgent recommendations of the independent Bushfire Inquiry. It is not just the police who will be the winners out of this budget; the Rural Fire Service will receive \$700 million, Fire and Rescue NSW will receive \$900 million and the NSW State Emergency Service that I unfortunately foreshadow will have an extremely busy summer period will see a record investment of \$200 million.

In relation to the bushfire inquiry, some \$36 million will go to the first responder mental health strategy for our emergency services. A further \$23 million will go to personal protective clothing for frontline firefighters, while \$17 million will go to retrofitting RFS and NSW National Parks and Wildlife vehicles, and replacing Fire and Rescue NSW tankers. Some \$9 million will go to prioritising fire trails, while \$8 million will go to extending our integrated dispatch system, and \$5 million to enhancing the RFS aerial fleet and training facilities. Nearly \$3 million will be spent on the Fires Near Me app, and a further \$3 million will deliver critical equipment for 31 multi-agency operations centres.

Importantly, this funding builds on more than \$45 million in funding announced in May to fast-track hazard reduction by enhancing our State mitigation crews and upgrading the State's firefighting fleet. It provides more than \$187 million over five years to support Resilience NSW, which was created this year to lead whole-of-government disaster and emergency efforts, from prevention to recovery. I thank the member for Goulburn for her very important question. I thank her for her advocacy and the fact that she is so well embraced by the police fraternity. I know I speak for her and all other members in thanking the Treasurer for a wonderful budget.

#### *Documents*

### **LAND TAX**

#### **Tabling**

**Ms JODI McKAY:** I seek leave to table a paper regarding land tax on farm land.

**Leave not granted.**

#### *Committees*

### **LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **Reports**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 24/57*, dated 17 November 2020. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON:** I also table extracts of minutes of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 23/57*, dated 10 November 2020.

#### *Petitions*

### **PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

#### **Nurse-to-patient Ratios**

Petition calling on the Government to provide sufficient nurse-to-patient ratios in order to help save lives, reduce nurse fatigue and errors, improve the amount of time nurses can spend on patient care and reduce stress and strain upon overworked nurses, received from **Mr Philip Donato**.

### **RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to a paper petition signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Wagga Wagga Base Hospital PET Services—lodged 13 October 2020 (Dr Joe McGirr)

#### *Bills*

### **ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BILL 2020**

#### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (15:35:04):** I will continue with my contribution concerning renewable energy zones. Renewable energy zones promise to amplify existing investments in renewables and generate an additional 12 gigawatts of new renewable energy projects by 2030. These projects would be facilitated through reverse auction mechanisms used to great effect around the world as well as in other States around this country. Effectively, the reverse auction uses the Government's procurement and purchasing powers to set a guaranteed minimum floor price for electricity that energy companies can bank on, making investment in renewables projects a more certain mechanism. The Government will complement this reverse auction approach by developing two gigawatts of storage, including pumped hydro and batteries and initiating an electricity infrastructure investment safeguard with long-term service agreements for companies developing renewables.



Finally, in addition to energy generation, the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 seeks to increase new transmission capacity so that new energy generation projects can actually deliver power to the grid. I am hopeful that the provisions in the bill will deliver the greater certainty that industry and energy companies need to turbocharge their investment in renewables. I have some confidence given that many of these provisions mirror those NSW Labor took to the last election. Labor promised to set a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030 and bring that investment to 100 per cent by 2050. We promised to generate six gigawatts of renewable energy through reverse auctions, two gigawatts of renewable energy through roof-top solar panels and one gigawatt of renewable energy by creating a new State-owned corporation. I am pleased to see many of those policy principles adopted in this bill. I note it would be strengthened by enshrining a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

A clear target in this legislation would bolster our State's credibility on climate action, signal that we are serious about meeting our temperature goals and provide further accountability as to how the provisions of this bill will work in effect. Labor has always understood that investing in renewables provides opportunities not only to sustain the livelihoods and dignity of workers and communities, but also to respect and harness their extraordinary skills and capacity to drive our energy network into the future. Now more than ever, as our regional communities reel from the COVID-19 recession, we need an ironclad guarantee—certainty—that the jobs will come forth in the regions that need it most. I call on the Minister to strengthen this bill by accepting Labor's amendments and ensuring the jobs he is promising are boots on the ground, not just figures in a brochure.

I welcome news that the Minister has agreed to Labor's amendment to push for greater local procurement and to establish a Renewable Energy Sector Board, which will give workers, unions and manufacturers a seat at the table when it comes to making decisions about the operations of the sector and the infrastructure it will need. As the shadow Minister for the Cost of Living, I am also pleased that the board will have a representative of electricity customers. I am sure they will keep the Minister honest when it comes to his promised reduction in electricity prices. *[Extension of time]*

These are significant wins thanks to the member for Swansea and the member for Wollongong and the work of the Labor team. I again thank them for their persistent and principled advocacy for workers and local jobs across New South Wales. I note that there is now broad agreement to include the Hunter in the proposed South West Renewable Energy Zone. Labor is also passionate about including the Central Coast. Those conversations are ongoing. It is critical that workers from those regions are included because they are among the most impacted by the move away from fossil fuels. They need to be able to participate fully in the opportunities that this new chapter in energy generation will bring to our State. I urge the Government to continue working with the Labor Opposition on these important amendments. Our parliamentary democracy is rooted in the contest of ideas and the healthy exercise of differences of opinion. For too long the debate around energy policy and climate change has been polluted by darker politics—politics that seek to exploit the fears of our community, to spread misinformation and to divide us. It says a lot that this bill has attracted such broad, if at times cautious, support.

I note that the bill is supported by Farmers for Climate Action, who are excited by the opportunities it brings to droughtproof properties, providing "a reliable, off-farm income stream, while also reducing emissions". That is a great thing. The bill is supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Nature Conservation Council. Chief Executive Chris Gambian described it as, "Serious action on climate change in a way that will also create jobs and bring down power prices." It has won cautious support from unions and cautious support from the broader energy sector. Along the way it has even united The Nationals and the Liberals. I am excited about the opportunities it brings. I am cautiously optimistic that this will bring to an end the time of division and inaction on this critical policy area both for our State and for our country. I hope this is a moment of genuine unity and that together we ensure we leave our planet in a fit state for our children, because our communities expect nothing less.

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:41:14):** I make a brief contribution to debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. I support the bill and the proposed amendments by the Labor Opposition. My contribution will be brief. I do not want to undervalue the importance of this bill. The people of New South Wales have been waiting a long time for the bill. Comprehensive, commonsense action on energy and climate change should be a goal for people on all sides of politics. The global politicisation of climate change has been one of the most damaging occurrences of the late twentieth and twenty-first century. The lack of action on climate change over the past decades will lead to worsening natural disasters, trillions of dollars in economic damage and lost economic opportunities and jobs.

It will likely lead to a refugee crisis on a scale the world has not yet seen, as land across the world becomes harsher and less habitable. I, and the people of New South Wales, are thankful for the work of the Minister and his substantial adoption of Labor's policy prior to the last election. I acknowledge the work of the Hon. Adam Searle, from the other place. The centrepiece of our policy—and it would seem this bill also—is the unprecedented

development of new renewable energy projects using the same reverse auction mechanisms that were proposed by Labor but involving a new State energy corporation. Imitation is the highest form of flattery. I do, however, appreciate the Minister's work—in particular, his efforts in seeking to find a way forward that can garner support from all sides of politics and drive the urgent change that we know must occur.

Our response to the challenges posed by climate change must be driven by science and economic realities and should leave nobody behind. Despite the abundance of fossil fuel and renewable energy resources in Australia, the politicisation of climate change action and the approach of privatisation and deregulation that has occurred in Australia's energy sector has led to some of the most expensive electricity prices in the world. That is why I, and the Labor Opposition, welcome this bill. It signals a break from this libertarian approach and I hope will usher in a new era of commonsense policy on energy and climate change, one driven by science and economic realities. While I am pleased to see investment in the renewable energy sector, the Government should also take this opportunity to use its massive purchasing power to guarantee new jobs in New South Wales.

The amendments that the Opposition has put forward, as previous speakers in this place have discussed, include: maximising local content, local workforce participation, and the use of local suppliers on new energy infrastructure projects; enshrining in law a guarantee that 20 per cent of the workforce on major infrastructure projects will be apprentices, trainees and cadets; targeted employment zones in the Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra and western New South Wales; the appointment of an energy infrastructure advocate that will monitor and enforce compliance with local content and job-creation benchmarks; and a new requirement to investigate and maximise export opportunities for local energy workers and businesses. Local procurement provisions in the bill could be strengthened and that is exactly what Labor's amendments aim to do.

I thank the member for Swansea and the member for Wollongong for developing the important amendments. They aim to strengthen an important bill and make it better. They aim to do what a massive investment in renewable energy should do, and that is provide jobs, jobs, jobs—jobs for the people of this great State. Investment in renewable energy should not just be about action on climate change. It should also be an opportunity to overhaul our energy sector and provide thousands of strong, good-paying and long-term jobs, and lift up those who are unemployed, underemployed or who work in industries experiencing a decline in employment opportunities. That is why Labor's amendment promoting local procurement is an important addition to the legislation. However, it is not good enough for the issue of local procurement to be referred to a government task force. The recovery of our economy and the creation of jobs in New South Wales is an urgent issue and cannot wait a year. We do not have time for a task force; the people of New South Wales need jobs now.

Labor's amendments should be supported by the House as they will enrich the bill. Fundamentally, I welcome what the bill represents. It overturns the idea that an entirely unregulated market will somehow provide affordable energy; it was never going to do that. The renewable energy zones within the legislation are also a good idea, and the location of them in the western parts of New South Wales is a good initiative. However, these zones should also be on the Central Coast and in the Hunter, where workers in industries that are being relied on for current generation capacity require greater support from the Government as we transition into the future of energy generation in the State.

The bill is a step in the right direction. If passed with our amendments in conjunction with the NSW Jobs First Bill 2020, it will ensure that New South Wales materials are used in New South Wales projects, which will in turn create New South Wales jobs. It is a very simple proposition and one that will strengthen and rebuild our economy during a very difficult time. Government investment and leadership will ensure that energy prices are driven down and energy generation is more environmentally friendly and, should Labor's amendments be adopted, it will ensure that the legislation generates thousands of jobs across New South Wales. I commend both the bill and the Opposition's amendments to the House.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (15:47:07):** As the shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage, the member for Port Stephens and a very proud representative of the Hunter, I speak to the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. I thank Labor's deputy leader, the member for Swansea, for her comprehensive contribution to this debate last week. She is entirely correct to say that the bill should be about local jobs. For Labor, renewable energy and jobs go hand in hand. Following the horrific year our State has endured in 2020 so far and the longstanding issues facing the electricity generation sector courtesy of this Government's privatisation agenda, the Government has missed an opportunity with this bill to secure meaningful jobs in New South Wales. I also thank the shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon. Adam Searle, for his carriage of the bill on behalf of the Labor Opposition in the other place. He has been responsible for Labor's strong energy policy, which we took to the last election and which is largely reflected in the bill.

The Hon. Adam Searle and the member for Swansea will be moving amendments that are meaningful and that address the glaring omissions from the Government's bill. The fact is that the Minister was trying to rush the bill through the House last week because it is being used as an ideological battering ram in the long-running

energy and environment debate within the Coalition Government. The bill was clearly designed to do one thing: draw a line in the sand and show the climate sceptics within the Coalition party room that they needed to step aside. As a result, while the Government was trying to manage the multiple climate change sceptics in its ranks, it missed a golden opportunity to lock in local jobs and give our incredible manufacturers the boost they so desperately need after a decade in the doldrums caused by the Berejiklian Government's obsession with offshoring local jobs.

There is no local jobs plan in the bill. There is no guarantee of a local supply chain for the infrastructure that the bill sets in train. There is no plan for local procurement and there is no plan to maximise local jobs that are created on the back of the market shift towards a renewable future. Any energy plan without a local jobs plan is not going to solve the serious community concerns that the Government often creates or inflames when it comes to discussions around renewable energy. The bill is not going to stop the false narrative that pits the environment against jobs time and again. Labor knows that we can do both: We can address climate change and we can create jobs. I draw attention to a particular section of the Minister's second reading speech from last week. He said:

Four of our coal-fired power stations that provide up to three-quarters of the State's energy supply each year are scheduled to close in the next 15 years. Those power stations must be replaced before they close to make sure we keep the lights on and avoid price spikes. New South Wales must take decisive action to maintain affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity supply as this inevitably unfolds.

I could not agree more with the Minister, but that quote is very telling. Not only does it echo the Labor Party's longstanding policy on energy, but also it confirms that the Government's decade of delay has made the problem so much worse. It is not a new problem. The problem has been known for a very long time, and so the plan is a very long time coming. Electricity prices are not affordable—they are not affordable for households, businesses and industry, particularly energy-intensive manufacturers. Only a Minister earning \$300,000 a year could label electricity prices as affordable. It is his own Government that promised us all that selling off the poles and wires would see electricity prices go down—and that went really well for all of us. Energy-intensive manufacturers in my electorate have reported energy bill increases of 160 per cent. Promising to lower household power prices by \$2 a week is not going to cut it. Households and businesses in Port Stephens, particularly our manufacturers, deserve something more serious than that.

Most importantly—and this is the clear message from Labor to the Government today—we need a jobs plan. As the inevitable shift from coal-fired power to renewables occurs, we need to make sure that communities are not left behind. We need to make sure that local workers and their families are not left behind. Looking at the bill in its current form, I think they are being left behind. Workers in the Hunter look at this policy and ask, "What is the Government planning for my community and my family? What jobs will my kids have in 10 years' time?" The bill and the Government's plan provide no answers to those questions. Workers on the Central Coast look at the Minister's media announcements and ask, "What buy-in do we get?" How are they going to expand their job market to adapt and thrive in a renewable energy future? The Government has nothing to say to the people of the Central Coast. The workers in the Illawarra are looking at the Government's plan and wondering how it helps them. What future is the Government offering the Illawarra in this plan?

It is not as though the Government has not had enough time to understand the issues and propose solutions. The energy plan is a decade overdue and yet when it is finally announced it says nothing about local manufacturing, local business and local jobs. For all the damage that has been done in the toxic culture wars over energy policy and climate change, Labor has always had one goal: to be honest with workers and to make sure the opportunities of the future are shared by all as the market shifts away from fossil fuels. The bill signals that the Government is finally being honest, but the opportunities are not being shared by all. The regions that have the most to lose as the energy market shifts deserve a clear path forward. They deserve to see the opportunities coming their way too, but what they see in the bill in its current form are the opportunities going exclusively to conservative-voting areas.

Labor has been clear: The bill could do so much more. It could support local jobs and local procurement. It could lay out a path for our local manufacturing sector and provide the certainty to allow private investment in meaningful jobs, but the Government's plan is just more of the same so far. We are hopeful the Government will see that the amendments proposed by Labor will allow other communities across the State to see a future that includes them too. This Government has a very poor track record in this regard, as has already been mentioned a number of times in the House. When it comes to supporting local jobs and local manufacturing, this Government has bought ferries from Indonesia and China, buses from Germany and Malaysia, trains from South Korea and China, metro trains from India and light rail vehicles from France and Spain. That is the Government's record. If the amendments to the bill fail to change the direction of the Government when it comes to jobs, then Labor will have failed. The bill in its current form represents a huge missed opportunity. However, if Government members choose to support Labor's sensible amendments, the bill starts to look much better.

The Minister has been as genuine as he can be—as he often is—in hearing our concerns and acknowledging the shortcomings of the bill. But his proposal for an informal jobs task force, which may or may not happen, is not sufficient given this Government's track record. That is why Labor will move an amendment seeking to establish a board of manufacturing and construction in the New South Wales renewable energy sector. On the board there will be people who know firsthand how to maximise the creation of jobs. There will be manufacturers, metal fabricators and representatives of the Australian Workers' Union, Electrical Trades Union of Australia, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union. The board will be responsible for creating a plan that will be solely focused on maximising the creation of local jobs and developing a skilled workforce.

In addition to the board, Labor's amendments will see the creation of the role of an electricity infrastructure advocate. The advocate will be tasked with developing strategies to create and support local jobs and promote skills training and workforce development. The amendments will also seek to address the glaring omission in the Government's bill: jobs for the Hunter and Central Coast. Labor is a strong advocate for increasing renewable energy share, which is the direction the energy market as a whole is going. The bill will create renewable energy zones in the Central West, New England and the south-west, but there is nothing in the bill for the Hunter, where the impacts of the shifting economy are being felt most keenly. The power stations in the region, as were mentioned by the Minister for Energy and Environment in his second reading speech, will eventually close. The workers of the Hunter deserve the new opportunities that the bill presents. I am a very proud representative of the Hunter. In my electorate of Port Stephens we have some of the most impressive and innovative advanced engineering and manufacturing companies. [*Extension of time*]

The Hunter's capacity and workforce make it the perfect place for a manufacturing boom driven by reliable, affordable and increasingly renewable energy. For some reason, the only member of the Government from the Hunter, the member for Upper Hunter, supported the bill in its current form through his own caucus. He failed to stand up for the workers in his community and, therefore, their children, who deserve jobs of the future. In the absence of any advocate for the Hunter from within the Government, the Labor Party has fought for the workers and families of the Hunter, the Central Coast and the Illawarra. It is only after Labor submitted its amendment to the bill to include the Hunter as a renewable energy zone did the Government realise that not having one there is a bad look—because one of its members is supposed to represent the Hunter.

Given that the member for Upper Hunter has publicly pushed for a new coal-fired power station and nuclear energy, there is no way that he is behind the amendment moved in his name. This is the work of the Government trying to protect the seat as an afterthought despite the views of the sitting member, who is a dinosaur. The question that remains for the Government does not just relate to ensuring that there is a reliable energy supply at an affordable cost, it is also about how it ensures that local communities benefit from any opportunities that arise. How do we make sure that workers in coal-fired power plants see a future for themselves and their kids in the communities that they know and love? The Government could make a good start on this by supporting Labor's amendments. Labor is dedicated to jobs creation and that has been our focus when dealing with this bill. These amendments reflect elements of the NSW Jobs First Bill 2020, which has been introduced by Labor. Labor's bill backs local jobs and manufacturing and sets up our State for a prosperous future. Labor knows that we can support the environment and create local jobs. That is why the Government should support all of Labor's amendments.

The amendment moved in the name of the member for Upper Hunter to include the Hunter as a renewable energy zone does not include the Central Coast. It is also abundantly clear that the inclusion of the Hunter is an afterthought. Had the member stood up for his community when the bill was being developed and put to caucus, he would not now have to move an amendment to it. A member of the Government should not have to move an amendment to a Government bill. In order to make the bill what it could and should be, that is, a plan for a renewable energy future with local jobs attached to it that will help families and communities across New South Wales, I urge Government members to support Labor's amendments. I commend the bill with these amendments to the House.

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (16:00:42):** I make a contribution to debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill. This represents a positive step forward and is an opportunity for both New South Wales and the country to move past the conflict and division that we have seen both in Australia and around the world, led in particular by the United States. While the bill is far from perfect, it will at least create a policy. One of the great challenges that we have had in the renewable energy space is that there has been an enormous amount of engagement by wreckers, rent seekers and those wishing to protect their legacy assets and investments instead of by people thinking strategically and methodically about the challenges and opportunities that lie before us.

This bill creates a plan that will reduce reliance on ageing, unreliable and dirty coal-fired power. It also presents an opportunity to recognise that with change comes opportunity. With the right incentives, investments

and signals in the right places, these opportunities can be market driven and the energy sector can see certainty through renewables. It is therefore ironic that those fighting to maintain the advantage of soon-to-be-overtaken, outdated technologies claim to support the free market. In fact, they often intervene in the market to defend these old technologies and rent-seeking corporations that benefit from them.

One of the great advantages of Australia is its abundance of wind, solar and hydro energy resources, yet the partisanship in our politics proves to be a great disadvantage. There is very little collaboration across this Chamber. In the United States, people who reach across the aisle are celebrated and acknowledged as unifiers. Sadly, we do not see that in New South Wales. But this bill presents an opportunity to promote that culture and bring together the best ideas and views from across the Parliament.

The Greens acknowledge that the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill represents the Government's recognition of the urgent need to shift to renewable energies. We have been proactively working to improve the legislation. I note that the Minister has collaboratively and positively engaged the Parliament to see how the bill can be improved and to ensure that it represents all the fantastic opportunities that are available for our future. People in my electorate of Balmain have been calling for action on this issue for many decades. We want action on climate change and, more importantly, we want to see a plan to achieve that. We want to make sure that we can unite people around the key issues that we know will deliver in spades, not just for consumers but also for people in rural and regional New South Wales. I am buoyed by the comments that I have heard. For example, the chair of Farmers for Climate Action, Charlie Prell, said in *The Guardian* last week that action on climate change "... will create a more resilient and prosperous agricultural sector."

That is important to us. All of those who live in my electorate and in cities around the world rely on rural and regional producers for our food and fibres. We want to make sure that we support those parts of the world, and that is why this bill is an important step forward. Even my local P&Cs—whether it is Kegworth Public School, Sydney Secondary College Leichardt Campus, Orange Grove, Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus or Glebe Public School—have all worked hard to get solar panels on their school buildings. We need to continue that. While The Greens support the bill, we recognise that some amendments would help strengthen it. We have a range of amendments. In particular, there are discussions in the upper House and here about ensuring that the changes as a result of the bill can be harnessed and that opportunities in the regions for investment for retraining and reskilling can be enhanced.

There are also opportunities for green hydrogen, which is very important. Green hydrogen is a critical new industry, which means new jobs, new businesses and new investment. That industry is starting in our community as we speak and is booming around the world. With this form of investment, we see the opportunity to use renewable energy for hydrogen production. Hydrogen provides great opportunities not only for industry but also for storing renewable energy. Bills such as this are claimed by lots of different people. Labor has claimed aspects of it. A range of different groups are saying, "Well, we thought of this." Success always has many parents. I acknowledge the work of the Australian Capital Territory Government, which has done a lot. The territory is a small jurisdiction but it has been leading the charge on reverse auctions, which we in New South Wales have had a great deal of interest in. Its Government has been working on and leading in renewable energy for transport infrastructure. Households in the Australian Capital Territory have the lowest electricity prices in Australia. The support in the territory has really helped us prefigure a lot of things in this bill.

Of course, New South Wales has many more opportunities than the Australian Capital Territory because we have the land. The territory has to engage in arrangements with a lot of businesses outside its jurisdiction for its renewable energy generation because its land size is so small. In New South Wales we have fantastic opportunities. I mentioned green hydrogen: We can use clean electricity from renewable energy to electrolyse water, separating the hydrogen atoms from their molecular twin, oxygen. Low-cost renewable materials have made the creation of green hydrogen affordable. That sector needs investment and support—not brown hydrogen through carbon fuel and derived hydrogen, but green hydrogen generated from renewable energy. There are fantastic opportunities for carbon-neutral aviation in the future. The Greens will move some amendments regarding local manufacturing jobs, procurement provisions in regard to the long-term energy service operators, and consultation and negotiation for all network infrastructure providers with First Nations people.

We also want to include the ability to support green hydrogen and, critically, make sure that with contributions to the electricity infrastructure fund there can be recovery of a portion of super profits made by distribution network service providers. It is critical that we all work proactively to deliver the best results possible. The Greens are always willing and able to work constructively with the Government to bring forward these positive opportunities for the future. There are outstanding examples, as I have mentioned, in the Australian Capital Territory, where the Government has committed to net zero emissions by 2045 and set interim targets for reducing greenhouse emissions by 90 per cent to 95 per cent of 1990 levels by 2040. It has done amazing work in its reverse auctions and The Greens have been instrumental in achieving 100 per cent renewable energy for the

whole jurisdiction. That has been achieved through an innovative reverse auction process that has resulted in approximately \$2 billion of investment and 640 megawatts of wind and solar projects in the Australian Capital Territory and across Australia, which has attracted \$500 million in low-carbon investment in the territory.

That model has been endorsed and adopted by the Victorian Government. We look to the New South Wales Government to consider those options, including reverse auctions, in a very serious and systemic way in the future. This bill is an important step forward. There are opportunities, for example, in the Illawarra, which is well placed to create the steel needed for renewable infrastructure as well as to deliver good, well-paid, steady jobs in manufacturing. We know that every infrastructure project built after this bill passes will be on First Nations land and we want to recognise that. In summary, the bill is a positive step forward. I acknowledge the hard work of all of those involved. I hope it marks a negation of all of the conflict and disputation that has happened in so many places. It is an opportunity for us to recognise a genuine win-win—not a flippant assertion that everyone wins. In this case there is fantastic potential for a very positive outcome. I acknowledge the work of all of those involved in drafting the bill and I commend it to the House.

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (16:10:42):** I speak in support of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 and in support of the Labor Opposition's amendments. This has been a long time coming. It is both exciting and a little emotional, because the infrastructure, plans and legislation—the policy framework—should have been in place some time ago. It has not been, but it is good that it is here now. I will firstly say a few thank-yous. I thank the colleagues who I have worked with for many years, including the Hon. Adam Searle, who has worked for a long time getting together the policy framework that Labor took to the 2019 election. That framework was solid, sensible and sustainable and fulfilled the objectives of the zero net carbon emissions with certain dates and timelines. It also fulfilled the objective of cheaper, reliable and secure renewable energy. In my area we have the Rainbow Power Company, or RPC, which is a very old company that really understands business models. The company said that whatever we do has to have a sound business model for it to work. That is what the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020—hopefully with Labor's amendments—will give to us.

I also thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swansea, for the good work she has put into trying to round out the bill and make it better, particularly in terms of jobs and procurement. The first jobs bill that she brought to Parliament speaks very much to that. I hope some of those ideas will be reflected in this bill—particularly the New South Wales renewable energy sector board and the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate. If they were part of this policy framework package, it would be far more complete and would give confidence to people. We all know that the debate has been so conflicted and conflicted about transition. Some have said, "A just transition—no, don't use the word 'transition'; it might scare people. Do we need one? What do we do about jobs? Don't talk about coal because it's here. No, it's going." The debates are all rather nonsensical, but I understand it if people are worried about their jobs. That is what we have to focus on. But for a long time I have advocated that we need a general jobs authority, which would be able to look at all of these issues when we transition in any sector in any area. It would stay ahead of the game and would be able to help us through.

I live in and represent the Lismore electorate. People in Lismore love renewables. We have one of the highest take-ups in the State. The Lismore community has been into renewables for quite a long time. This bill will be very welcome in my electorate. Over the years, in debate and during election campaigns, we have been promised cheaper electricity. I have yet to see anyone deliver it. Minister Kean has said that the bill will deliver cheaper electricity. The jury—me—is out on that. I have heard that undertaking from the Government at every election, I still have all the slogans and memes, and all I have seen is electricity go up, particularly for small business and farmers. At the last State election they were saying, "Please, we want prices to go down." I am putting my faith in the bill that we may see that.

The objectives of the bill are to improve affordability, reliability, security and sustainability. If that can be achieved, then we are on the road to renewables and a transition to reduced emissions. That needs to be done not only here but also globally. The framework that the bill puts in place should give some certainty for jobs, but not completely. The bill requires amendments that will make sure that jobs are front and centre in order to give confidence to workers in the community. The bill needs that enhancement, and that is what Labor's amendments will do. The same applies to manufacturing. The policy framework that will be put in place will give a boost to manufacturing but not the huge boost that is required to give confidence to the community. I note the presence in the Chamber of the member for Wollongong and the good, solid work he has done on Labor's amendments to the bill.

The Australian Emergency Market Operator has made it very clear that we need infrastructure to manage what I call the off-grid generation, along with the on-grid. Some people who feed into the grid were alarmed to be told it that there would be rationing and that because of lack of capacity they would not be able to feed into the grid. The bill should ensure that we have that capacity. I believe the Minister may have agreed to the renewable energy sector board. I have a thumbs up from the Minister. That is a good thing. I like the provision in the bill of

the consumer trustee. During question time I had the opportunity to ask the Minister where it was, what it meant and how it would work. That is a good addition to the bill. The International Energy Agency in its *Renewables 2020* report and *World Energy Outlook 2020* report states:

Renewables will overtake coal to become the largest source of electricity generation worldwide by 2025.

That is only five years away. We need to get our act together and have this infrastructure. It also states:

Renewables' continued cost declines are changing the investor landscape and the role of policies.

We can see that reflected here and that is what Labor has been promoting, advocating and driving the last two decades. The agency also said we are not doing enough to put global emissions into decisive decline. That is a key point. This bill will certainly assist but we clearly need to do more in that space. A couple of months ago the Minister announced the renewable energy zones. I talked about the zone in the tablelands and said that I hope some of the prosperity and the good benefits that come from that will extend as far as Tenterfield in my electorate of Lismore. I closely looked at what the renewable energy zones would mean. Everybody is clambering for them and some places are screaming out for them, such as the Hunter, the Illawarra and maybe the Central Coast. I can see that this legislation gives the Minister the ability to add to the zones, and that is a good thing.

I have given some thought to what a zone would mean in my area, where we have a huge take-up in renewables, we have Enova and we are out there doing it ourselves. I have been thinking along the lines of the special activation projects and the local activation projects, which lend themselves somewhat to what we are doing in the renewable energy sector. I am giving some thought to that and talking more broadly across my region. I am sure we will be knocking on the Minister's door saying, "What about us?" I thank the Minister for introducing the bill.

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (16:20:58):** I speak in support of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. The bill will implement the New South Wales Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, a coordinated plan to deliver a modern, globally competitive electricity system for New South Wales. In particular it sets out a world-class framework for coordinating generation, storage and network infrastructure investment in renewable energy zones. Under the roadmap, we will deliver the first coordinated renewable energy zones in Australia. These zones will help to overcome the chicken-and-egg challenge of coordinating energy infrastructure development. This challenge arises because grid capacity is low in our State's renewable energy-rich regions, meaning that network upgrades are needed to connect new generation and storage projects.

Under current regulatory settings, network projects will not be approved unless there is sufficient generation forecast to connect, and generation will not commit to build unless new network is approved. Under the current framework there is insufficient opportunity for the community's input in the planning and design of new energy infrastructure to ensure it is built in the right places, where regional communities want and welcome the projects. Other jurisdictions internationally have faced similar challenges and have responded with different models for the coordination of energy infrastructure development. The Government has looked to these examples and has built on them to design a best practice approach to delivering renewable energy zones in our State. With the House's indulgence, I will now highlight the experience in Texas.

I have turned to Texas as it has been a leader in this space. Texas is now home to five renewable energy zones and has amongst the lowest retail electricity prices in all of the United States. Texas commenced the development of its zones with a clear legislative mandate similar to what we seek to deliver in the bill. It then identified the best areas for the zones, including through consultation with energy experts, land use planners and other interested stakeholders. A competitive process was used to select a network provider which considered the cost of the network infrastructure and required a minimum level of generator interest represented by financial commitments. In New South Wales we will adopt an up-front consultative approach to designing and assessing renewable energy zones like that in Texas. On top of this, outcomes for local communities will be at the centre of the implementation of renewable energy zones in New South Wales, with some of the fees from connecting generation and storage projects being used for community benefits.

We will also use open processes to gauge genuine generator interest in the renewable energy zones. In fact, we have already started implementing these features in the pilot Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. The Government recently ran a registration of interest process in the zone for energy and storage projects, which brought forward 27 gigawatts of proposals worth \$38 billion. This is nine times the amount required to deliver the zone itself. The New South Wales Government has worked closely with TransGrid and the Australian Energy Market Operator in planning the pilot zone; it has been identified by the market operator as a priority actionable project in the 2020 Integrated System Plan. We have also started engaging with communities on the Central-West Orana renewable energy zone, hosting two regional forums with the local councils and State agencies since the beginning of the year, and only last month launching a new regional reference group in Dubbo.

Like Texas, I now turn to the United Kingdom model and highlight some of its merits, with the indulgence of the House. The United Kingdom also offers a model for innovative approaches to building new network infrastructure. The United Kingdom Government called for grid providers to propose projects that would reduce emerging constraints on the grid. These projects were then assessed on efficiency and expected levels of new generation to ensure that electricity customers would not pay more than required for network upgrades. A special cost recovery regime was put in place to allow the selected projects to be funded and built ahead of the normal processes for network providers applying the funding. Similarly, this bill will help address current barriers to network upgrades while protecting consumers from unnecessary costs through the transmission efficiency test and revenue determination process it sets out. These are the same objectives as the approach adopted in the United Kingdom.

This bill and the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap set out a model for developing renewable energy zones, which incorporates and improves on all the best bits of these overseas models. With this model for developing renewable energy zones we can rise to the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities the energy transition presents for our State. We can deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity as well as jobs and investment for our regions in a way that reflects the views of local communities. That being said, we must act quickly. It took nine years from the legislation passing in Texas to complete construction of their renewable energy zones. That is why this bill is so important. It will give us the legislative backing needed to implement renewable energy zones. I take this opportunity to commend the Minister and his office for this once-in-a-generation legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (16:28:25):** In reply: I speak in reply to the debate on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this debate: members representing the electorates of Manly, North Shore, Camden, Miranda and Terrigal. I thank those MPs for explaining to the House the importance of this bill in delivering an affordable, clean and reliable energy future for New South Wales. I also thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the fantastic way in which you have chaired this debate. As has been discussed in the House today, the bill gives effect to the New South Wales Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap—a coordinated and integrated framework to secure an affordable, clean and reliable energy future for New South Wales. This is the Government's plan to make New South Wales an energy and economic superpower. The bill gives effect to the New South Wales Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and is designed to coordinate investment in new electricity generation, storage and network infrastructure in New South Wales.

I reiterate the contents of the bill to the House. The bill provides for an energy security target and monitor; the Minister to declare renewable energy zones and access schemes; a regulatory cost recovery mechanism for network infrastructure projects; the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Safeguard to encourage investment in generation, long-duration storage and firming infrastructure; and the appointment of persons or bodies to administer this new framework. The scale of the benefits these changes are anticipated to deliver is vast. By enabling the New South Wales Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, the bill is expected to drive an estimated \$32 billion of timely and coordinated private sector investment by 2030.

It is expected to support 6,300 construction jobs and 2,800 ongoing jobs in 2030, mostly in regional New South Wales. It is expected to deliver an estimated \$1.5 billion in lease payments to landowners in regional New South Wales by 2042 and it is expected to reduce New South Wales' carbon emissions by an estimated 90 million tonnes by 2030. The typical customer's electricity bills are expected to be lower too, with residential customers expected to save an average of around \$130 each year and small businesses around \$430 each year, after accounting for the cost of the new schemes for transmission, generation and storage.

I particularly acknowledge and thank the member for Swansea. I know that her interest in this area is sincere. Her community has been at the forefront of powering our State and our nation for generations and I hope that, because of the amendments of the member for Swansea, supported by other members in this House, that will remain the case. The member rightly identified this once-in-a-generation opportunity. She also rightly identified the opportunity this bill presents for New South Wales' energy, manufacturing and infrastructure jobs. These are opportunities too important to miss. The bill has a clear objective to support economic development and manufacturing. It sets out a framework to drive local jobs, goods and services into our new energy infrastructure. To this end, we have announced a Manufacturing Renewables Taskforce and a Jobs in Renewable Energy Zones Taskforce, which will expand manufacturing opportunities and maximise jobs within local communities. The Government notes the Opposition's proposed amendment to establish these task forces under the bill to maximise the use of local goods and services, and the employment of apprenticeship premises and training for local workers.

I believe in New South Wales' capacity to harness the potential for abundant, low-cost low emissions and reliable electricity to grow existing industries and to foster new ones. The Opposition's proposed amendment is consistent with the bill's intent to support economic development and manufacturing and the Government intends



to support the amendment. The member for Swansea, among other members, including the member for Upper Hunter, who has just left the Chamber, raised the proposition of a renewable energy zone in the Hunter. A renewable energy zone in the Hunter will cement the region as an energy powerhouse; therefore, the Government intends to support this amendment.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the engagement of the member for Swansea and her colleagues on the bill. The Government will always work constructively with those who want to see cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy. I particularly acknowledge the efforts of the Opposition in ensuring that we deliver a bill that has bipartisan support, and the further constructive way the Opposition proposed amendments that would enhance even more what we had originally put up.

To that end, I particularly acknowledge the member for Wollongong, who again represents a community that has been the major beneficiary of cheap and reliable electricity for generations. BlueScope Steel, one of the biggest users of electricity in New South Wales and one of the biggest employers in the State, has been the powerhouse of our economy, creating jobs and driving our local manufacturing. The member for Wollongong has been very constructive in ensuring that the Illawarra will continue to play an important role and that area will be the beneficiary of this bill. Cheap, reliable electricity will ensure that BlueScope can continue to be competitive on the international stage and can continue to provide cheap, strong and good steel to build our cities and suburbs not just domestically but internationally. The amendments the Opposition put up will ensure that that remains the case.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Hon. Adam Searle in the Legislative Council, the shadow Minister for Energy, who, as has been pointed out, had a very similar proposal taken to the last election about the importance of creating long-term investment certainty so the private sector would have the confidence to invest and build the new infrastructure needed to replace the existing infrastructure which we know is coming to the end of its life before it closes. It needs to be replaced in order to keep prices low and keep our system reliable. I thank the Hon. Adam Searle for the constructive way he has worked with the Government to land this bill, or land something that all members of this Chamber can support.

I have said to those opposite that if they wish to go further at a point of time they can do so. This bill provides a strong foundation on which we can continue to build more infrastructure that will deliver cheap energy. Right now we think we have got the policy settings right that will ensure that we replace our existing infrastructure before it closes and that we do not push out existing coal assets prematurely, which the advice of Aurora Energy has said will happen under our proposal. We want to see an orderly transition from older technology to new technology that will deliver cheap and reliable energy that also happens to be clean. That means users of that electricity, as we head towards a lower carbon global economy, will be able to be competitive and lead the world when it comes to producing the goods and services that those new markets will be looking for.

I acknowledge the constructive role that the Independents have played in this debate. I acknowledge the member for Wagga Wagga, who has entered the Chamber. I know that the member for Wagga Wagga, the member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Sydney have a keen interest in this area of public policy, not only because they want to see their communities benefit from cheaper energy but also because they want to ensure that we have an orderly transition. To that end, I know that the Independents in this House have spoken specifically about bringing the community with us as existing generation retires and new generation comes on line. That is obviously a non-negotiable and a core focus of this bill.

I acknowledge, in particular, the foreshadowed amendment of the member for Sydney to establish committees to make sure that we support those affected by changes in electricity generation in New South Wales, among other things. That is a sensible amendment and the Government intends to support it. Many members in the Chamber have made it very clear that it is good we have a strategy to deal with the transition of our ageing electricity infrastructure but we also need to make sure that no-one is left behind and ensure that those people that work in those industries that may be disrupted by newer technology are able to be supported by a number of means, whether it is training, reskilling or other opportunities. It is entirely appropriate that this House considers that also.

I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Dubbo. I was very proud to stand with him to announce the nation's first renewable energy zone, a modern day power station where we are building renewables on a utility scale. In his contribution the member for Dubbo explained to the House that the bill is of significant importance to regional New South Wales. Our renewable energy zone in the Central West-Orana region will drive vast sums of investment into the Dubbo area and create local construction and operational jobs for years to come. I also thank the member for Dubbo for his hard work in delivering the nation's first renewable energy zone. It would not be possible to achieve many of the things that have been discussed today without strong local advocates like him. I know that the renewable energy zone in Central West-Orana will send around 3,000 megawatts of energy into the grid. I know that it will see jobs and investment going into his communities in the Central West. The Dubbo

and Orana region has provided so much in terms of agriculture to support our economy. Now it will continue to be the powerhouse of our economy by providing the cheap electricity that we so need.

Earlier I mentioned the member for Wollongong and I thank him too for his contribution to this debate. There is no doubt that he is a passionate advocate for Australian steel. I had the opportunity to see that firsthand when we visited BlueScope yesterday. There is a great deal of affection from everyone at BlueScope for his work to support that great Australian business and that great Australian community in the Illawarra. The opportunities for New South Wales steel and other products is obviously vast as a result of this policy. In fact, industry tells us that at least 65,000 tonnes of steel will be going straight into our renewable energy zones.

The global chief executive officer of BlueScope, Mark Vassella, said that the Government's road map has the ability to create a manufacturing renaissance, and that is something I believe all members want to see become a reality. For the avoidance of any doubt, if we need steel in our renewable energy zones it should be Australian steel made by Australian workers and manufacturers. We want to make sure that it is cost-competitive obviously—something that I have made very clear to the Opposition. If it is, it should be made right here in New South Wales. I appreciate my engagement with the member for Wollongong and I hope that the amendments he has foreshadowed will deliver on that vision that I have set out.

I acknowledge members representing the electorates of Charlestown, Wyong, Maitland, Macquarie Fields, The Entrance, Port Stephens, Lismore, Coogee and Newcastle and thank them for their contributions. The members spoke passionately about the importance of jobs in the regions. I am pleased that the Government intends to support amendments to declare the Hunter and Central Coast as a renewable energy zone. The member for Wyong raised specifically the opportunity for Indigenous employment in the renewable energy zones. I know he is a passionate advocate for Indigenous Australians. The infrastructure safeguard established by the bill provides a pathway to require proponents of new generation to demonstrate what they are doing to support their local community. Employment opportunities for local Indigenous people are exactly the type of measure that the infrastructure safeguard is designed to create.

I know that some of The Greens members of the House have also indicated their interest in ensuring that we facilitate a role for Indigenous employment, and that is exactly what we intend to do. I appreciate the amendments suggested by The Greens and the Labor Party on that front. I particularly thank the member for Upper Hunter. He is not a known champion for one type of energy over another, but he is a champion for his community. He wants to see jobs and investment there. He is as passionate as anyone about the community he represents. The Upper Hunter has been literally the powerhouse of the country for generations. His support for this bill will mean that it can continue to be the powerhouse of our nation for generations to come.

It is wonderful that there will be opportunities to work with the mining industry and the existing generators to adopt some of the new technologies and find new revenue streams, creating new jobs and investment in the upper Hunter. I acknowledge the member's advocacy to ensure the Hunter is the State's fourth renewable energy zone. On that note, it is not just about ensuring that we get that new capacity into the system; it is also about the benefits that cheap, reliable energy bring to manufacturing areas like the upper Hunter. His community will be a great beneficiary of this bill, and obviously that is why he supports it.

I thank the member for Oxley for her contribution to this debate. The water Minister, and member for Oxley, is a proud supporter of the bill and its support for critical infrastructure that keeps the lights on, such as pumped hydro. She has played a central role in getting this bill to where it is today. I put on record my thanks for her efforts. Not that long ago we were together at Oven Mountain announcing a proposed new pumped hydro facility. I hope that is the first of many pumped hydro opportunities to provide long duration storage that can support renewables and drive down prices whilst at the same time keeping the lights on.

I recognise the member for Murray for her contribution to this debate. I know that she has concerns about the impact of pumped hydro and solar farms. As has been widely discussed by members in this debate, new energy infrastructure is an absolute must for New South Wales. We need a whole suite of new infrastructure, from big storage projects like pumped hydro right through to small-scale solar installations. The bill gives us the right pathway to make sure that new infrastructure is built where it is supported by communities and where it is compatible with agriculture. One of the features of the bill is that it provides us with an opportunity to manage where renewable energy infrastructure is built, helping us make sure that we avoid areas that impact on local amenity and we protect prime agricultural land. This is something we have not been able to do, and the bill gives us the tools and the levers we need to achieve that goal.

I thank the member for Oatley for his contribution to the debate. The member called the bill a most significant piece of legislation and an historic moment for this Parliament. I thank him for his support and for sharing with the House some strong supportive feedback we have already received from investor groups—largely energy users in New South Wales and consumer groups. The members representing the electorates of Bankstown

and Summer Hill also spoke in the debate, and I thank them for their contributions. I acknowledge their concerns about power prices in New South Wales, especially if we do nothing to replace our ageing power stations before they retire, and the need to get started on the road map now. The member for Pittwater described the road map as a transformational opportunity for the State. He rightly identified the need to give investors certainty so that they can invest at the lowest cost possible. I looked forward to working with the member in his capacity as the planning Minister to make sure we build the infrastructure in the right places and in the right ways to support local communities.

Like the member for Swansea and the member for Upper Hunter, the member for Lake Macquarie knows only too well the importance of energy generation to his community. I restate the member's comments: It is very pleasing to see the extraordinary level of agreement on the bill by all members of the House. Again, I am pleased that the amended version of the bill includes the Hunter and Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone, and I note that the member for Lake Macquarie was instrumental in delivering that amendment. I also thank the member for Northern Tablelands. The Northern Tablelands is set to win big from the New England Renewable Energy Zone—the biggest renewable energy zone in the country. As the member rightly stated in his contribution, this bill will make sure that renewable infrastructure is built in places where the community—and not just developers—want it. I thank the member for his strong advocacy for renewable energy in New South Wales. He has been a fearless advocate and a key reason that we have been able to get the bill to this place.

Earlier I mentioned members representing the electorates of Newtown, Ballina and Balmain. I thank them for their contributions about the importance of renewables for decarbonisation. Our renewable energy zones will play a big part in achieving the Government's objective in reducing emissions whilst creating jobs and growing the local economy. I mentioned the member for Wagga Wagga before. I acknowledge the member's proposed amendment to make sure that the views of the community are front and centre when making decisions about priority transmission projects. I know that he is currently dealing with these issues as a result of the HumeLink proposal that will provide electricity from Snowy 2.0. His amendment is a sensible one that the Government intends to support.

I have been asked by the Government Whip to filibuster until 5.00 p.m., which is a great opportunity to put on record the feedback from stakeholders. Where better to start than the Clean Energy Investor Group, which represents institutional investors that have funded Australian renewable energy projects worth over \$9 billion? The group's chair, Simon Corbel, stated:

This Roadmap is a welcome plan for private sector investors, harnessing the power of private markets to accelerate NSW's renewable energy goals—all through providing policy certainty and distinct market signals.

CEIG has consistently argued for a greater focus by governments on developing Renewable Energy Zones and bringing forward investment in new transmission infrastructure to unlock grid congestion and provide greater certainty for investors to proceed with renewable energy projects.

The commitment today by the NSW Government to provide financial mechanisms to support investor certainty ... is a welcome development that will strengthen investor certainty at a critical time.

Aware Super, one of Australia's largest superannuation funds, echoed these sentiments. Its chief investment officer, Damian Graham, stated:

One of the barriers to ... investment in Australia has been significant capacity constraints with the energy grid. Announcements like the NSW Government's *Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap* help to provide long-term investors like Aware Super with more certainty.

The proposed objects of the bill also include improving the affordability, reliability, security and sustainability of electricity supply supporting economic development and manufacturing. It is not just investors, but also New South Wales' largest energy users and most highly regarded consumer advocates who have come out in support of the Government's road map. Jonathon Hunyor, CEO of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, stated:

As people struggle following bushfires, drought, floods and the pandemic, it's more important than ever that we ensure the benefits of the energy transition go to those most in need and no-one is left behind.

We could not agree more. He goes on to state:

Minister Kean and the NSW Government have today shown bold climate action that helps secure our economic future while delivering benefits for people today is no longer up for debate.

Interim CEO of Energy Consumers Australia, Lynne Gallagher, stated:

This Roadmap is an important step forward in New South Wales as we plan for the fundamental transformation of the energy sector, which is being driven by technology and changing consumer demands.

It is not just consumer groups who are supporting this road map but also business groups. Innes Willox, the chief executive of the Australian Industry Group and a former chief of staff to Alexander Downer—one of the scions of the conservative movement—stated:

Rebuilding an energy cost advantage for industry and taking pressure off households will mean navigating a massive transition in our electricity sector to new technology, new infrastructure, higher demand and a more active role for energy users. Intense uncertainty in energy policy and the energy market raises the cost and difficulty of doing this. Addressing uncertainty is the number-one benefit of the proposed NSW approach and would plausibly lower costs overall.

I put on record that the Tomago Aluminium smelter chief executive, Matt Howell, stated:

Anything that delivers cheaper, cleaner, more reliable energy is clearly of interest to a large, energy-intensive manufacturer such as ourselves ...

We look forward to working with the New South Wales Government to understand more about the detail behind the plan and how we might engage with it.

Bluescope Steel's managing director and CEO, Mark Vassella, said the scale of the new State energy plan would stimulate a manufacturing renaissance in New South Wales. He stated:

The \$32 billion renewable infrastructure spend should see the creation of a substantial number of skilled manufacturing jobs and ensure local steel for local infrastructure. I will expand on one point I made earlier. Analysis by Aurora Energy Research suggests that, accounting for estimated rehabilitation costs, exit schedules of coal-fired power stations will remain the same. However, clearly, lower power prices will put more financial pressure on existing generators. Actual coal-fired power station closures will depend on the specific circumstances of the individual plant and its owners. This includes the capital schedule for the plant, the rehabilitation cost for the site, the contracting position of the owner, the flexibility of the plant and work health and safety concerns. Only a short time remains for my speech.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Five minutes.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Anyone else who wishes to pass me feedback may do so. I appreciate the suggestion by the member for Terrigal of praising my staff for their efforts in helping to manage all the bill's moving parts.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Name all of them.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I could.

**Mr Adam Crouch:** You should name them. They do a great job.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** They do. But in all seriousness, as I stated at the outset New South Wales faces a stark reality. It took 30 years to build the State's existing coal-based electricity supply system. Four out of the State's five remaining coal-operated plants will close in the next 15 years. We need the best part of a decade to secure the investment needed for a modern and clean energy system in New South Wales. This bill will give us the critical investment framework to do exactly that. This is the Government's plan to modernise the State's electricity system in a manner that creates jobs, drives investment into New South Wales and, most importantly, delivers cheaper reliable energy in the State. The Government owes that to the businesses and energy users of New South Wales. Most importantly, it owes it to the mums and dads in the suburbs who want to be able to turn on the lights when they need to and for their bill to be as low as possible. This bill represents a plan to do exactly that.

But at the same time, the Government will create new jobs—6,300 construction jobs that will build the modern electricity system that this State needs—and will deliver 2,800 ongoing jobs for sparkies and technicians engaged in maintaining the important system on which we rely for power. The result of producing energy at some of the cheapest prices of anywhere in the world, which our modelling shows this plan will deliver, will be a net increase of 23,000 jobs in energy intensive industries in the State, such as smelting, aluminium production and heavy manufacturing. This bill is a jobs package. It is a plan to pull us out of the COVID pandemic. But in any case we need to change because we know that our power stations are coming to the end of their life. This bill is part of the Government's plan to ensure they are replaced in a timely manner and in a way that will create jobs, drive investment into the State and reduce the cost of electricity bills for consumers. It is part of the Government's aim to provide cheap reliable energy on which families and businesses rely.

But this legislation is more than that. The importance of delivering some of the cheapest, most reliable and cleanest energy cannot be understated. The world is moving in a different direction. International markets on which the State relies to underwrite our prosperity are beginning to look for cheaper and cleaner forms of goods and services. This plan will help to set up this State to deliver that. This plan will ensure that our businesses, manufacturers and industries will be able to continue to provide goods and services to the rest of the world and underwrite our prosperity.

The member for Terrigal is telling me my time is running down and only one minute remains for my speech. I reiterate my commitment to landing a bipartisan energy policy that will facilitate increased investment in New South Wales—an estimated \$58 billion in investment between now and 2042. That investment will be delivered by the private sector and importantly that will free up Government capital with which to build schools, hospitals, roads and transport facilities. We know that the private sector will deliver the infrastructure we need to

keep the lights on while driving down prices, but the private sector needs the right market signals and regulatory settings in which to do that. That is exactly what this policy sets out to achieve.

**Debate interrupted.**

*Announcements*

**PARLIAMENTARY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council informing the Legislative Assembly that it has agreed to the establishment of a Parliamentary Compliance Officer.

*Public Interest Debate*

**GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (16:59:18):** I move:

That this House acknowledges all New South Wales communities for their resilience in 2020, a year like no other.

This year has been a year like no other. From bushfires to floods and to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced it all. This State has responded like no other State, while setting the benchmark for keeping people safe from the devastation of the Black Summer when bushfire fury tore across the State, scarring the landscape and etching on the hearts of people blackened memories as we counted the loss of lives, homes, properties, livestock, businesses and wildlife. Those fires came on the back of the widespread drought that the State also endured.

Then the rains came and the State's resilience was tested further as we watched in awe the rescues by SES crews as they literally navigated unfamiliar waters to assist those who were not so resilient. I recall saying to my colleagues, "Boy, we've endured drought, bushfires and floods in this State. What next—a plague of locusts?" That was where I was wrong because instead of locusts we were hit with the COVID-19 pandemic, which was uncharted waters. But resilience is not earned by complacency; rather it is earned by taking a calculated and measured approach to find solutions that enable rapid recovery. In response to COVID-19 in New South Wales the New South Wales Government has helped to transform our healthcare system to increase its capacity and ensure it is well-placed to manage the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 as well as respond to any future crises. The healthcare system being ready to support us through the evolving pandemic ensures our community is kept safe.

The New South Wales Government acted to ensure capacity in our hospitals by quadrupling the capacity of intensive care units [ICUs] and purchasing additional ventilators; placing significant investment in the rapid expansion of telehealth; partnering with private hospitals; and increasing public hospital capacity to take fast-track elective surgeries. We were also supporting and protecting our frontline workers by placing substantial investment in personal protective equipment or PPE. This is bringing back so many memories to me of how we have gone through this pandemic and how we, as a Government, have acted. I must say that going forward it is how we as a true Government and Opposition have all supported the tactics. The Government expanded its healthcare and hospital security workforce; provided ICU training to upskill healthcare staff to support increased ICU capacity; and kept our citizens safe, which was this Government's top priority—and still is.

The Government continues to invest in world-leading pathology testing and contact tracing, including establishment of pop-up testing sites across the State. Other countries are learning from how New South Wales is doing it well. Door-screening at health sites across the State was undertaken to rapidly identify symptomatic visitors, thereby protecting our communities and staff. Hotel quarantining included Health-managed hotels to accommodate symptomatic travellers and combined with a dedicated presence at airports to manage contagion. The Government provided funding to fast-track statewide research and conducted clinical trials to tackle the global COVID-19 pandemic to reduce its impact on our communities. Our aged care emergency response capability within the State Health Emergency Operations Centre enhanced NSW Health's response to the COVID-19 outbreaks in residential aged care facilities and brought outbreaks to an end as quickly and as safely as possible.

Fortunately there are no current outbreaks of coronavirus in New South Wales. In fact, there have been no cases of COVID-19 in aged care settings since 12 May 2020. The New South Wales Government also will boost mental health support so that people, especially young and vulnerable groups, can continue to access services when they need them. The boosted services will include expansion of community-based mental health clinical support and emergency nurse consultants, as well as increased availability of virtual mental health services so that patients can receive help from the comfort of their own home or their residence.

Funding to Lifeline and the mental health helpline will ensure that those services are equipped to respond to the increased needs of the community. There is more funding to which I wish to refer. The New South Wales Government has committed more than \$3 billion to support the health system's response to COVID-19 over both

the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years. That includes \$700 million to boost ICU capacity and purchase additional services, medical equipment and 89 new ambulances that will be progressively delivered, of which 35 will be paramedic intensive care ambulances.

There is \$1.37 billion for the purchase of personal protective equipment to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our frontline emergency workers, medical staff and the public. There is an \$80 million investment to boost mental health services including hiring more specialists, community-based mental health clinicians and peer support workers, expanding the virtual mental health program to all local health districts. This will enhance capacity to the mental health line and create pop-up mental health safe spaces and sites. I could go on but there are other members who wish to speak to this public interest debate.

I also want to touch on the many organisations and volunteers that have served the community for many years and have done so throughout this pandemic. Outside the scope of the larger disaster they respond and assist those who may have misfortunes of their own on a daily basis or beyond. Regardless of the adversity, our community never gives up. We have seen people rebuilding their homes and businesses from scratch following natural disasters as well as those who have had to adapt their work and way of life. We have all had to respond. Our officers have had to work from home. We have had to adapt and change every single moment. I also reflect on the bushfire funding. I will conclude by acknowledging the resilience of our community, the leadership of this Government and the brilliant budget by our Treasurer.

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (17:06:04):** The Labor Opposition supports the motion. All New South Wales communities have shown resilience. It is a good motion and I thank the member for the Hawkesbury for bringing it before the House. I notice that in her submission she spoke of the different areas of Government and, in particular, public servants. Public servants have stepped up all the way through and worked with the community to deal with various issues throughout the last 12 months. As such, I have an amendment to her motion. I move:

That the motion be amended by adding the following after the word "other":

- (1) Recognises the crucial role public sector workers have played and continue to play in steering New South Wales through drought, the national bushfire emergency, floods, the closure of schools, the adverse economic impact on businesses and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) Calls on the Government to abandon its plans to cut the wages of more than 400,000 public sector workers.

Over the past 12 months people across New South Wales have come together like never before. It has been an extremely difficult period. However, we have remained resilient and determined to defeat every challenge thrown our way. During the national bushfire emergency and the severe droughts earlier in the year, New South Wales residents rallied together to support all of those who had lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. New South Wales residents stepped up to the challenge and showcased their true generosity, donating blood, food, clothes and shelter to provide for those who lost everything. This Parliament must also acknowledge the community's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All of us did our job to help get through the crisis. We did it as a community. It meant that businesses had to close, individuals had to work from home and children were unable to see their teachers and friends at school. We all made sacrifices and by doing so we were able to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The New South Wales Labor Opposition stands with over 400,000 public sector workers—the teachers, nurses, healthcare workers, police, cleaners and firefighters. We on this side do not forget the quiet, dedicated, hardworking public servants who have helped our State with their service and contribution during droughts, bushfires, a global pandemic and economic uncertainty.

Let us discuss a few of our public sector workers that must be acknowledged by this Parliament. Firstly, our firefighters from the Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue, national parks and forestry assisted during four months of a catastrophic bushfire season. They risked their lives in order to protect our community. Their determination, service and sacrifice is commendable and must be acknowledged by this Parliament. However, their pay will be cut by this Government. Healthcare workers, paramedics, cleaners, nurses, doctors and general healthcare workers are at the forefront of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Every day our healthcare workers risk their lives to ensure our families are safe and that we beat COVID-19. Their pay will be cut by this Government.

For the first time teachers were tasked with moving their classes online and there were many challenges to online learning. Yet our teachers successfully ensured students were supported during this difficult time. Their pay will be cut by this Government. The NSW Police Force continues to ensure our community's safety. Its members risk their lives daily to protect us from danger. During the COVID-19 crisis all three police area commands within the Prospect electorate were sent south, as many were, as a result of the New South Wales-Victoria border restrictions. Recent assignments included being posted to monitor these border restrictions.

We must remain eternally grateful for their service, sacrifice and dedication. The NSW Police Force continues to go above and beyond for our community, yet its members' pay will be cut by this Government. The public sector pay cuts are needlessly cruel. The Government agreed to provide public sector employees with a 2.5 per cent pay rise but reneged on this agreement and now public service employees will only receive 0.3 per cent. This is a slap in the face to our public sector workers and their families. According to Treasury, wage growth nationally is forecast to remain at just 1.25 per cent through to June 2021 and 1.5 per cent during 2021-2022. However, inflation is forecast to rise by 1.75 per cent—almost 2 per cent—in 2020-21. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:11:15):** I speak to this matter of public importance and acknowledge the resilience of the people of New South Wales. I will focus on regional New South Wales where we have had drought, fires and now the pandemic. During the drought the farmers and people in regional New South Wales stayed on their farms and properties and the community as a whole, including from metropolitan areas, came together to help those farmers. There were initiatives such as Buy a Bale, supermarkets gathering hampers for farming communities, and service clubs such as Lions, Rotary and Quota putting together truckloads of goods for regional areas suffering from the drought. The New South Wales Government stepped in to help with billions of dollars in funding to help regional New South Wales during drought.

We then had the bushfires devastating so many communities in regional New South Wales. Our dedicated first responders from the Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue, the NSW Police Force, ambulance and paramedics went to regional areas to help those communities. During that time we saw people from all over New South Wales helping by putting together packages for those who had lost their businesses or homes. During the drought Buy Regional was introduced and I encourage everyone to continue to do so in order to help regional New South Wales recover. Recently I had the great honour of presenting to Kristy Williams, who raised over \$20,000 to buy P3 breathing apparatus for the Rural Fire Service. A number of brigades in my electorate received those masks.

George Greaves, the President of the Taree Lions Club, raised money with his club to provide water tanks, generators and all sorts of things to help those affected by the fires. That was followed by the pandemic. I again thank the frontline workers, the nurses and the health workers. I thank the police who had to enforce the restrictions on law-abiding citizens. I am sure it is something they did not think they would ever have to do. We have to acknowledge the resilience of the people banding together to help each other during that time, such as people collecting groceries and other things for seniors who could not leave their homes because of the danger to them.

I also thank the people who worked in supermarkets and other businesses to keep up the food supply. They worked so hard during that time. At the same time there were so many people impacted: the businesses that closed, the people who lost their jobs, the people who became unemployed as a result of the pandemic. Even now there are so many people still without work. Those relying on JobSeeker and JobMaker are worried about what is going to happen to their mortgage in March. There are so many people who have been affected by drought, fire and the pandemic, and we have to look after all of them.

The income of public service workers has not been cut. A scheduled pay rise has been delayed for 12 months to help us help all those who are unemployed and all those who rely on us to help them. We are all in this together. Nobody is getting wage rises. People are hoping that they will be able to get by in the near future, that they will have a job in the months to come, that they can put food on the table and that they will be able to pay their mortgage or pay their rent. They are not looking for a pay rise; they are looking for an income. We understand that those working in the public service may be concerned but we are all in this together. We all have to tighten our belts and help each other. That is what this Government has been trying to do.

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (17:16:23):** Workers, particularly those in the public service, do not want our thanks; they want their pay rises. That is what they want. They want their pay increases, not your thanks. I speak in favour of the proposed amendments and agree that the work carried out by our public sector workers has been crucial during the COVID pandemic. They have provided us with a much safer environment. The member for Myall Lakes said that we are all in this together. But that is not quite true, is it? We are not really all in this together. He should cast his mind back to the \$4 billion bailout of his mates at icare, which was atrocious. That is not "all in this together". We are denying public sector workers their pay increases while the Government is paying out to thieves and villains \$4 billion. That is not "all in it together", so let us not overstep that line.

The Premier was full of praise for our frontline workers but only when it did not matter because as soon as it came to paying them a fair increase she became a shrinking violet and did not want to know them: "Thanks for all of your help but you are not getting a pay increase." Healthcare workers, cleaners, police, teachers, bus and train drivers and other public servants who have continually put their lives on the line to help us and to put the general public first, this is how they are rewarded by the Government. Many were going to work where they were constantly exposed to the risk of contracting COVID or, worse, to the risk of taking it home to their families. They risked their lives. That was a risk they accepted and it was part of their job. I suggest that so is being paid fairly is

part of their job. Paying them fairly would seem to be the right thing to do—something the Government is determined not to do.

Who can forget our teachers who, in many cases, were working seven days a week—as the member for Prospect said—trying to develop and disseminate school work to students online while managing the continual overhaul of the student program and then returning to face-to-face teaching. For some with a number of different classes, they were exposing themselves to a much greater risk of contracting COVID-19—to the value of 0.3 per cent. Our firefighters were embroiled in the worst fire season in our history. With so many simultaneous fire fronts, resources were stretched beyond their limits. For many firefighters there was a direct and palpable effect from being involved in the fires—witnessing the loss of towns and ultimately the loss of life. For many full-time and volunteer firefighters there are psychological scars that will endure. They do not deserve what the Government is offering. They deserve better than a 0.3 per cent pay increase.

The police managed crowds at legal and illegal gatherings, all the while exposing themselves to the risk of contracting COVID-19. They deserve better than a 0.3 per cent pay increase. Let us not forget our train and bus drivers who were tasked with continuing their routes to keep the economy moving. They were exposed to people masked and unmasked in the closed environments of buses. They deserve better than a 0.3 per cent pay increase. If not for their dedication and resilience in so many areas, we would be in a much worse situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. To offer those workers a pay increase of 0.3 per cent is not only an outrageously low pay increase, it is an insult to the enormous effort they put in and the risk that they endured.

It does not make good economic sense that approximately 400,000 people in New South Wales will effectively have their wages cut if the Government follows through with its plans. The Treasurer is an economic idiot. It makes absolute sense that when money is going into towns and communities and pay increases are delivered economies thrive and survive. This is the razor gang of New South Wales—a little bit of cutting here and a little bit of slashing there. The razor gang of New South Wales is at it again.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Shellharbour does have a new hospital but she also has 20 seconds left.

**Ms ANNA WATSON:** Over the past 10 long years of this mob in Government, all we have seen is attacks on workers—10 long painful years of economic vandalism from those opposite.

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

**Ms ANNA WATSON:** They have no brains and they are very happy without them.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I call the member for Wollondilly to order for the second time.

**Ms ANNA WATSON:** By denying a wage increase, all the Government is doing is taking money out of the economy and dragging it further down; they are very good at that. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (17:21:45):** I thank the member for Hawkesbury for bringing this debate before us and I welcome the opportunity to speak to the motion. It was about resilience, was it not? I believe that the member for Shellharbour did not once talk about resilience or her community in the debate. This is an opportunity to speak for our community and to our community about the resilience that they have shown over the past nine months, and we did not even hear the word from the member. She must have been talking to a different debate. The member for Prospect spoke about how we rally and come together, and I will focus on that. The member for Shellharbour attacked the member for Myall Lakes for saying the same thing about coming together.

Today the Treasurer spoke about the adversity faced across the State, the nation and the globe. When we talk about resilience, we talk about how we respond to adversity. The question is: How do we as a Government and, more importantly, as a Parliament assist our community and work with our community when it comes to maintaining and building resilience? One of the privileges of being a member of Parliament is to be able to witness our community and the resilience that they display. For me, that was no more evident than what happened over the last six weeks to the little community of Ournie. Ournie is to the east of Jingellic, which was at the heart of the Green Valley fire. Being to the east, Ournie got smashed. It was smashed by the Green Valley fire to the west and it was smashed by the Dunns Road fire to the east; it sat right in the middle.

**Dr Hugh McDermott:** I was there. I know it. I know it well.

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY:** I thank the member for Prospect because he knows that community. He shared the hurt that community felt during and in the immediate aftermath of the bushfires. What I saw in his electorate four to six weeks ago truly demonstrated resilience. Residents banded together after losing their community centre, and that desire to see it restored gave them a sense of purpose. To show resilience requires purpose and



hope. They had the hope that they could rebuild the centre and restore pride to their community after what they had faced in the bushfires.

When we talk about building resilience in the context of the role of the Government and the Parliament we need to talk about purpose and hope, and a really important ingredient of that is enabling and empowering leadership particularly from a grassroots level. I met with many great people in the electorate of Prospect, including Mike and Deirdre Greenhalgh. The member for Prospect would know Mike, as he is the captain of the local RFS. The example that Mike and Deirdre set to others during the bushfires is to be commended. Senior Constable Mick Jones from Tumbarumba and Mary Hoodless from Jingellic are two people who also embody leadership at the grassroots level.

Over the past several months I have focused on empowering and growing leadership in the community, because I feel that there is a real opportunity in that regard. Communities that have that innate leadership are the ones that rebound more quickly and successfully. What the Parliament can do as a collective to help build leadership in the community is something I want to take forward. The Government is looking at building a program for small communities because we do not want leadership just to refer to executives; we want it to be about the mum and dads at the grassroots level. I thank the members who contributed to this public interest debate, and I especially thank the member for Hawkesbury for bringing it to the House. It is important to focus on the resilience of our communities in the context of purpose, hope and leadership.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:26:49):** I make a contribution to the public interest debate brought forward by the member for Hawkesbury regarding the resilience of the New South Wales community. I acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Prospect and the amendments that he made to the debate concerning the role that public sector workers have played in 2020 with regard to fire, flood and COVID. In his amendment he highlights that there is a planned cut to the wages of 400,000 public sector workers. This is quite serious in light of the fact that some politically appointed bureaucrats received a 12 per cent pay increase this year. That is shameful. We talk about having a fair go, but there is inequality here. Look at what the medics, nurses and cleaners who support the hospitals did to keep COVID at bay, and what teachers did this year to adapt to a totally changed online curriculum within days, or sometimes hours. It was incredible.

What is more, police were seconded from their local communities to deal with COVID-related business such as securing the New South Wales border. At the beginning of the year who would have thought we would be talking about border patrol within Australia? Normally we talk about border patrol being hundreds of nautical miles off the coast, but this year the men and women of our NSW Police Force have had to carry out border patrol operations within our own State. But it does not end there. Bus, train, tram and ferry drivers had to front up every day to take people from point A to point B. Despite the fact that many were working from home, people still needed to travel from point A to point B, and this undoubtedly put the drivers at great risk.

When we talk of resilience, I recognise that these public sector workers rose to the challenges that 2020 presented. We need to acknowledge them not only with the words we use but also through the actions we take as a government. We cannot cut their wages, which then impacts on their ability to spend money in their community, when we need to stimulate the economy to return confidence in local businesses so they can thrive. Business owners in the Fairfield area have been doing it tough throughout the year. As we have seen with teachers, their modus operandi has changed. They have had to implement COVID Safety Plans and ensure that QR codes are ready by 23 November. Business owners would not have put that on their agenda as 2020 began.

Our communities have rallied together by packing food, clothing and other necessary items for those suffering from the floods, bushfires and then COVID. Many organisations pre-packaged meals and delivered them to community members at great risk to their own health at the height of the COVID pandemic during the lockdown. I thank the member for Hawkesbury for bringing this public interest debate to the House. New South Wales is undoubtedly a resilient community. I thank all community members who have delivered services during 2020, and I urge the Government to remunerate public sector workers accordingly. It cannot just talk the talk and not walk the walk.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:32:03):** In reply: I thank the member for Prospect, the member for Myall Lakes, the member for Albury, the member for Shellharbour and the member for Fairfield for their contributions on the debate. It is an interesting and very important topic at the moment. This public interest debate about resilience comes on a day when the Treasurer delivered a budget that will put people first. We have already had a reality check, because in January 2020 unemployment was at 4.5 per cent. Today it is at 7.2 per cent. This Government provided drought relief worth \$4.5 billion and bushfire relief also worth \$4.5 billion. In the words of the member for Fairfield, at a time when businesses are "doing it tough" I cannot believe I am hearing a push for a pay rise. A quarter of a million people in New South Wales are out of work, wondering how they are going to pay their next bill. An arbitration commission has decided—

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hawkesbury will be heard in silence.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON:** A 0.3 per cent pay rise has been gifted to public servants in this State. They have work, yet I have had volunteer Rural Fire Service—

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Canterbury will not scream across the Chamber.

**Mr Chris Minns:** Point of order: I ask the member for Hawkesbury to withdraw the phrase "gifted to New South Wales public servants". Public servants have worked extremely hard over the past nine months. Earning a salary from the New South Wales Government is not a gift; it is for the job they do.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I did not hear the word "gifted", let alone most of the rest of the member's speech.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON:** My answer is no.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot hear the member for Hawkesbury.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON:** There is only one person in the chair, and I will report to him.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time. I call the member for Fairfield to order for the first time.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON:** I have been amazed and proud of the way that the community has weathered the storm with grace, perspective and hope. People's lives have been turned upside down. Every single day they struggle to get themselves back on track. They do not have a job. They do not have a house. They do not have a home to return to. They have been misplaced, disgraced and are feeling betrayed. It is a shame that today we are not talking about the resilience of our communities and the people who have supported them. We started off that way and I hope we can finish that way as well. The contributions from members have been very sincere. I think we are all on the same page regarding the way we have come together as a government and an opposition to help our community through peril—COVID-19, bushfires, drought and floods. On that note, we should all come together in this public interest debate.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The question is that the amendment of the member for Prospect be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

*[In division]*

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Shellharbour, the member for Canterbury and the member for Fairfield that they are on one call to order. The member for Heathcote, the member for Wollondilly and the member for Terrigal are on two calls to order.

Ayes .....40  
 Noes .....44  
 Majority.....4

#### AYES

Aitchison, J  
 Bali, S  
 Barr, C  
 Butler, R  
 Car, P  
 Catley, Y  
 Cotsis, S  
 Crakanthorp, T  
 Daley, M  
 Dalton, H  
 Dib, J  
 Donato, P  
 Doyle, T  
 Finn, J

Greenwich, A  
 Harris, D  
 Haylen, J  
 Hoenig, R  
 Hornery, S  
 Kamper, S  
 Lalich, N  
 Leong, J  
 Lynch, P  
 McDermott, H  
 McKay, J  
 Mehan, D (teller)  
 Minns, C

O'Neill, M  
 Park, R  
 Parker, J  
 Piper, G  
 Saffin, J  
 Scully, P  
 Smith, T  
 Tesch, L  
 Voltz, L  
 Warren, G  
 Washington, K  
 Watson, A (teller)  
 Zangari, G

## NOES

Anderson, K  
Ayres, S  
Barilaro, J  
Berejiklian, G  
Bromhead, S  
Clancy, J  
Conolly, K  
Constance, A  
Cooke, S (teller)  
Crouch, A (teller)  
Davies, T  
Dominello, V  
Elliott, D  
Evans, L  
Gibbons, M

Griffin, J  
Gulaptis, C  
Hancock, S  
Hazzard, B  
Henskens, A  
Johnsen, M  
Kean, M  
Lee, G  
Lindsay, W  
Marshall, A  
McGirr, J  
O'Dea, J  
Pavey, M  
Perrottet, D  
Petinos, E

Preston, R  
Provest, G  
Saunders, D  
Sidgreaves, P  
Singh, G  
Smith, N  
Speakman, M  
Stokes, R  
Taylor, M  
Toole, P  
Tuckerman, W  
Upton, G  
Ward, G  
Williams, L

## PAIRS

Atalla, E  
Chanthivong, A  
Harrison, J  
Mihailuk, T

Roberts, A  
Sidoti, J  
Williams, R  
Wilson, F

**Amendment negatived.**

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

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills***LIQUOR AMENDMENT (24-HOUR ECONOMY) BILL 2020****Consideration in Detail****Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.***Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 12 November 2020***No. 1 OPP No. 1 [c2020-170A]**

Page 2, clause 1, line 3. Omit "24-hour". Insert instead "Night-time".

**No. 2 GOVT No. 1 [c2020-191G]**

Page 2, clause 2, line 5. Omit all words on that line. Insert instead—

- (1) Subject to subsections 2 and 3, this Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.
- (2) The following provisions commence on 1 December 2021—
  - (a) Schedule 3.1[5] and [6],
  - (b) Schedule 3.1[7] to the extent it inserts proposed sections 114P and 114Q,
  - (c) Schedule 3.2[2] to the extent it inserts the entry relating to section 114P(1).
- (3) Schedule 2, other than Schedule 2.1[2] and 2.2[1], commences on the date of assent to this Act.
- (4) Schedule 3.1[7], to the extent it inserts section 114HA, commences on 1 June 2022.

**No. 3 OPP No. 2 [c2020-170A]**

Page 20, Schedule 1.1[11] (proposed Schedule 1, Part 16), line 2. Omit "**24-hour**". Insert instead "Night-time".

**No. 4 OPP No. 3 [c2020-170A]**

Page 20, Schedule 1.1[11] (proposed Schedule 1, clause 62), line 5. Omit "*24-hour*". Insert instead "*Night-time*".

**No. 5 OPP No. 1 [c2020-173L]**

Page 20, Schedule 1.2. Insert after line 28—

**[1A] Clause 8A**

Insert after clause 8—

**8A Review**

- (1) The Minister must conduct a review of the effectiveness of the reduction of fees under clauses 10(2)(c), 12(3A)(c), 13(3) and 14(3A) and the extension of trading hours for dedicated live music and performance venues, including—
  - (a) whether the reduction in fees and extension of trading hours has led to an increase in live music performances or other arts and cultural events on licensed premises, and
  - (b) the impact the reduction in fees and extension of trading hours has had on employment at licensed premises and in the live music performance industry and arts and cultural sectors.
- (2) The Minister must, by 31 March 2025, give a report about the review to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.
- (3) A copy of a report given to the Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament under subclause (2) must be laid before the House within 5 sitting days of the House after it is received by the Presiding Officer.
- (4) This clause is repealed on 30 April 2025.

**No. 6 OPP No. 2 [c2020-173L] [as amended by OPP Nos 1-2 on c2020-236]**

Page 20, Schedule 1.2[2] (proposed clause 10(2)(b)), line 39. Omit "10%.". Insert instead—

10%, or

- (c) for dedicated live music and performance venues—by 80%.
- (3) Subclause (2)(c) ceases to have effect on 31 December 2024.
- (4) Subclauses (2)(c) (3) and this subclause are repealed on 30 April 2025.

**No. 7 OPP No. 3 [c2020-173L]**

Page 21, Schedule 1.2, line 39. Omit "10%.". Insert instead—

10%, or

- (c) for dedicated live music and performance venues—by 80%.

**[9A] Clause 12(6)–(8)**

Insert after clause 12(5)—

- (6) However, subclause (2)(c) does not apply if, in the Secretary's opinion, the licensed premises do not have a market orientation towards live performances, the arts or cultural events and endeavours.
- (7) Subclause (3A)(c) ceases to have effect on 31 December 2024.
- (8) Subclauses (3A)(c), (6) and (7) and this subclause are repealed on 30 April 2025.

**No. 8 GOVT No. 2 [c2020-191G]**

Page 26, Schedule 2.2[1], line 3. Omit all words on that line. Insert instead—

Omit the clause.

**[1A] Clauses 123A and 123B**

Insert after clause 123—

**No. 9 GOVT No. 3 [c2020-191G]**

Page 26, Schedule 2.2[1], line 4. Omit "123". Insert instead "123A".

**No. 10 OPP No. 1 [c2020-235A]**

Page 26, Schedule 2.2[1], proposed clause 123. Omit "dedicated" from clause 123(c). Insert instead "excluded".

**No. 11 OPP No. 4 [c2020-173L]**

Page 26, Schedule 2.2[1] (proposed clause 123), lines 17–22. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 12 OPP No. 2 [c2020-235A]**

Page 26, Schedule 2.2[1], proposed clause 123. Insert at the end of the clause—

- (2) In this clause—  
*excluded live music and performance venue—*

- (a) means a music hall, concert hall, dance hall or other licensed premises or space with a market orientation towards live music, live performances or creative or cultural uses, but
- (b) does not include premises that do not provide significant employment for musicians, performers or artists.

No. 13 **GOVT No. 4 [c2020-191G]**

Page 26, Schedule 2.2[1], line 23. Omit "123A". Insert instead "123B".

No. 14 **GOVT No. 5 [c2020-191G]**

Page 27, Schedule 3.1[5], line 29. Omit "114Q". Insert instead "114P".

No. 15 **GOVT No. 6 [c2020-191G]**

Page 27, Schedule 3.1[6], line 36. Omit "114Q". Insert instead "114P".

No. 16 **GRNS No. 3 [c2020-154Q]**

Page 28, Schedule 3.1. Insert after line 34—

**114HA Age to be verified when agreement made for same day delivery**

- (1) A same day delivery provider must, at the time the agreement for the same day liquor delivery is entered into—
  - (a) use an accredited identity service provider to verify the person entering into the agreement is at least 18 years of age if it is the first time the person has entered into an agreement with the provider, or
  - (b) use another process, that meets at least the minimum standard prescribed by the regulations, to verify the person's age.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

- (2) For a second or subsequent occasion on which a person intends to enter into an agreement with a same day delivery provider for the delivery of liquor, the provider must, before entering into the agreement, require the person to undergo a form of authentication prescribed by the regulations.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

- (3) In this section—

accredited identity service provider means an identity service provider who has been accredited under the Trusted Digital Identity Framework published by the Digital Transformation Agency on behalf of the Commonwealth.

No. 17 **OPP No. 1 [c2020-200A]**

Page 29, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114J, line 2. Omit "same day". Insert instead "liquor".

No. 18 **OPP No. 1 [c2020-214C]**

Page 29, Schedule 3.1, proposed section 114J. Insert the following after line 4—

- (1A) It is a defence to a prosecution under subsection (1) for the person who delivered the liquor if it is proved that at the time of the alleged offence the person did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the person was delivering liquor.

**Example.** A courier delivers a package on behalf of an interstate retailer and is unaware the delivery includes liquor.

No. 19 **OPP No. 2 [c2020-200A]**

Page 29, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114J. Insert after line 4—

- (2) In this section—

**liquor delivery** means—

- (a) a same day delivery, or
- (b) another delivery of packaged liquor, under a commercial arrangement, to a person in New South Wales after it is purchased by retail, irrespective of the State or Territory in which the sale is made.

No. 20 **GOVT No. 7 [c2020-191G]**

Page 29, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114L, line 28. Omit "5 am". Insert instead "9 am".

No. 21 **GOVT No. 1 [c2020-213A]**

Page 29, Schedule 3.1[7], lines 28–30. Omit all words from ", or" to "made".

No. 22 **GOVT No. 8 [c2020-191G]**

Page 31, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114P. Insert after line 25—

- (2A) For the purposes of subsection (1), training to ensure liquor delivered by same day delivery providers, and employees and agents, is supplied responsibly must include information that is part of a training program that—
- (a) is developed and approved by the Secretary and published on a publicly accessible Government website, and
  - (b) complies with any minimum requirements for the training prescribed by the regulations under subsection (3)(a).

No. 23 **GOVT No. 9 [c2020-191G]**

Page 31, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114P. Insert after line 29—

- (a1) requirements about testing knowledge of information that is part of the training, and

No. 24 **GOVT No. 10 [c2020-191G]**

Page 31, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114P, lines 31 and 32. Omit ", including information that may be used by other persons to conduct the training".

No. 25 **OPP No. 5 [c2020-197]**

Page 32, Schedule 3.1[7], proposed section 114R, lines 3–13. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

**114R Review of regulation of liquor deliveries**

- (1) The Minister is to review the operation of this Act in relation to the following—
  - (a) same day deliveries,
  - (b) other liquor deliveries,
  - (c) the requirement to provide evidence of age and identity for same day deliveries and other liquor deliveries.
- (2) The review under subsection (1)(a) must include consideration of whether—
  - (a) the policy objectives of the Act in relation to same day deliveries, including rapid delivery, remain valid, and
  - (b) the terms of this Division remain appropriate for securing the objectives.
- (3) The review under subsection (1)(b) must include consideration of—
  - (a) emerging trends and technologies relevant to liquor deliveries that are not same day deliveries, and
  - (b) any additional harm minimisation measures that may be appropriate for the liquor deliveries, and
  - (c) the use of direct and social media marketing and the collection of consumer data to target vulnerable communities.
- (4) The review under subsection (1)(c) must include consideration of whether additional evidence of age requirements are needed for liquor deliveries that are not same day deliveries.
- (5) A review under this section is to be undertaken as soon as practicable after—
  - (a) for a review under subsection (1)(a) and (b)—2 years after the commencement of this section, and
  - (b) for a review under subsection (1)(c)—1 year after the commencement of this section.
- (6) A report on the outcome of a review under this section is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within—
  - (a) for a review under subsection (1)(a) and (b)—6 months after the end of the period of 2 years, and
  - (b) for a review under subsection (1)(c)—6 months after the end of the period of 1 year.

No. 26 **OPP No. 6 [c2020-197]**

Page 32, Schedule 3.1[8]. Insert after line 22—

- (f4) matters relating to the recording and reporting of data about alcohol sales or deliveries by same day delivery providers, including, for example, requirements relating to—
  - (i) the type of records to be kept, and
  - (ii) the frequency with which providers must provide reports,

No. 27 **GOVT No. 11 [c2020-191G]**

Page 33, Schedule 3.2[1], proposed clause 107G. Insert after line 23—

- (2) For the purposes of section 114P(3)(a1), the training must require a same day delivery provider, employee or agent to—
  - (a) complete a test, approved by the Secretary, that demonstrates the provider's, employee's or agent's knowledge of the information that is part of the training, and

- (b) register the provider's, employee's or agent's completion of the training and test on an online system approved by the Secretary.

No. 28 **GOVT No. 2 [c2020-213A]**

Page 33, Schedule 3.2[2], after line 25, entry for Section 114P(1). Omit "\$550". Insert instead "\$1,100".

No. 29 **GOVT No. 1 [c2020-202]**

Page 33, Schedule 3.2[2]. Insert after the entry for section 114P(1)—

Section 117(5B) \$1,100

No. 30 **GOVT No. 1 [c2020-199A]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 3—

**[1AA] Section 3 Objects of Act**

Insert ", and the operation of licensed premises," after "consumption of liquor" in section 3(2)(c).

**[1AB] Section 3(2)(c)**

Omit "life.". Insert instead—

life,

- (d) the need to support employment and other opportunities in the—

- (i) live music industry, and

- (ii) arts, tourism, community and cultural sectors.

No. 31 **OPP No. 5 [c2020-173L]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1[1]. Insert after line 5—

*dedicated live music and performance venue*—see section 3A.

No. 32 **OPP No. 6 [c2020-173L] [as amended by OPP No. 2 on c2020-214C]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 6—

**[1A] Section 3A**

Insert after section 3—

**3A Meaning of dedicated live music and performance venue**

For the purposes of this Act, a *dedicated live music and performance venue* means licensed premises that are on a list of live music and performance venues—

- (a) kept by the Secretary for the purposes of this section in accordance with the regulations, and

- (b) published on an appropriate government website.

No. 33 **OPP No. 1 [c2020-178E]**

Page 34. Insert after line 10—

**[3A] Section 12A**

Insert after section 12—

**12A Extended hours for dedicated live music and performance venues**

- (1) This section applies to dedicated live music and performance venues located in—
  - (a) the area for which the City of Sydney is constituted, or
  - (b) a special entertainment precinct.
- (2) The trading period for licensed premises to which this section applies is extended by 30 minutes after the time that would otherwise apply to the premises under—
  - (a) section 12, or
  - (b) an extended trading authorisation that applies to the premises.
- (3) The extension under subsection (2) is subject to the condition that, on any night of the week on which the licensed premises trade for the additional 30 minutes, a live music performance or other arts and cultural event of at least 45 minutes duration must be held or provided after 8 pm on the premises.
- (4) To avoid any doubt, to the extent of any inconsistency between this section and a relevant condition that applies to the licensed premises, this section prevails.
- (5) In this section—

*dedicated live music and performance venue* has the meaning prescribed by the regulations.

*relevant condition* means a condition of a type referred to in section 116I(2)(c) and (2)(d).

*special entertainment precinct* has the same meaning as in the Local Government Act 1993, section 202.

No. 34 **GOVT No. 1 [c2020-227A]**

Page 34. Insert after line 10—

**12B Records to be kept about extended hours for dedicated live music and performance venues**

- (1) If the trading period for licensed premises is extended under section 12A, it is a condition of the licence that the licensee keep a record of each live music performance or other arts and cultural event held or provided on the licensed premises.
- (2) A record under subsection (1) is to be kept in the form and way approved by the Secretary.
- (3) The licensee of licensed premises must, if asked by a police officer or inspector—
  - (a) make a record kept under subsection (1) available for inspection by a police officer or inspector, and
  - (b) allow a police officer or inspector to take copies of the record.

No. 35 **GRNS No. 1 [c2020-229A]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 16—

**[4A] Section 17 Hotel licence—miscellaneous conditions**

Insert after section 17(2)—

- (2A) To avoid doubt, subsection (2)—
  - (a) does not prevent a hotel being closed to the general public because it has been booked for a private function including, for example, a wedding or party, but
  - (b) does not allow it to be closed to the general public for use as a members-only premises or club, or for other exclusive use on a recurrent basis.

No. 36 **GRNS No. 1 [c2020-159E]**

Page 34. Insert after line 22—

**[5A] Section 20A Authorisation conferred by small bar licence**

Omit "retail on the licensed premises for consumption on the licensed premises only."

Insert instead—

- retail on the licensed premises—
  - (a) for consumption on the premises, or
  - (b) as house-made cocktails in sealed containers for consumption away from the premises.
- (2) In this section—
 

*house-make cocktails*, in relation to licensed premises—

  - (a) means alcoholic beverages that are mixed on the licensed premises, but
  - (b) does not include cocktails that are pre-mixed away from the licensed premises for the licensee to sell by retail.

No. 37 **GRNS No. 1 [c2020-161]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 29—

**[7A] Section 20B(3) and (4)**

Omit the subsections. Insert instead—

- (3) Despite subsection (1), the times when liquor may be sold for consumption on the licensed premises for a small bar on a restricted trading day are—
  - (a) between midnight and 5 am, if authorised by an extended trading authorisation, and
  - (b) between noon and 10 pm.

No. 38 **GRNS No. 2 [c2020-159E]**

Page 34. Insert after line 29—

**[7B] Section 20C Small bar licence—miscellaneous conditions**



Insert after section 20C(2)—

(2A) To avoid doubt, subsection (2)—

- (a) does not prevent a small bar being closed to the general public because it has been booked for a private function including, for example, a wedding or party, but
- (b) does not allow it to be closed to the general public for use as a members-only premises or club, or for other exclusive use on a recurrent basis.

**No. 39 GOVT No. 1 [c2020-190E]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert before line 30—

**[7A] Section 22 Primary purpose test**

Insert after section 22(2)—

(2A) To remove any doubt, subsection (2) applies in relation to—

- (a) an on-premises licence that specifies the kind of business or activity carried out on the licensed premises, and
- (b) an on-premises licence that specifies the kind of licensed premises to which the licence relates.

**No. 40 GOVT No. 2 [c2020-190E]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert before line 30—

**[7B] Section 23 On-premises licence must specify business/activity or kind of licensed premises**

Insert after section 23(6)—

- (7) The regulations may provide for requirements in relation to the business or activity carried out on licensed premises that are a licensed restaurant.

**No. 41 GRNS No. 2 [c2020-229A]**

Page 34, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 36—

**[8A] Section 28 Certain licensed premises must be open to general public**

Insert after section 28(2)—

(2A) To avoid doubt, subsection (2)—

- (a) does not prevent a restaurant or public entertainment venue to which an on-premises licence applies being closed to the general public because it has been booked for a private function including, for example, a wedding or party, but
- (b) does not allow it to be closed to the general public for use as a members-only premises or club, or for other exclusive use on a recurrent basis.

**No. 42 OPP No. 7 [c2020-173L]**

Page 35, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 6—

**[10A] Section 45 Decision of Authority in relation to licence applications**

Insert after section 45(6)—

- (7) In deciding whether or not to grant a licence, the Authority must consider whether, if the licence were granted, it would provide employment in, or other opportunities for, any of the following—
  - (a) the live music industry,
  - (b) the arts sector,
  - (c) the tourism sector,
  - (d) the community or cultural sector.

**[10B] Section 48 Community impact**

Omit "application." from section 48(1)(b). Insert instead—

application, and

- (c) whether the granting of the application would provide employment in, or other opportunities for, any of the following—
  - (i) the live music industry,
  - (ii) the arts sector,
  - (iii) the tourism sector,

- (iv) community or cultural sector.

No. 43 **GOVT No. 3 [c2020-213A]**

Page 35, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 16—

**[12A] Section 48(3B)(d)**

Insert ", other than if the variation would result in trading on a regular basis at any time between 2 am and 5 am" after "small bar".

No. 44 **OPP No. 8 [c2020-173L]**

Page 36, Schedule 4.1[7], lines 22 and 23. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

- (6) This section does not apply to a complaint if—
- (a) it is a complaint of a type prescribed by the regulations, and
  - (b) the local consent authority for the licensed premises has—
    - (i) a local plan to deal with complaints of that type, and
    - (ii) has, by written notice given to the Secretary, notified the Secretary that it will be dealing with complaints of that type.

No. 45 **OPP No. 8 [c2020-197]**

Page 36, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 23—

**[17A] Section 117 Offences relating to sale or supply of liquor to minors**

Insert after section 117(5A)—

- (5B) Despite subsection (4), a licensee or another person who is delivering packaged liquor on behalf of a licensee or other person that has sold the liquor by retail, irrespective of the State or Territory in which the sale is made, must not supply the packaged liquor to a minor.
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or 12 months imprisonment or both.
- (5C) It is a defence to a prosecution under subsection (5B) if it is proved that—
- (a) the person to whom the liquor was sold or supplied was of or above the age of 14 years, and
  - (b) before the liquor was sold or supplied to the person the defendant was provided with an evidence of age document
    - (i) that may reasonably be accepted as applying to the person, and
    - (ii) proving that the person was of or above the age of 18 years.
- (5D) It is also a defence to a prosecution under subsection (5B) for the person who delivered the liquor if it is proved that at the time of the alleged offence the person did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the person was delivering liquor.
- Example.** A courier delivers a package on behalf of an interstate retailer and is unaware the delivery includes liquor.

No. 46 **OPP No. 9 [c2020-173L]**

Page 36, Schedule 4.1. Insert before line 24—

**[17A] Section 116B Interpretation**

Insert after section 116B(4)—

- (4A) However, the Secretary, when designating premises as a high risk venue, must not take into account the presence of a dance floor or area ordinarily used by patrons for dancing.

No. 47 **OPP No. 11 [c2020-173L]**

Page 39, Schedule 4.1. Insert after line 13—

**[26A] Section 163**

Insert after section 162—

**163 Reporting on licensing and planning alignment**

- (1) The Parliament considers it a priority to—
- (a) streamline the process for obtaining development consents under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and licences under this Act for proposed licensed premises, including providing a single, integrated

- application process under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and this Act for licensed premises, and
- (b) develop further licensing incentives to encourage licensed premises to program live entertainment including—
    - (i) events at which one or more persons are engaged to play or perform live or pre-recorded music, and
    - (ii) performances at which the performers, or some of the performers, are present in person.
  - (2) The Minister must, jointly with the Minister responsible for administering the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, establish a process to address Parliament's priority as set out in subsection (1)(a).
  - (3) The Minister must also develop incentives, to address Parliament's priority as set out in subsection (1)(b), including, for example, additional extended trading hours or reduced fees.
  - (4) The Minister must, within 6 months after the commencement of this section, give a report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament about the Minister's progress in addressing each of the priorities set out in subsection (1).
  - (5) A copy of a report given to the Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament under subsection (4) must be laid before the House within 5 sitting days of the House after it is received by the Presiding Officer.

No. 48 **OPP No. 12 [c2020-173L] [as amended by OPP No. 3 on c2020-214C]**

Page 39, Schedule 4.1. Insert before line 14—

**[26B] Part 12**

Insert after Part 11—

**Part 12 Special provisions relating to COVID-19 pandemic**

**163 Purpose**

- (1) The purpose of this Part is to introduce temporary measures during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow local councils to encourage the use of outdoor space for outdoor dining and performance to assist with social distancing measures.
- (2) It is intended that this Part operate in addition to the *Roads Act 1993*, Part 9, Division 1, which also provides for the use of roads for food or drink premises.
- (3) However, to the extent of any inconsistency between this Part and the *Roads Act 1993*, Part 9, Division 1, this Part prevails during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**164 Definitions**

In this Part—

**area**, for a local council, means the area for which the local council is constituted.

**classified road** has the same meaning as in the *Roads Act 1993*.

**footway** has the same meaning as in the *Roads Act 1993*.

**local council** means a council under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**prescribed period** means the period—

- (a) starting on the commencement of this section, and
- (b) ending on the day that is 12 months after the commencement. **public open space** has the same meaning as in the *Roads Act 1993*. **roads authority** has the same meaning as in the *Roads Act 1993*.

**165 Local councils to have temporary powers to encourage use of outdoor space**

- (1) During the prescribed period—
  - (a) a local council may decide, by notice published on its website—
    - (i) to temporarily allow the use of a footway or public open space associated with any of the following to be used as an outdoor dining area, extension of foyer space or a performance space—
      - (A) licensed premises or other lawful food and drink premises,
      - (B) entertainment, arts or cultural venue, or

- (ii) to temporarily allow parking spaces within the local council's area to be used as an outdoor dining area, extension of foyer space or performance space, or
  - (iii) to temporarily close a road, for which it is the roads authority, for use as an outdoor dining area, extension of foyer space or performance space, or
  - (iv) to temporarily close a classified road, with the concurrence of Transport for NSW, for use as an outdoor dining area, extension of foyer space or performance space, or
  - (v) to temporarily vary a development consent or a development consent condition to allow outdoor performance, and
- (b) if the council allows use of pathways, public open space, roads or other premises for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (a), the use is taken to be exempt development specified for the purposes of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*.
- (2) A local council may make a decision referred to in subsection (1) only if the council has—
  - (a) given the Minister at least 7 days' notice that the council wants to trial outdoor dining and performance to assist with social distancing measures and invited the Minister to respond to the proposal, and
  - (b) given 7 days' notice of its intention to make the decision—
    - (i) by publishing a notice about the proposed decision on the council's website, and
    - (ii) to the following persons—
      - (A) if the proposed decision relates to licensed premises—the Authority and the Commissioner of Police,
      - (B) if the proposed decision relates to a road for which the council is the roads authority—the Commissioner of Police and Transport for NSW,
      - (C) if the proposed decision relates to a classified road—the Commissioner of Police and Transport for NSW, and Transport for NSW has agreed to the road closure.
- (3) A decision referred to in subsection (1)—
  - (a) has effect subject to a provision of an Act, regulation or other instrument that provides for noise attenuation for licensed premises or other premises, and
  - (b) has effect for the purposes of sections 126 and 127 of the *Roads Act 1993* as if it were an approval granted under section 125 of that Act, and
  - (c) has effect despite any provision of the *Roads Act 1993*, the Transport Administration Act 1988 or another Act, or a regulation or instrument made under an Act, that requires local councils to submit traffic management plans or consult with local traffic committees.

#### 166 Repeal of Part

This Part is repealed at the beginning of the day that is 12 months after the day it commences.

#### No. 49 OPP No. 1 [c2020-196C]

Page 40, Schedule 4.1[27], proposed clause 70, line 26. Omit all words on that line. Insert instead—

licensed premises,

- (d) a condition that restricts the performance of original music,
- (e) a condition that restricts a stage for live performers from facing a particular direction,
- (f) a condition that restricts decorations, including, for example, mirror balls, or lighting used by musicians,
- (g) a condition that prohibits live music, live entertainment or the amplification of a musical instrument at all times or across the entire licensed premises,
- (h) a condition that prohibits or restricts the presence or use of a dance floor or another area ordinarily used for dancing.

#### No. 50 GOVT No. 3 [c2020-190E]

Page 40, Schedule 4.1[27], proposed clause 70. Insert after line 28—

(2A) However, despite subclause (2), the Secretary may impose a condition relating to noise abatement on a licence if—

- (a) the Secretary receives a written complaint from—
  - (i) an occupier of neighbouring premises of the licensed premises, or
  - (ii) the local consent authority for the licensed premises, or
  - (iii) the Commissioner of Police, and
- (b) the Secretary is satisfied the quiet and good order of the neighbourhood of the licensed premises are being unduly disturbed as a result of the conditions mentioned in subclause (1) ceasing to have effect.

(2B) Section 80 does not apply to a complaint referred to in subclause (2A)(a).

No. 51 **GOVT No. 4 [c2020-190E]**

Page 40, Schedule 4.1[27], proposed clause 70. Insert after line 32—

- (4) In this clause—  
*neighbouring premises* has the meaning given by the regulations.

No. 52 **OPP No. 2 [c2020-196C]**

Page 40, Schedule 4.1[27], proposed clause 71. Insert after line 40—

- (2A) From the commencement of this clause, a live entertainment condition may not be imposed on a licence.
- (2B) However, subclause (2A) does not apply to a live entertainment condition relating to adult entertainment of a sexual nature.

No. 53 **OPP No. 3 [c2020-196C]**

Page 41, Schedule 4.1[27], proposed clause 71. Insert after line 4—

*live entertainment condition* means a condition referred to in clause 70(1).

No. 54 **OPP No. 13 [c2020-173L]**

Page 41, Schedule 4.2. Insert before line 6—

[1A] **Clause 3 Definitions**

Insert after clause 3(1)—

- (1A) For the purposes of this Regulation, references to *sound* and *noise* are taken to have the same meaning.

No. 55 **GOVT No. 4 [c2020-213A]**

Page 41, Schedule 4.2[3], lines 24 and 25. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 56 **GOVT No. 5 [c2020-190E]**

Page 43, Schedule 4.2. Insert after line 32—

[5A] **Clause 44A**

Insert after clause 44—

**44A Neighbouring premises for live entertainment—Schedule 1 to the Act**

For the purposes of the definition of *neighbouring premises* in clause 70(4) of Schedule 1 to the Act, neighbouring premises has the same meaning as in clause 20(1) of this Regulation.

No. 57 **OPP No. 4 [c2020-214C]**

Page 46, Schedule 4.2. Insert after line 39—

[19A] **Clause 130AA**

Insert before clause 130—

**130AA Dedicated live music and performance venues**

- (1) For the purposes of section 3A of the Act, the Secretary may include licensed premises on the list of live music and performance venues if the licensed premises—
  - (a) are a music hall, concert hall, dance hall or other space used primarily for the purpose of live music, live performances or creative or other cultural uses and are licensed under an on-premises licence for a public entertainment venue, or
  - (b) were used to host live music as part of the Great Southern Nights music event.

- (2) The Secretary may decide not to include licensed premises mentioned in subclause (1) on the list of live music and performance venues if the premises—
- (a) are premises for which the licensee —
    - (i) has been liable for compliance history risk loading under clause 11 within the last 2 assessment years, or
    - (ii) will be liable to pay compliance history risk loading in the next assessment year, or
  - (b) comprise a karaoke bar, or
  - (c) are premises that are used primarily to provide adult entertainment of a sexual nature.
- (3) The Secretary may, at any time, remove licensed premises from the list of live music and performance venues if the Secretary is satisfied—
- (a) the premises are, or have become, premises mentioned in subclause (2)(a)—(c), or
  - (b) the premises do not, or no longer, have a market orientation towards live music, live performances or other creative or cultural uses.
- (4) Before publishing a list of live music and performance venues that omits licensed premises that were previously included in the list, the Secretary must give the licensee or manager of the premises written notice that the licensed premises are to be removed from the list.
- (5) In this clause—

*assessment year* has the meaning given by clause 8.

*Great Southern Nights music event* means the NSW Government initiative, delivered by Destination NSW in partnership with the Australian Recording Industry Association, to stimulate the revival of the live music and entertainment sectors in the recovery phase of COVID-19.

**Note.** Information about the Great Southern Nights music event is available at [www.greatsouthernights.com.au](http://www.greatsouthernights.com.au).

*list of live music and performance venues* means the list published by the Secretary under section 3A(b) of the Act.

No. 58 **OPP No. 14 [c2020-173L]**

Page 47, Schedule 4.2[20] (proposed section 130A), lines 1 and 3. Omit "noise" wherever occurring. Insert instead "sound".

No. 59 **OPP No. 15 [c2020-173L]**

Page 47, Schedule 4. Insert after line 9—

#### **4.2D Local Government Act 1993 No 30**

#### **[1] Chapter 8, Part 3**

Insert after section 201—

#### **Part 3 Special entertainment precincts**

#### **202 Special entertainment precinct**

- (1) This section is about establishing a special entertainment precinct.
- (2) A *special entertainment precinct* is an area in which—
  - (a) amplified music that is played in the area is regulated by or under a law other than the *Liquor Act 2007*, and
  - (b) requirements about noise attenuation apply to certain types of development in the area, and
  - (c) dedicated live music and performance venues are authorised to trade for an additional 30 minutes under the *Liquor Act 2007*, section 12A.
- (3) A council may establish a special entertainment precinct in its area by amending its local environmental plan to identify the special entertainment precinct.
- (4) A special entertainment precinct may consist of—
  - (a) a single premises, or
  - (b) a precinct, streetscape or otherwise defined locality in the council's area.
- (5) If a council establishes a special entertainment precinct, the council must—
  - (a) prepare a plan for regulating noise from amplified music from premises in the special entertainment precinct and publish it on the council's website, and

- (b) notify the following persons about the special entertainment precinct including, for example, by notice published on its website or a notation on planning certificates for land in the precinct—
  - (i) residents living in the area,
  - (ii) persons moving into the area.

(6) In this section—

*dedicated live music and performances venue* has the same meaning as in the *Liquor Act 2007*.

*planning certificate* means a certificate under section 10.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

## 203 Minister's guidelines

- (1) The Minister may, by notice published on the Department's website, issue, adopt or vary guidelines about—
  - (a) the establishment of special entertainment precincts, and
  - (b) the operation, revocation or suspension of special entertainment precincts.
- (2) A council must act in accordance with a guideline under subsection (1) in exercising its functions under this Part.

No. 60 **OPP No. 1 [c2020-198]**

Page 47, Schedule 4. Insert after line 9—

## 4.2A Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203

### Section 1.4 Definitions

Omit from "(a) such" to "regulations" from the definition of *Building Code of Australia*. Insert instead—

- (a) the amendments made by the Board and prescribed by the regulations, and
- (b) the variations approved by the Board in relation to New South Wales and prescribed by the regulations, and
- (c) the variations prescribed by the regulations.

## 4.2B Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000

### Clause 7 Building Code of Australia

Insert after clause 7(2)—

- (3) Also, the Code mentioned in subclause (1) is varied in relation to small live music or arts venues as follows—
  - (a) Volume One of the Code applies as if, in Schedule 3, paragraph (c)(iii) of the definition of Assembly building were omitted and replaced with—
    - (iii) a sports stadium, sporting or other club—but not including a small live music or arts venue; or
  - (b) Volume One of the Code applies as if, in Schedule 3, after the definition of Sitework, the following definition were inserted—
 

small live music or arts venue means the whole or part of a Class 6 building that has a rise in storeys of no more than 2—

    - (a) in which live music or arts are provided to the public, and
    - (b) that has a floor area of not more than 300 square metres.
  - (c) Volume One of the Code applies as if, at the end of the definition of Class 6 in clause A6.6 the following were inserted—
 

A Class 6 building or part of a Class 6 building in which people assemble for entertainment remains a Class 6 building or part of a Class 6 building if it is a small live music or arts venue—see the definition of Assembly building in Volume One of the Code.

## 4.2C State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008

### Part 2, Division 1 General Exempt Development Code

Insert after Subdivision 15AA—

### Subdivision 15AB Entertainment associated with food and drink premises

### 2.30AC Specified development

Low impact performance of live music or arts is development specified for this code if it is not carried out in a residential zone.

### **2.30AD Specified development**

- (1) The standards specified for this development are that the development—
  - (a) must be carried on inside a building, and
  - (b) must not contravene an existing relevant condition of the most recent development consent, other than a complying development certificate, that applies to the premises,
  - (c) must not contravene the Protection of the *Environment Operations Act 1997*, and
  - (d) must not be primarily used for adult entertainment, including, for example, a strip club, and
  - (e) must not be carried on in connection with a proposed change of use of premises.
- (2) In this clause—
 

**existing relevant condition** means a condition relating to any of the following—

  - (a) the number of persons permitted in the building,
  - (b) hours of operation,
  - (c) noise, other than a condition mentioned in the *Liquor Act 2017*, Schedule 1, clause 70(1),
  - (d) car parking, vehicular movement and traffic generation,
  - (e) loading management of waste,
  - (f) landscaping.

### **4.2D Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006**

#### **Standard instrument, clause 1.2**

Insert before clause 1.2(2)(a)—

- (aa) to protect and promote the use and development of land for arts and cultural activity, including music and other performance arts,

No. 61 GRNS No. 1 [c2020-243G]

Page 48. Insert after line 33—

### **Schedule 5A Amendment of Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203**

#### **Schedule 8 Special provisions**

Insert before Part 4—

#### **Part 1 Playing and performing music**

##### **1 Modifications involving playing and performing music**

- (1) A council for a local government area may, by notice published on the council's website, modify development consents for licensed premises by declaring that all conditions of the development consents that are live entertainment conditions do not apply—
  - (a) in the local government area, or
  - (b) in a suburb in the local government area, or
  - (c) to a specified use of land in the local government area or a suburb.
- (2) Before publishing a notice under subclause (1), the council must—
  - (a) publish on the council's website, and in other ways the council considers appropriate, a notice that—
    - (i) states the council proposes to modify the development consent, and
    - (ii) gives details of the conditions that will be affected by the modification, and
    - (iii) invites submissions from the community about the proposed modification within the period, not less than 14 days after the day the notice is published, stated in the notice, and
  - (b) consider any submissions received in accordance with the notice and the impact of the proposed modification on the community.



- (3) The notice is taken to have effect on the day the notice is published, or a later date specified by the notice.
- (4) A condition to which the notice relates ceases to have effect from the time the notice takes effect.
- (5) Section 4.55 does not apply to a modification under this clause.
- (6) In this clause—
  - live entertainment condition***—
  - (a) means a condition mentioned in the *Liquor Act 2007*, Schedule 1, clause 70(1)(a)–(h), but
  - (b) does not include a condition relating to noise.

**Schedule 5B Amendment of Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006**

**Standard instrument**

Insert after clause 5.19—

**5.20 Standards that cannot be used to refuse consent—playing and performing music [compulsory]**

- (1) The consent authority must not refuse consent to development in relation to licensed premises on the following grounds—
  - (a) the playing or performance of music, including the following—
    - (i) the genre of music played or performed, or
    - (ii) whether the music played or performed is live or amplified, or
    - (iii) whether the music played or performed is original music, or
    - (iv) the number of musicians or live entertainment acts playing or performing, or
    - (v) the type of instruments played,
  - (b) whether dancing occurs,
  - (c) The presence or use of a dance floor or another area ordinarily used for dancing,
  - (d) the direction in which a stage for players or performers faces,
  - (e) the decorations to be used, including, for example, mirror balls, or lighting used by players or performers.
- (2) The consent authority must not refuse consent to development in relation to licensed premises on the grounds of noise caused by the playing or performance of music, if the consent authority is satisfied the noise may be managed and minimised to an acceptable level.
- (3) In this clause—
 

***licensed premises*** has the same meaning as in the *Liquor Act 2007*.

No. 62 GOVT No. 1 [c2020-174E]

Page 48. Insert after line 33—

**Schedule 6 Amendment of Roads Act 1993 No 33**

**[1] Part 9, Division 1**

Omit the heading. Insert instead—

**Division 1 Use of roads for food or drink premises**

**[2] Section 125**

Omit the section. Insert instead—

**125 Approval to use road for food or drink premises**

- (1) A roads authority may grant an approval that allows a person who operates food or drink premises adjacent to a public road to use part of the public road for the purposes of the food or drink premises.
- (2) However, a roads authority may not grant an approval in relation to the use of a classified road without the agreement of Transport for NSW.
- (3) A roads authority may grant an approval on the conditions, including conditions about payments in the nature of rent, decided by the roads authority.

- (4) A roads authority may grant an approval for the term decided by the roads authority, but not more than—
  - (a) for an approval for the use of a footway of a public road—7 years, or
  - (b) for an approval for the use of any other part of a public road—12 months.
- (5) A roads authority may terminate, or temporarily suspend, an approval granted by the roads authority under this section—
  - (a) immediately, if in the roads authority's opinion, it is necessary for safety reasons, or
  - (b) otherwise—if the roads authority has given the holder of the approval at least 7 days written notice.
- (6) Unless sooner terminated, an approval lapses on the earlier of the following—
  - (a) the end of its term,
  - (b) if the part of the public road the subject of the approval ceases to be used for the purposes of food or drink premises, when the use for that purpose ceases.

**[3] Section 126 Authority to erect structures**

Omit section 126(1). Insert instead—

- (1) A roads authority that grants an approval under section 125 may—
  - (a) authorise the holder of the approval to erect, place or maintain structures, furniture or other things in, on or over any part of the road the subject of the approval, or
  - (b) at the request and cost of the holder of the approval, erect, place or maintain structures, furniture or other things in, on or over any part of the road the subject of the approval.

**[4] Section 126(2)**

Omit "council". Insert instead "roads authority".

**[5] Section 126(2)**

Omit "footway". Insert instead "public road".

**[6] Section 127 Effect of approval**

Omit "footway for the purposes of a restaurant" from section 127(a).

Insert instead "public road for the purposes of food or drink premises".

**[7] Section 127(b)**

Omit the paragraph. Insert instead—

- (b) the erection, placement or maintenance of structures, furniture or other things on the public road authorised by the roads authority under section 126(1),

**[8] Section 248 Evidentiary certificates**

Omit "of a footway" from section 248(1)(e). Insert instead "of a public road".

**[9] Section 248(1)(e)**

Omit "for a footway restaurant".

Insert instead "for food or drink premises under section 125".

**[10] Schedule 2 Savings, transitional and other provisions**

Insert after clause 80—

**Part 8 Provision consequent on enactment of Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Act 2020**

**81 Approvals under section 125**

- (1) An approval under section 125 that was in force immediately before the commencement continues in force after the commencement, on the same conditions and for the same term, as if it had been granted after the commencement.
- (2) An application for an approval under section 125 made, but not decided, before the commencement is to be decided under section 125 as if the amendment Act had not commenced.
- (3) In this clause—

*amendment Act* means the *Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Act 2020*.

*commencement* means the commencement of this clause.

**[11] Dictionary**

Omit the definitions of footway restaurant and restaurant.

Insert instead in alphabetical order—

*food or drink premises* has the same meaning as it has in the *Standard Instrument* set out in the *Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006*.

**Note.** Under the *Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006* *food and drink premises* means premises that are used for the preparation and retail sale of food or drink (or both) for immediate consumption on or off the premises, and includes any of the following—

- (a) a restaurant or cafe,
- (b) take away food and drink premises,
- (c) a pub,
- (d) a small bar.

No. 63 **OPP No. 16 [c2020-173L]**

**Long title**

Omit "and to make miscellaneous amendments to the Act and regulation".

Insert "to make miscellaneous amendments to that Act and regulation; and for other purposes".

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:47:38):** I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

The Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020 has been returned to the Chamber, having been passed with some amendments in the other place. One of the amendments includes a name change from the 24-hour economy bill. I present the bill with the amended title to the House for agreement. The Government supports the amended bill. Overall, I believe that the amendments enhance the bill. The comprehensive measures before us will help to implement the Government's vision for a vibrant, inclusive and strong 24-hour economy. There are a range of customer-centred, risk-based reforms that will support businesses to grow and prosper as they emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that risks of alcohol-related harm continue to be managed.

The bill follows on from key reforms earlier this year that removed lockdown and drink restrictions in the Sydney CBD and implements the next stage of our response to the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy. It also provides foundations for the comprehensive initiatives to be delivered as part of our recently released 24-hour Economy Strategy. I thank the members who have contributed to the debate on the bill. In the same spirit as the parliamentary committee on the night-time economy went about its work in a collaborative and bipartisan way, I am pleased to report that the Government, the Opposition, The Greens and other parties have worked in a similar fashion throughout negotiations on a series of amendments in the other place. I very much appreciate the cooperative work done across parties to progress the bill. It is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together to deliver a good result for the people of our great State.

Various amendments have been made in the other place to further strengthen the support in the bill for live music and entertainment in New South Wales. I particularly thank industry stakeholders including the Live Music Office, the Australian Performing Right Association and the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society for their contributions. This Government wants to see a balanced legislative approach that supports venues to put on more live music and entertainment. The amendments help to achieve this in a sustainable manner while responding to the immediate challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. With these amendments the Government has also ensured that the Liquor Act will continue to give appropriate weight to a range of interests, including community views and concerns. The amended bill automatically removes a broader range of live entertainment conditions from licences—for example, blanket bans on live music and entertainment, amplified music, dance floors and disco lighting will all be removed. As I indicated during the earlier debate on the bill, it is important that the desire to promote live music does not ride roughshod over genuine community concerns about noise. That is why we opposed earlier iterations of the amendments that would have wiped away certain live entertainment conditions with no avenue for community input. I am pleased that this is no longer the case.

The bill now provides an avenue to remove unnecessary bans on live entertainment, while also ensuring that there is opportunity for nearby residents and businesses to have a say if there are undue amenity impacts. For example, new powers for the secretary will allow alternative, more contemporary conditions to manage noise levels to be readily imposed, if needed, to address valid community concerns. I have emphasised that conditions like no dance floor or no disco lighting were never intended to stifle the establishment or expansion of legitimate live music in entertainment venues. Rather, such conditions have been used to prevent a venue operating contrary to its licence. If a person has been given a licence on the basis that they would operate a restaurant, which is a low-risk activity with limited scrutiny, then they should not operate as a nightclub. To ensure this is still the case,

the amended bill strengthens measures to prevent venues from morphing into higher risk business models once these no disco conditions are removed.

Amendments to the bill also impact on the way noise is managed as well as the prospective role of councils in managing entertainment impacts. The bill as considered in this place envisaged Liquor & Gaming NSW withdrawing from the role of responding to complaints about entertainment noise. However, the amendments mean that councils will be able to opt in to become the main channel for managing complaints about noise emanating from within licensed premises. Where a council does this, residents will no longer be able to also address their complaints to Liquor & Gaming NSW. The Government sees this as an opportunity for councils to develop effective local plans to manage noise issues and to proactively reduce the number of regulators and overlapping responsibilities in this space. Councils will also be given the power to establish special entertainment precincts where they determine the requirements for amplified music and can adopt their own plans to encourage more live music and performance.

These changes will be complemented by a range of related measures in the Government's 24-hour Economy Strategy—for example, councils will be provided with live music and entertainment policy support and toolkits to assist them. Amendments put forward in the other place also create additional incentives for licensed venues that support the live music and performance sector over the coming years. This includes an 80 per cent discount on annual liquor licence fees. As an interim measure this discount will be made available for eligible on-premises public entertainment venues and venues taking part in this month's Great Southern Nights live music event. These venues will also be able to access 30-minute trading extensions on nights they put on live music or performance or an arts and cultural event after 8.00 p.m. if located in the City of Sydney local government area or a special entertainment precinct set up by council.

I take this opportunity to applaud the Great Southern Nights event and the venues involved. Great Southern Nights includes a series of 1,000 individual gigs taking place at venues across New South Wales and is a fine initiative delivered by Destination NSW in partnership with the Australian Recording Industry Association. It is another example of this Government helping to stimulate the revival of the live music, entertainment, hospitality and tourism sectors in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has already waived liquor licence fees for most venues in the 2020-21 fee periods to support them during the pandemic. These new incentives build on our broad support for a strong and vibrant live music and arts scene.

Whilst we support these amendments, we also recognise that there is more work to do in the future to clarify where discounts and trading exemptions will be applied over the long term to bring the best benefits to New South Wales. We want to ensure that incentives apply to venues that continue to make the most significant contributions to the sector and provide ongoing employment for musicians, artists and other performers. The Government will work further, in consultation with the live music industry, to refine the approach at the time. The bill allows for careful review by March 2025 of the effectiveness of the incentives and any revised approaches. These are all steps in the right direction.

The amendments to this bill in the other place also refine liquor licensing processes and the proposed cumulative impact assessment framework for managing the density of licensed premises. As a result, if there is any designated cumulative impact area, additional considerations will be given to venues with a market orientation towards live music, live performances or creative or cultural uses. For example, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority will need to give specific consideration to how applications in these cumulative impact areas support employment and opportunities for the live music, arts, tourism, community and culture sectors.

A number of amendments have been made to the bill in relation to planning; this includes the conditions relating to decorations and mirror balls, the genre of the music allowed to be played and the direction of a stage or the number of musicians, among others. Ms Cate Faehrmann, MLC, The Greens spokesperson for liquor and gaming, also put forward amendments to the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order to ensure that these same conditions cannot be imposed on future consents, creating consistency across New South Wales and providing future certainty for the live music industry. Importantly, the changes agreed to in the other place protect the community from unreasonable increases in noise. This includes ensuring that existing conditions that limit noise levels cannot be removed. Similarly, for future development actions, live music cannot be a reason for refusal, provided the council is satisfied that the noise level is managed and minimised to an acceptable level.

Other amendments make it easier for a change of use from retail or commercial premises to a small arts venue. The Government takes the opportunity to thank the Opposition, The Greens and other crossbench members for working with us on the details of this amendment. We have worked to ensure that the safety and amenity standards are appropriate by lowering the maximum floor area allowed from 500 to 300 square metres, limiting patron capacity and the potential fire safety upgrades needed for larger crowds. This is a great example of members of Parliament working together to deliver a good result for the people of our great State.

The Government is also agreeing, as part of the amendments, to report back to Parliament on priority work to streamline planning and liquor licence application processes into a single, integrated application process. A report will be due in six months. I have already flagged that streamlining of this nature is a priority for me personally. It stands to make it much easier to deal with government and fully aligns with this Government's desire to deliver a Service NSW approach to business regulation. I have spoken already about the bigger picture around eRegulation and how that will not just lead the country but also lead the world in relation to a one-stop shop for regulation through a portal for which we are in the design phase now.

Other amendments will further the Government's championing of al fresco dining as one of the ways to breathe life back into the businesses that have been struck by the COVID-19 pandemic. New measures in the bill, introduced through Government and Opposition amendments, are intended to support businesses in expanding their offerings to serve patrons in a COVID-safe way. This has included amendments to the Roads Act to encourage an ongoing al fresco dining culture across New South Wales. It will mean councils and other road authorities are more readily able to approve a diverse range of food and drink premises to expand outdoors.

We know that the pandemic has hit the hospitality industry hard, and small bars are no exception. They are a growing part of the 24-hour economy and we need to continue to build on existing measures to help them prosper. The bill introduces reforms to permit family-orientated functions and diverse services in small bars, and to streamline approval processes. There is even more support for small bars in the amendment bill. The amendments agreed to in the other place will allow small bars to trade on restricted trading days such as Christmas Day and Good Friday, and I thank Ms Cate Faehrmann for bringing that issue forward. The amendment will also allow small bars to trade on restricted trading days in similar parameters to hotels, restaurants and producers that sell liquor on the premises. This is a sensible change.

The bill has also been amended to allow small bars to sell house-made cocktails for takeaway consumption. This makes permanent a temporary measure introduced by the Government in the very first weeks of the COVID restrictions. We are proud of the positive impact this one change has had in helping small bars cope at a time of great uncertainty. The bill introduces a new framework for enhanced regulation of the same-day market to support the responsible operation of this emerging business model in New South Wales. The framework aims to address the heightened risk of minors or intoxicated people accessing alcohol and responds to the ongoing growth of online alcohol sales and same-day delivery options. Various amendments have been made in the other place to further strengthen the proposed framework. I thank both The Greens and the Opposition for working with us on this. Cut-off times for same-day deliveries have been amended: Same-day delivery may only commence from 9.00 a.m. onwards rather than 5.00 a.m. This responds to concerns raised by stakeholders and during the debate.

The amendment will minimise the risk of harm occurring from the earlier morning delivery of alcohol for persons who may have been drinking the night before and wish to continue a drinking session in the early hours of the morning. The Government does not want to see people using these services to continue drinking sessions at times well after they would otherwise have stopped. Another essential aspect of regulating the same-day delivery market is to introduce age verification requirements to minimise the risk of minors accessing alcohol. We explored this issue closely during public consultation on the draft exposure bill and had proposed an approach that focused on verifying age at the point of delivery. This approach recognised that this is where the greatest weakness exists in ensuring the responsible supply of alcohol.

A Greens amendment has introduced a requirement to verify the purchaser's age online at the initial point of sale, in addition to the checks at the point of delivery. The Government has not opposed this. I recognise strong industry concerns that have been raised about this change and we will work closely with the industry to help implement this useful harm-reduction measure. A key reason for not opposing this amendment was the willingness of our parliamentary colleagues to provide sufficient time for the new requirements to be implemented by not commencing this provision until June 2022. Industry has been afforded the necessary time to implement effective age-verification solutions.

The amendments also make it an offence for delivery providers, staff and agents to deliver liquor to minors or intoxicated people, whether or not the delivery occurs on the same day. Sensibly, appropriate defences have also been inserted alongside these new offence provisions. For example, there is a defence available if the delivery person can prove they did not know that the package they were delivering contained liquor. We do not want posties and couriers to be inadvertently committing offences. Other amendments further strengthen the responsible supply training requirements for people carrying out same-day deliveries. The amendments ensure that there is more detail in the Liquor Act to support the rollout of the training, conveying the Government's intention to roll out a compulsory knowledge test and registration process to underpin the training next year.

Amendments agreed in the other place also enable regulations to be made to require same-day delivery providers to record and report on data about their sales. We believe such data would be of assistance in understanding the impacts of additional online package liquor licences, such as correlations between home

delivery trends and domestic violence. Again, noting the need to provide time for industry to be consulted on such changes, specific requirements have not been determined at this time. The Government will consult with key stakeholders to support the development of reporting requirements for insertion into the regulations at a later stage. There has been considerable debate between the parties about whether the same-day delivery framework should be expanded to all liquor deliveries.

The bill the Government brought to the Parliament focused on same-day deliveries because this is where we see the greatest risk of harm exists. Slower delivery options such as wine-of-the month clubs or deliveries from interstate cellar doors have operated for many years with minimal complaints or compliance issues detected. However, we appreciate that further enhanced measures may be useful to minimise risk of harm from other types of deliveries, provided that this is informed by a review of the evidence and there is opportunity for consultation with industry and the community. In this regard, we have supported amendments that refine the bill's requirements for a review of the same-day delivery framework. A proposed two-year review of the framework will now be expanded to include other non-same-day liquor deliveries. In addition, a review of the requirements around providing evidence of age and identity for the same-day and other deliveries is to occur as soon as practical after one year of commencement. These reviews will be tabled in Parliament.

In conclusion, I again commend the constructive dialogue we have had with other members. We appreciate that dialogue and overall I believe this bill is better for it. I again thank the Opposition and The Greens. I especially acknowledge the work of my colleagues Rob Stokes, Stuart Ayres and David Elliott, as well as John Graham and Sophie Cotsis and their teams, along with Ms Cate Faehrmann and her team, for their detailed work and engagement on this amendment bill. Over the past month a lot of work has been done across the parties to develop sensible amendments and I am supportive of the final outcome. The reforms in this bill provide important foundations needed to support and reinvigorate the 24-hour economy, as well as further improve the regulation of the liquor industry. I commend the bill to the House.

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (18:05:40):** It is a fantastic opportunity to stand in this Chamber and lead for the Opposition on the Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020. The Minister spoke extensively about the many amendments made to this bill in the Legislative Council last week. I add my voice to and acknowledge all those who worked constructively in collaboration to ensure that in light of everything that is happening in the hospitality and entertainment sectors this legislation will breathe new life. For the very first time it means that new provisions will be in liquor and planning laws to make it clear that mirror balls, live music and dancing are legal in New South Wales.

**Mr Paul Scully:** Hear, hear!

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS:** Hear, hear! The Minister has addressed each of the amendments in detail. I will not do that but I acknowledge the hard work of my colleague the Hon. John Graham in his capacity as the shadow Minister for Music and the Night Time Economy. When this portfolio was established a number of years ago he was the first person in Australia to hold that portfolio. He brings a whole lot of dedication. He has also had an open door policy and worked with many stakeholders over many years. I was here in 2013-14 and I know the difficulties that we all faced at the time with the lockout laws. The industry suffered. Ever since then the Hon. John Graham has reached out to all those stakeholders with trust and consideration. It was very good that the Government, the Opposition and members of the crossbench established the 2018 inquiry into the night-time economy.

A lot of work went into that inquiry and its recommendations. All that work, all that collaboration, all of that body of work is now in this new bill. I again acknowledge the work of the Hon. John Graham and his staffer Lizzie Butterworth, who is present in the gallery. I also acknowledge Minister Dominello. It is not often that the Opposition, the Government and the crossbench work together. The Minister also had an open door policy. We spoke to him at length on a number of issues that were very important to the industry. This was about finding solutions, cutting red tape and providing certainty and confidence at this point in time. I thank the Minister's staff for their hard work. They are professionals and very good people.

I thank Liquor and Gaming officials, Minister Ayres, Minister Stokes, Ms Cate Faehrmann and her staff, and the Independents and The Greens who are present in this Chamber for their contributions. I acknowledge the wide array of stakeholders who have contacted the Opposition regarding the bill and the night-time economy generally. I acknowledge the time taken by all those groups. Right to the very end a number of businesses contacted us and I apologise if I leave anyone out. I thank the Committee for Sydney; the Night Time Industries Association; the Sydney Business Chamber; the Live Music Office, who I thank very much; APRA AMCOS; Live Performance Australia; Keep Sydney Open; MusicNSW; the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education; the Salvation Army; the Australian Hotels Association; ClubsNSW; the Cancer Council; the Independent Bars Association; the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association;

Retail Drinks Australia; the unions, including the United Workers Union and the Health Services Union, who have shared their views; and a number of others.

I put on record that I know that not all stakeholders will be satisfied with every aspect of this bill. I know that they will not be. I know there was a lot of toing and froing with a number of the amendments put forward by the Hon. John Graham. However, as I said from the outset, Labor has an open door policy. The Minister has indicated an 18-month lead-in period. There is also a period of review. I believe that over the next six months, 12 months, 18 months or two years there will continue to be a lot of discussion in relation to these issues. There may be some unintended consequences but fundamentally for Labor's side of politics—and I know the Government feels the same—this bill is about jobs in the hospitality sector. It is important that those thousands of people who have lost their jobs in this sector are able to regain some confidence.

It is also important that this bill provides hope and opportunities for our creative industries—artists, musicians, live performers and entertainers. I was present in the gallery to listen to the debate in the Legislative Council and I talked to a number of stakeholders. I felt a sense of pride that we are now regarded as best practice and I am very happy to hear that. These changes occurred because of the number of people involved and as a result of the 2018 inquiry. The 2018 parliamentary inquiry into the music and arts economy heard evidence about the economic contribution of the music industry in New South Wales.

The Live Music Office referenced the University of Tasmania research estimating that New South Wales is the largest contributor to the live music industry in Australia, generating \$3.6 billion and thousands of jobs. Live Performance Australia reported that New South Wales accounts for the largest share of Australia's contemporary music activity and revenue. In 2016 New South Wales generated the highest share of contemporary music revenue at \$157.6 million, 35.8 per cent of national market share, and attendance at 1.91 million. We know that expenditure on live music supports jobs in occupations beyond the artists and venues.

In *The Economic and Cultural Value of Live Music in Australia 2014* Dr David Carter from the University of Tasmania reports that for every dollar spent on live music, 19.2 per cent is spent on tickets, 29.3 per cent on food and drink, 17.6 per cent on travel, 12.4 per cent on accommodation, 7.6 per cent on merchandise, 7.6 per cent on communications, 4.6 per cent on clothes and 1.6 per cent on membership. A very important reference also comes from a 2019 Deloitte Australia report entitled *ImagineSydney: Play*, which is on the economic and social potential of a playful city. A media release in relation to the report states:

Night-time economies are increasingly recognised as driving growth in cities—Sydney's night-time economy is currently valued at more than \$27 billion and supports more than 230,000 jobs.

It further states:

The night-time economy currently makes up 3.8 per cent of Australia's economy, but this figure is 6 per cent in the UK, suggesting that there is a real upside potential for Sydney.

We know that. It goes on:

If we aimed for 6 per cent, and nurtured and supported the night-time infrastructure and activities more effectively, we estimate the annual value of Sydney's night-time economy could be more than \$43 billion across increased spending and more employment and tourism.

That is phenomenal, and I think we can achieve that. The other important changes in the amended bill have been those to the Local Government Act 1993, which will support the establishment of special entertainment precincts in New South Wales. This instrument is already in place in Queensland and effectively sets the ground rules to greatly reduce duplicating regulations, help reduce land use conflict and ensure the long-term future of the live music scene without exposing residents to unreasonable levels of amplified music sound. Research commissioned by Brisbane City Council in 2017 on the changes the city made to its night-time economy [NTE] found:

... Brisbane's core NTE is a significant proportion of Brisbane's total economy. Brisbane's core NTE contributes \$7.26 billion sales revenue, 66,000 jobs and 2,600 businesses. Of the NTE hotspots investigated, Fortitude Valley has experienced the greatest growth, with a 7 per cent increase in establishments, 5 per cent increase in employment and 9 per cent increase in sales revenue. This equates to \$254 million in annual sales revenue, 2,600 jobs and 286 businesses. Most of this is within the Valley Special Entertainment Area.

Those figures are phenomenal. Similar changes are in this bill. The amended bill also brings national best practice planning instruments to New South Wales. These will better support live music and performance in retail and non-liquor licensed premises under exempt development for low-impact entertainment. The bill will cut costs and red tape for small live music and arts venues with a new State building code variation by regulation. It is very exciting. The changes will overcome 650 historic conditions in the liquor licences of venues and similar provisions that exist in historic council development consents. As I said, this is very exciting, particularly where we are reshaping the planning and liquor laws to provide incentives for venues.

Many venues are looking at this legislation and looking at their future. The bill provides them with the confidence and certainty that they can opt to increase their music and entertainment rather than relying on alcohol

and gaming revenue. I am passionate about looking at innovative ways for venues to have another revenue stream. The live entertainment conditions that will cease to have effect include restrictions on decorations, such as mirror balls; restrictions on live music and music genres; the 80 per cent reduction of base fee and trading hours risk loading for music venues that took part in Great Southern Nights and have a good compliance record; and an extra half-hour of trade for music venues under their licence in the City of Sydney.

The changes also give greater freedom for dining and performance outdoors, including the closure of roads and the use of parking spaces. The Hon. John Graham and I have been pushing for this, as have the Minister, the Treasurer and Minister Stokes. We are all on a unity ticket. I think this is something that can occur over the summer but also on a permanent basis. In a contribution to another debate I spoke about Europe—last year was the first time in 25 years that I had been there—and the outdoor dining scene, which is amazing. You can dance and play music. In many parts of Europe people just go out and dance in spaces called plateas or plakas. This is what we want to see in New South Wales. We have a real opportunity here. New South Wales is open for night-time business. This bill provides us with a great opportunity.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (18:20:57):** I speak briefly to the Legislative Council amendments to the Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020. I echo the sentiments expressed by members in this Chamber and the other place that while there has been a very long series of amendments and detailed negotiations that have extended for many hours, we have ended up with a much better and stronger bill. As a result, I think the amended bill recognises and reflects the needs and realities of the night-time economy and culture in our communities.

In particular, I highlight the exciting news that will resonate across the electorate of Newtown around the amendments regarding small bars. I acknowledge my Greens colleague in the other place Ms Cate Faehrmann for moving some of the amendments. Recently in this Chamber I acknowledged the struggle of small bars under 200 square metres complying with all of the various restrictions—as they have had to do. They have adapted well to those restrictions and have shown their resilience as well as their creativity, commitment and the support they have in the community. I speak to a couple of those amendments, one being The Greens amendment, which was successfully moved, that will see permanent changes to liquor laws so that small bars are able to maintain the current arrangement where they are able to sell house-made cocktails for purchase away from the premises. This arrangement will provide additional revenue for small bars, especially at a time when we see that the new normal of these restrictions will continue.

The second amendment to the bill I highlight is an absolute game changer in that it will allow small bars to be able to close to the general public for the purpose of a private function, such as a wedding or other activities. The other amendment I note allows small bars to be able to open on restricted trading days. I think all members would agree, and it is important for us to recognise, that in the same way that others are operating under restricted hours, that small bars should have the flexibility to be able to open in that space—particularly where people are often living in very small homes or other environments where they cannot socialise with their friends or others in an easy way. Small bars provide the ability for people to make a social connection.

It was disappointing to see that these liquor amendments were not able to deliver the final wiping from the books of the Kings Cross and CBD lockdown laws. I note that The Greens tried to repeal the 2014 lockdown laws, which are still in place in Kings Cross. Sadly, the Government and New South Wales Labor Opposition were not supportive of that amendment. We wanted to see a final end to those dark days for Kings Cross and the city when it came to the loss of such significant parts of our nightlife. Sadly that was not the case, but that is not to say there were not other good amendments to the bill. In particular, I think we will see that it is crucial as we move forward to give local governments the power to shift with some of the regulations and to recognise that we want vibrant night-time activities happening in our communities, whilst making sure that the community is consulted.

The small bar changes are very significant. The Greens have been contacted by many small bar owners. I will not name them to avoid claims of calling favourites among the many small bar owners who have been in touch with my electorate office. However, many of the small bars in Surry Hills, Redfern, Erskineville, Newtown and Enmore have been doing it really tough. I hope that the changes in this legislation will provide them with additional support and assurance that there are members of this House who are paying attention to them and not just to the big end of town with the big booze bars and their owners who make massive amounts of money out of the liquor industry and hotel association. This time the legislation is designed to support the small bars and people connected with our local communities who are doing whatever they can do to support live music, creativity and creative ways of entertaining while they comply with restrictive conditions and Health advice.

In conclusion I must say how sad it is that we are not able to welcome people into the public gallery at this stage. However, I pay credit and acknowledge the tens of thousands of people who came out in support of live music and keeping Sydney open. I remember being in this Chamber and having the privilege and honour of tabling a petition with 10,000 signatures calling for Sydney to be kept open and safe. I pay massive credit to all those



people and the movement they created that has meant Parliament is now working in the interests of ensuring that we deliver for Sydney's night-time economy and our night-time culture in this State.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:26:01):** I join in debate on consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments to the Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020. I pay tribute to the Hon. John Graham, MLC, for his efforts in getting the Government to come to the party, no pun intended, and agree to the amendments. I also congratulate John Graham's team on its great work, particularly Lizzie Butterworth who is sitting in the adviser's area. I also congratulate the member for Canterbury, Sophie Cotsis, on her hard work. She never ceases to amaze me by how much she does and how hard she works. She is quite incredible. I also acknowledge the Minister for Customer Service and congratulate him on his wonderful ability to talk to the Opposition, work with us and reach mutually acceptable compromises. The end result of this legislation will be a great outcome for the night-time economy and for the whole State.

Newcastle has had a live music task force for nearly three years. The Hon. John Graham and I initiated a live music round table that led to the establishment of the Newcastle Live Music Taskforce. We now have a great consultative group comprising artists, booking agents, venue representatives, council representatives, the Australian Hotels Association and the youth of Newcastle. We want live music and entertainment not just to survive but also to thrive in our great city. After all, Newcastle is the second city of New South Wales. I also thank the Minister for Customer Service for his support for the initiative of creating the Newcastle Committee for Night Time Jobs and Investment. The committee established a trial to find ways of supporting low-impact venues such as small bars and restaurants throughout the COVID pandemic and beyond. Businesses are operating in Newcastle's night-time economy and the trial has been very well supported.

To facilitate the trial, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment undertook community consultation in relation to changes to the Newcastle local environment plan. The overwhelming majority of submissions were supportive of the changes. The Opposition and Government are working together to create a diverse and vibrant nightlife in the State's second-largest city. Mirror balls, live music and dancing will be legal in New South Wales as a result of this amending legislation. Woo hoo! The amendments overcome nearly 650 historical conditions associated with the liquor licensing of venues and similar historical council development consent conditions. The amendments are part of sweeping changes in the bill that will reshape the planning and liquor laws to provide incentives for venues that offer music rather than relying solely on alcohol and poker machine revenue. The amendments provide that certain live entertainment conditions will cease to have effect, such as restrictions on decorations that include mirror balls, bans on live music, restrictions on the genre of music that may be played—rock music, country and western, and jazz—as well as restrictions on the number of musicians who can take to the stage, restrictions on the types of instruments that may be played and conditions that require cover bands.

The legislation also provides for an 80 per cent base fee and trading hours risk loading reduction for music venues that took part in Great Southern Nights and have a good compliance record. This will be welcomed by many venues in Newcastle that are part of Great Southern Nights because it is a great initiative. That was a matter discussed by the Newcastle Committee for Night Time Jobs and Investment and I know the committee will be very keen to ensure that initiative progresses. I know that the Newcastle City Council will be very interested in the amendment that relates to planning provisions to allow councils to establish a special entertainment precinct where noise issues can be managed. The provisions allow for residents to be informed that they are moving into an entertainment area, and venues will have certain licence benefits. I am sure those matters will be of great interest to the City of Newcastle. The legislation also provides for greater freedoms associated with dining and outdoor performances, and includes road closures and the use of parking spaces during the pandemic to create additional space for observance of social distancing. Those measures will avoid the very slow process of permissions having to go through the traffic committee during the next 12 months to allow the reforms to be implemented—another great change.

The amendments also confer on retail stores the ability to include music and performances in low-impact developments under exempt and complying development codes for activities not carried out in a residential zone. This initiative also is strongly supported. Newcastle has a very active night-time economy. Interested parties have made submissions, attended Legislative Council inquiry hearings and engaged with decision-makers to ensure that Newcastle's music sector is heard and delivers a thriving live music scene. Earlier this year the bill was promulgated for consultation. I note that Newcastle is extremely well represented in the submissions. The City of Newcastle will be pleased with the amendments and I commend them to the House.

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (18:31:09):** It is significant that tonight the House is dealing with the final stages of the Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020 in the lead-up to Ausmusic T-shirt Day on Friday 20 November. As a fan of Australian music, I consider it important that we as legislators do everything we can to ensure there are more opportunities for musicians to entertain. The many amendments that have been

worked on so cooperatively by all sides of politics wipe away approximately 650 historical conditions contained in liquor licensing provisions relating to venues and similar provisions that exist in historical council development consents. The bill wipes away things that many people would be surprised even exist, such as restrictions on decorations in venues like mirror balls. There is multi-partisan support for lifting the bans on mirror balls, live music and the genre of music that can be played as well as restrictions on the number of musicians they can take to the stage, the types of instruments they can play and the conditions that restrict venues to hire only cover bands.

We have had the ridiculous situation in which Jimmy Barnes could watch a Cold Chisel cover band in a venue and no matter how good or bad they were, he could not participate in the show. He would have to sit there and perhaps listen to his music being tortured without being able to improve the performance. These amendments also do away with ridiculous conditions applying to the direction in which bands have to face. These legislative reforms not only improve performance conditions under which acts that we have all come to know and love perform but also open new opportunities for younger bands to play in local venues, such as Floodway from Towradgi in Wollongong. I congratulate the Government on working with the Opposition and the crossbench to create improvements by adjusting planning conditions to enable councils to establish a special entertainment precinct in which noise levels are managed, residents are being informed when they move into an entertainment area and some licence benefits are being established.

Some of those measures already apply to the centre of Wollongong and they have proved to be quite effective. Improvements can always be made, but those measures were largely driven by the Wollongong City Council. I particularly acknowledge Councillor Ann Martin who has been very passionate and very vocal about ensuring that the night-time economy survives. I think people forget that entertainment is such a big contributor to our economy and such a big employer in New South Wales. We are talking about a \$3.6 billion national industry to which New South Wales is the largest contributor. I look forward to the implementation of a number of the measures in the bill, such as the greater freedom in dining and outdoor performances and the facilitation of pandemic social distancing by closure of car parking spaces. I look forward to using the Wollongong mall and venues in the suburbs as future venues for dining and outdoor entertainment.

That is an important thing to remember about this bill. It is not simply about keeping Sydney open, reopening Sydney or doing anything in Sydney. These are measures that apply to all parts of New South Wales. I have said to the Minister that I expect to see this implemented in Wollongong. There are some great bands coming through in Wollongong and we need to ensure that there are venues for them to play in. We need to make sure that there are venues that we can enjoy. There must be a balance between the residential aspects at the centre of the city and the entertainment aspects at the centre of the city. I will leave my remarks there.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

## **ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BILL 2020**

### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

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

**Motion agreed to.**

**Consideration in detail requested by Mr Michael Johnsen, Ms Yasmin Catley, Mr Paul Scully, Mr Jamie Parker, Dr Joe McGirr and Mr Alex Greenwich.**

### **Consideration in Detail**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** By leave: I will deal with the bill in one group of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 72, and schedules 1 to 2 be agreed to.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:36:42):** By leave: I move Opposition amendments Nos 1, 2, 4 and 5 on sheet c2020-232Q in globo:

#### **No. 1 Objects of Act**

Page 2, clause 3(1). Omit "manufacturing." from line 17. Insert instead—

- manufacturing, and
- (f) to create employment, including employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and
- (g) to invest in education and training, and

- (h) to promote local industry, manufacturing and jobs, and
- (i) to promote export opportunities for generation, storage and network technology.

No. 2 **Board and advocate**

Page 2. Insert after line 23—

**Part 1A Board and advocate**

**4A Definitions**

In this Part—

**board** means the board for manufacturing and construction in the NSW renewable energy sector established under section 4B.

**plan** means a plan prepared by the board and approved by the Minister under section 4C.

**4B NSW renewable energy sector board**

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this section, the Minister is to establish a board for the NSW renewable energy sector, in particular in relation to the operation of the sector and the manufacture and construction of infrastructure in the sector.
- (2) The board is to consist of—
  - (a) persons appointed by the Minister, including at least 1 person representing each of the following groups—
    - (i) manufacturers of steel, aluminium and other similar materials,
    - (ii) the metal fabrication industry,
    - (iii) the Australian Workers' Union,
    - (iv) the Electrical Trades Union,
    - (v) the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union,
    - (vi) the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (Mining and Energy Division),
    - (vii) employers in the electricity, manufacturing and construction sectors,
    - (viii) persons involved in the planning, design, construction and operation of generation infrastructure,
    - (ix) NSW electricity customers, and
  - (b) the Energy Corporation, and
  - (c) other persons appointed by the Minister.
- (3) The Minister is to appoint as joint chairperson of the board—
  - (a) one person appointed under subsection (2)(a)(iii)–(vi), and
  - (b) one person appointed under subsection (2)(a)(ix).
- (4) The board has the following functions—
  - (a) to prepare and provide to the Minister a plan for the NSW renewable energy sector, in particular in relation to the operation of the sector and the manufacture and construction of infrastructure in the sector,
  - (b) to monitor and review the plan and make recommendations to the Minister about the implementation of the plan,
  - (c) to report to the Minister on another matter if requested by Parliament by resolution of both Houses of Parliament.
- (5) The board is to meet at least once every 6 months.
- (6) The board is to provide to the Minister a report on the board's activities—
  - (a) by 31 March 2021, and
  - (b) by 30 June 2021, and
  - (c) by 30 June of each following financial year.
- (7) The regulations may make further provision for or with respect to the membership, procedures and functions of the board, including the terms and condition of appointment of members.

**4C Plan for NSW renewable energy sector**

- (1) The plan required to be prepared by the board under section 4B(4)(a) is to set out how to achieve the following objectives in relation to the construction of generation, storage and network infrastructure carried out under this Act in a cost effective way—
  - (a) to maximise the use of locally produced and supplied goods and services,
  - (b) to maximise the employment of suitable qualified local workers,
  - (c) to foster opportunities for apprentices and trainees,
  - (d) other objectives prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) The board is to provide the plan to the Minister and to make any amendments requested by the Minister.
- (3) The Minister may approve the plan only on the recommendation of the regulator.
- (4) The regulator may recommend a board's plan to the Minister only if satisfied that the plan—
  - (a) protects the financial interests of NSW electricity customers, and
  - (b) is consistent with Australia's international trade obligations.
- (5) A plan approved by the Minister must be published on the Department's website and takes effect on the day it is published.

#### **4D Effect of plan**

- (1) In the exercise of functions under this Act, the Minister and the consumer trustee are to take into account the plan.
- (2) The Minister may impose a condition that is consistent with the plan on a direction under section 25 or an authorisation under section 29(2).
- (3) The consumer trustee may, in a recommendation to the Minister under section 24(1)(a), include a recommendation that a condition that is consistent with the plan be imposed on the Minister's direction.
- (4) The consumer trustee may impose a condition that is consistent with the plan on an authorisation under section 24(1)(b).

#### **4E Electricity infrastructure jobs advocate**

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this section, the Minister is to appoint a person or body as the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate.
- (2) The electricity infrastructure jobs advocate is to advise the Minister about—
  - (a) strategies and incentives to encourage investment, development, workforce development, employment, education and training in the energy sector in the Hunter and Central Coast, Illawarra, Far West and Central West regions of New South Wales, and
  - (b) road, rail and port infrastructure required in the regions specified in paragraph (a) to promote export opportunities for generation, storage and network technology, and
  - (c) other matters requested by the Minister.
- (3) The electricity infrastructure jobs advocate is to provide the Minister with a report on the advocate's activities—
  - (a) as soon as practicable after being appointed, and
  - (b) once a year after the first report.

#### **No. 4 Electricity infrastructure jobs advocate**

Insert at the end of Part 1A, as inserted by Amendment No.2—

#### **4G Appointment of electricity infrastructure jobs advocate**

- (1) The electricity infrastructure jobs advocate holds office for the term, not exceeding 5 years, specified in the instrument of appointment, but is eligible for re-appointment.
- (2) The office may be a full-time or part-time office, as specified in the instrument of appointment.
- (3) The employment of the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate is, subject to this Act, to be governed by a contract of employment between the advocate and the Minister.
- (4) In the exercise of functions under this Act, the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate is not subject to the direction or control of the Minister.
- (5) The regulations may make further provision for or with respect to the appointment of the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate, including the terms and conditions of appointment.

#### **No. 5 Dictionary**

Page 39, proposed Dictionary. Insert after line 16—

*electricity infrastructure jobs advocate* means the person or body appointed as the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate under section 4E.

I acknowledge the hard work that the Minister and his team have done to bring the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 before the House. In good faith the Minister has worked with the Labor Opposition in order for us to discuss these amendments this evening. I was surprised by the initial bill. As the Minister himself said, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build new energy infrastructure for the future of New South Wales. It is the strong view of the Labor Party that in building renewable energy we must have a very strong jobs component. The proposed legislation is void of that commitment. I believe the Minister spoke in good faith of a jobs guarantee and a task force, but the truth of the matter is that we cannot rely on the content of a second reading speech; we must have those commitments in black and white in the bill. We propose these significant amendments to ensure that jobs and procurement in New South Wales will be a priority as part of the renewable energy infrastructure project going forward.

The first amendment relates to the objects of the bill. It will increase the objectives to include creating employment, including employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and investing in education and training. Madam Deputy Speaker, we all know how important that is, just as you would in the Port Macquarie electorate. The objects will also include promoting local industry, manufacturing and jobs—I know you would love to be building ferries that do not have asbestos in Port Macquarie, Madam Deputy Speaker—and promoting export opportunities for generation, storage and network technology. The Minister wants us to be the powerhouse of new generation. It is exactly those kinds of opportunities that we need so that we can be part of the next generation of energy and become an export market. In addition, the Labor Opposition is proposing that we have a board and an advocate. I will speak to that briefly.

The Minister has spoken of a task force. We see the board as replacing the notion of a task force. We landed on the title of "board" through cooperation and the Minister graciously accepted that suggestion. It will have the role and function to prepare and provide the Minister with a plan for the New South Wales renewable energy sector, in particular in relation to the operation of the sector and the manufacture and construction of infrastructure. The board will set the plan for renewable energy going forward in New South Wales. It will also monitor and review the plan, make recommendations to the Minister about implementation of the plan and keep a vigilant eye on what is going on in the renewable energy space. We have put in our amendments the make-up of the board. It will include employee representatives from the four trade unions that the Minister has been very cooperatively speaking with, employers of the electricity manufacturing construction sector, a consumer advocate and people from the bureaucracy—in fact, they will be the secretariat.

We have outlined when and how regularly the board will meet and its responsibilities in reporting back to the Minister and this Parliament. It is critically important to ensure that the new renewable energy infrastructure is achieving what we have come here in good faith to set out to do. They are all very important initiatives. In addition to that, the plan will move to maximise the use of locally produced and supplied goods and services and maximise employment of suitably qualified local workers. I say that very particularly because we want to make sure that people have the correct qualifications. For argument's sake, let us talk about electricians. We need to make sure that our electricians are fully and properly qualified. We know it is a very dangerous sector of employment and we want to make sure that those workers are qualified.

We will also foster opportunities for apprentices and trainees. We have talked about that. These are very important matters that will be included in the role of the board. The amendments also contain rules for transparency around giving effect to the plan, which is very important. The Minister has been mindful to have that included in the bill because it clearly demonstrates how serious this Parliament is in introducing this legislation. As the Minister rightly said, it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

In addition to that there is the electricity infrastructure jobs advocate. A few weeks ago the Labor Opposition introduced the NSW Jobs First Bill 2020 to Parliament. The jobs advocate was contained in that bill. The advocate is critical to ensure that people use local workers, supply chains and small businesses. It is also important to ensure that the board's plan is actually prosecuted. While Labor would have liked to see that bill attached to the bill before the House, it was unfortunately unable to do that due to the constraints of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. Labor has pulled some components from the NSW Jobs First Bill 2020 and the jobs advocate was one of those components. Labor is very pleased to see that in the bill. I thank the energy Minister for acknowledging that it is a very good initiative.

The infrastructure advocate will work on strategies and incentives to encourage investment, workforce development, employment, and education and training in the energy sector in the Hunter, the Central Coast, the Illawarra, the Far West and the Central West regions of New South Wales. I acknowledge the presence of the member for Wollongong in the Chamber. I thank him for the work that he has done to assist Labor in reaching that position. It is critical to ensure that the rail, road and port infrastructure that is required in the regions is

specified in the bill. That will ensure we promote export opportunities, as I have said before. It is important to have the advocate, so Labor is very pleased that it will be included in the bill.

In addition to that, Labor has set out the period in which the advocate will run as well as some administrative matters, such as the full-time or part-time capacity of the role. The amendment ensures that the advocate is subject to the Act and also ensures that the role is governed by the contract of employment between the advocate and the Minister. Some other definitions have also been included. Labor is very pleased to bring those amendments to the House. Labor is also very pleased that the Minister has indicated that he and the Government will support the amendments, because they are significant. The Opposition has transformed the bill into one that the people of New South Wales may be assured will look at jobs in New South Wales, for New South Wales. That is critical during a recession.

Today is budget day, so there is no better time to be debating the bill. It is extremely timely. When the Minister brought the bill to the House he did not know that he would be contributing to jobs in New South Wales, but he has done that by accepting the Opposition's amendments. I congratulate the Minister on that. Labor has also worked very closely with the Australian Workers' Union, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, the mining division of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union and the Electrical Trades Union. A lot of criticism is thrown at this side of the Parliament and at our union brothers and sisters, which I take great umbrage to and which upsets me. Those unions represent workers in this State and they do their job admirably. Union members are tough but they are tough for all the right reasons, because they want good outcomes. They want to make sure that Australians work in a safe environment, are paid properly, have the skills they need and continue to have a job.

I put on record tonight that that is what the Australian Labor Party stands for and that is what Labor Party members in this House stand for. Every day of the week Opposition members will stand up for that, which is why we are so pleased to introduce those significant amendments that relate to jobs and the creation of jobs. I thank the staff of the energy Minister. I am truly thankful for how amazing they have been. Ava Hancock and Ben Coles have been so cooperative. They have made the process much easier. From the outset, there was a genuine will on all sides of the House to work together on the bill. Members are all on the same page when it comes to wanting reliable renewable energy, which is what the bill delivers. Everybody knows that the Minister and I have a strong relationship. We work hard in this place to deliver good results for the people of New South Wales. We have worked very cooperatively for a number of years.

Minister Kean sat down and said to me, "I want to get this done; how can we do that? Let's work together." That was when I knew that we would have a genuine conversation. I am very thankful to the Minister, as always. We will leave here this week—there has been a suggestion that it may take longer than that, though I keep my fingers crossed that the Minister can keep his team under control—knowing that we have made some significant changes to the future of energy. Most importantly, the citizens of the State are in our minds as we set up the infrastructure to support the future of energy. I am very pleased we have done that. It gives me great pleasure to commend the amendments to the House.

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (18:50:27):** The passage of the amendments puts the steel in the spine of the legislation. I can put no finer point on it. I made my contribution to debate on the bill last week. I was less than satisfied in my initial reaction to the bill, as the Minister well knows. He put out a media release saying that there would be a steel and aluminium mandate, and yet it did not appear in the bill. I wanted to make sure that it was actually in the bill, and the amendments do that. Now there is a board that is tasked with developing a plan to maximise the use of locally produced supplies, goods and services to maximise the employment of suitably qualified local workers, to foster opportunities for apprentices and trainees, and for other objectives prescribed by the regulations. It is an important step to have a provision in law that gives strength to the possibility and likelihood of a steel mandate.

When members talk about the potential use of up to 650,000 tons of steel in the initial phase, and then a review of those assets into the future, it is important that we not only use the steel that is produced in the largest steel-producing region of the country, the Illawarra, but also build the industry that allows that fabrication to happen. There is an incredibly skilled set of workers in the Illawarra who could easily do that work, but fabricators needed the confidence in an energy policy that would give them certainty to get finance and investment to scale up their businesses and to upskill their workers in order to do that incredibly important work. In the Illawarra we are sick and tired of seeing ships come into Port Kembla harbour, unload towers for wind turbines and transport them past the steelworks to other parts of New South Wales. While the bill is a win for workers in the Illawarra, it is important that people understand the resources sector will be critical to the delivery of our renewable energy future.

With the passage of the bill there has been a great deal of excitement about the fact that our energy generation mix will change. Let us be very clear: Coal and coal-fired power will remain in the New South Wales

system for many years to come. It will employ men and women in the Hunter for many years to come. Beyond that, export coal will continue. Whether it be thermal and metallurgical coal from the northern coalfields or metallurgical coal from the southern coalfields, it will continue. It is important to remember that it is not going away with the passage of the bill. However, we must ensure that those communities are ready for the future. That is the reason for the jobs advocate. The jobs advocate will work with communities of the Hunter, the Central Coast, the Central West, the Far West and the Illawarra to make sure that there is infrastructure and other support. The jobs advocate will ensure that workforce development and employment opportunities surround that change.

It will also ensure that there are jobs in the new industries of the future and throughout the evolution of existing industries. I do not want to see communities left behind. I do not want to see communities hollowed out and left with the very old, the very young and no working group in between. That is unfair and wrong. Those communities have already paid a high price. In 1902, 96 men and boys were killed in the largest industrial accident in the Southern Hemisphere. That occurred in the Illawarra and it has not been forgotten. Last year the member for Cessnock and I attended the annual remembrance for the miners who were killed in the northern coalfields. The names of 1,800 men are on that wall. Those communities have already paid a high price, and delivered energy that has powered the economies and made cities like Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle and others throughout the country great. But we have to make sure we look after them.

Let us be clear: While have a long-term strategy or a medium-term strategy to change our energy generation mix, the fact is that coal-fired power and coalmining will remain part and parcel of our communities for a long time. I know the Minister acknowledges that. I know he understands that gas burning is part and parcel of that, but it will change. We need to be prepared for it by making sure that our resources sector, our steel sector and our aluminium industries are part and parcel of our renewable future, but also that we make sure that jobs and job opportunities are created in those areas where existing industries will tail off over a long period of time. I do not like anyone being overlooked when it comes to looking after the working men and women of this State. I am pleased the Minister has accepted and understands my passion for making sure our steelworkers are looked after. He saw it firsthand the other day at BlueScope. I am pleased that he has agreed to these amendments.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (18:55:47):** I wonder if we can all hear the massive sigh of relief from the communities, workers and experts who want us to put aside all of the divisions that have infected and caused harm to these debates to try to move forward and recognise that we can work together to deliver renewable energy. I acknowledge the work that has gone into these discussions. I offer The Greens' support for these amendments, particularly recognising the expansion of the objects of the Act to recognise both the importance of and need to create employment, including employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; to invest in education and training; to promote local industry, manufacturing and jobs; and to promote export opportunities for generation, storage and network technology.

I acknowledge the need for us to make sure that we bring everybody on board when we go through these significant changes, recognising that the creation of this Energy Sector Board is absolutely crucial to make sure that people who, no doubt, are feeling concerned and worried about some of the changes ahead because of some of the issues that have been outlined, feel that they have a seat at the table not only to be a part of the discussions but also to be taken seriously and to have the Minister consult with key representatives of the unions that represent the workers who will be on the front lines of these changes. The communities that they live in will also potentially be on the front line of an amazing change for new jobs and new skills to be created. I acknowledge the unions mentioned in the amendments and their contribution to the discussion: the Australian Workers' Union; the Electrical Trades Union; the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union; and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (Mining and Energy Division).

In particular, this board provides an opportunity for all of those different organisations, unions and representatives to put forward people who, I would hope, have a commitment to delivering for this fund and are experts within those organisations. I note that it allows the Minister to appoint others. I hope in doing that the Minister would have an eye to ensuring that there are good renewable energy and technology energy experts who can form part of that debate and discussion. It is really important for us to recognise that we could heal some of the divisions that have been a part of this place for a long time. This is absolutely what is needed when it comes to delivering for our communities and workers. It is needed for the changes regarding renewable energy. It is a very clear sign and the case to show that these amendments, which The Greens absolutely support, will bring a lot of those people to the same table to have those discussions. It will bring those things forward in a way that will deliver the energy for our future.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (18:59:18):** I thank the members representing the electorates of Swansea, Wollongong and Newtown for their contributions. The Government supports the amendments moved by the Opposition relating to a board for manufacturing and construction in the New South Wales renewable energy sector and an Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate.

Let me be very clear to the House: This is not just about delivering cheaper, reliable electricity; this is about delivering jobs, jobs in Australia. I quote the Deputy Premier, who said as part of the announcement of the task force:

As we come out of this recession, we need to lead by example by backing our local supply chains, local manufacturers and local jobs.

I thank the Opposition, The Greens and everyone who contributed to and supported these amendments for enhancing what is a very strong package that will secure our State's energy supply into the future, but will do it in a way that supports local manufacturing, supports local jobs and brings all interested parties who want to deliver cheaper, reliable, cleaner energy into the system, including consumer groups, unions and industry. That is exactly what the task force will set out to achieve. I thank a number of stakeholders for their constructive engagement on the matter of the board, including BlueScope, the unions and the Clean Energy Council. I acknowledge and thank them for agreeing to work with the board to achieve the best outcomes for our renewable energy and manufacturing sectors.

Our Renewable Energy Zones present a massive opportunity for local industries and workers right here in New South Wales, one that is too big to miss. I look forward to receiving a plan prepared by the board. The Government also supports Opposition amendments Nos 4 and 5 to set out the arrangements for the appointment of a renewable energy jobs advocate. The Government supports the Opposition's amendment to establish a renewable energy jobs advocate function. This is an important role and will help ensure that we see real employment benefits from investment in the electricity sector under the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. This amendment provides for a process to appoint the advocate and is supported by the Government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that Opposition amendments Nos 1, 2, 4 and 5 on sheet c2020-232Q be agreed to.

**Amendments agreed to.**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (19:01:47):** I move Opposition amendment No. 3 on sheet c2020-232Q:

**No. 3 Requirement to provide information to electricity infrastructure jobs advocate**

Insert at the end of Part 1A, as inserted by Amendment No.2—

**4F Requirement to provide information to electricity infrastructure jobs advocate**

- (1) The electricity infrastructure jobs advocate may, by written notice to a person, require the person to provide information to the advocate that the advocate reasonably requires to exercise its functions.
- (2) A person must not, without lawful excuse, fail to comply with a requirement made of the person under this section.

Maximum penalty—2,000 penalty units for a corporation or 100 penalty units for an individual.

I was very pleased to hear the Government's commitment to the jobs advocate. The Opposition is very committed to it too—it is a very important part of these amendments. This amendment outlines the functions of the advocate, making sure that the advocate has the capacity to follow up with the board, with the plan and with all sorts of activity around renewable energy infrastructure in the areas outlined in the previous amendment. It also introduces some penalties if that is not occurring. It is always very important that we have an enforcement and compliance component when we introduce such significant roles into what we all agree is a very considered policy area such as the renewable energy infrastructure policy. I ask that the Government support this amendment establishing the requirement to provide information to the Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate. I commend the amendment to the House.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (19:03:42):** I thank the member for Swansea for moving Opposition amendment No. 3 on sheet c2020-232Q. I understand the intention and what it seeks to achieve, but on this occasion the Government does not support the amendment proposing to give the Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate information-gathering powers to assist the advocate in the exercise of its functions under the new framework. The objective of the jobs advocate is to provide advice to the Minister on maximising opportunities for local workers and manufacturing during the implementation of the new Renewable Energy Zones. The proposed amendments relating to information-gathering powers go beyond those functions of the role and are not necessary and not appropriate.

While there are information-gathering powers in the bill for other functions, these proposed powers are targeted and appropriate in the circumstances. For example, section 9 ensures the energy security target monitor has the information it needs to provide advice to the Minister about the action that should be taken, if any, to keep the State's lights on. Such a significant power is not needed for the jobs advocate and would likely increase costs



on participants in the framework. The purpose of the jobs advocate is to be a trusted partner who can work hand in hand with industry and build those important relationships. The proposed power would undermine the jobs advocate's ability to do this and would place the relationship in a more adversarial position. For this reason, the Government opposes the amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that Opposition amendment No. 3 on sheet c2020-232Q be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....39  
Noes .....41  
Majority.....2

**AYES**

Aitchison, J	Finn, J	O'Neill, M
Bali, S	Greenwich, A	Park, R
Barr, C	Harris, D	Parker, J
Butler, R	Haylen, J	Piper, G
Car, P	Hoenig, R	Saffin, J
Catley, Y	Hornery, S	Scully, P
Cotsis, S	Lalich, N	Smith, T
Crakanthorp, T	Leong, J	Tesch, L
Daley, M	Lynch, P	Voltz, L
Dalton, H	McDermott, H	Warren, G
Dib, J	McGirr, J	Washington, K
Donato, P	Mehan, D (teller)	Watson, A (teller)
Doyle, T	Minns, C	Zangari, G

**NOES**

Anderson, K	Griffin, J	Preston, R
Ayres, S	Gulaptis, C	Provest, G
Barilaro, J	Hancock, S	Saunders, D
Bromhead, S	Hazzard, B	Sidgreaves, P
Clancy, J	Henskens, A	Singh, G
Conolly, K	Johnsen, M	Smith, N
Cooke, S (teller)	Kean, M	Speakman, M
Coure, M	Lee, G	Stokes, R
Crouch, A (teller)	Lindsay, W	Taylor, M
Davies, T	Marshall, A	Toole, P
Dominello, V	O'Dea, J	Tuckerman, W
Elliott, D	Pavey, M	Upton, G
Evans, L	Perrottet, D	Ward, G
Gibbons, M	Petinos, E	

**PAIRS**

Atalla, E	Berejiklian, G
Chanthivong, A	Constance, A
Harrison, J	Roberts, A
Kamper, S	Sidoti, J
McKay, J	Williams, R
Mihailuk, T	Wilson, F

**Amendment negatived.**

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (19:15:32):** By leave: I move Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 3 on sheet c2020-265B in globo:

**No. 1 Illawarra renewable energy zone**

Page 8, clause 16, heading, line 21. Insert "Illawarra," before "New England".

**No. 2 Illawarra renewable energy zone**

Page 8, clause 16(1). Insert after line 23—

(a1) Illawarra,

**No. 3 Illawarra renewable energy zone**

Page 8, clause 16(5), line 33. Insert "Illawarra," before "New England".

The amendments are about the creation of an Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone. In speaking to the amendments I acknowledge the advocacy of Mr Arthur Rorris, who is the secretary of the South Coast Labour Council. For many years, he has understood the relationship between our heavy industry in the Illawarra and the renewable energy of the future. He and I, along with Mr Shoebridge from the other place, co-chair a group called Recharge Illawarra that is working on exactly that. I understand the Minister is going to participate in our meeting next week so that we can add some more flesh to the bones of the bill and how he proposes to go forward. The reason I am so keen to see an Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone declared is because of the region's commitment to a hydrogen future.

As I said earlier, we have the largest steelworks in the country, which produces around three million tonnes of steel, and I am hoping that will go only one way—and that is up—into the future. I recognise that green steel—using green hydrogen to produce steel—is some distance off in terms of its technical capability and its commercial scale-up. However, I do not want the Illawarra to be put at a relative disadvantage in securing the investment around the opportunity for hydrogen from the gas importation terminal that is happening to the potential of a hybrid liquefied natural gas hydrogen gas peaking power station that could move to hydrogen in the future and the potential to replace hydrogen in the Tallawarra Power Station and potentially Tallawarra B Power Station, if it is built. The Illawarra lies at an important juncture on the Eastern Gas Pipeline, so if we are to potentially use the existing gas infrastructure that is servicing the State and the east coast then we have to make sure that we have opportunities to secure and use it.

I know these amendments are supported by the Minister and I know they are supported by my colleagues the member for Keira, the member for Shellharbour and the member for Kiama. I think between all of us we have been able to convince the Minister of the importance of this designation, the importance of the inclusion of it in the bill and the importance of making sure that the Illawarra has every opportunity to maximise its investment potential when it comes to renewable energy—not just in the making of the components and towers, not just in making sure the resources can be processed that go into it and not just in the firming of renewables into the future for our gas peaking power station, but also in the opportunities that hydrogen provides the Illawarra into the future.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (19:18:55):** On behalf of The Greens I support the amendments that will include the Illawarra as a Renewable Energy Zone. I acknowledge it was a little while back when my colleague David Shoebridge, Greens MP in the upper House and energy spokesperson, was putting it out there that we would be pushing to have the Illawarra included as a Renewable Energy Zone as one way to improve the bill. The Greens recognise the opportunities to deliver pumped hydro, green hydrogen, green steel and renewable energy manufacturing in that community. I think it is important to recognise that the Illawarra community has been leading the way—and I note the member for Wollongong who just spoke. Key players and community leaders in that area have been leading the way for decades by having the complex conversations that need to happen locally to try to negotiate and have discussions in this space.

It is absolutely important that we recognise that by putting the Illawarra into the legislation as a Renewable Energy Zone—in recognition of the fact that community members, key players and community leaders in the Illawarra have been having those hard conversations with each other locally to see how we can navigate in this space. The community wants us to put aside the divisions and move to the action we need. The community recognises that there are new jobs to be had in this area and they recognise that there are new skills. I know that Illawarra councillors, particularly The Greens councillors Mithra Cox and Cath Blakey, will be very pleased to see this. I note that there were decisions made on some of the actions by the local council last night, which had cross-party and cross-representation support.

The community will probably breathe a big sigh of relief when they see that we are moving in this direction. It is important for us to show that we are able to recognise and pay tribute to the work done locally in the Illawarra. Hopefully, we can show that members are able to follow some of the complex conversations and work that has been done in the Illawarra to navigate this area and, hopefully, we can demonstrate that this Parliament can also listen to those communities in driving those changes, as well as lead.

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (19:21:45):** I speak in support of the amendments, and I acknowledge my colleague and very good mate the member for Wollongong because he led on the amendments, and Labor has led on the amendments. I acknowledge the work that he has been doing, particularly in making us shipshape and

ready to embrace the next wave of energy reform in terms of renewable energy. We come from an energy-rich sector that is similar to that in the electorate of my colleague the member for Swansea in the Hunter and the Central Coast. Most of us have a link to either the steelworks, the mine or the power station, and in my case it is a few of them.

**Mr Paul Scully:** All of them.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** The member for Wollongong and I are similar. We have parents who served in those industries. My father was at the Tallawarra Power Station when it was coal fired until it was shut down in 1989. We know the importance of delivering first-class energy that is cheap, reliable and safe. Obviously there is going to be a focus on renewables in the future and we need to be part of that. I acknowledge the member for Swansea, the member for Wollongong and, of course, the Hon. Adam Searle in the other place. I also acknowledge the Minister for Energy and Environment because sometimes in this place Ministers will have a determination not to work with others to make a bill better, and this Minister is not one of them. I think it is important that our side acknowledge the other side too, every now and again.

It is very easy to whack each other and sometimes we do things blindly because this is meant to be the Labor way or the Liberal way. Sometimes if we put our collective heads together, there is a right way and there is a better way. I acknowledge that because the amendments would not have been possible without the Minister, and member for Hornsby. It is important that my side of politics says that every now and then. The bill is important for members and the wider community. Words like "transition" can be scary for the constituents whom the member for Shellharbour and I represent because for a long time they have earned a good living through high-quality industries like coalmining. The other day I counted that 23 miners live on my street.

**Mr Paul Scully:** There are only 24 people in the street!

**Mr RYAN PARK:** And there is only one politician, much to their regret. I say that because words like "transition" scare and worry these people. It is not that it is an offensive term in itself but the way that it is communicated in the Parliament is important. I acknowledge the member for Wollongong for putting those community members squarely as a part of the bill. I also join him in acknowledging the South Coast Labour Council Secretary Arthur Rorris for his important advocacy in this area. Labor has always been proud of the way the Illawarra has satisfied the energy needs of New South Wales due to the fact that the region continues to produce the best coal in the country. I am sure that residents of the Hunter would say otherwise—

**Mr Paul Scully:** It is the best met coal in the world.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** It is the best met coal, that is for sure. The region is very proud of that fact and wants to continue to play a role in the energy needs of the State. I thank the Minister for his cooperation on the bill; it means a lot. I also thank the member for Swansea and the member for Wollongong for advocating on behalf of the communities in our region, in what represents a very important step going forward.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (19:26:19):** Without wanting to turn this into the mutual appreciation society, I acknowledge the work of the member for Wollongong and the member for Keira. The Government would not support this amendment if it were not for their advocacy and love for and commitment to their communities. I also acknowledge the member for Kiama, who has been a passionate advocate for the bill. When I spoke to him about this proposal, he was the first one to say "get it done". These members are great champions for their regions. The bill represents an opportunity to put aside our political colours and do something that is best not only for the State but for the nation. I acknowledge the work of Arthur Rorris, who has been a long-time committed advocate for working people in the Illawarra. He has driven this outcome and should be proud of the amendment that has been moved.

The effect of amendments Nos 1 and 2 is to require that the Minister declare the Illawarra as a Renewable Energy Zone. The effect of amendment No. 3 is to appoint the Energy Corporation of NSW to be the infrastructure planner for the Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone. The Illawarra has the advantage of being home to major load centres. It is relatively well served by the 330 kilovolt network and is located close to the backbone of the transmission network that connects the major load centres of Wollongong, Sydney and Newcastle. The region benefits from excellent pumped hydro potential. The Australian National University recently did a study that found there was the potential for 2,500 pumped hydro schemes in the Illawarra region, including opportunities on disused mining and industrial sites. The area is already home to Origin Energy's Shoalhaven pumped hydro scheme. Let us hope we hear more about that amazing opportunity, which will serve not only the Illawarra but the State more widely.

It is important to acknowledge that over 40 per cent of the region has recognised high environmental value and the community has a strong attachment to the landscape. The Energy Corporation of NSW will ensure that any potential land use conflicts are avoided or minimised up-front and that communities benefit from new

electricity infrastructure. One of the most important strengths of the Illawarra is its exceptional capability to supply steel to renewable energy and transmission projects located elsewhere in the State. That is why BlueScope Steel has committed to invest \$20 million to boost its renewable energy manufacturing capacity. The Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap highlights opportunities for new industries such as hydrogen and green steel to flourish in the Illawarra, thanks to cheap, reliable and clean electricity.

To the member for Wollongong's point, there are enormous opportunities emerging as fossil fuels like diesel and gas become less desirable. Countries like Japan and South Korea are looking for alternate ways to run their economies, and hydrogen is going to play a key role in that. We need to make sure that not just the Illawarra but New South Wales more broadly gets a big slice of that action. For that reason the Government supports these amendments, which will help to guarantee cheap and reliable energy not just for the Illawarra but for the whole State.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 3 on sheet c2020-265B be agreed to.

**Amendments agreed to.**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (19:30:07):** By leave: I move Government amendments Nos 1 to 3 on sheet c2020-238A in globo:

**No. 1 Hunter renewable energy zone**

Page 8, clause 16, heading, line 21. Omit "**and South West**". Insert instead ", **South West and Hunter**".

**No. 2 Hunter renewable energy zone**

Page 8, clause 16(1). Insert after line 25—

(d) Hunter.

**No. 3 Hunter renewable energy zone**

Page 8, clause 16(5), line 33. Omit "**and South West**". Insert instead ", **South West and Hunter**".

These amendments insert a provision that the Minister declare the Hunter a Renewable Energy Zone. As many members would be aware, the Hunter is the energy and economic powerhouse of New South Wales. In fact, it is Australia's largest regional economy, making up 8 per cent of the State's economic activity. Most of that is generated by our world-class resource, agriculture and energy sectors, and I welcome more coal-fired power to round off our energy generation.

**Mr Jamie Parker:** It is up to the market, though.

**Ms Kate Washington:** With a dash of nuclear.

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** It is up to the market, absolutely. Put in the nuclear as well. Absolutely, no problem.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Another renewable energy, according to you.

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** Well, it is very clean. The amendments will set up the Hunter to capture even more of the economic benefits offered by declaring the region a Renewable Energy Zone. The Hunter benefits from some of the strongest energy resources anywhere in the world, both existing and potential. These currently include coal, solar, wind and pumped hydro. The Hunter already has substantial transmission infrastructure, given that it has powered the State for over 50 years. The region is also home to heavy industries and local skilled workforces and has access to export markets. This includes a strong cohort of industries that rely on access to the cheap and reliable energy that our region generates, such as Tomago Aluminium and Orica, as well as local steelmakers like Molycop and InfraBuild. The private sector sees opportunities in the Hunter region, with around 10 large-scale energy projects already in the New South Wales planning system that will deliver over a gigawatt of capacity and will represent over \$1 billion of investment.

The mining sector has multiple sites that can be rehabilitated, and what better way to do that than with the new generation and storage technologies that will power the State into the future. The Australian National University found the potential for 51 gigawatt hours of pumped hydro storage across eight disused mine sites, offering significant opportunities to repurchase former mining land. There has been discussion over many years around what the end mining will look like, so here is a great opportunity to find out. The Hunter is also a prime location for the State's next Renewable Energy Zone. It has some of the best natural resources in the State, existing transmission capacity and a highly skilled workforce.

The Hunter is my home. I have had the privilege of representing people of the Upper Hunter for more than five years, and I will continue to do everything I can in this place to secure jobs and investment in industries of

the future for our local community. Declaring the Hunter a Renewable Energy Zone is another way to secure future prosperity for the community, providing a pipeline of jobs that will ensure that people can live and work in the region for many generations to come.

I have been asked about my views around renewable energy, but never have I said that it has to be one thing or another. In fact, we have an opportunity for strong energy generation, whether it be powered by coal, nuclear, hydrogen, gas, hydro, solar, wind and/or any other source that is working for our community. If it is going to provide jobs and safe, cheap and secure energy for the State of New South Wales, I will be in favour of it. It is pragmatic and will only add to the prosperity of our region and the State of New South Wales. I commend the amendments to the House.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (19:35:00):** I move:

That amendments Nos 1 to 3 be amended by adding "-Central Coast" after "Hunter" in each amendment.

I move this amendment to include both the Hunter and Central Coast regions as a Renewable Energy Zone [REZ] because the Government has failed to do so. I note the comments that the member for Upper Hunter has just made. After I foreshadowed Labor's amendments in last week's debate, he has moved an amendment to include the Hunter as a REZ but he has not included the Central Coast. This is critically important. It reveals two things about the member for Upper Hunter. The first is that he was told by his colleagues to lodge an amendment to the Government's own bill. I remind the member for Upper Hunter that he is part of the Government and had access to the draft of the bill, which has been discussed for over eight months.

The second thing is that he clearly does not realise that the Hunter and the Central Coast are inseparable when it comes to energy infrastructure. The Central Coast is also an energy powerhouse and this State has relied on the power stations on the Central Coast for decades—since the sixties. We cannot separate the two regions. The member's failure to include them both indicates his broader failure to engage on energy matters, which is of concern. This is the same member, let us not forget, who attacked the Minister for Energy and Environment in January this year and demanded that Mr Kean be sacked from the ministry.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Swansea has the call.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** The member for Upper Hunter said:

Matt Kean is trying to play the climate change hero when all he does is make political decisions based on city Left voters' opinions. ... Let's give the portfolio to someone that actually has some experience and knows what they are talking about and has land management experience, rather than a lifetime of being a political hack.

Quite frankly, it was dreadfully unkind of the member for Upper Hunter to speak in such a way about a Minister who has worked extraordinarily hard to make sure that we have some progressive energy infrastructure policy going forward. Members of this House know how well I get along with the Minister; it is no secret. I commend him again for his cooperation in negotiating with Labor on these amendments. The member for Upper Hunter should not be allowed to claim that he has some kind of new revelation about and belief in renewable energy, because he seems to believe that nuclear power is actually a renewable energy. He has confirmed that yet again here tonight. He is absolutely desperate for nuclear power plants to be built in the region he calls home. In fact, documents have indicated that they would be looking at the electorate of Swansea. I am here to tell the member that the constituents of Swansea will not support that.

In March this year the member took to Facebook to attack me for opposing nuclear power in New South Wales. Uranium is just another type of fossil fuel—we all know that—and it is not the solution for renewable energy. I know that the Minister shares that view. Labor considers this last-minute conversion to supporting renewable energy with quite some scepticism, and I have explained why. Michael Johnsen is a climate change denier. He thinks that carbon emissions are food for trees. He thinks that the Minister for Energy and Environment should be sacked. If he was serious about this change, he would have negotiated his amendments as the process was being undertaken and not come to the House after the fact to try to play catch-up.

It is a very bad look when a Government backbencher tries to move amendments at the eleventh hour in the Legislative Assembly. It means that the member has been derelict in his duties, and everybody knows it. It means that the member has been asleep at the wheel during the months—eight months, as the Minister has told us—of significant work on this bill, which we know is so important. The member for Upper Hunter has had ample opportunity to engage with this issue, but he spent so much time on Facebook and Twitter watching conspiracy theory videos. He should not be taken seriously. Labor cannot take him seriously. We know that the good and intelligent people in the Liberal Party do not take him seriously. That is why we seek to further amend his amendments to make it right and include the Hunter–Central Coast as a Renewable Energy Zone. I move:

That amendments Nos 1 to 3 be amended by adding "-Central Coast" after "Hunter".

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (19:40:13):** The unity ticket on the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 has just had a slight blip. Despite the resounding kicking that the member for Upper Hunter has just received, I fully support the member for Swansea's amendment to his amendments. I believe it is sensible and certainly fits with the understanding that other members have brought to the debate on this bill. We have all supported the bill's principles. As the member for Swansea mentioned, the Central Coast has been a heavy lifter in providing energy to the State for many years. I particularly wanted to see Lake Macquarie identified as a Renewable Energy Zone. Right now in Lake Macquarie, Eraring Power Station, which is owned by Origin Energy, supplies some 25 per cent of the State's energy. The significance of that cannot be overlooked. As a matter of fact, Lake Macquarie is probably the most significant power generator along with the Central Coast. With Eraring, Vales Point, Munmorah and, historically, Wangi Wangi power stations, it has had the largest concentration of power generators in the State for many years. There is so much infrastructure there. It would have been almost criminal to have ignored it and not included it in a Renewable Energy Zone.

There is also a great desire by industry to participate in this new paradigm for energy production in New South Wales. I know that my discussions with Origin Energy are reflected in other areas. It has a great commitment to the site at Eraring. We have heard a lot of talk about the potential for hydrogen production, and I believe that is one of the big opportunities for Eraring Power Station. I do not think that we should try to predict all things that might come forward, because this is such a changeable space, but we do have a number of technologies that will be very important. The Upper Hunter certainly has the capacity to produce a lot more in wind generation. There are already opportunities in pumped hydro.

To come back to Lake Macquarie, we have Centennial Coal, which was originally Power Coal. We have one of the deepest mines in the State. I am sure that Centennial Coal would want to take the opportunity and the incentives afforded by being part of a Renewable Energy Zone and look at how it can participate as well. We need to bring this together. With the Illawarra area, it would bring together five major Renewable Energy Zones. Looking at a map and understanding the distribution network, it looks very sensible. I commend the member for Wollongong for his amendments, which seek to maximise his area's capacity. Reflecting on its history and the heavy lifting that it has done—as did Newcastle, with its steelworks—this needs to be supported. The Renewable Energy Zone needs to be expanded beyond the Hunter. I appreciate the amendment moved by the member for Upper Hunter, but it is made much better by the wording of the further amendment moved by the member for Swansea. As soon as these concerns were raised I think the Minister heard the message loud and clear. We were concerned that the provision of the three Renewable Energy Zones left those communities that had done so much lifting wondering just what was going to happen to them. The amendment moved by the member for Swansea to the Government's amendments changes that and I fully support it.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (19:44:37):** I speak on the amendments moved by the member for Upper Hunter and the amendment to those amendments moved by the Opposition. To the member for Upper Hunter I say that we say no to nuclear and we say no to coal but to the amendment to create more Renewable Energy Zones in this State, whether that be in the Hunter or the Central Coast, we say yes, yes, yes. We recognise that it looks a little bit like members in this place are advocating for their electorates to be Renewable Energy Zones. Newtown is already flying high when it comes to supporting renewable energy and will be pleased to see Renewable Energy Zones placed in the Hunter and the Central Coast in addition to the Illawarra. We would say that expanding the love and the enthusiasm for renewable energy across New South Wales is something we should do.

I must say I never expected that the member for Upper Hunter would move an amendment to expand Renewable Energy Zones and that I would be speaking in support of it. These are very strange times, and 2020 will continue to deliver surprises. Consider me surprised in this place. Anything that expands Renewable Energy Zones into other communities, recognising the previous member's contribution about where else we might consider expanding them, should be considered and welcomed because that is what we need to make sure that we power the State in a sustainable way into the future.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (19:46:21):** We have heard everything now: the member for Newtown and the member for Upper Hunter are on a unity ticket. On that note, the Government supports the amendments moved by the member for Upper Hunter and the amendment to the amendments moved by the member for Swansea. I make the point that the Hunter and Central Coast have powered our State for a century and the bill will ensure that the Hunter and Central Coast power the State and the nation for another century. It is a good amendment. The Hunter and Central Coast are where the transmission nodes are. The infrastructure is there and it makes perfect sense to turn that area into the State's fourth Renewable Energy Zone. For the benefit of the member for Lake Macquarie, I make it very clear that Lake Macquarie falls within the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Upper Hunter has moved Government amendments Nos 1 to 3 on sheet c2020-238A, to which the member for Swansea has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment of the member for Swansea be agreed to.

**Amendment agreed to.**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the amendments as amended be agreed to.

**Amendments as amended agreed to.**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (19:48:28):** By leave: I move my amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-282A:

**No. 1 Fees for access schemes**

Page 9, clause 19(2), line 35. Omit "may include a component, not exceeding the amount prescribed by the regulations,". Insert instead "must include a component".

**No. 2 Fees for access schemes**

Page 9, clause 19. Insert after line 37—

- (2A) The component must not be less than the minimum amount or proportion prescribed by the regulations and must not exceed the maximum amount or proportion prescribed by the regulations.

My amendments aim to guarantee that communities in Renewable Energy Zones will receive benefits for their contribution to powering the State. The bill currently requires energy generators to pay an access fee determined by the consumer trustee to connect to Renewable Energy Zones with provisions for the fee to include a community purpose component for reinvestment into the local region. The component could fund projects like improved internet access or new sporting facilities. However, these community purpose components are not required by the bill, and my amendments would mandate them.

Furthermore, my amendments would allow the maximum and minimum amount or proportion of the component to be set by the regulations, as opposed to the consumer trustee, whose role it is to maximise value for electricity consumers, not ensure local community benefits. This will ensure that the amount allocated is sufficient to deliver value to communities. Throughout the inquiry into the sustainability of the energy supply and resources in New South Wales we heard from multiple stakeholders, witnesses and submitters about the importance of bringing communities along, supporting them and providing opportunities for them to lead in the transition to renewables. It is crucial that communities in Renewable Energy Zones are guaranteed benefits for hosting renewable energy infrastructure and my amendments will do this. I commend my amendments to the House.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (19:50:24):** The Greens support the amendments put forward by the member for Sydney. The need for communities to be brought along in this process is key. It is important that we ensure wherever possible that communities benefit and are respected in the process. I particularly note that The Greens will make sure we strengthen and support legislation that ensures Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are considered, consulted and supported. I acknowledge my colleague Mr David Shoebridge from the other place, who is here observing. We will move amendments in the other place to ensure that when we talk about communities we also recognise First Nations communities and that any Renewable Energy Zones are not the purview or the ownership of the member for Upper Hunter, the member for Illawarra, the member for Lake Macquarie or indeed the member for Newtown. My electorate was and always will be Aboriginal land. We need to recognise that the First Nations owners of the land should benefit and be recognised for the community involvement and input that they have as we move forward in the support of renewable energy in our State.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (19:51:50):** We agree with the amendments moved by the member for Sydney to use access scheme fees for community purposes. Amendment No. 1 provides that access fees determined by the consumer trustee must include an amount that is to be used for a community purpose rather than inclusion being left to the discretion of the consumer trustee. Amendment No. 2 provides for the regulations to set both minimum and maximum amounts or a proportion of access fees to be used for community purposes to ensure that the amount allocated is sufficient to deliver tangible value to communities. These amendments are in line with the Government's intent for the bill and therefore we support them.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-282A of the member for Sydney be agreed to.

**Amendments agreed to.**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (19:53:10):** By leave: I move The Greens amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-271C in globo:

**No. 1 Fees for access schemes**

Page 9, clause 19. Insert after line 37—

- (2A) The fees determined by the consumer trustee must include a component that is to be used for an employment purpose prescribed by the regulations.
- (2B) The component must not be less than the minimum amount or proportion prescribed by the regulations and must not exceed the maximum amount or proportion prescribed by the regulations.
- (2C) In exercising its function under subsection (2A), the consumer trustee is to seek advice from the committee established under section 34W(1)(a1) of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*.

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**Drafting note 1.1** Subclause (2B) depends on another amendment that inserts section 34W(1)(a1) of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987* being passed.

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**No. 2 Fees for access schemes**

Page 9, clause 19(3). Insert after line 41—

**employment purpose** means a purpose that promotes employment, skills and training for employees in the geographic area that forms the renewable energy zone to which the access scheme applies who are affected by changes in electricity generation in the State.

By leave, I also move The Greens amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-275C in globo:

**No. 1 Exemption for green hydrogen industry**

Page 25, clause 51(6), line 2. Insert "or from a person who buys electricity to use in the production of hydrogen energy" after "1995".

**No. 2 Climate Change Fund to pay for development of green hydrogen industry**

Page 37, Schedule 2.2. Insert after line 39—

**[2A] Section 34H(1)(d1)**

Insert after section 34H(1)(d)—

- (d1) \$50 million between 2021 and 2030 to develop the green hydrogen sector, including—
  - (i) the production of hydrogen energy using renewable energy, and
  - (ii) the supply, use and export of hydrogen energy produced using renewable energy, and

I thank the House for the opportunity to move these amendments to ensure a very important opportunity is pursued. These amendments taken together provide a fantastic opportunity for a new and emerging industry and technology—so-called green hydrogen. Hydrogen has been discussed by other members but green hydrogen is a fabulous innovation made using renewable energy. Hydrogen is an important way to store energy without using fossil fuels. That is important today because this bill is about the future.

This bill is about opportunities and the amendments do two things. First, the amendments on sheet c2020-275C ensure that there is an exemption for renewable energy from the infrastructure and transmission costs that are associated with this bill. We want to ensure that opportunities are provided for green hydrogen into the future, and that is one important way to do that. Secondly, the Climate Change Fund is an important fund and we want the funds invested in genuine renewable energy opportunities, and green hydrogen is one important element of that.

The amendments on sheet c2020-275C provide \$50 million of funding between 2021 and 2030 to develop the green hydrogen sector—that means the production of hydrogen energy using renewable energy, and the supply, use and export of hydrogen energy produced using renewable energy. I acknowledge the work of the Minister's office, Mr David Shoebridge and other upper House MPs who have worked to help secure these amendments. It is an incredibly important future opportunity—new jobs and new emerging technology, particularly in areas where we know there is an enormous need for strong, secure, well-paid jobs. We commend these amendments on sheet c2020-275C to the House and encourage all members to support them.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (19:56:05):** I thank the member for Balmain for moving the amendments. We support the amendments relating to the use of access scheme fees for an employment purpose prescribed by the regulations. Amendment No. 1 on sheet c2020-271C provides that access fees determined by the Consumer Trustee may include a component that is to be used for an employment purpose prescribed by the regulations and, in exercising this function, to seek advice from the committee established under section 34W (1) (a) of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*. I note that seeking advice from that committee will rely on other proposed amendments to the *Energy and Utilities Administration*



Act 1987 being passed—namely, amendments that enable the Minister to establish standing committees to advise about long-term plans for diversifying the economy and supporting the employees and local communities affected by changes in electricity generation in the State.

Amendment No. 2 on sheet c2020-271C defines an "employment purpose" as a purpose that promotes employment, skills and training for employees in the geographic area that forms the renewable energy zone to which the access scheme applies who are affected by changes in electricity generation in the State. The road map is forecast to deliver up to \$32 billion in new private investment by 2030 and over 9,000 new jobs—6,300 in construction and 2,800 ongoing. Using access fees for training and skills development will help the community take advantage of these employment opportunities. The amendments on sheet c2020-271C are in line with the Government's intent for this bill and therefore we support them.

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (19:57:57):** I thank the Minister for his thorough discussion of the amendments on sheet c2020-271C and I acknowledge his comments. The amendments highlighted the fact that as we move into the future there will be significant change. The amendments on sheet c2020-271C are about new jobs, new skills and new opportunities. These amendments, taken together, provide a fantastic opportunity for a range of geographic areas in New South Wales. We believe that as change takes place there will be new industries and new skills and we want to invest in and support them. I commend the amendments on sheets c2020-271C and 2020-275C—all four amendments—to the House.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (19:59:47):** I absolutely welcome the allocation of the Climate Change Fund to work towards the development of the green hydrogen industry and the associated exemptions. I particularly acknowledge the other areas of the amendments that the member for Balmain, my Greens colleague, just outlined. It is absolutely crucial that we use the support of the Climate Change Fund to bring us closer to a renewable energy future, and address the dangerous impacts of climate change and the climate emergency. It is so crucial that these Greens amendments are brought here today to ensure that the Climate Change Fund is used to address both the need for a transition to renewables and the climate emergency that we all face, which is its purpose.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (20:00:41):** The Labor Opposition also supports these amendments. As the member for Wollongong has already outlined in his contribution to the amendment in relation to having the Illawarra as a renewable energy zone, the Illawarra is already very advanced in hydrogen and we look forward to seeing the \$50 million investment from the Climate Change Fund, as described in the amendment. I am sure that the member for Wollongong will be putting his hand up to see some of that down in his neck of the woods and we would support that too. We support the amendments.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (20:01:25):** I will just add to my previous comments. The Government supports amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-271C and amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-275C. The Government supports The Greens amendments, which seek to extend opportunities for green hydrogen under the bill. There is an enormous opportunity emerging with regard to hydrogen that presents new jobs, new investment and the potential to underwrite Australia's prosperity as we head towards that low-carbon global economy, which is not far off. With a Joe Biden presidency in the United States of America, it means that now 70 per cent of Australia's two-way trade is committed to achieving net zero emissions by mid this century. That has huge ramifications for the types of goods and services we sell and for new opportunities that are being created. There is a race on and I am committed to ensuring that New South Wales is best placed to win it. I thank The Greens, the Opposition and the Independents for moving and supporting these amendments, and for working in a multi-partisan way to grab this opportunity to set ourselves up for success in the new world that is almost upon us.

Amendment No. 1 on sheet c2020-275C seeks to extend exemptions under clause 51 (6) to cover a person who buys electricity to use in the production of hydrogen energy. Amendment No. 2 on sheet 2020-271C seeks to amend schedule 2.2 to the bill to provide \$50 million of funding from the Climate Change Fund to develop the green hydrogen sector covering the production of hydrogen energy using renewable energy and the supply, use and export of hydrogen energy produced using renewable energy. The New South Wales Government has already committed to promoting hydrogen opportunities for the State. The Government therefore supports the proposed amendments to exempt electricity purchases for hydrogen production under the bill.

The Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 recognises the role that hydrogen can play in a low emissions future. Further, the New South Wales and Australian governments have a memorandum of understanding on energy and emissions that commits to jointly funding a hydrogen technology program to support the commercialisation of hydrogen technologies in New South Wales. The Government supports dedicated funding from the Climate Change Fund for the green hydrogen sector.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that The Greens amendments No 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-271C and The Greens amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2020-275C be agreed to.

**Amendments agreed to.**

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (20:04:32):** I move my amendment No. 1 on sheet c2020-237:

**No. 1 Priority transmission infrastructure projects**

Page 13, clause 27. Insert after line 40—

- (1A) The Minister must not direct a network operator to carry out a priority transmission infrastructure project unless the Minister has considered the following—
- (a) existing network infrastructure in the area in which the priority transmission infrastructure project will be located,
  - (b) land use planning, environmental and heritage matters,
  - (c) the views of the local community in the area in which the priority transmission infrastructure project will be located,
  - (d) other matters prescribed by the regulations.

There has been much discussion this evening and previously in regard to this bill about the need for communities to be involved in the co-design of the renewable energy zones. There has been much discussion about the effect of this bill on communities, particularly in areas where traditional areas of energy generation will be changed, and that is appropriate. I congratulate the Minister on taking such a careful approach to the need for community consultation and for building in safeguards because, sadly, that is not the case at the moment. In my electorate many landowners can only be described as victims of the current process, which is designed to minimise the cost of electricity, but is not really designed to take into account the impact on landowners through which land transmission infrastructure will go. The Minister has intervened and improved that process and I thank him once again for his efforts in that regard, but there is much work to be done.

I am very pleased to see that consideration of community concerns has been taken into account in this bill. However, I do not think the bill as submitted applied enough requirements for community consultation in relation to priority transmission infrastructure. Basically, it applies enough for the renewable energy zones and to areas where it is generated, but that energy has to get out of those zones throughout the State and that requires transmission through a network. That network has to be upgraded and that will include priority transmission infrastructure. Those lines—and they can be big lines—will go through properties and will have an effect on communities as well as on landowners. The amendment that I moved simply takes the requirements on the Minister that currently exist in the renewable zone approval and applies them to priority transmission infrastructure projects, and that is a requirement to consider land use planning, and environment and heritage matters, as well as the views of the local community in the area in which the project will be located.

I think this is a straightforward and sensible amendment that will go some way to reassuring communities through which these lines will travel. I can only reiterate to the Chamber the distress the current process has caused. This will send a message about the current process, and I hope this amendment and the bill will go some way to bringing communities along with us through whose land this infrastructure goes. It is all very well for us to talk about renewable energy and the importance for the State, but communities will be affected by this and we need to take their concerns into account. No-one should be left behind.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (20:07:49):** I support the very sensible amendment moved by the member for Wagga Wagga. The words of the member for Wagga Wagga are true: We want to make sure the community embraces any positive renewable energy infrastructure. Therefore, it is very important that we make sure that community consultation takes place and that land use planning, and environmental and heritage matters are at the forefront. Obviously the regulator will take into account principles. I think that this is a principle that should stand. The Labor Opposition is very supportive of this amendment of the member for Wagga Wagga. I commend the amendment to the House.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (20:08:31):** I acknowledge the outstanding work of the member for Wagga Wagga to ensure that his community gets the best results through the development of these new energy infrastructure developments. His community is facing some challenges due to the construction of HumeLink, which will bring the Snowy 2.0 cheap reliable energy into the system. One of the challenges that we identified through this process is our inability to ensure that the transmission infrastructure is being built where the social licence supports it. This amendment seeks to remedy that.

The amendment replicates the intent of section 12 (4) (b), regarding matters to be considered by the Minister prior to the declaration of a Renewable Energy Zone. The amendment requires these matters to be

considered by the Minister before directing a network operator to carry out a priority transmission infrastructure project, but adapted for the context of the priority transmission infrastructure project. The Government is of the view that considering these matters before making a direction on a priority transmission infrastructure project is appropriate, particularly given the critical need to maintain community support for new energy infrastructure, which is something I know the member for Wagga Wagga is very passionate about. This is a good and sensible amendment that will seek to remedy some of challenges that the member for Wagga Wagga is currently faced with and will make sure other members can avoid those issues as a result of the roll-out of these renewable energy zones and critical transmission infrastructure.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that amendment No 1 on sheet c2020-237 of the member for Wagga Wagga be agreed to.

**Amendment agreed to.**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (20:10:48):** By leave: I move amendments Nos 1 to 4 on sheet c2020-267H in globo:

**No. 1 Competitive tenders for LTES agreements**

Page 20, clause 40(1), lines 12 and 13. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

- (1) The consumer trustee must conduct a competitive tender for LTES agreements unless the regulator otherwise authorises generally or in a particular case.

**No. 2 Competitive tenders for LTES agreements**

Page 20, clause 40. Insert after line 18—

- (3A) A tender bid must, unless exempted by the regulations, include information about how the proposal will create employment and support industry in New South Wales if the person enters into an LTES agreement.

**No. 3 Competitive tenders for LTES agreements**

Page 20, clause 40(7), lines 31–33. Omit all words on those lines.

**No. 4 Provision of information by LTES operators**

Page 21, clause 43. Insert after line 15—

- (1A) An LTES operator is required to provide information to the Minister every year about the extent to which the LTES operator is creating employment and supporting industry in New South Wales.
- (1B) The information is to be provided in a form prescribed by the regulations.
- (1C) The Minister is to prepare a yearly report summarising the information received from LTES operators and is to table the report in each House of Parliament.

I move these amendments in relation to the competitive tenders for a Long Term Emergency Service [LTES] Agreement. These amendments require transparency in this legislation. It is very important that the Consumer Trustee is required to conduct a competitive tender for the LTES Agreement. The Labor Opposition is serious about this. In addition, the Labor Opposition has also moved some amendments to create a more stable environment around employment, which is also very important, which will include that a tender bid must, unless exempt by the regulation, include information about how the proposal will create employment and support industry in New South Wales. We believe that these amendments will make the legislation more robust and ensure that employment is at the forefront, which is critically important.

In addition, the provision of information by the LTES operator must be through competitive tender, which we think is critically important. We will ensure that the competitive tender will be enshrined in the legislation to ensure that that is part of the process for the tendering of the LTES agreements. I acknowledge the Hon. Adam Searle, the shadow Minister for Energy in the Legislative Council, who has worked tirelessly with the Minister and the Minister's staff on this legislation. The Hon. Adam Searle has guided the Labor Opposition on this legislation. As I said, he has worked very hard with the Government. In addition, he has worked very hard in the other place to make sure that our amendments were also palatable there. He has steered the Labor Party very well in this Chamber, and I am very grateful for his assistance. I know that the member for Wollongong, the shadow Minister for Natural Resources, is also most appreciative of that assistance, guidance and leadership from the Hon. Adam Searle.

It should not go unnoted, and the member for Keira said this most eloquently, that this really was a situation where the Minister for Energy and Environment genuinely wanted a good outcome and made sure that that happened. We thank the Minister. He is quite right: Collectively we can deliver very good outcomes, and this is that day. I commend this amendments to the House. I also commend the Minister for being so honourable during this process. The Labor Opposition thanks him very much.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (20:14:40):** The Government supports amendment No. 1 moved by the Opposition on sheet c2020-267H to make it mandatory for the consumer trustee to conduct a competitive tender for long-term energy service [LTES] agreements unless the regulator otherwise authorises. Given the importance of the process to award long-term energy service agreements, it is appropriate that there be a robust governance framework for these arrangements to be carried out. The Government agrees that independent oversight of any non-competitive processes is important.

The Government supports amendment No. 2 moved by the Opposition to require that tender bids be supported by information about how a proposal will support employment in New South Wales. Supporting local jobs and industry is a core part of the bill and, on that basis, the Government supports the amendment. The Government supports amendment No. 3 moved by the Opposition. This is a complementary change to the changes proposed by the Opposition in amendment No. 1. The Government supports this amendment on the basis that it will ensure that there will be independent oversight by the regulator of non-competitive tender processes.

The Government supports amendment No. 4 moved by the Opposition to require LTES operators to provide information to the Minister about the extent to which the operator is creating employment and supporting industry in New South Wales. The proposed amendments also require the Minister to prepare a yearly report using that information which is then tabled in each House of Parliament. This is a complementary change to the changes proposed by the Opposition in amendment No. 2. It seeks to ensure that LTES operators follow through with the commitments they made as part of the tender bidding process. On this basis, the Government supports these amendments.

I will quickly respond to the contribution of the member for Swansea, and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Firstly, I acknowledge the work of the Hon. Adam Searle. He is an honourable man who cares about this State and works towards the goal of serving the State. He has been nothing but constructive. His amendments, along with those of the members for the electorates of Swansea and Wollongong, have done nothing but improve the quality of this bill, which I think will deliver a great outcome for the people of New South Wales. I believe this is nation-building reform that will set us up to be an energy and economic superpower.

I thought the bill as read was good but thanks to the constructive approach by the Labor Opposition, as well as The Greens, particularly Mr David Shoebridge from the upper House, and the crossbench members, we have together found a pathway through the energy and climate wars to come up with a practical, sensible and centrist policy. That policy will provide long-term certainty to ensure the private sector can build the infrastructure we need to keep the lights on, drive electricity prices down and set up New South Wales to lead not only the country but, I believe, the world as we head towards a low-carbon global economy. We can be an energy and economic superpower, and it is thanks to the combined efforts of all members in this Chamber. We support the amendments.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 4 on sheet c2020-267H be agreed to.

#### **Amendments agreed to.**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (20:18:03):** By leave: I move my amendments Nos 1 to 5 on sheet c2020-231G in globo:

##### **No. 1 Committees**

Page 38, Schedule 2.2[3], proposed section 34W(1), line 5. Insert "about the following" after "Minister".

##### **No. 2 Committees**

Page 38, Schedule 2.2[3], proposed section 34W(1)(a), line 6. Omit "in".

##### **No. 3 Committees**

Page 38, Schedule 2.2[3], proposed section 34W(1)(a), line 8. Omit "or".

##### **No. 4 Committees**

Page 38, Schedule 2.2[3], proposed section 34W(1). Insert after line 8—

- (a1) long-term plans for diversifying the economy and supporting the employees and local communities affected by changes in electricity generation in the State,
- (a2) strategies to reduce emissions,
- (a3) economic, export and employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector, including global trends in the renewable energy sector,

##### **No. 5 Committees**

Page 38, Schedule 2.2[3], proposed section 34W(1)(b), line 9. Omit "on any matter". Insert instead "other matters".

I move these amendments in my capacity as chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning and as one of the Legislative Assembly Independents who went to the last election with a joint policy on a just transition for those communities impacted by changes to electricity supply. Climate change requires us to make far-reaching, rapid and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. Electricity supply is one aspect where green alternatives are available, affordable and efficient and attract widespread support. As the State's coal-fired power stations close, the bill sets up a framework to help transform electricity supply to an environmentally responsible system that is reliable and affordable. The framework is technical and complex and covers a range of priorities. It is important that underpinning this system is the fundamental goal to cut emissions.

As we make this shift, it is essential we support the communities that have powered New South Wales for over a century and have brought significant benefit to the State through cheap, reliable power. These communities have existing infrastructure that can be part of the solution to build a new modern electricity system to power our future. They also have unique skill sets that can help make this State a leader in new renewable energy exports. I join the member for Lake Macquarie in acknowledging the massive contribution of and the opportunities in coal communities. Preparation must begin now to build resilience and to make use of the opportunities for electricity supply in these regions.

The Committee on Environment and Planning received expert advice across government, local government, energy supply, mining, unions, think tanks and community and environment sectors about transitioning the State's power. We heard about the significant opportunities in renewable technology to green energy supply to create export markets and how this can provide jobs in coal communities. We also heard concerns from communities that rely on coal. It is vital that we do not repeat what happened at Hazelwood in New South Wales. Instead, we must model our transformation on the success of places like Germany, which achieved greater advantages for workers in communities where coal-fired power stations were closed. For too long energy policy in Australia has been informed not by global trends or economic or employment opportunities but rather as a result of internal major party divisions and special interests. With this bill, at least in New South Wales this can now end.

My amendments will set up a framework for the Minister to establish advisory bodies on how to ensure the electricity system is designed to help reduce emissions, and to prepare communities that will be impacted by that change and create new export markets. It will provide the Minister with a mandate to adopt the principles of what is commonly referred to as a just transition. The bill already allows for the establishment of standing and special committees to provide the Minister with advice. My amendment gives the Parliament the resolve to set up a committee to provide advice on long-term plans to diversify the economy and to support employees and local communities affected by changes in electricity generation.

It will ensure a committee can be established to advise on the economic, export and employment opportunities of the renewable energy sector, informed by global trends. Importantly, it gives the Parliament the resolve to set up a committee to provide advice on strategies to reduce emissions to ensure that we achieve the goal shared by all major parties to reach net zero emissions by 2050. I hope the establishment of these committees will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the Committee for Environment And Planning, which will address the sustainability of energy supply and protecting coal communities. I join other members in thanking the Minister for his leadership and collaborative approach to ensure this transformative reform passes this Parliament.

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (20:22:29):** I thank the member for Sydney for his outstanding leadership on the committee he oversees. He knows only too well the challenges that communities are facing as a result of the disruption of new forms of technology. The Government supports the amendments moved by the member for Sydney, which seek to broaden the advisory functions for standing or special committees established under the bill. The proposed amendments seek to expand the types of advisory committees the Minister may establish. Amendment No. 4 allows the Minister to establish committees to advise on long-term plans for diversifying the economy and supporting employees and local communities affected by changes in electricity generation in the State.

Amendment No. 4 also allows the Minister to establish committees to advise on strategies to reduce emissions. The amendment also allows the Minister to establish committees to advise on economic, export and employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector. This is consistent with the priorities of the New South Wales Government to support local jobs and local communities, as well as the State's objective to reduce emissions. Export opportunities are also consistent with the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, released by the Government last Monday. The proposed amendments build on the Government's existing commitments and work in this space. As a result, they are supported.

I finish by stating that this bill is an opportunity to transform our State's electricity system and, indeed, transform our State's economy. By modernising our grid and doing it in a way that creates jobs, drives investment

into New South Wales and gives us some of the cheapest energy anywhere in the world, we can be an energy and economic superpower. This is not something that is only a Coalition or Labor or Greens or Independents agenda; this is the agenda of all members. This legislation is about setting up our State for a prosperous future, ensuring that our kids, their kids and the next generation can have well-paid jobs and can continue to live in a prosperous and strong nation which our forefathers established and enjoyed. There is too much at stake to get this wrong. The bill sets New South Wales on a path to be an energy and economic superpower. I thank everyone who participated in constructive engagement and for the productive amendments that have been moved.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that amendments Nos 1 to 5 on sheet c2020-231G of the member for Sydney be agreed to.

**Amendments agreed to.**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the clauses and schedules as amended be agreed to.

**Clauses and schedules as amended agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **ROSEMARY KARIUKI**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (20:26:05):** The Australian of the Year Local Hero Award recognises some of the most extraordinary contributions made by Australians to their local community. Recipients are leaders by example who undertake efforts that are truly inspirational and provide leadership in crises. These recipients pave the way for others to do things otherwise deemed to be impossible and fight for what is right and what the community needs. Recently Rosemary Kariuki was announced as a recipient of the NSW Local Hero category of the 2021 Australian of the Year Award. Rosemary is a resident of the Camden electorate and her hard work and advocacy for over a decade in helping migrant and refugee women adjust to everyday life in Australia is awe inspiring.

Just as inspirational is her own migration story, which was recently featured as part of the Camden Council's Refugee Week. Rosemary fled from Kenya in 1999 to escape the tribal clashes raging in her town and across the country. Her anger at the situation gave her the desire to get as far away as physically possible from Kenya, which is what set Australia in her sights. Rosemary found her early years in Australia incredibly lonely. Migrant women when they first come to Australia are not used to going out alone and are disadvantaged by having a lack of access to transport and a lack of knowledge of English. It was this experience that drove her to create programs and initiatives to prevent future generations of migrants from facing the same issue.

Rosemary has been an innovator in reaching out to the migrant community with her cultural exchange program. The program, which brings women to the countryside to exchange culture, is cited as one of the major achievements Rosemary has under her belt. Rosemary has had a healing impact on migrant women and families, hosting high teas to talk about the mental health challenges these communities face and preventing them from feeling isolated. Rosemary also works as a multicultural community liaison officer for the NSW Police Force and in 2012 won the City of Parramatta Council's Citizen of the Year for her African Village Market program. She also serves as a Swahili language interpreter, imparting knowledge and information to people who are new to Australia and who are unfamiliar with the English language. The annual African Women's Dinner Dance began in 2006 to connect African women who otherwise faced isolation and lack of access to services.

Rosemary also helps the police to communicate with non-English speaking migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who otherwise would have a fear or a lack of understanding of the policing system. Her work has helped the police to take care of migrants who face domestic violence, language barriers and financial distress and has featured as the subject of a documentary called *Rosemary's Way*. Since moving to the Camden community, Rosemary has stated that the welcoming nature of Camden and Oran Park communities were incredibly beneficial. She has been described as Big Mama Rosemary, a one-woman carnival of life. She is a presence who fills the room with warmth and kindness and someone I am proud to have within my community. A big love that Rosemary has for Camden is for its multicultural community, which I can attest has made Camden a vibrant and welcoming place.

I also commend the Camden Council for introducing a number of initiatives, such as the Refugee Week's celebrations, which tell the migrant stories of residents. The Mayor of Camden, Theresa Fedeli, said of the

initiative that it also fostered understanding within the community of these experiences, which in turn promotes the welcoming nature of Camden. Through her contributions and efforts to the community, I am incredibly proud to see this wonderful resident of the Camden community being acknowledged for her work. I would like to say to Rosemary: You are incredibly deserving of the NSW Local Hero category of the 2021 Australian of the Year and I personally acknowledge your contribution to the Camden community.

### **LIVE MUSIC AND SYDNEY NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (20:30:46):** It is not remarkable to observe that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on employment and business activity, with many of the restrictions implemented to curb the spread of the virus leaving some businesses this year completely incapable of operating at one point or another. While many of our industries have bounced back and are leading the world in COVID-safe business practices, I am really concerned about the future of New South Wales' live music industry and our nightlife in general. Even before the pandemic, Sydney's nightlife already left much to be desired. While the Parliament's 2014 reforms were ultimately successful in curbing alcohol-fuelled violence and the power of organised crime in Kings Cross, they also put an end to the Cross as Sydney's nightlife capital. That has had a flow-on effect to the broader Sydney CBD, which also was subject to those 2014 reforms. The City of Sydney's submission to the New South Wales Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy estimates that those lockdown laws:

... led to significant unintended negative impacts such as a retraction of the economy by 7.1 per cent, with a potential opportunity cost of 2,202 jobs and \$1.4 billion in turnover. Negative perceptions have led to a decrease of 490,000 people a year aged under 35 years visiting Sydney since 20131.

I welcome the recommendations of the committee's inquiry and commend the New South Wales Government for its near total support of those recommendations, many of which have been actioned in the Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020. That being said, I raise my concerns about the very real threats that our live music venues face and the more ephemeral issue of Sydney's culture. It is not necessary to conduct a parliamentary inquiry or be a credentialed expert to observe that Sydney's nightlife is quite unlike that elsewhere in the world or even in this country. Our nightlife falls well short of what people would expect from a global city like Sydney, where it can be difficult to find a drink after 10.00 p.m. at night and even harder to find something to eat that is not a takeaway kebab.

Compare a late night in Sydney to a night in Madrid or Prague or Paris. In those cities it is not unusual to observe patrons milling peacefully in the streets, spilling out from the bars and pubs, taking in the beauty of their cities at night-time and enjoying the company of their patrons until the wee hours. Here in Sydney we are subject to restrictions of varied stringency and absurdity—for example, last drinks and the closure of beer gardens as early as 10.00 p.m., ludicrous restrictions as to whether or not a venue can hang a mirror ball on its dance floor, or archaic prohibitions on playing disco music. Then there are those who move in next door to a longstanding pub and complain to their council about live music. That is unbecoming of the greatest city in the world and it is embarrassing.

Clearly there is a depth of feeling about this issue in my electorate. At the 2019 election Keep Sydney Open received 9 per cent, or 4,500 first preference votes, despite running practically no local campaign at all. I commend the work of Save Our Stages, an initiative of 47 entertainment venues from across New South Wales, which has collected nearly 30,000 signatures on its ePetition to bring to the attention of the House the devastating impact of COVID-19 and associated restrictions on its industry. Save Our Stages warns that New South Wales could lose up to 85 per cent of the State's live music venues within the next 12 months. I urge the Government to enact stimulus support for live music venues, as Labor governments in Queensland and Victoria have, and for NSW Health to urgently consider how live music venues can trade again in a COVID-safe way. I also commend the trailblazing work of the Inner West Council, whose Good Neighbour Policy serves as a model for all Sydney councils to put an end to vexatious complaints against existing cultural venues. I would encourage all councils in my electorate to consider similar initiatives to protect our cultural institutions and save Australia's vibrant live music industry.

### **COWRA HOSPITAL**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:35:35):** I express my delight that planning money for the Cowra Hospital redevelopment has been committed in the 2020-21 New South Wales budget. This planning funding guarantees that the next crucial steps of the redevelopment can progress. The redevelopment was called for by 3,706 members of the Cowra community who signed my petition, which I tabled to this Parliament. It represented more than a quarter of the community's population. Members will recall that I was extremely pleased to be joined by health Minister Brad Hazzard in Cowra in February 2019 when he announced \$70.2 million for Cowra Hospital. The financial commitment from the Government of \$500,000 to progress planning in the 2020-21 budget will enable the critical next phase of this project to get underway. This includes the initial master planning

and early project planning work. The next steps in planning will paint a clear picture of how the redevelopment will be brought to life and what we can expect in the final fit for purpose facility.

The need for this redevelopment has been clear. A refresh of the Cowra clinical services plan is almost complete, with the Western NSW Local Health District working with the community, clinicians and health experts to build a detailed and accurate plan of the services required. I am passionate about ensuring this hospital is the right fit for the entire region, including the small villages and communities outside Cowra who depend on the town for their services. To ensure their voices are heard, I have held consultation sessions in Woodstock, Canowindra, Wyangala Dam and Gooloogong, and have shared their needs with the Western NSW Local Health District. These discussions have emphasised just how far some people are travelling for critical services, the opportunity to improve services for new parents and families with the creation of a dedicated inpatient service such as Tresillian, and just how vital it is to consider non-medical services at the redevelopment, such as parking for those travelling long distances to access the hospital.

The community has stressed to me that this redevelopment is about more than simply updating what is already there. It is about making sure the facility is fit for the future and it is about showing the Cowra community that this Government is investing in their future health. In order for a regional community to grow, its residents must have confidence in the health infrastructure that services them. A redeveloped hospital will do just this. The planning funding committed in today's budget is a vote of confidence in the future of the Cowra community, a reassurance that they have been heard by the leaders of this State and that they will not be left behind. It is a signal to Cowra's economy that the boost of a multimillion-dollar redevelopment with jobs and positive flow-on effects remain a priority for this Government. It is a clear signal to people looking to relocate to this wonderful community that first-class services will be there for them.

While I am truly heartened by this funding, I will not stop fighting for this project at every stage until the doors are open and our hardworking, dedicated nurses, clinicians, allied health workers and doctors are scurrying around the corridors of the redeveloped hospital. The people of Cowra and the beautiful surrounding villages know that I am absolutely committed to seeing this project all the way through to the very end. That is why I have called for funding to progress the planning phase ahead of the budget, so that the next stage can get underway. I thank the Deputy Premier, the health Minister and the Treasurer for this commitment in the budget and I look forward to seeing the next phase of planning unfold.

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

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (20:40:11):** Since I was elected to this place for the first time in 2015 representing the beautiful electorate of Port Stephens, there is one particular issue that has stood out as a priority above and beyond the many issues facing my community, that is, the lack of access to health care. In Port Stephens, like so many rural and regional communities, we struggle to attract and maintain GPs. We do not have enough counselling services to support people with mental health issues. We have next to no psychiatric or psychology services, so local residents with significant mental health issues go without the support they need or, if they can afford to travel, they go further afield and pay for those specialist services. We have limited public transport and very limited community transport, so local dialysis patients can spend three or four hours on a bus multiple times a week because local services are at capacity.

The Tomaree Community Hospital is run by dedicated and hardworking nurses and health staff but is serviced by contracted doctors who are too often not available. Our palliative care services are stretched to their limit trying to support families during their most difficult days. Right now we have an entire community's complex health and mental health needs being managed by local services struggling under the weight. Our local GPs are going above and beyond to look after us, but we are not looking after them or their staff. We are at breaking point right now in Port Stephens. Residents know it. Patients know it. Our local health professionals know it. And this is before the thousands of visitors descend for their holidays. Overlay the increased stresses of COVID-19 and we have a crisis on our hands.

The pressure on GP practices on the peninsula right now is not fair on the GPs, their staff or our community. And my community is particularly vulnerable with a number of aged care services and an ageing population requiring special care. But with GP services unable to meet the need, the system is spinning out of control. The Tomaree Community Hospital cannot cope with the increased presentations of people who are unable to get to see a GP. People are turning up to the hospital and waiting for hours and are either being sent away or leaving without being seen. More people are seeking help from the very few mental health counselling services we have but at a level of crisis that is beyond their capacity, and yet there is nowhere for them to be referred to. This all goes to show how fragile our health ecosystem is. When something is taken away, everything goes pear shaped and the risks get higher and higher. It is not good enough. That is why the Labor Opposition pushed for an inquiry into rural and regional health.



I am urging everyone in Port Stephens who has experienced the issues we are facing in Port Stephens to make a submission to the inquiry. If you are a patient, doctor, nurse, staff or health worker, please share your stories and experiences. It can be a confidential submission; it can be a short submission. You do not have to propose solutions, you just need to tell your story so the health committee can analyse our health system, see what is happening on the ground and formulate recommendations that might help us in the future. We know these issues are not confined to my electorate of Port Stephens. They are happening all across rural and regional New South Wales. There are hospitals with no doctors, there are towns with no GPs and there are entire regions without mental health services. There are aged care facilities without the local health services they need to keep residents fit, healthy and out of hospital. There are community organisations that are stepping up and setting up mental health counselling services in the absence of any government action or support.

In rural and regional New South Wales it is not just a lack of health services making people sick, it is a lack of social services. Those who are unwell and cannot access the health or mental health services they need are more likely to become unemployed and homeless. But our social safety net has been stripped away and there are not enough social housing options, unless by some miracle you can wait 10 years on a waiting list. It seems painfully obvious, but all of this is connected. Yet this Liberal-Nationals Government refuses to see it and refuses to act. In Port Stephens I have recently met with local GPs, GP practice managers, local counselling services, homelessness services, community services and local food banks, and they are all saying the same thing. We are not heading into a storm, we are already in a storm, and they fear everything could get worse.

Recently, an elderly person was found who was too scared to leave her home, had run out of supplies and was eating cat food. That tragically speaks to the desperate situation we are in. It is why I am encouraging everyone in Port Stephens right now to reach out and reconnect, especially as we head into the increased stresses that Christmas can bring to many people's lives. My community desperately needs government help right now. I urge the Minister for Health and Medical Research to work with the Federal Minister for Health to ensure the Tomaree Peninsula has its "area of need" status restored so that GPs can be attracted to our area, can stay in our area and can help underpin the health system that my community depends on.

#### **TWEED ELECTORATE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (20:45:19):** International Pathology Day is on 11 November and is dedicated to highlighting the fundamental role of pathology in the healthcare community. It is a day to recognise the contribution that our pathologists make to health care and medicine. NSW Health pathology staff work around the clock in labs, clinics and offices, carrying out clinical and scientific investigations. They are the people safeguarding and transporting samples. They are part of a team of frontline heroes helping to protect us all from COVID-19 and other diseases, and they deliver answers so that healthcare teams can work together to improve and save lives. The doctors you see in surgery or at a clinic all depend on the knowledge, diagnostic skills and advice of pathologists. Whether it is a GP arranging a blood test or a surgeon wanting to know the nature of a lump removed during an operation, the definitive answer is usually provided by a pathologist. Some pathologists also see patients and are involved directly in the day-to-day delivery of patient care.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the pathology laboratory at Tweed Hospital, and to say I was amazed would not even touch on how impressive it is. I thank Dr Owen Van Eck for showing me around the amazing facility. Owen is the second in charge of the Tweed pathology unit but is also the hospital's chief science microbiologist. Never before has pathology testing made such a contribution to the wellbeing of the community as it has during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team at Tweed has advised that they are currently able to have the results for a COVID test in just 53 minutes—amazing. The laboratory at Tweed currently occupies a space of 250 square metres, but when the new Tweed Hospital is built, the team will have a brand-new laboratory in a space of approximately 1,000 square metres. I think they are as excited as me about what is going to happen in this amazing new workplace.

I also recognise the amazing contribution of not just the pathology team at Tweed but all the pathologists across the world. I have the pleasure to talk often with the Health Services Union representative, Peter Kelly and also his boss—I guess—Adam Hall. They do an amazing job, not only for the pathologists but also for all the other non-clinical staff who work in the hospital, such as the food service staff and so on. Today was a great example of how this Government is looking after the Tweed Heads hospital—the brand-new one. As we know, a number of years ago it was announced that we were building a half a billion dollar hospital. Today in the budget was an extra \$91 million that, according to Health Infrastructure, will turbocharge the delivery of that hospital. Currently the hospital has a value of approximately \$674 million. I pay tribute to Mike Lindley-Jones and Rob Davis, who are the two co-chairs of the Tweed medical council.

I have another important announcement. We often hear how hospitals are serviced, and we are really grateful for the clinicians and all the staff there, but today there was an announcement of a contribution of \$6 million towards a \$50 million project that would see a multistorey car park—a free car park—to enable people

to access those services available at the Tweed. The local Labor Federal member says continually that we are lying about the delivery of free car parking. I draw her attention to the budget papers—\$6 million. She should hang her head in shame. She is not supporting her local community and is creating fear and disunity. This Government is delivering some massive amounts to local health and I am proud to be part of it. I became a member of this House at the same time as you, Madam Temporary Speaker, some 13 years. We have had 13 long budgets and seen the effects, but we are now delivering to the good people. Once again, as you have heard many times, Madam Temporary Speaker, I am 100 per cent for the Tweed.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:50:30):** I acknowledge the great work being done by the member for Tweed. We all realise that he is 100 per cent for the Tweed, as he said. To secure \$91 million worth of funding for Tweed Hospital in this year's budget is absolutely outstanding. We know the difference that hospitals make. Both Gosford and Wyong hospitals on the Central Coast were transformed when they received investment similar to the \$674 million for the Tweed Hospital. Again, I acknowledge the member for Tweed for his absolutely unswerving commitment to the people of the Tweed to deliver world-class health facilities for them. Obviously the Tweed medical council worked very closely with the member for Tweed and, despite the comments by Labor, hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of investment is being delivered to his local hospital.

#### STATE BUDGET AND CRONULLA ELECTORATE

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (20:51:27):** I report to the House on what the budget means for my Cronulla electorate. There is continued funding for numerous important infrastructure projects benefiting the electorate. Funding continues for the new \$81 million operating theatres and endoscopy suites—eight operating theatres and two endoscopy suites due for completion in 2023—and there is also continued funding of \$7 million for the new MRI at Sutherland Hospital, which the health Minister announced a couple of months ago. Again, that is due in 2022 or 2023. That builds on previous work at the hospital on a \$60 million emergency department and general ward completed in 2018 and a \$10 million car park completed in 2014.

On the public transport front, there is continued funding for more trains and more services, which will see the peak hour capacity on the T4 Illawarra line increase by 30 per cent in the first half of the 2020s. That is a very important infrastructure upgrade for the T4 Illawarra line, which was operating beyond full capacity pre-COVID, with common loads of 140 per cent, 150 per cent and 160 per cent in peak hour. It builds upon other infrastructure upgrades to the T4 line in the past under this Government, which has included 100 per cent air conditioning on all regular timetabled train services, the rollout of the Opal card across the network and new steel canopies at 10 Sutherland shire stations.

On the roads front, I am pleased to see that preparation and pre-planning for the M6 Motorway underground north of Kogarah continues, which is a great boon for shire residents. This year's allocation will bring the amount the Government has spent on stage one to almost \$300 million. The upgrading of the Princes Highway between Kirrawee and Gymea continues as well, which complements other upgraded intersections in the general area including at Acacia Road and President Avenue. Planning continues at an advanced stage for the major upgrade of Cronulla High School, with a new building. In the case of the environment, there is \$52.3 million to 2023 for a major upgrade of the Cronulla Wastewater Treatment Plant, which builds on the \$46 million upgrade to the plant earlier this decade as well as around \$6 million in sewerage upgrades and upgrades to the Cronulla wastewater pumping station.

I was delighted to see recently that Cronulla beaches were among the cleanest ocean beaches in New South Wales, and the upgrades to improve the reliability of the wastewater treatment plant are an important part of that. The Government has committed \$41 million for the upgrade of Kamay Botany Bay National Park and the ferry wharves at Kurnell and La Perouse, adding to the \$25 million contributed by the Federal Government. The public art that was completed earlier this year to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the meeting between the Guugu people, and James Cook and his crew delights all who see it. A new visitor centre will be built there, along with the new ferry wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell that will replace, among others, the ferry wharf at Kurnell that was washed away by a storm in 1974. Other infrastructure projects will be built around the electorate of Cronulla, which I am delighted to see, but these major ones in the areas of health, education, public transport, roads and national parks are important for the amenity of the shire.

As has been the case in Sydney and the rest of New South Wales, COVID-19 has impacted the region hard. A disproportionate number of people from the shire work in hospitality and tourism—especially for Qantas, which celebrated its 100th anniversary yesterday—so I am pleased to report that the Government will continue to fund these important projects to stimulate jobs and economic activity in the local area.

### NEWCASTLE ELECTORATE FUNDING

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (20:55:54):** There used to be a favourite saying by mothers about making sure that you wear clean underwear in case you get hit by a bus. Hearing that as kids, we tended to miss the larger concept—we were too busy imagining what you were likely to do in those underpants should you be involved in an accident. Like my tenuous analogy, when we all got out of bed in March a very unexpected thing happened that set the course for a 2020 that did not pan out the way anyone planned. However, we have made it to the end of the year. Despite all the curveballs 2020 has thrown at us, I am proud to say that we are still making things happen in Newcastle.

The year commenced on a concerning note, with the discovery of friable asbestos during renovation work at Newcastle East Public School. The issue was poorly handled, and this caused a great deal of distress for the school community. However, I acknowledge that the department has learned from this experience and improved its processes. Although this was not the start to the school year anyone wanted, I worked with the school community to find out why this happened and obtained funding to help the school rebuild its collection of historical artefacts that were sadly destroyed when the asbestos was removed.

In March a Deputy Premier's task force was put together to tackle the ongoing erosion at Stockton Beach. It brought together a range of representatives from government and the community to progress a long-term solution. Exploratory work has already identified a probable source of sand for dredging, and \$1 million has been committed for the environmental work, which is already underway. I am particularly excited about a trial that allows 24 small bars and restaurants to increase their trading hours and serve a wider range of drinks with a view to creating employment opportunities to support one of the sectors hardest hit by COVID-19. The trial came about as a result of the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy, which includes representatives from government, council, police, the industry and the community, and will look at transforming the night-life of the State's second-largest city so that it becomes vibrant while remaining safe.

For the first time in many years, Newcastle is also eligible for funding from a major sports infrastructure fund. The city had previously slipped through the cracks after being deemed ineligible for both the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund and the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund, meaning that not a cent from a combined pot of \$200 million could be accessed. This has been a bugbear of mine for some time, so I am pleased to announce that the acting Minister has levelled the playing field and provided local sporting groups with access to the Greater Cities and Regional Sports Facility Fund. I am also proud to have worked with the people of Hamilton South to reopen their community hall. This well-loved facility closed almost 18 months ago when the lease concluded. It then sat inaccessible to a community that had previously well patronised it.

I acknowledge Jan Chamberlain for leading the community campaign to have the hall reopened. I also welcome CatholicCare, which has recently signed a lease and has a wonderful vision for the hall. In terms of inquiries to my office, the pandemic has made 2020 the busiest year that I have ever had. My team and I received what ended up being thousands of phone calls, emails and social media messages, and I thank the community for their patients as we worked through them. With the increasing likelihood that there will be a COVID-19 vaccine, 2021 is looking brighter. While the pandemic wreaked havoc on our collective plans, I would like to think that we all learned to be kinder, more patient and more appreciative of the time we spend with the ones we love. While we will all be happy to leave some parts of 2020 behind, there were some bright sparks that I will carry forward.

### LINDFIELD BANK BRANCH CLOSURES

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (21:00:29):** My electorate office has been located in Lindfield for many years. It is a suburb that has seen its share of new residential development in the past decade, along with revitalised retail precincts, a significantly refurbished railway station with lift access, the Lindfield Village Green project, which is due for completion by the end of 2021, and the proposed Lindfield Village Hub on the western side of the Pacific Highway. Lindfield is a growing and vibrant suburb, so it is disappointing to see the exodus of one of the few remaining banks in the suburb. Where there was once a row of five banks along the highway corridor, due to the recent closure of a major bank branch only two remain.

New residential complexes, easy access to trains and buses and a great shopping experience have made Lindfield an attractive place for many younger people to call home. These tech-savvy youngsters do much of their shopping and banking online. Lindfield, like the surrounding suburbs of Roseville and Killara, is also a place where many have chosen to spend their senior years. This is for many of the same reasons as the younger people—wide leafy streets, friendly neighbours and easy access to all their shopping requirements. However, this is now with the exception of banking. Roseville was once home to four banks, but now has just one ATM. Killara does not even have that.

It is fair to say that the main players in Australia's banking system have done very well in recent decades. Profits have generally grown and their shareholders have been happy. The Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry and COVID-19 have changed that, with profits and dividends now lower. The Federal Government has offered these banks substantial support, recognising their deferral of debt repayments and ongoing health to be in the public interest. However, there is an obligation on the big banks to keep a physical branch network operating. Rationalising services and branches is not a new phenomenon. Further, financial institutions are not alone in employing such measures to maintain profits and keep shareholders happy. But what concerns me is the abandonment of loyal customers who, in the case of Lindfield, must now travel to either Gordon or Chatswood to access a branch of their bank. They can do their everyday banking by phone or online if they know how, but banking a cheque, getting cash or asking a question of a bank officer in person now requires a trip some suburbs away. This is a disappointing disservice to many loyal customers and should be questioned.

In that context, I commend Bendigo Community Bank for its continued commitment to the local community—not just in maintaining physical branches in suburbs such as Lindfield, but also in funding grants to many local projects from community groups. I also thank the Commonwealth Bank for maintaining its branch presence in Lindfield and supporting the community. There is no doubt that New South Wales and Australian banks offer a wide range of financial services to individuals and businesses and play an important role in the economy.

There are many fine people who work for banks or represent this valuable industry. As members will be aware, tomorrow morning, as part of a thought leadership series hosted by my office, we will be privileged to hear from one of them: former Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, who is now CEO of the Australian Banking Association. While I appreciate her generous public service and commitment, I will convey the sentiment regarding bank closures that is contained in this speech, as I am sure many other electorates across New South Wales are experiencing a similar trend as I am in the suburb of Lindfield in my Davidson electorate.

#### **SYDNEY METRO CITY & SOUTHWEST**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (21:05:37):** I speak this evening about a matter that concerns me and my constituents, and that is the effect the Sydney Metro City & Southwest will have on the Fairfield electorate. If we listen to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, the Sydney Metro City & Southwest will be the latest marvel to hit the streets—or, more appropriately, the tracks—of south-west Sydney. While Chatswood—conveniently located in the Premier's electorate of Willoughby—will have an increase of trains on the T1 North Shore line from 20 to 35, plus 15 trains per hour on the Sydney Metro, the Fairfield electorate gets zero. That is to say, it gets zero advantages. What we will get is a whole lot of headaches and disruption with the new system, with Villawood and Carramar commuters being the main casualties. Today's budget is a sore reminder that our Premier has forgotten about south-west Sydney—especially Fairfield, with zero dollars being allocated for work in the electorate. She has not only forgotten us but also blatantly priced us out and cut off our access to the Sydney CBD.

Since the beginning of my term in this place back in 2011, I have been campaigning arduously for upgrades to the railway stations in my electorate, including Villawood, Carramar, Canley Vale and Yennora. It has been a struggle even to get the Premier's attention to deal with the massive issues we have, with no lifts and poor access to platforms. Any small gains have been the result of blood, sweat and tears. Yet now not only will we not be getting any upgrades to Villawood and Carramar railway stations but also those stations will lose a direct link to the city, forcing commuters to change several times to reach the City Circle. This is just not on. I have stood at those stations assisting the elderly, parents with prams and people with disabilities across woefully inadequate platform access points and numerous flights of stairs.

I have listened to their stories of missing a train because they just could not make it up the stairs and having to wait a long time for the next service; of struggling to pull a pram up the stairs while holding onto a toddler; of people whose jobs have been jeopardised by delays due to the shambles that Premier Berejiklian calls a train timetable. Now we have yet another hurdle. Did the Premier consider the demographic of Sydney's south-west when she decided to make us change trains, get onto a bus and then back onto a train just to get to the City Circle? Apparently not; otherwise she would have noticed that Villawood and Carramar are home to many elderly people, people with disabilities, people with limited English skills, already disadvantaged university students who are trying to get an education and workers who are just trying to get to work to pay the ever-rising bills that are a consequence of the Premier's "Let's just sell off New South Wales" attitude.

It already takes people in south-west Sydney longer to get to the City Circle. Now it will take commuters in Villawood and Carramar even longer, as they will have to change trains, get on buses and then back onto trains just to get to the city. That is not to mention the financial drain due to the increase in Opal fares at peak times, which covertly charges commuters more for their trips while the Government claims that there are no fee increases. Once again, my constituents have been left wanting by the lack of funding in the budget and by the

decision to inconvenience us even further by converting the T3 Bankstown line from Sydney Trains to Sydney Metro. It will be great for commuters in the Willoughby electorate, but not for the electorate of Fairfield and electorates west of Bankstown.

While the Premier's constituents have been given upgraded services, Villawood and Carramar commuters are stuck with second-rate public transport services and more inconvenience. That is why, on behalf of my constituents in Villawood and Carramar, I call on the State Government to restore the Inner West line with a Liverpool to City via Regents Park service. It is the only fair and equitable solution to the mess that will ensue once the Sydney Metro takes over from the T3 Bankstown line. It is about time the constituents of the Fairfield electorate get a fair go from the Premier. The rising cost of living, COVID-19 and the exorbitant tolls on every New South Wales road have impacted on us enough. At least commuters from Villawood and Carramar should be able to use public transport like the rest of New South Wales, with fast and direct access to the City Circle.

#### STATE BUDGET AND SWANSEA ELECTORATE

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (21:10:30):** I speak about the Government's failure to fund vital projects in the Swansea electorate. The Berejiklian Government's budget, which was handed down today, has barely anything in it for the Swansea electorate. Year after year, the electorate of Swansea has been given the triple-zero treatment by this Government—or close enough to it. This year, as always, I wrote to the relevant Ministers to request funding for key projects. Sadly, all but one of those requests were ignored. The first of my budget submissions concerned Carters Road at Lake Munmorah. Carters Road, as members of this Chamber very well know, is a no-through road that has two high schools on it as well as two primary schools and a preschool, all within 150 metres of one another. It sees an extremely large volume of traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times, creating absolute chaos that spills out onto the Pacific Highway at Lake Munmorah. That is why I wrote to the Minister for Transport and Roads to urge the Government to fund the construction of a new road connection between Carters Road and Tall Timbers Road.

My second budget submission concerned Nova for Women and Children. Nova runs the only drop-in hub in east Lake Macquarie for women and children at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. Yet the future of Nova's homelessness program is in doubt because of a lack of funding and funding certainty. That is why I wrote to the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services to request that the budget provide Nova with three-year funding certainty plus two-year contracts, as well as a 20 per cent funding increase due to the increase in the organisation's volume of work as a result of COVID. My third budget submission concerned the lack of public transport services for the communities in Cams Wharf, Catherine Hill Bay, Nords Wharf and Murrays Beach. Despite rapid population growth in the area, there is only one bus service that operates twice daily in each direction on weekdays, and no service at all on Sundays and public holidays.

That is why I wrote to the Minister for Transport and Roads to ask that the budget include funding to improve public transport services for those growing communities. I must add that Murrays Beach has no bus service whatsoever. One would think a new subdivision would have the infrastructure to accommodate its new population. My fourth budget submission concerned Nords Wharf Public School. The school has experienced a 95 per cent increase in student enrolments since 2013 and is projected to see a 52 per cent increase over the next five years. The school does not have a hall and its demountable classrooms are full of mould. The Government has failed to invest in new infrastructure for the school, despite promising in 2019 that it would get rid of demountable classrooms. That is why I wrote to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning to request funding to construct new, permanent classrooms at the school, as well as a hall where the whole school community can congregate.

My fifth budget submission concerned the dredging of Swansea Channel. Year after year, boats run aground in the shallows of Swansea Channel and, year after year, the Government ignores calls to provide a permanent sand dredge, which is the only real solution to the problem. In the past nine years, the Government has wasted more than \$4 million on bandaids solutions that have not fixed the ongoing problem. That is why I wrote to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to request that the Government allocate funding for a permanent dredge.

The sixth of my budget submissions concerns the need for a shared pathway from Parktrees Village to Elizabeth Bay Drive at Lake Munmorah on the Pacific Highway, Lake Munmorah. The pathway would increase connectivity between the retirement village and the greater Lake Munmorah area, making it easier for elderly residents to go about their business and preventing social isolation. That is why I wrote to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads requesting funding for a shared pathway between Parktrees Village and Elizabeth Bay Drive. To my surprise—although it was a nice surprise—Minister Toole provided the funding. The community there is absolutely beside itself. I have been fighting for these issues since I was elected, yet the electorate of Swansea, like so many Labor-held electorates, has been totally neglected in the Government's budget. With COVID-19 and the resulting economic downturn, more than ever we need a government that will put people before political

self-interest. Unfortunately, that is not what we have got. Instead, communities like those in the Swansea electorate miss out time after time after time.

### CHRIST CHURCH BONG BONG

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (21:15:39):** I speak about the heritage-listed Christ Church Bong Bong that is located in the Wingecarribee shire. Built in 1845, it is the oldest church between Cobbitty and Canberra. Importantly, it will be celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. The Christ Church Bong Bong continues to play an important role in the Wingecarribee shire today, as it did many generations ago. It continues the connectivity with many of its historic pioneer forefathers. Dr Charles Throsby was a surgeon who travelled to Australia in 1802 on the convict ship *Coromandel*, charged with the care of 136 male convicts. Following settlement on Australian shores, Dr Throsby soon established himself as a parliamentarian and explorer. His explorations saw him develop rapport with local Aborigines, who helped in his expeditions.

Following several expeditions between 1816 to 1890 through southern Sydney and into the Southern Highlands and recognised by Governor Macquarie, in 1820 he granted Dr Charles Throsby 1,000 acres of land. This is where the Throsby Park estate was developed. It was in October 1822 that Governor Macquarie visited the area and named the site Throsby Park. Dr Throsby had built a hut on the land grant and it was made official as the Parish of Bong Bong. Dr Throsby encouraged his nephew Charles Throsby Jr to travel to Australia. Charles Throsby Jr travelled on board the ship *Mangles* and arrived in New South Wales on 7 August 1820.

The historic Christ Church Bong Bong was believed to have been built by convict labour and designed by John Verge, an English architect and builder who migrated to Australia in 1828 as a pioneer. He took a lead in designing many buildings in eastern Sydney and surrounding districts. Dr Charles Throsby passed away in 1828, never marrying and with no beneficiaries. His estate was inherited by his nephew Charles Throsby Jr. The inheritance included the 950 acre Throsby Park, 700 acres of cleared land, 100 acres of crops, 20 horses, 100 cows and 200 sheep.

A lot of maintenance has occurred at the church since the early days. In 1976 the National Trust of Australia included the church, churchyard and cemetery on the trust's register. It carries State as well as local government heritage listing, a clear indicator of the importance of the structure to the community. I once again emphasise the historic importance of the Christ Church Bong Bong to not only the local church community in the Southern Highlands but also to the wider community in which it thrives. The community has contributed in many ways to the ongoing viability of the church, including donations and in-kind works. Over the years there have been many grants awarded to the church to assist ongoing maintenance and recovery.

Most recently this included \$30,000, through the 2019 Community Building Partnership program, to fund further upgrades to extend the southern side of the existing kitchen and toilet facilities. This program is designed to build infrastructure that brings people together, something that Christ Church Bong Bong does very well. The project manager, Mr John Bone, and the Rector's Warden, Chris Dudley, are both very grateful for the funding awarded and have invited me to take a tour of the finished product in early December, which I very much look forward to. As we approach the end of another calendar year, I also look forward to the announcement of the 2020 round of the Community Building Partnership program. It is such a fantastic program that makes a huge difference to our communities.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (21:19:34):** I acknowledge the great work of the member for Goulburn at the Christ Church Bong Bong and her strong advocacy for the Community Building Partnership funding. The church is 175 years old and going strong. I was in the Chamber last year when the member for Goulburn confirmed the \$30,000 funding to extend the church's facilities. I know she is watching with eager anticipation for the 2020 Community Building Partnership applications. I have no doubt that she has provided a huge amount of support for the submission from the church and fingers crossed it will receive some funding. Again I acknowledge the great work being done by the member for Goulburn to support this 175-year-old icon of the region, the Christ Church Bong Bong. The \$30,000 to upgrade the church facilities was well deserved. I am sure the member will visit the church in the not too distant future.

### CABRAMATTA ELECTORATE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (21:20:47):** On 11 November, in commemoration of Remembrance Day, our nation spent time to honour the memory and service of the brave men and women who have served and are currently serving our community. This year due to COVID-19 Remembrance Day services were very different to previous years; however, thankfully full services were live streamed online from the cenotaph in Martin Place and many participating RSL clubs across the State. It was fantastic to see such a tremendous uptake of the online streaming service and representation from local communities and cultural groups to commemorate Remembrance Day in their own special way, remembering those who have served and are currently serving.

I commend the RSL of Australia, which took the initiative during this time and promoted a variety of ways for our communities to participate in Remembrance Day services, while encouraging the community to upload its own unique contributions and telling their friends and family what Remembrance Day means to them.

Despite the continued precautions due to COVID-19, it was heartwarming to see so much community-driven content promoting and acknowledging the importance of Remembrance Day and the need to support and care for veterans in our community. Each passing year, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day our nation honours with a minute's silence to remember the service and sacrifice of our veterans, to pay personal tribute and to reflect on what their sacrifices mean for us all. It is an important time for all of us to remember and honour the memory of all those men and women who served and are currently serving and those whom we have lost.

Last week, although there were COVID-19 restrictions in place, I was fortunate to have the great honour of attending a Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph with my parliamentary colleague Mr Edmond Atalla, MP, the member for Mount Druitt. We had the unique opportunity to personally thank our veterans for their service and the many sacrifices they made for all Australians. On behalf of a very grateful electorate, I extend our sincere appreciation to each and every individual and organisation who participated and supported in person the virtual Remembrance Day services. It is important that we continue to honour the legacy of our veterans and I am proud to say that despite these difficult times the resilience of all Australians made the 2020 Remembrance Day service a day we will always remember. Lest we forget.

#### STATE BUDGET AND NORTHERN TABLELANDS ELECTORATE

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (21:23:33):** I speak about the impact that today's State budget will have on the Northern Tablelands electorate. I am pleased to report to the House that again this year there has been a record amount of expenditure allocated by the Government to the Northern Tablelands: \$315.7 million in capital expenditure, a huge investment in the continuation of brand-new and upgraded hospitals, and key investments in road infrastructure. Chief among those allocations, I am very pleased to say, was the long-awaited first flow of money for the Moree District Hospital redevelopment—an \$80 million project that was committed by the Government to the Moree community in the lead-up to the last election—and the first tranche of funding for the Glen Innes Hospital redevelopment, also a critical \$20 million project committed before the last election.

Those sorts of things do not just happen because they are numbers on a page and Treasury and politicians make them happen. Those sorts of investments happen because communities work very, very hard to campaign, to lobby and to put pressure on government, but they also work together as a community with clinical staff and local GPs to put the case. I acknowledge a few key people in Moree. The achievement today in the State budget would not have been possible without the efforts of Moree Plains Shire Council, particularly Mayor Katrina Humphries and general manager Lester Rodgers, working hand in glove with their local MP, and also the important staff and management who work at that hospital. Bronwyn Cosh, who does a magnificent job as the health services manager, and David Quirk, who is the Mehi cluster manager, are some of the best health professionals one would ever hope to meet. That hospital should have been redeveloped 10 or 15 years ago, but the health service it provides to that community in what can only be described as a ramshackle building in some parts is incredible.

Likewise in Glen Innes, Mayor Carol Sparks and the hospital auxiliary—I pay tribute particularly to Jan Sharman, OAM, who was a nurse at the hospital and now, later in life, is still championing the cause for upgrades to the hospital—and the local council deserve the credit for this achievement today. Beyond that, we have seen the final tranche of \$13.5 million to complete the Inverell Hospital redevelopment—a \$60 million project—and another \$27.5 million to complete the \$121 million new Armidale Secondary College, the most state-of-the-art and specialised secondary school anywhere in New South Wales outside Sydney. Most importantly, in today's budget we have record expenditure on the key infrastructure that drives every region—roads and bridges—with \$102 million in road expenditure that covers roads like the Newell Highway, the New England Highway and the Gwydir Highway, but also the other important regional roads that connect our freight to those major highways: the Yetman Road, I B Bore Road, Waterfall Way, Horton Road. All those roads will be upgraded, sealed and widened.

As well, local councils in the Northern Tablelands will receive almost \$30 million in direct grants to help with the maintenance of their local road networks, which is more than double the amount they received in last year's budget for the same maintenance work. So it is an important budget that looks after the basic needs of the region, but it will also bring forward a number of key infrastructure projects to ensure that we keep our economy going. Again, today's result of record expenditure is not down to the local member; the victory belongs to the community, because without their hard work and that of local councils none of this would happen. They deserve all the credit; they have done a lot of the work and, as their local member, it is my job to support them and to

facilitate the projects that they determine are priorities. I will continue to do that not just for the rest of this financial year but I have already turned my eye to next June's budget, when there will be even more bounty for one of the best parts of New South Wales.

### STATE BUDGET AND MAITLAND ELECTORATE

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (21:28:36):** I speak on the budget and its impact on my community of Maitland. At the outset, I thank the Minister for Health and Medical Research. It was good to see a \$30 million increase in the budget for the new Maitland Hospital. Funding for a new car park will now not have to be taken out of the \$470 million that the community managed to obtain for that project. However, it raises a question about the completion date for funding, which the budget papers say is June 2023. The Government's own website says that the hospital will be open by early 2022, which presumably means there will be still more to do and that some of the new services—such as the new psychiatric emergency care centre, increased critical care capabilities including an intensive care unit, expanded oral health services, the cardiac catheterisation lab, the day chemotherapy, and the doubling of operating suites as well as new MRI and fluoroscopy imaging—will be held back.

I assure my constituents that I will write to the Minister to find out exactly when all those services will roll out because it is of concern to me and to many of the staff at the hospital that the Government's website states that the hospital will open in early 2022 but the completion on financials will be in June 2023. I was at Maitland Hospital for International Pathology Day last week with the Health Services Union and I watched the pathologists at the hospital doing amazing work for residents all over the Hunter region. But although they work very hard, they were not able to work efficiently because of the cramped conditions.

Bolwarra Public School will receive another \$100,000 in this budget. I am unclear about what that is for as the school upgrade was finished in January 2019. Do not get me wrong: I will never knock back more resources for my schools, but I hope this is not a budget overrun. Ashtonfield School still has no start or completion date, although I note they turned a sod there—perhaps Treasury does not know that yet. There is no estimated budgeted cost for this project, which, given that they have turned a sod, is quite disturbing. I am very pleased that Rutherford Public School will receive another \$1.86 million. We presume that is to put in the library, which the Government forgot to do when the upgrades were done. That will fill the void in the school. However, there is no commitment to Gillieston Public School, which still has only two permanent learning spaces, and there is no commitment for upgrades to the ageing high schools in Maitland—some of which have the most demountable classrooms in the Hunter.

I am very concerned about the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment committing \$32 million for a 10-year lease at the new office tower in Hunter Street, Newcastle. In September 2019 I obtained government briefing notes detailing plans to relocate 200 staff from Maitland to Newcastle, although the Government assured us that it had re-signed that lease in July for five years. In budget estimates last year the Deputy Premier said:

I can categorically say this clearly that the jobs will remain in Maitland. We are not moving the office to any other part of the State. The truth of it is that I would be silly to do so. We know we have some efficiencies across government in relation to the public sector jobs but regional and rural New South Wales is excluded from that—Maitland is regional and rural New South Wales. The answer is: absolutely no—not now, not tomorrow, not while I am Minister.

He is still the Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade so, on behalf of my community, I hold him to that commitment. There are two other areas in which I believe there is a shortfall in the budget. In transport, we still have no money for any new stations in Maitland—we have half a station at Metford. It is just not even on the cards with this Government. It is a real shame because there is huge population growth to the north of that one-sided station. Also, there is no money in the budget that I can see for the Environment Protection Authority clean-up of Rutherford where the Truegain facility, which I speak about quite frequently in this place, was vandalised last week and a hazmat squad was called out to it. There are also serious flooding issues that Local Land Services need to look at and which need to be addressed, and I will be calling on the environment Minister to do so.

### CORRIMAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (21:33:45):** I raise an issue that I have spoken about in this place before—the rebuilding of Corrimal High School after it was devastated by fire back on 3 November 2018. I was there that morning—I was one of the first people on site as it is about 400 or 500 metres from where I live.

I arrived at about 6.30 a.m. to see a number of fire vehicles, equipment and frontline emergency workers trying to put out a raging inferno that had completely engulfed the industrial arts building. The fire caused an enormous amount of damage both to equipment, resources and, tragically, the work of many students. That is something that none of us ever want to see for our local schools, but I am sure all members can appreciate that an



industrial arts faculty, as it was then known, or design and technology in today's language, is one that cannot be easily placed into another part of the school. It requires speciality equipment, tools and spaces.

Since 2019 the students, including those completing their HSC, have been doing so in demountable buildings. I had been working with the school community to make sure that the disruption to students was kept to a minimum at this terrific local high school. Now two years on we are finally seeing the next step in progressing this rebuild, with tenders for the construction contractor due to open in the coming weeks. The new facility will be a fantastic asset to the school community, with contemporary learning spaces, workshops and amenities for students and staff. I am pleased that this project will be completed in the coming years and, hopefully, it can be accelerated once the works commence.

I take this opportunity, as we start the rebuild, to thank the staff, students, parents and community members who have worked together tirelessly to make Corrimal High School the fantastic school that it is today. Over the past few years Corrimal High School has completely flourished under principal Paul Roger, who has made a good school a great school. Paul Roger was only in the job of principal for a very short period when this fire occurred. As an old chalkie I know that a new principal dealing with an inferno at his school that destroyed a large teaching space is not something that would be easy to face. Since then he has been tireless in his efforts to make sure the students have a good learning space, always putting the school and students first. He has gone out of his way to make sure that that was his focus. We need to make sure we give the school and its students the support they need during the construction.

I have made it very clear to the Government that I am happy to work with it in a bipartisan way and I will continue to do so. I will continue to advocate for that school and to make sure, as we all do, that schools have the best possible teaching and learning spaces. I extend my thanks to the industrial arts staff for the way they have approached this, their flexibility and their ability to adapt. They have become project managers as well as teachers. I know schools are important to all of us in this place. For many of us their improvement is why we became members of Parliament. Corrimal High School is very near and dear to my heart. I look forward to working with this school to see it be rebuilt and become an ever better school than it is today.

## HEPATITIS

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (21:37:46):** Hepatitis is an important issue affecting thousands of people in New South Wales and a significant amount of people in the electorate of Prospect and western Sydney. Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E are the five main types of hepatitis viruses that cause inflammation of the liver that can progress to cancer. Hepatitis viruses can affect our loved ones and family members, whilst severely affecting the broader community's safety as hepatitis infections can lead to outbreaks. What do one in 100 people in Australia have in common? The answer is hepatitis B. According to Hepatitis NSW, in New South Wales alone approximately 80,300 people are living with hepatitis B. Hepatitis NSW Chief Executive Officer Steven Drew noted during our discussions last week that in south-west Sydney alone an estimated 13,300 people are living with the disease. I was shocked to hear those numbers and was devastated to know that thousands in our community are living with this life-threatening illness.

Hepatitis B is often passed on from a mother to her infant at the time of birth. However, transmission can also occur through transfusions of hepatitis B contaminated blood and contaminated injections during medical procedures. Hepatitis B is known to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of our community, specifically migrant and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Although a vaccine is available to prevent hepatitis B, unfortunately, to this day, there is no cure. For this reason, hepatitis B is often left unnoticed and untreated, and the effects of this are severe and detrimental. One in four people, without proper management of the disease, will end up suffering from severe liver disease or liver cancer.

The effects of hepatitis C are also fatal if left untreated. Today over 47,000 people are living with hepatitis C in New South Wales. Like hepatitis B, hepatitis C is also mostly transmitted through exposure to infected blood, including transfusions of hepatitis C contaminated blood and contaminated injections during medical procedures. Unlike hepatitis B, there is still no vaccine for hepatitis C. However, since 2016 progress has been made with an available treatment under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for those infected. The eight- to 12-week treatment has a 95 per cent success rate. However, as of March 2020, only 36 per cent of people that were living with hepatitis C had been treated.

Hepatitis NSW is a statewide not-for-profit charity that was established in 1991 by members of the hepatitis community and strives to tackle hepatitis. The goal is to create a world free of viral hepatitis. To do this, we must acknowledge the severity of hepatitis viruses in New South Wales and acknowledge their detrimental effects on our communities. I look forward to supporting Hepatitis NSW as it tries to implement its 2020-24 strategic plan. It encompasses four main goals. The first is to increase the knowledge and awareness of people who are living

with, or are at risk of, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Hepatitis NSW intends to advance testing, treatment and prevention opportunities amongst all members of our community.

Hepatitis NSW also aims to provide an environment free from stigma and discrimination. This is extremely important as it will encourage people to come forward be tested and treated and help defeat this virus. It is imperative victims do not feel embarrassed or ashamed but instead are assisted in dealing with this disease. A significant number of people living with hepatitis C, as mentioned previously, have already been cured. However, we must now assist those who are still wary of the treatments provided or are unaware of the new treatment options.

As its third goal, Hepatitis NSW is pushing to empower and mobilise all victims of hepatitis. It is about ensuring that all people affected, or at risk of viral hepatitis, have a platform to have their voice heard. This means we must all do our bit in allowing people living with hepatitis to tell their story, explain their difficulties and have the broader society listen. Finally, Hepatitis NSW is determined to continue to grow and establish an organisation that is inclusive, professional and competent in dealing with these issues. I for one pledge to stand by all members of our community who are suffering or at risk of hepatitis. I urge all of us to do the same. I thank the House.

### **HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE PROJECTS**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (21:42:30):** It goes without saying that 2020 has been a year that we will never forget. With the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been tough and unique. However, it has been incredible to see the Holsworthy community come together during this uncertain time to show love, resilience and community spirit and to achieve some amazing things. I thank the Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, for the incredible leadership she has shown throughout the year. She is a Premier who has put the citizens of New South Wales first and has continued to ensure that we are safe and protected. I also thank former NSW Rural Fire Service commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons and Chief Medical Officer Dr Kerry Chant. Along with our hardworking team of Ministers, they have ensured the safety of people right across our State and I know we are all grateful.

While the world has been topsy-turvy with the pandemic, we have managed to keep delivering on our promises. Locally, upgrading Heathcote Road has been and continues to be one of my main priorities. Up to 36,000 people use it every day and it is important that they are safe and comfortable. The 2.2 kilometre duplication of Heathcote Road between Holsworthy and Voyager Point is underway, with the early works completed and the next stage of construction starting in the new year. I am happy to advise that the New South Wales Government is funding my request to investigate an upgrade that would involve the full duplication of Heathcote Road from Voyager Point all the way to Heathcote, which would significantly improve safety for drivers.

Funding has been allocated in the State budget to help conduct the investigations and planning for this project. This year also saw the stage one construction of the Edmondson Park car park begin, which will deliver up to 1,000 new commuter car parking spaces; we will then start work on another 1,000 spaces. Planning also commenced on the Casula station commuter car park upgrade and we are well underway on our promise to deliver an additional 250 car parking spaces at Warwick Farm station. This investment will not only deliver benefits for hundreds of commuters but will generate jobs whilst the projects are underway.

Excitingly in the education space, earlier this year the Premier, the education Minister and I opened up the \$11 million Prestons Public School upgrade, which was completed a year ahead of schedule. Earlier this month, we came together again for another exciting announcement: the location and time frame for a brand-new primary school for Edmondson Park. The draft designs for the new public school in Liverpool were also recently announced. The planning for the upgrade of Liverpool West Public School is progressing well, with the development application to be submitted early next year. Protecting the local environment is also a priority of mine and I have continued to promote the importance of protecting our disease-free koala colony in south-west Sydney. This year I was joined by the environment Minister to announce a new plan to protect these koalas. The Georges River Koala Reserve will protect up to 1,885 hectares of existing koala habitat and work to ensure that the healthiest koala population is protected and the species can move about safely in the future.

It has been an eventful year in the Holsworthy electorate, with lots of exciting announcements made, and I have achieved my goal of making a positive difference to the lives of our locals. This can only be done with the support of a great team and of my family. I have what I can best describe as an awesome team. With Daniel Nicholls, Clayton Hopper, Faith Perryman and Sophie Carlton as the core, we have been assisted at times by Adam Rudge, Julia Kokic, Dimitri Konstantinidis and Rhonda Holt. Being an electorate officer is not an easy task. It can be fast paced and have competing demands, but mine is truly a team of Radar O'Reillys. They know what is needed and how to achieve it—often before I have even raised it with them—which benefits both me and our community.

Members often say we could not be members of this place without the support of our families. As mother to four-year-old Audrey and two-year-old Elizabeth, I understand that more than ever. My fabulous parents, Scott and Rhonda Gibbons, give us love and support that we could not do without. I thank them for their help again this year. We also talk of the sacrifices our loved ones make for us to be in here. This year my role meant that my partner, Kent Johns, missed out on work because of a stance I have taken. He has given up opportunities, particularly those involving travel on Parliament's sitting days, so he can be home for our girls. But, as the expression goes, "If you want something done, ask a busy person." He always seems to find the time to do what needs to be done. It can be a juggling act, but to say it is appreciated is an understatement. It is the last sitting week of the year and today is, unusually, budget day. I have been pleased to see the funding to progress my election promises as well as for some projects I have been working on since then. I hope to be in this Chamber at this time next year with more positive things to say.

### DOONSIDE RAILWAY STATION

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (21:47:43):** Today I update the House on the upgrade of Doonside railway station. I am both ecstatic and relieved that the Treasurer and the transport Minister have announced the listing of \$2 million towards the accessibility upgrade for Doonside station. On behalf of the community and myself, I thank the Government for finally recognising the need and implementing the plan to upgrade Doonside station. At this point it is very important to thank the many people involved in the campaign, which has been ongoing for at least 12 years. I thank my predecessors as members for the electorate of Blacktown, Paul Gibson and John Robertson, and I appreciate the ongoing significant commitment of the Leader of the Opposition, Jodi McKay. Ed Husic, the Federal member for Chifley, supported the campaign, including the recent coordination of lodging a dispute with the Human Rights Commission.

Blacktown City Council has supported the campaign by allowing petitions to be signed at festivals and other locations. I thank Mayor Tony Bleasdale and councillors; the CEO, Kerry Robinson; former public relations officer, Alan Gale; and many other staff who have coordinated various activities. Councillor Carol Israel, chair of the council's access committee—and a resident of postcode 2767—and her committee members also strongly supported the campaign. Many individuals and their families have helped in various capacities. We collected over 10,000 signatures at the local shops, on the station, at festivals, at local churches, doorknocking, at local sporting events and through promotions on Facebook and other social media. Whilst I am mindful of trying not to miss anyone, I apologise in advance if I have. No doubt I will be able to mention those people sometime in the future.

I wish to thank the local residents who helped out, including Satish Kumar; Warren and Annette Hardy; Lucas Cayan; Chris Pilao; Father John O'Neill; Fiona Scully; Rebel and Rachael Hanlon; Sajana Nand; Jim Kelly; Bill and Judith Archer; Stuart and Jenni McKinder; Indu Harikrishna; Jojo Laquian; Sophie Young; Barry O'Donnell; Anne and Joe Buckman; Sangeetha Eswarappa; Maanuv Sridhar; Annette Murphy; and Mahalia Murphy, the Australian Rugby Sevens representative. I also thank Penny Allan and the 12,000 people who signed the petition leading to the debate here in Parliament.

I thank the following organisations and their members: Doonside Seniors Citizens Club, Doonside Catholic Church, Doonside Junior Rugby League Club, Doonside Hawks Soccer Club, Doonside Little Athletics, Doonside Cricket Club, Mt Druitt Commuters Group, Blacktown City Lions Club, Greater Blacktown Business Chamber and the Labor Party. The local newspapers have also been heavily involved in the campaign, such as the *Blacktown City Sun* and the *Western News*. The issue also made it onto Channel 9 news with reporter Chris O'Keefe.

I cannot forget Busco from SWR Triple 9 FM, who has also been talking about it for the past 12 years. I express my sincere appreciation to the *Blacktown Advocate*. Over the past 12 years it has published in excess of 30 feature articles, including some front pages. Several reporters have been involved, up to the latest, Kate Lockley. Joanne Vella has been a long-term reporter for News Corp local papers, but when she was at the *Blacktown Advocate* she worked closely with the community and undertook many detailed analyses of the issue in her insightful reporting.

I give special thanks to Martha Lynch, who is president of Doonside Senior Citizens Club and a Blacktown City Senior Citizen of the Year award winner. Martha was one of the first in a small group that acknowledged the problem and wanted to do something about it. I also acknowledge my family—my wife, Anne, and son, Stephen Jr—who have been working relentlessly with me to collect signatures. My mother, Eva, was one of the first to passionately campaign on this issue. Even in her final moments, she made me promise to never give up on this issue. Unfortunately there are a number of people involved in the campaign who have passed away; however, I do remember their contributions.

This has been a long campaign. The case stacks up. Even though the funding is long overdue, we are so grateful for it. But we are also mindful that there is more to be done. The community wants to be involved in

consultations. I believe it deserves to know the exact timetable from construction through to completion. I thank Minister Andrew Constance and Treasurer Dominic Perrottet for their personal involvement in making this happen, but this has been one truly long, hard campaign run by the entire community. I appreciate each and every person who has helped.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (21:52:43):** I am looking forward to the headline in the *Blacktown Advocate*: "Liberals deliver the Doonside lift". It is fantastic to see the member for Blacktown thanking the Liberal transport Minister and the Liberal Treasurer. The one thing the people of Doonside have learnt today is that, after years and years of talk, it is only ever the Liberal Party that delivers for this community.

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **ONEMOB RADIO**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (21:53:28):** An exciting initiative owned and driven by our Aboriginal community is about to go live in Coffs Harbour. On 18 November Galambila Aboriginal Health Service will host the much-anticipated launch of OneMob Radio, Coffs Harbour's First Nations internet radio station. It has its home online and is available via [onemobradio.com.au](http://onemobradio.com.au), with the theme "Celebrating Our People, Stories, Achievements and Culture". Founder and station manager, Lachlan Skinner, leads a group of 20 community members who are determined to develop OneMob Radio into a successful service to the public. Lachlan Skinner describes the aim of OneMob Radio as being, "To have a voice, and to showcase and promote the amazing things which are happening in the Aboriginal community." The station has as its major sponsor READY MOB, which stands for "Really Evaluate and Decide Yourself—Make Ourselves Better", through the Galambila Aboriginal Health Service. I wish OneMob Radio a long and happy future on the Coffs coast.

#### **PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY**

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (21:54:36):** Family businesses are often the hidden gems of the communities they serve and in Newcastle we have one in the form of Piggott's Pharmacy, which has just celebrated its fiftieth birthday. The Piggott name is now synonymous with the industry in Newcastle in a legacy that was forged by Chris and Shirley when they purchased their first pharmacy and relocated from Sydney. It is carried on by all four children. Anthony, Maddi and Skye have all taken up the white coat, while Andrew looks after the business marketing. That first pharmacy in 1970 has become six, with their ongoing success testament to the family's reputation for quality advice and genuine care for everyone who walks in the door. Congratulations to the entire Piggott family for their first 50 years. Here's to 50 more!

#### **NORTH AVOCA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (21:55:32):** On Sunday 25 October I had the absolute pleasure and honour of attending a presentation at the North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club to commend three men who have performed 50 years each of active patrol service. I congratulate those three men: Gordon Crabb, Paul Johnston and John Roderick. Gordon, Paul and John each joined the club in 1970 at which point the club was just 14 years old. A lot has changed at North Avoca and across the coast since then but one thing has not changed—Gordon, Paul and John have remained active members of North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club. There are only six people across the Central Coast who have achieved 50 years of active patrolling. To commemorate half of those six people at the one surf club is a wonderful testament to the club and its success over this space of time. Fast forward to 2020 and North Avoca is continuing to set records with the biggest Nippers and youth programs since its establishment in 1956. I thank Gordon, Paul and John for their service. I wish the many hundreds of volunteers at the North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club all the best for another patrolling year.

#### **SIRRON HOLDINGS**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (21:56:31):** I congratulate Sirron Holdings on being the joint winners of the Manufacturing Pivot Award at the 2020 Hunter Manufacturing Awards. Sirron Holdings saw a significant downturn in demand for its commercial dishwasher products during COVID-19. Over eight days—just eight days—the business completely revamped its supply chain and production line by expanding their Zexa cleaning chemical products to include items such as hand sanitiser. The Zexa cleaning chemical product line originally represented only 8 per cent of Sirron Holdings sales but has tripled the company's overall turnover since COVID-19. Companies that have been able to pivot to meet changing community needs, as Sirron Holdings has, have helped our community through the global pandemic. I congratulate Sirron Holdings on being awarded the Manufacturing Pivot Award. They are deserving winners and a fantastic local business at Caves Beach in the Swansea electorate.

### TRIBUTE TO MAX HARRISON

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (21:57:36):** I recognise the life well lived of Max Harrison, who recently passed away at age 95. Max was a genuine western Sydney legend. He served in the Royal Australian Air Force in World War II. At the seventy-fifth anniversary of World War II he was one of just two people from the Penrith community who served in that war. After his service in the war he became a passionate advocate for the community of western Sydney, single-handedly advocating for the movement of the polyclinic at Mount Druitt to become a hospital. He also helped to establish the Kingswood community centre. However, Max's greatest love was his family—his children, Maxine, Joanne, Glen and David, and his beautiful and lovely wife, Dulcie—closely followed by the Penrith Panthers. Max and Dulcie have 17 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Max was the long-term president of the Liberal Party in Chifley, the difficulty of which I think we should all recognise. Vale, Max Harrison—you are a legend.

### FAIRFIELD CITY POLICE AREA COMMAND

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (21:58:42):** I commend and congratulate the Fairfield City Police Area Command on doing their part to Grow a Mo to Save a Bro this Movember. Our local police officers will be raising money and awareness of prostate cancer, mental health, testicular cancer and suicide prevention as part of the annual Movember campaign. Starting the conversation is half the battle. Movember is a fantastic initiative that not only raises funds and awareness but also gets the discussion happening among men and emphasises the need to look after yourself and to get yourself checked out if something does not seem right. On behalf of the Cabramatta electorate, I thank each and every Movember participant for taking part in the Movember campaign.

### QUEANBEYAN RODEO

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (21:59:35):** I acknowledge the Queanbeyan Rodeo committee, Mark Mills and his team. They are back in Queanbeyan. I normally attend the event but because Parliament is sitting, I am unable to. Each year they run the Queanbeyan Rodeo and this year was their twentieth rodeo and that was held pre-COVID back in March. What is fantastic about the rodeo is that it brings communities together. Those who live in rural and regional areas of New South Wales understand the importance of community events such as rodeo shows et cetera. The Queanbeyan Rodeo does more than just provide entertainment and put on a show each year; it gives back to the community.

The rodeo has given back tens of thousands of dollars worth of donations to groups such as the Queanbeyan Special Needs Group, the Rise Above Cancer Support Group, Queanbeyan Meals on Wheels, R U OK?, the Country Women's Association drought fund, Respite Care for Queanbeyan, Home Queanbeyan, the Queanbeyan Rural Fire Service, the Queanbeyan Girl Guides, the Queanbeyan Pony Club, the West Creek Molonglo Cricket Club Pink Stumps Day, the Bywong Community Association, the Geary's Gap Pony Club, the Queanbeyan Lions Club and the 1st Jerrabomberra Scout Group. They are the sorts of community groups that are rewarded for supporting the Queanbeyan Rodeo.

### QUEANBEYAN CITY TRAVEL & CRUISE

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (22:00:34):** Much has been said and written about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies, industries, businesses and budgets. Far less attention has been paid to things that are just as vital but cannot be measured, like hopes and dreams. In July I met Jenny Cooper, who owns Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise with her husband Jim. She introduced me to a young woman, Dani Newham, who just eight months before scored her dream job—working with Jenny and Jim. Dani could be forgiven for thinking that, during 2020, her dream has become a nightmare. However, she has persisted in following it with the support of Jenny and Jim. They recently paid tribute to her first anniversary on the job, saying:

Her commitment to us and our business deserves more than cake and flowers. It deserves much more than refunds and travel credits.

Dani, as the shadow Minister for tourism and investment and a former tourism operator, I know you have joined an amazing and exciting but also resilient industry. I wish you and your employers, Jenny and Jim Cooper, all the best in the future.

### STATE BUDGET AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (22:01:33):** We all remember our adolescent years and dealing with their emotional, psychological and social challenges. COVID-19 has taken a toll on everyone, but its impact on our youth has been very challenging. With the increased demand for youth mental health services across the State, the New South Wales Government is committed to ensuring no child goes without support. I am pleased

that as part of the State budget delivered today the New South Wales Government earmarked over \$46 million to deliver 100 new wellbeing school-based nurses.

Our schools are very important custodians of our youth and this initiative will guarantee the health and wellbeing of our students and families. On a local level, I wish to promote the Help Us to Help Them campaign by the Youth Services of the northern Sydney region to raise funds to increase support. KYDS Youth Development Service was the beneficiary of a \$45,000 Government grant, which will be applied to funding the project. I commend the youth mental health services in my local community, who work tirelessly to provide support for our vulnerable youth.

#### **TRIBUTE TO RICHARD KEATING**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (22:02:38):** Richard Keating was a member of the Labor Party since his younger days as he had a very strong conviction in regards to social justice and equality, which he inherited from his mother, who was very strong in the women's movement. Richard was a member of my Wyong branch for 27 years and mentored me as a younger party member. Richard held numerous positions in the local Labor Party structure including branch president and vice president, delegate to Dobell Federal Electorate Council [FEC] and President of Dobell FEC, among others. Together with his wife, Rita, they were strong supporters of Labor and attended functions and worked on polling booths. Richard was the booth captain and scrutineer on polling days at Chittaway Bay Public School. Chittaway Bay Public School became the bellwether booth and we could always tell how we were progressing from Richard's scrutineering intelligence. "We've won this one," he would say. Richard passed away aged 90—a stalwart of the party, a mentor and a friend. Richard Keating's shoes will be hard to fill and his lifelong efforts are truly appreciated. Vale, Richard Keating.

#### **NARRANDERA GARDEN CLUB**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (22:03:41):** In late October, the Narrandera Garden Club held a Garden Appreciation Day raising much-needed funding for Can Assist. Each year the garden club holds an open garden day but this year with COVID restrictions it organised something a little different. Twenty gardens in town were mapped out so that local people could walk or drive past the perimeters of the gardens. The garden club wanted to keep the fundraising day so its members put their heads together to keep the day running with slight changes. The Shady Gum Nursery offered participants a discount at the nursery for the day. There was also a raffle running, a coffee van and slices kindly donated by the garden club members and the Soroptimists. I congratulate the Narrandera Garden Club for raising over \$3,500 for Can Assist, which is a wonderful achievement. Well done to all of the locals taking part in the day and the generosity of local businesses involved.

#### **MOUNT KEIRA DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL**

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (22:04:41):** The Mount Keira Demonstration School is at the top of Mount Keira, the mountain that my electorate is named after. You look over our escarpment and down onto the Tasman Sea, and it is a tough playground duty. They have a hardworking parents and citizens group and this year that playground has won the 2020 Kidsafe National Playspace Design Awards for infants and primary schools. I congratulate all of the P&C members. In particular, my good friend Lili Zlojurt and her husband, Peter Martino, who along with other parents have dedicated many hours, donated a huge amount of money to make sure that little school on the hill is a very special place for teachers and students.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE LIONESSE CLUB**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (22:05:37):** I acknowledge the Sutherland Shire Lioness Club for 42 years of service to our community. Established in 1978, this group of community-minded women has since raised essential funds to help those less fortunate in our community, with more than \$1.5 million donated to charities, schools, organisations and local families in need over the years with regular fundraising projects including Bunnings barbecues, fashion parades, luncheons, trivia nights and raffles. Each of these ladies has dedicated themselves to our shire for an average of 17 years. I was saddened to learn that the Sutherland Shire Lioness Club officially disbanded last month as a result of a directive by Lions International. I take this opportunity to commend each and every individual who has served our community as a member of the Lioness Club of the Sutherland Shire over the past four decades. I particularly recognise those who held executive positions at the time of the group's disbanding, including President Jenni Warren, Secretary Marilyn Morrison and Treasurer Sue MacLean. On behalf of our community, I thank the Sutherland Shire Lioness Club for its service and extend my best wishes for the future.

#### **LATE MAIL POSTIE BIKE RIDE**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (22:06:39):** One of the rare positive things to come from the COVID-19 pandemic has been the flexibility people have shown to get things done. One such example is the Late

Mail Postie Bike Ride, a charity event that raises funds for the not-for-profit organisation Wings4Kidz. The 2020 edition of the event was held recently, with organiser Jason Turner and his crew plotting a route that started in Hargraves, and visited Parkes, Condobolin, Cobar, Bourke, Lightning Ridge and Coonabarabran before ending in Mudgee. Despite the challenges this year has thrown up, this year's ride set an amazing record and raised \$232,000, up \$24,000 from the previous best return. It shows the spirit of regional New South Wales when, during a time when people have been doing it tough as a result of drought and the pandemic, such generosity still exists for the most deserving of causes. The other big news from this year's ride is that it took the overall earnings from the event, over the course of its seven-year history, to over \$1 million. Well done to Jason Turner, his committee, and everyone involved in a unique event that is certainly making a difference for sick kids and their families.

#### HUNTER CARE GROUP

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (22:07:41):** As one of the largest NDIS support services in the region, Hunter Care Group has a lot on its plate, but that does not stop the group from providing a wonderful standard of service to its clients and winning many awards. Hunter Care Group helps its clients to live their lives to the fullest by teaching independent living skills in a friendly environment, and providing consistency of support and care. Recently I was able to visit Jarrod Burns and his highly motivated team, and can vouch for the pride they have in their work and the passion each person brings to achieving the best outcomes for their clients. I was very impressed by what I saw. If they keep up this fantastic work the group is bound to grow even bigger.

#### BINYA WINYANGARA CLINIC

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (22:08:28):** I acknowledge the official launch of the Binya Winyangara Clinic at Liverpool Hospital. The clinic launch was part of South Western Sydney Local Health District's NAIDOC Week celebrations. This antenatal clinic will connect pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to community and health services while providing them with the necessary culturally responsive care during their pregnancy. This clinic is extremely important as it will ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are receiving the right care with the assurance that someone will be dedicated to look after them specifically during this time. It will also ensure that they are supported and made to feel comfortable when they are accessing care with the assistance of someone who is culturally aware. Once again I congratulate the Binya Winyangara Clinic at Liverpool Hospital on its launch.

#### MAITLAND SHOW

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (22:09:18):** The Maitland community is thrilled that the 160th Hunter Agricultural and Horticultural Association's Maitland Show will go ahead in February 2021. It is the oldest continuous agricultural show in mainland Australia, starting in 1859. While last year's program did go ahead, after extreme heat, severe drought and fire emergencies the number of entries was well down. Rural and regional shows are more than dodgem cars and Dagwood dogs: They are a chance for children to connect paddock to plate, for agriculturalists to showcase their food and fibre, for artists to display their works and for cooks to put forward their home-made delights. The theme for this year's Maitland Show will be "Celebrating a resilient community". After 12 months of testing times, it will be a chance for our community to gather and celebrate the rich resilience of our agricultural sector. I wish organiser Brett Gleeson and the show society committee all the best in putting on a fine show. I am looking forward to attending.

#### VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (22:10:17):** I joined my local community members and leaders at Waverley cenotaph on 11 November to pay tribute to the men and women who served and sacrificed for us all during the First World War. COVID-19 meant we had a smaller gathering, but I acknowledge attendees including: President Rob DeGraaf, North Bondi RSL Sub-Branch; President Martyn Bell, North Bondi RSL Club; President Peter Aston, Eastern Suburbs Legion Club; Acting Superintendent Steve Patton and Inspector Gretchen Atkins, Eastern Suburbs Police Area Command; President Bill Harrigan, Bondi Junction Waverley RSL; and, executive officer David Jeffrey, Waverley councillors Sally Betts, Leon Goltsman, Will Nemesh, Angela Burrill and mayor Paula Masselos. In previous years I have joined the NSW Association of Jewish Service and Ex-Service Men and Women [NAJEX] for their annual Remembrance Day ceremony at Sydney Jewish Museum hosted by president Roger Selby. The event could not be held this year, so I hope we are able to come together next year. Lest We Forget.

#### NAIDOC WEEK

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (22:11:20):** Last week I had the pleasure of celebrating NAIDOC Week with Barang Regional Alliance and Gudjagang Ngara li-dhi Aboriginal Corporation at Wyong. It was a pleasure to review the first exhibition that they held commemorating Aboriginal deaths in custody. Local artist Bradley Webb curated a poignant exhibition bringing together 10 local artists whose works tell the story of 232 years of

continued injustice, oppression and racism. Thank you to all the artists for their amazing works contributing to a narrative that needs to change. It was an honour to meet aunty Madeline McGrady—Aunty Maddy—who is a trailblazing filmmaker and the first to use the phrase, "Always was, always will be". Her film on land rights was an incredible work. Watching some of her films brought quite strong emotions. Thanks to BJ Duncan, Vicki Parry, Simone Hudson, and Gary Field, amongst others, and the wonderful young people including Jacob Smeaton, Declan Duncan, Layla Adams, Allirah Adams and Joseph Graf, who were fantastic hosts

#### **WRAP WITH LOVE PROGRAM**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (22:12:26):** I recognise the Bingara knitting ladies Anne Withers, Brenda McManus, Beulah Molloy, Yvonne Foster, and Kath Coss for their contribution to our global connectedness in what could be considered a small way that bridges are made across the world. The ladies in the Wrap with Love program knit squares that are sewn together to make blankets that are transported to Sydney and then all over the world. This year more than 175 blankets have been sent to cold climates around the world to wrap a child in love. I congratulate Anne, Brenda, Beulah, Yvonne, and Kath on the difference they make in the lives of people they will never know or meet. Meeting together these ladies share a purpose and have fun. It is a great outcome for everyone. I commend the Wrap with Love program and our Bingara ladies for their loyalty to a program that brings comfort to our global neighbours.

#### **TERRIGAL ROTARY CLUB**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (22:13:12):** I am pleased to congratulate the Terrigal Rotary Club. I am an honorary member of the Terrigal Rotary Club. Every year there is an enormous book fair held at the Terrigal Scout Hall and this year was no different. I congratulate President Mary Crammond and the amazing team at the Terrigal Rotary Club, who organised a fantastic COVID-safe event with hundreds of books and CDs for sale. All the money raised at the Terrigal book fair will go to supporting fantastic initiatives not just here in Australia but also internationally. I was pleased to provide hundreds of bottles of hand sanitiser to ensure that the book fair was done in a COVID-safe manner. Once again I congratulate President Mary Crammond and the amazing team at the Terrigal Rotary Club. I am honoured to be an honorary member of the Terrigal Rotary Club. I congratulate the club on yet another fantastic giant book fair for the Terrigal Rotary Club.

#### **BARRY HARRIS**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (22:14:07):** Last Thursday November 12 marked the end of the road for legendary highway patrol officer Barry Harris, who walked out of the Mudgee Police Station for the final time after a 39-year career in the force. The Dunedoo-born son of a police officer, Barry was initially a builder in Wagga Wagga before he got his calling and decided to follow in his father's footsteps. After a stint at Ashfield, he transferred to Mudgee in 1982 and joined the highway patrol in 1983. In that time, locals have always known that "Barry is out there" and he became something of a cult figure in the region due to the fact that he would hold all motorists accountable for the way they behaved behind the wheel. He played no favourites. I read a story today about Barry where he was quoted as saying, "I'm sort of a salesman for something they really don't want, but in the end I did what I needed to do. I took my oath to do my job as diligently as I could." After 39 years of doing exactly that, Barry Harris has certainly earned his retirement, and I wish him and his family all the best for the future.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (22:15:09):** I recognise the contributions of our community Neighbourhood Watch groups and thank them for their efforts to make Maitland an even better place to live, work and play. Neighbourhood Watch groups are community led but work in partnership with the NSW Police Force. While they can play a very important role in preventing crime and increasing safety and security, they aim to improve the quality of life for everyone. I particularly recognise our groups at Aberglasslyn, Rutherford, Metford, Telarah, Thornton, Chisholm, Heritage Parc, and Gillieston. I thank the New South Wales police in Maitland, who have been doing an amazing job with outreach. I was at one of its pop-up shops at Morpeth the other week and it was good to see the engagement by our local police with the community and the opportunity they took to hear from members of the local community about their issues.

#### **CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (22:16:03):** I congratulate Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, which will be hosting a Great Southern Nights music event on 29 November 2020. Artists Cult Shotta and Jessica Jade will be the headline acts for the event. The event is part of more than 1,000 COVID-safe gigs for the Great Southern Nights Australian-first music event, which is spanning right across New South Wales. The month-long music event will take place at more than 300 venues across Sydney and more than 130 New South Wales towns



and cities. It will be a huge celebration of Australian music and will also encourage people to get back into seeing live music after the pandemic shutdown. I am very excited to have a Great Southern Nights gig held in the local community so that the Holsworthy electorate has the chance to support these musicians and hear some outstanding live music.

#### **COOTAMUNDRA POLICE STATION**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (22:16:51):** I acknowledge Acting Inspector Nadine Roberts and police officers at the Cootamundra Police Station who are reviving an old exercise courtyard of a jail cell and turning it into a peaceful courtyard space. The space will be used for officers to take a break and chill out away from the ongoing communication, noises and flashing lights of a police workplace. It is planned that officers will also host community engagement events, working with local businesses and also schools in Cootamundra, Wallendbeen and Stockinbingal to produce artwork which will be displayed in the newly revived courtyard space. The artwork initiative is aimed at breaking down barriers and working with children in a positive and peaceful environment. It is wonderful that the Cootamundra police have identified a use for the space within the station. Well done on making it happen.

#### **WYONG CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (22:17:46):** Students from Wyong Christian Community School have raised thousands of dollars for the Mito Foundation by taking part in the Bloody Long Walk. The annual event is held around the country and challenges participants to walk a 35-kilometre course. The event supports the foundations vital research towards a cure for mitochondrial disease, which is an insidious illness that robs the body's cells of energy, causing multiple organ dysfunction or failure. The group took part in the event in Newcastle, raising \$3,707, which put them in the top five fundraisers that took part in the event. While supported by the school, this was not a school event and the students participated by registering and paying their way to the event. It was a lot of individual responsibility and they should be proud of the contribution they made to the Mito Foundation. The girls have possibly started a new Wyong Christian Community School tradition, with the chance that the school could get on board next year and many years to come. Congratulations to the girls at Wyong Christian Community School on their perseverance and endurance to achieve a great result.

#### **GLEN INNES & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (22:18:47):** I congratulate Steve Pearce and the members of the Glen Innes & District Historical Society on their recognition as among the best in managing Crown land on behalf of their local community by becoming a finalist in a State Crown lands management award. The Glen Innes & District Historical Society not only has provided excellent service to the community in its capacity as a guardian of the district's heritage, it also has practised outstanding service codes, dedication and commitment to its community. For 50 years the society has also been the land manager and operator of the heritage-listed Beardies Museum History House & Research Centre, which houses artefacts, maps, photographs and other historical and cultural items of the Glen Innes community. The historical society is proud of a virtual tour of the museum, which it recently created and is available to anyone through its website and Facebook page. That typifies the innovation the society demonstrates in its sharing of the district's heritage. I commend Steve and his fellow members at the Glen Innes & District Historical Society on their dedication and enthusiasm as keepers of history and artefacts and making that history available to the public.

#### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (22:19:46):** Yesterday was the International Day for Tolerance, the day that globally we unite to recognise universal human rights and the fundamental freedoms of others. The United Nations believes that education for tolerance should aim at countering influences that lead to fear and exclusion of others. It should also help young people develop capacities for independent judgement, critical thinking and ethical reasoning. That is something we can all reflect on and encourage in our own behaviours and in others, particularly in a time of rising and violent extremism and widening conflicts. I worked for the Department of Immigration during the first International Day for Tolerance back in the 1990s. It is important that through our work as parliamentarians we encourage tolerance because as leaders in our communities we have a strong role to play in guiding that kind of acceptance.

#### **MR JAMES HEFFERNAN**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (22:20:48):** I acknowledge Mr James Heffernan, one of this year's recipients of the Order of Liverpool Awards. Mr Heffernan was awarded a Companion of the Order of Liverpool, the highest level of achievement. He was recognised for his dedication to the SES Liverpool unit, which he has been part of since 2004. He is one of the unit's longest serving members and has recently been

appointed to the position of Deputy Unit Commander—a great achievement. Under Mr Heffernan's direction, the SES Liverpool unit continues to ensure that our local community is safe and protected, and his hard work does not go unnoticed. I congratulate Mr James Heffernan on receiving this prestigious award and thank him for his continued commitment to ensuring the local community's safety.

#### **BETTY MOLLOY**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (22:21:33):** I acknowledge Betty Molloy from Gundagai who was recently presented with her war service medals by Mayor Abb McAlister at a special ceremony in Gundagai. Betty was a member of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and served as an aircraftwoman for three years during World War II. As men around Australia enlisted, the women, who were not able to enlist in the medical corps, looked to other ways that they could help out the war effort. Women took on jobs as wireless telegraphists, radar operators, armament workers, electricians, fitters, flight mechanics and clerical staff. I thank Betty for her contribution, dedication and service to the Gundagai community and to our wonderful country.

#### **MOREE AND DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (22:22:30):** I recognise the importance of the many sporting clubs in the Northern Tablelands and give special mention to the Moree and District Cricket Association. The club members represent the diversity of Moree and their love of sport and team fellowship. In a time when Australia is aware of some of the shortcomings of men's health, the Moree and District Cricket Association offers a virtual vitamin pill for physical and mental wellbeing through social sport. Club president Jason Poutawa and coach Darrel Smith have stepped up to lead the team in a promising year, having already won their first game. Joining the representative side are Michael Slack-Smith, Alf Newman, Beau McMahon, Ben Carrigan, Ben Day, Ben Ryan, Bradley Swan, Chris Holland, Edward Montgomery, Gareth Faulkner, Grady Sinclair, James Smith, Josh Boland, Justin Barnes, Kyle O'Connor, Lloyd Munro, Mark Stewart, Sam Brown, Tom Britton, Tom Ryan and Wyatt Roberts. I commend the players on their sporting enthusiasm and their positive representation of Moree and District.

#### **MR PETER MOORE**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (22:23:22):** I acknowledge Mr Peter Moore, who is one of this year's recipients of the Order of Liverpool Awards. Mr Moore was awarded a Member of the Order of Liverpool Award for his continued dedication and time and effort he puts into supporting the Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Association. He is a life member at the club and has been successful in applying for many grants that have helped to improve and upgrade reserves and cricket fields in the local area, and in fact all across my electorate. Mr Moore is an instrumental figure in promoting cricket to the local sporting community and encourages people of all abilities and ages to get involved and have some fun. I congratulate Mr Peter Moore on receiving this prestigious award and thank him for his continued commitment to the local sporting community.

#### **NARRANDERA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—**I congratulate Alyssa Sanders and Heath Chappell from Narrandera High School who on Friday, 16 October 2020 were announced School Captains for 2021. I would also like to congratulate their elected supporting leaders Kate Langley and Connor Smith as Vice Captains for 2021. Students at Narrandera High School are lucky to have such dedicated people representing them. I wish those elected all the very best in their roles as School Captain and Vice-Captain; I am confident that as leaders these students will create lasting impacts on their fellow peers and the school community. Alyssa, Heath, Kate and Connor, you should all be very proud of this great achievement, the fact you have been given this great responsibility speaks to the wonderful young capable people that you are. Congratulations once again and all the best!

#### **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—**I am honoured to have joined the Merrylands RSL sub-branch in commemorating Remembrance Day once again this week at the Charles Mance Reserve. Remembrance Day has been observed since the end of the First World War to remember armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Due to Covid-19 restrictions it was a much smaller gathering this year but just as significant. Attendees included Mr Robin Grimley, President of the Merrylands RSL sub-Branch, Vice Presidents Gordon Guthrie and Charles Zarb, and Secretary Frank Vella. Special mention to Hilltop Road Public School who participated in this year's remembrance service whereby the school captains lay a wreath. We will remember them.

#### **CHENNAI SILKS OPENING**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—**A huge congratulations to Chennai Silks Australia on the opening of their fantastic new Westmead store. Chennai Silks Australia produce outstanding silk and cotton sarees which would be otherwise harder to find. Chennai Silks Australia opened their first Australian store in Wentworthville last year

and are now expanding into this new location. Congratulations once again and wishing you the best of luck on your business. I highly recommend a visit to this breathtaking store.

#### **BASS HILL AND CHESTER HILL-CARRAMAR RSL SUB-BRANCHES**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I pay tribute to Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch and Chester Hill-Carramar RSL Sub-Branch for their unwavering commitment to supporting the local community of serving and ex-service Australian Defence Force members and their dependants, particularly given the difficult operating conditions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. I particularly commend both Sub-Branches for their perseverance and commitment to holding a virtual combined Remembrance Day commemoration service, to comply with social distancing requirements. The virtual service was attended in-person by the committee members of the Sub-Branches, with local schools, aged care facilities and other community members invited to spectate the ceremony via a livestream on the Sub-Branches' websites. I acknowledge Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch President Mr Ralph Hannaford, Vice Presidents Mr Ian Muirhead and Mr Ambrose Dinh JP, Secretary Mr Gary Roser JP and Treasurer Mr Ron Duckworth, and Chester Hill-Carramar RSL Sub-Branch President Mr Michael Bowman, Vice President Mr Ivan Tilmouth, and Secretary/Treasurer Mr Lloyd Newman, and thank the executives of both Branches for their continued service to our community.

#### **ROTARY INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN'S AWARDS 2020**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I had the great pleasure of nominating Ms Kate Hoang for the Urban Inspirational Woman Award, in recognition of her tremendous contribution to our community. I was thrilled to learn that Ms Hoang had been named as a finalist for this prestigious accolade. I take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Hoang on being named a finalist in this year's awards, in recognition of her extraordinary dedication and commitment towards supporting the local Vietnamese and wider community. Ms Hoang has been Vice President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia (VCA) NSW Chapter and was responsible for establishing the Vietnamese Community in Australia Youth (VCAY) group. Ms Hoang has generously volunteered her time to assist vulnerable members of our community, including refugees and asylum seekers and has led the introduction of many wonderful community initiatives, which include the VCA Lunar New Year Festival attended by more than 20,000 people each year, and the annual World Refugee Day Vigil in June at Bankstown's Boat People Monument in Saigon Place. I commend Ms Hoang's efforts in achieving the shortlist of the 2020 Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards and thank her for her invaluable contribution to our local community.

#### **BAYSIDE COUNCIL**

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)**—I congratulate Bayside Council on their ongoing financial performance following a difficult amalgamation, and to correct the record regarding certain contentions published in the Sydney Morning Herald on the 31st of October 2020. The Sydney Morning Herald's publication essentially took the report of a single local government consultant at face value, who appears to have made fundamental accounting errors in the 2016-17 financial year regarding the rates revenue of the former Rockdale and Botany Bay councils. As somebody who has been in regular communication with the financial and accounting staff at Bayside Council, I have a high degree of confidence that their refutations of these errors are likely to be correct. With that being said, Bayside Council appears to be one of very few amalgamated councils that has actually achieved efficiencies as a result of amalgamation, and I believe it would be appropriate for the Sydney Morning Herald to reconsider this story, undertake its own investigation independent of both the Council and the consultant they relied on, and publish a new story correcting the record. I once again wish to congratulate Bayside Council on the efficiencies they've achieved, as well as their recent unqualified audit from the Auditor-General.

#### **NSW HEALTH AWARDS**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—The NSW Health awards recognise innovative and sustainable health programs that deliver better outcomes for patients. So I congratulate the Royal North Shore Intensive Care Unit and Hornsby Hospital's Mental Health Intensive Care Unit, which received awards this year, and serve many people in my electorate of Davidson. Through staff education and the implementation of a clinical guideline, Royal North Shore's ICU was able to reduce blood testing by about one third. This results in 20,000 fewer tests per year, and reduces anaemia and blood transfusions for patients. Through improvements in documentation and specialised staff training, Hornsby Hospital's Mental Health ICU was able to reduce the time a patient spent secluded by 42% or 70 minutes. Mindful of the various challenges faced this year, from bushfires to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, I especially commend both units, and relevant healthcare workers more broadly, for the fantastic work they do for my local community and beyond.

### **NINA PAINE – AWARD WINNING LOCAL AUTHOR AND ARTIST**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—My electorate of Davidson is home to many talented people, including Nina Paine of St Ives. With a background in teaching, graphic design and book editing, Nina's career changed direction a decade ago when she decided to become an artist. A number of art lessons proved her decision to be the right one. A recent trip to the outback produced many evocative watercolour paintings of Australia's desert country and her wildlife, still life and city life paintings reflect her artistic talents beautifully. Nina also turned her hand to fiction writing. Her first novel *Sophie's Sister*, which draws on Nina's experiences of travelling across the Nullarbor, recently won silver in the Popular Fiction category of the 2020 Global eBook Awards. Nina writes and paints in a home studio which was once her father's medical surgery. It is easy to see how the serenity of a quiet suburban setting surrounded by the St Ives bushland might provide Nina with inspiration for her prodigious creativity. I commend Nina on both her artistic and writing skills.

### **THANKING FRIENDS OF THE KOALA (FOK) RESCUERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—My media adviser Peter Ellem was driving to work when a speeding car towing a caravan hit a koala crossing the road at Tucki, south of Lismore. Peter stopped oncoming traffic and carried the injured koala, stunned and bleeding from its mouth, to the roadside before contacting Friends of the Koala's (FOK) emergency number. Running on adrenalin, the male koala came to and climbed up a nearby tree for safety. Rescuers then spent the next two days keeping watch on him and luring him into a trap. Rescuers Ros Irwin and Bill Sheaffe now report that Quad the Koala has been treated by FOK's vet Jackie Reid and vet nurse Marley Christian, and despite abdominal bleeding, is in fair condition and had a good chance of being released back into the wild. I thank Ros, Bill and their fellow rescuers Luke Kane, Maria Mathes, Sole Herrera, Linda Swankie and Mark Ambrose for their dedication to our precious koalas. Last financial year, FOK's Lismore hospital treated 335 injured koalas, and of those who survived for more than a day, 47 per cent were eventually released, a major improvement on previous years.

### **ONE OF KYOGLE'S FAVOURITE SONS, FORMER OLYMPIC BOXER ATHOL MCQUEEN**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—Athol McQueen is sporting royalty in his hometown of Kyogle and in the Northern Rivers region, having etched his name in Olympic boxing history and at national and state levels in his heyday. Athol, who turned 79 at the weekend, was born at Kyogle Hospital on November 14, 1941, and grew up on the family dairy farm at Wiangaree. He won six state titles, four Australian Titles, and represented Australia at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, famously knocking down eventual heavyweight gold medallist 'Smokin' Joe Frazier on the count of 8. In a profile of Athol in *Heartland* magazine, he said that in hindsight he should have sat on Frazier because the American champion returned the favour, knocking down Athol. Athol McQueen was selected for the 1968 Mexico Olympics, but due to lack of funds, only half of the team could travel, leaving him to work his cream run. After retiring from an impressive professional boxing career (70 wins from 86 bouts), Athol has remained heavily involved with boxing as a referee (I watched him referee bouts at the Lismore Workers Club) and judge, the farming sector and his local community.

### **KNITTING FOR GOOD**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—Mr Speaker, I recognise two new residents of Evermore Retirement Living 98 year old June Dence and 89 year old Rhoda Jones who are using their knitting and embroidery skills to make trauma teddies. The pair donate the teddies to local police, paramedics and lifeline so they can be a source of comfort for children in times of need. June and Rhoda also contributed to Taree's 5.8 kilometre record breaking Knitted White Ribbon, to bring attention to Domestic Violence. The pair have also crocheted poppies for Anzac day and knitted beanies for the Alana and Madeline foundation which works to protect children from violence and bullying. I again recognise June and Rhoda for turning their passion for knitting and crocheting into a way to give back to our local community.

### **GEORGE GRIEVES**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)**—I recognise Taree Local George Grieves who recently received a NSW Government Community Service Award. George was a guiding light for many in our community following the devastating 2019-20 fires which destroyed or damaged more than 150 homes in the Mid Coast Local Government Area. He was on the ground in our region ensuring those in need were taken care of. He took it upon himself to help those impacted by the fires to access what they required in a timely manner whether that be vouchers, water tankers, mobile phones, generators or other necessities. George's commitment to the community during this time of great stress for our community, deserves to be applauded. This is far from the first time George has gone above and beyond for his community, he has also played a major role in supporting drought affected farmers. Taking it upon himself to arrange the distribution of free fodder and raising vital funds. I again recognise and thank George for his ongoing contributions to the Myall Lakes community.

**DORIS DUMBRILL AND TRISH BOW**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—It takes a special kind of person to volunteer their time to serve the community. That is exactly what the members of the Jesmond Lions Club do. They Serve. When Jesmond Lions was founded in 1967, its membership was exclusively male. The first women to be granted membership at Jesmond Lions Club were Doris Dumbrell in 1994, and Trish Bow in 1996. Doris and Trish are still serving the community today. They are currently President and Assistant Secretary, respectively. They are still participating in BBQs, clean up days, and generally helping the community fulfil wherever needed. The Lions Club raises funds from their BBQ as well as raffles and donations to give to charities, organisations and individuals, such as Samaritans, BaptistCare, Hunter Prostate Alliance and breakfast clubs at local Primary Schools. Other Lions Club members advise that Doris and Trish are extremely hard workers and do a lot of work behind the scenes to help keep everything running smoothly. Doris and Trish, you should both be very proud of the work that you do. Thank you and all the Jesmond Lions Club for your service to the community.

**ST PHILIP'S DALE YOUNG PARENTS GRADUATION**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—The year 2020 has been a tough year for students with the COVID-19 closures and transition to online learning. For the young parents at St Philip's Christian College DALE Young Parents school it has been a challenge they have taken in their stride.

St Philip's DALE Young Parents is an accredited Special Assistance School for young mums and dads. They have two campuses located in Waratah and Wyong and provide flexible learning environments and onsite early learning care for their babies whilst they study. Under the tutelage of Principal, Bronwyn Thoroughgood, the school provides an opportunity for young parents to learn in a safe environment and is a place that kids love coming to, where they feel valued and where they experience success. Congratulations to Kacie Brookhouse, Dakota Fullick, Ebony Knight, Carissa Pitomac, Kedra Richardson, Matthew Richardson, Alyssa Strudwick and Lyndsay Turner who are graduating from the Waratah Campus. Congratulations to Paige Hughes, Jasmyn Mosley, Makayla Whitford, Paris Wilson, Alicia Barnes, Tara Shying and Brittany Hough who are graduating from the Wyong Campus. Be proud of this moment – you deserve it for all the effort and passion you invested. Congratulations.

**ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIA GALA**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—On 14 November 2020, the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) and over 300 members of the Armenian-Australian community gathered at Dolton House, Hyde Park for the ANC-AU Annual Gala. The Gala celebrates the ANC-AU's achievements during the year and the hard work undertaken by the Committee. Throughout the night, the community raised an astounding \$214,415 to support the ANC-AU's 2021 activities. An additional \$40,000 was also raised, which will be donated to the All Armenia Fund to assist with rebuilding efforts in the Republic of Artsakh. The Gala was attended by numerous guests including, Senator Deb O'Neill, John Alexander, OAM, MP, Member for Bennelong, Trent Zimmerman MP, Member for North Sydney, The Hon. Walt Secord, MLC, The Hon. Jonathon O'Dea, MP, Speaker, NSW Parliament and Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, MLC. Thank you to the ANC-AU for organising another successful and entertaining Gala. It is great to see the community unite and support the hardworking youth and members of the ANC-AU. I sincerely thank Haig Kayserian Executive Director, ANC-AU, Mr Greg Sohomonian, Honorary Chairperson, ANC-AU and the entire team, including the Banquet organising committee for hosting a fantastic event.

**JAMES D. RICHARDSON AWARD - FRANK MOSSFIELD**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—On 6 November 2020, the Blacktown City Lions celebrated their 60th Anniversary. A formal evening was held at Blacktown Workers Club to celebrate the momentous occasion and honour the dedicated members of the Club. On the night, Frank Mossfield was awarded the James D. Richardson Honour Award for his contribution to Lionism and the community. James D. Richardson BEM, was one of the most dedicated and respected early leader of Lions in Australia, thus receiving this award is a true testament to Mr Mossfield's commitment to the Club and is a fantastic honour.

Mr Mossfield was further recognised and honoured as an Honorary Life Member of the Blacktown City Lions. This life membership is only granted to active members who have served the Club for more than twenty years. Mr Mossfield was awarded this honour for continuously advancing the interests of the Lions Club and upholding a 'community first' doctrine for over 20 years. This is a great honour and I would like to commend Frank Mossfield for these achievements. I also congratulate the Blacktown City Lions on their 60th Anniversary and wish the Club all the best.

### THE SCOPE CLUB OF BALLINA

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I acknowledge the hard work and generosity of the women who make up the Scope Club of Ballina. The group's purpose is to raise funds for local charities and this year they joined the nation-wide project to help reduce coercive control and domestic violence. This year the Scope Club of Ballina elected to support and raise funds for the Ballina Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, including \$2000 at their Race Day and Cent Auction. The funds will go towards providing direct financial support for women and children in emergency situations, and to educate young High School students on how to recognise the coercive control of women in relationships. The education program also addressed how to show respect in personal relationships. The Scope Club of Ballina has a long history of supporting young women to fulfil their potential and overcome adversity. Well done to all of the volunteers, particularly during such a difficult year.

### MULLUMBIMBY HIGH SCHOOL'S TREES FOR KOALAS PROGRAM

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I recognise Mullumbimby High School's Student Representative Council for actioning a practical, down-to-Earth response to the threat to koala survival in the Northern Rivers. The student body approached Byron Shire Council seeking collaboration on a project named Trees for Koalas - Connecting Communities, aimed at planting hundreds of koala food trees on private properties across Byron Shire. Many of the students live on rural properties amongst or near koala habitat and were inspired to invite expressions of interest from students and their families to plant koala food trees at home and to invite neighbouring properties to do the same. The initiative has received backing from the Department of Industry and Environment's Saving our Species program and has the potential to really help our koalas on the ground. Byron Shire Council will assist students in choosing suitable locations to plant koala habitat, as well as give them advice on how to plant and look after the trees. Koala conservation initiatives like these each play a role in avoiding the extinction of our iconic koala species and I commend the students at Mullumbimby High School on this initiative.

### ST GEORGE DRAGONS (WOMEN)

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)**—I congratulate the St George Dragons Telstra Women's premiership team for another excellent season despite this year's shortened format. This year's team led by coach Daniel Lacey was unfortunate to miss out on the opportunity to play in the grand final after their 18-4 loss to reigning champions the Brisbane Broncos. This was a hard fought match which saw co-captain Kelsie Apps leave the field in the 28th minute due to a knee injury and new recruit Isabelle Kelly was taken from the field in the second half after a ferocious tackle. Even though the final score was not in their favour, the team has had a promising season headlined by the signings of Papua New Guinea captain Elise Albert and Australia Jillaroos duo Steph Hancock and Isabelle Kelly. The club was also able to welcome the return of captain Sam Bremner and promote 2019 development players including Jamie Chapman and Maddison Weatherall. This demonstrates the strength and drive of this up and coming side and I look forward to watching them in action in 2021.

### ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE)

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)**—I am proud to recognise the outstanding achievement of the St George Illawarra Dragons who have recently won the NSW Wheelchair Rugby League title. After a tough match for both sides they were able to come away with a 58-40 win over Minor Premiers the West Tigers at Menai Indoor Sports Centre. This is the Dragons sixth wheelchair premiership and their third in a row. What made this match even more special is that it was a repeat of last year's grand final where they were able to clinch victory yet again. It was a very tense game, particularly in the first half when scores were locked at 10-all before Dragon's players Diab Karim and Rick Engles scored critical tries to keep their chances alive. Engles and captain Cory Cannane got the team off to the perfect start in the second half to see them ahead before Eddie Morgan sealed their victory late in the match. This was most certainly an impressive performance from both sides and I look forward to seeing these rival teams back in action in 2021.

### PENRITH VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney)**—My congratulations to the newly elected Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce board members who will lead the team for the next 12 months. The new board includes: Kate Rafton – President, Debbie O'Connor – Vice President, Suzanne Walker – Treasurer, Gavin King – Secretary and additional board members Anil Puri, Asha Dooley, Richard Fox, Lorenzo Tassone and Phil Willey. I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing board members for their commitment and service, Carol Bennett, Mary Donnelly, Linda Wilson and Simon Gould.

### RANDALL GAWNE – 35 YEARS NATIONAL SERVICE

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—Today I acknowledge Mr Randall Gawne who was awarded this day the 2nd Clasp for an extraordinary 35 years of National Service, dedicating literally his life as a

law enforcement officer and marine rescue manager, maintaining the safety and welfare of the many communities he served. From 1977 to 1990 Randall was a member of the ACT Police Force, up until its amalgamation in October 1979 when the Government organisation became the Australian Federal Police. Randall also served three years with the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus in a classified war zone and was proactive in patrolling the UN Buffer Zone, liaising between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. In 1995, Randall moved to Queensland and served in the Queensland Police Force for 21 years before moving to Port Macquarie and joining Marine Rescue NSW as the Regional Operations Manager Mid North Coast. The range of past and current responsibilities included domestic arguments call-outs, serious assaults, armed robberies, sudden deaths, marine rescues, drunken brawls and drug related incidents to name a few. Randall now oversees the operations of nine units with approximately 600 volunteers and is on-call 24/7 for any marine related incident. Congratulations.

#### **TAS MORTON'S 'MISTER SMARTEE' WINS KEMPSEY CUP**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—I recognise the winner of the Akubra Kempsey Cup, Port Macquarie's in-form galloper Mister Smartee who crossed the finishing line by two lengths which is a credit to trainer Tas Morton. The lightning speed and supreme endurance of Mister Smartee couldn't be matched on Friday, 6 November 2020 as the prime gelding galloped its way to victory, surpassing favourite Asudem and front runner Chamisal in the 1450 metre race at the Kempsey Turf Club. The six-year old star of the field took home \$40,000 for its team after finishing second to Chamisal in the Krambach Cup at Taree earlier this year. This is not Mister Smartee's first 'rodeo' at Kempsey's Warwick Park having secured both a win and a second place while re-writing the history books smashing the 20-year-old course record. Jockey of the day, Luke Rolls knew the champion horse would come close in taking out the Akubra Kempsey Cup after his previous form on the track. He said the ride will be one to remember as Mister Smartee came home strong for all onlookers to see. Congratulations Tas and Luke on securing the impressive win.

#### **TWELVE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF ANDREW O'DWYER AND GEOFFREY KEATON**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—In December 2019 the Horsley Park Fire Brigade lost two of their finest firefighters during the horrific bushfire season that overshadowed Australia. Andrew O'Dwyer and Geoffrey Keaton were beloved husbands, fathers, sons, brothers and friends who lost their lives too soon whilst fighting fires at Buxton, protecting lives and homes. Today, I acknowledge the 12 month anniversary of their passing on December 19th 2020. It is a day to remember their selfless sacrifice and bravery and their families who lost a loved one. We stand together with Andrew and Geoffrey's families during this difficult time and I wish to thank the community who has rallied in support of both families over this last year. Andrew and Geoffrey will not be forgotten, nor will their efforts towards protecting our state against the Black Summer Bushfires be forgotten. Thank you Andrew and Geoffrey, today we honour you and remember you.

#### **COOPER HALFPENNY**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—Well done to Glenmore Park resident, Cooper Halfpenny who just weeks after completing his HSC exams is fulfilling his dreams of playing international football. 18 year old Cooper will spend the next twelve months in Spain playing professional football with the U19 La Liga club Aravaca CF. Cooper spent three years at the Australasian Soccer Academy where he was trained as a centre-back with the goal of eventually breaking into the European system. There is no doubt that Cooper has displayed incredible dedication to his training, passion for the game and devotion to his goals. His hard work has paid off abundantly as he sets off onto an exciting new journey that very few young people get the opportunity to take. Congratulations Cooper! I wish you all the best in this exciting opportunity and for your future football career.

#### **NEUTRAL BAY CROSSING SUPERVISORS**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Speaker, today I acknowledge Neutral Bay local Suzy O'Brien and Mosman local Jonathan Charles who are the new crossing supervisors for Neutral Bay Public School. We know that having crossing supervisors at primary schools ensure that our kids can get to and from safely, and greatly reduces the risk of car related incidents with school students. Crossing supervisors are amongst a suite of measures to keep kids safe including reduced speed limits in school zones, high visibility safety treatments like signs, dragons teeth road markings, and flashing lights which are installed at public schools across the State. Thank you to the NSW Government for the funding of these new positions, and I would like to thank the Minister for Transport for ensuring we that our local schools have access to crossing supervisors to keep our students safe. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Neutral Bay Public School community including Principal Judy Goodsell, P&C President Sharmila Soorian, and the parents who reached out to me to advocate for new crossing supervisors at the school.

### **LORETO STUDENTS COMMISSIONED AS EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—Today I acknowledge 15 students from Loreto Kirribilli in my electorate of North Shore who have been commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for 2021. Their training took place with the school's Liturgy Coordinator, Mrs Gina Marshall, and was a significant experience of faith formation, theological studies, and spiritual enrichment for the students. I know that given these difficult times during COVID-19, many parents have not been able to join their kids at school events. However Loreto was pleased to welcome a number of parents to attend the commissioning Mass last Friday morning. Congratulations to the following students at Loreto who were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Indira Brown, Bridget Currie, Tess Dorahy, Lulu Ghattas, Anjuna O'Loughlin, Rosie Paton, Estella Peters, Grace Poon, Tara Poynder, Alessia Rupolo, Kate St Julian, Emma Sheller, Emily Smith, Olivia Stowe, and Chelsea Strickland.

### **KOGARAH ELECTORATE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—Some schools in my electorate have welcomed new principals this year, and I would like to officially add my own welcome to them – Mrs Kim McCue at St Mary's Star of the Sea Hurstville, Mr Steve Mead at Carlton Public School, and Mr Steven So at Sydney Technical College. All three are outstanding educators and took on these new jobs in what would have been an incredibly challenging year professionally. I acknowledge the hard work of all the principals in my electorate who have managed their staff and schools, supported students and kept parents and families informed during this disrupted school year. I welcome these three educators to our community, and look forward to seeing the wonderful work they'll do in these great schools.

### **GRIFFITH CAREVAN**

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)**—I am privileged to recognise Griffith Carevan which was established when a group of Griffith locals noted we needed a soup kitchen. The group decided a caravan was needed after seeing the success of the one in Albury. A caravan was donated by the Albury group and Rotary Club of Griffith who offered to repair and prepare it for use. First meal was a BBQ on 20/3/14 and since then local clubs, schools, local farmers donate to the cause and now restaurants and cafes supply food which is collected and distributed. Carevan's funds come from donations and businesses paying to place their logos on the caravan. Teams of volunteers are placed together and work on a roster once per month. Carevan volunteer committee now have a paid co-ordinator. Today they supply 120-200 meals at Pioneer and 80-100 meals at Parkinson Crescent rotated on a fortnightly basis. The meals include take-away lunches for the school children for the next day. My heartfelt thanks go to the dedicated Committee, donors and volunteers who support Carevan.

### **MR AND MRS MENNELL'S FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)**—I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Robert and Mrs Doreen Mennell from Heathcote on recently celebrating their golden anniversary on the 14th November. 50 years of marriage is a wonderful milestone and I hope they enjoyed their special day. I wish them many more years of fun, enjoyment, happiness and good health.

### **CLARENCE VALLEY SPORTS AWARDS**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)**—I offer my congratulations to the winners of the 2020 Clarence Valley Sports Awards held on Saturday night at the Grafton District Services Club with host Mike Rabbitt. Congratulations to: Senior Sportsperson para athlete Mitch Christiansen; Masters Sports Award cyclist Laurelea Moss; Junior Male Sportsperson Hayden Ensbey for his achievements in cricket and rugby league; Junior Female Sportsperson and People's Choice Award Andrea Thomson for her achievements in swimming and Physical Culture; Holly Butcher Memorial Volunteer of the Year Tim Ryan for his commitment to several Lower Clarence sporting groups and organisations; Club of the Year Harwood Cricket Club; Team of the Year the Grafton Tigers AFL Seniors; Coach of the Year was Campbell from the Grafton Tigers AFL Club; Ernie Muller Award for Contribution to Sport in the Lower Clarence went to Matt Farrell a sports administrator who gives his time to a number of sports in the Lower Clarence area; Max Godbee Award for Contribution to Sport went to Ken Maughan for almost 60 years with the Grafton Rowing Club; Sports Contributor of the Year was Don Freeman reporting on the Yamba Men's Bowling Club.

### **AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION FOR DISABILITY ROUSE HILL**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I take this opportunity to recognise the terrific work done by the Australian Foundation for Disability (AFFORD) within my electorate of Castle Hill. AFFORD were initially founded in 1952 for Polio treatment, becoming an all-round disability service in 1969. In my time as Minister for Disability Services I was able to observe the great work done by AFFORD right across the state, including within



my electorate at the Rouse Hill Community Participation Centre. As such it was recently my pleasure to announce \$31,995 worth of funding for the upgrade of the facility, including the procurement of a sensory garden and improved bathroom facilities for the disabled patrons of the centre. This was a part of the \$300,000 provided to my electorate in the 2020 round of the Community Building Partnership Grants. I would like to thank all involved with the Rouse Hill Centre, as well as all involved in the national AFFORD network, including Toni Preston, Ross Fowler and Michael Allen.

#### **LADY OF GRACE FRATERNITY**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—I take this opportunity to recognise the Lady of Grace Fraternity Care Home within my electorate of Castle Hill. The Lady of Grace is a nursing home founded by Calabrian immigrants in the Italian Catholic tradition, with aged care services being provided in a calm and professional manner. Set in 5 acres of Dural bushland, the home has operated since 1995 and benefits from a swathe of local volunteers, of which the Hills is blessed with so many, who wish to make a positive difference to the community. It was recently my pleasure to announce \$13,050 worth of funding for the procurement of 10 new floor-line beds to improve the safety and comfort of residents. This was a part of the \$300,000 provided to my electorate in the 2020 round of the Community Building Partnership Grants. I would like to thank all involved in the running of the Nursing Home for their selfless work, particularly in the context of the Coronavirus Pandemic, including Bob Carabetta, Angelina Sui, Vince Murdocca, Joe Nadile, John Nati, Josie Howes, Sam Napoli and Domenico Olivieri.

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT FROM THE PLACE CHARLESTOWN**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—The Place Charlestown is one of the Charlestown Electorate's most invaluable community resources, and they have been working hard throughout this difficult year to help support local residents and businesses. If this year of Zoom meetings and lockdown has shown us anything, it's how easy it is to become isolated in a digital world if you lack digital literacy. Thankfully, the Place identified this issue and stepped in to help our community address it. This month, the Place offered training for community members to become Digital Mentors, learning how to support family, friends and our community to improve digital literacy skills and confidence. A lot of local businesses need some extra support at the moment due to the challenges of COVID-19, and in October The Place facilitated a Social Media Masterclass as part of Small Business Month. The event was aimed at helping small local businesses make the most out of social media. My congratulations to the Place, their staff and all their partners for delivering these opportunities to our local community.

#### **SURVIVORS R US NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—It was a chilly, drizzly morning on Tuesday 10 November, but that did not put a damper on the warmth and light at the Survivors R Us Networking Breakfast. Hosted by Survivors R Us CEO and founder Ann-Maria Martin at the organisation's Cardiff base, the networking breakfast was a chance for local community organisations to come together, connect and share advice and resources. A number of the representatives in attendance reported that the amount of people accessing their organisations' services have jumped this year, due to the combined pressures of COVID-19 and the first recession in thirty years. Ann-Maria reported that requests for Survivors R Us' services have increased by up to eighty per cent this year, and other representatives reported similar increases. In this difficult time, the work of these organisations is more important than ever. I want to recognise their assistance to people throughout the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie area, and to thank every single organisation and individual who is helping those in crisis.

#### **MARLENE DORAN OAM**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield)**—I bring to the House the enormous contribution of long-term Strathfield resident Marlene Doran, OAM. Known as the "unofficial mayor" of Homebush, Marlene has been actively involved in our community as a volunteer, an activist, and was a key leader in the successful campaign to prevent the amalgamation of Strathfield Council with Burwood and Canada Bay Councils. Marlene was a founding Member and Chair of Homebush Bendigo Bank, and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Homebush/Strathfield RSL branch. She was pivotal in the rededication and restoration of 340 plaques in the war memorial in Davey Square. Marlene was awarded Strathfield Citizen of the Year in 1999 and a Centenary Medal in 2003. In 2006, Marlene was honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia and the "Living for Others", Universal Peace Federation Award for her community work. Marlene this year retired as long term President of the Strathfield West Seniors Group. The Group meets weekly and allows our local seniors to socialise and engage with their community. I thank and commend Marlene Doran for her service and dedication to our community.

### SEVEN HILLS-TOONGABBIE RSL CLUB FUNDRAISING

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)**—I acknowledge the Seven Hills-Toongabbie RSL Club in raising funds for The Children's Hospital at Westmead Radiothon event. Every year the Bandaged Bear Radiothon event occurs to support our local children's hospital within the electorate of Seven Hills. This is one of many events which brings both community groups and individuals together with the single goal of raising money over a 12-hour period on Thursday the 15th of October. Since 2013 the local Seven Hills-Toongabbie Returned and Services League club has donated over \$590,000 to assist the foundation, and this year they raised \$60,290. The money raised will go towards buying or upgrading hospital equipment, lifesaving research and vital services for patients and their families. Through the COVID-19 pandemic it can be difficult to feel connected to our local community groups and I commend those who are continuing to raise money this year despite the circumstances. I thank the Club, the Seven Hills-Toongabbie-Wentworthville Sub-Branch and the Women's Auxiliary for efforts and the donation towards this lifesaving foundation.

### DIWALI 2020

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)**—I wish the Seven Hills Electorate community a very happy Diwali for this year. I extend my well wishes to all celebrating the festival of lights across New South Wales. Diwali is an important time of the year for many across the Seven Hills Electorate, particularly those of Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Newar Buddhist adherence. The Seven Hills Electorate is a religiously and ethnically diverse place. It is a shame the usual, large festivities for Diwali at Parramatta Park and in Wentworthville CBD will not take place this year due to COVID-19, but I know next year's Diwali celebrations will be tremendous. I know many constituents in the Seven Hills Electorate who celebrate Diwali are doing so at home or with small groups of friends in the community. Again, I wish the Seven Hills Electorate an enlightening Diwali, particularly to the large Indian and Sri Lankan communities in Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and Westmead.

### HUNTER LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS - MAITLAND

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—I congratulate those businesses in my electorate that have been named as finalists in the 2020 Local Business Awards. These annual awards recognise businesses that provide outstanding goods and services to customers and clients in our community. There are dozens of businesses nominated from the Maitland electorate in categories ranging from butcheries and bakeries to cafes and pet care. Similarly, the field of finalists encompasses a spectrum of enterprises, from long-established businesses to new, home-based micro services. In a year that has been like no other, the Local Business Awards seek to acknowledge those who represent the best in the areas of Presentation, Products, Value for Money and Customer Service. Congratulations to all those nominees and best of luck to you on the Gala Awards nights, which will be held on the 8th and 9th of December. The constraints of COVID, coupled with the volume of nominees, has dictated that the event be held across two nights. This in itself is a credit to those who have reached the shortlist. To all our Maitland finalists - We're so very proud of the work you are doing. You are a credit to our community.

### MAVID CONSTRUCTIONS

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—It is a sad fact that an increasing number of people in the Hunter Region are experiencing homelessness. Earlier this month I was pleased to attend the official opening of 65 new social and affordable homes in Thornton by Compass Housing as part of the Government's SAFH program. The homes were built by Mavid Construction Pty Ltd, between January and October 2020. At the opening, we met a local woman who had been on the public housing list for 17 years finally receiving the keys to her own permanent, safe, accessible home. It was inspiring. While there is still a massive shortfall and a lengthy waiting list for Maitland people who require housing, this is a step in the right direction. The team from Mavid Construction were rightly proud and honoured to be part of the build, and the quality and thought that has gone into the homes sets a new standard for social housing in our city. This Rutherford company was recently ranked 56th in the Housing Institute of Australia's Top 100. Congratulations on your workmanship and speedy completion, Mavid, and for your part in helping more Maitland people enjoy the safety and security of a home.

### FRANK LITTLEWOOD

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, and my predecessor the in this seat, Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Frank Littlewood to the Bligh/Sydney Electorate Office and communities. Frank began volunteering in the office about 20 years ago when Clover Moore was the Member for Bligh and he continued on when I was elected. Frank generously gave his time supporting staff and constituents in the office, supporting those in need. He also provided a Justice of the Peace service from the office. In 2005, Frank began working as a relief Electorate Officer to cover staff illness and holidays, allowing the office to keep up with the demand from constituents. Frank's compassion, professionalism, and good humour made him an integral part of our team. Frank and his wife Wendy are active residents in their

local area and great examples of community leaders who support other residents and get action from the relevant agencies for improved safety and amenity. I thank Frank for his tireless work in the Sydney Electorate and commend him and Wendy for their contribution and the example they set for others to also give back to their community.

### **COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I congratulate the successful organisations receiving Community Building Partnership grants this year. These small capital grants help local efforts to support the community and include everyone in their activities. This year, grants go to: food relief outreach van for The Wayside Chapel Potts Point; supporting the Edward Eager Lodge homelessness accommodation redevelopment in Darlinghurst; bathroom and kitchen upgrades at William Booth alcohol/drug service in Surry Hills; roof, guttering and drainage repairs for the Woolloomooloo PCYC; disability access lift at The Great Synagogue; painting inside The Station's CBD homelessness service; softfall grass at KU childcare Maybank Pyrmont; playground refurbishment KU childcare Phillip Park in the city; defibrillator for the Maccabi Hakoah Football Club Paddington; and hydraulic nappy change table for KU childcare Lance Millers Point. While these grants are relatively small, they can make a big difference to local services and activities, and I welcome the funds for the Sydney community.

### **CAMDEN COUNCIL GARDEN COMPETITION 2020**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—The annual 2020 Camden Council Garden Competition recognises individuals and organisations within Camden who produce stunning garden displays which brighten up the area. This year was highly competitive and I would like to recognise those that placed at the very top of their categories. Bev Tully walked away having won the best Small Residential Garden category, whilst Jai Cooper received the top citation in the Veggie Garden, Most Sustainable Garden and Most Creative Garden categories. The Best Floral Display was awarded to Ian and Maureen Thackery whilst Catherine Field Preschool won the best School Plot category. The Professionally Maintained Garden Category was won by Jason Clenton who also won the Best Lawn category. The Commercial Garden category was won by the Wivenhoe Retirement Village. I congratulate again all winners and commend them on the hard work and commitment they put in to make their gardens as nice as they did.

### **SCOUTING'S IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—A report recently found that youth who participate in Scouting within Australia are more resilient and have greater life satisfaction compared to non-scouting youth. The report noted, for example, that Scouts are more likely to trust others, talk about the things upsetting them and forgive others than non-Scouts. The report found that 76.1% of Scouts have reported they have good social skills compared to 70.5% for non-Scouts. Likewise, Scouts on average were also reported to have better mental and physical health states than non-Scouts. This is a testament to the nature of Scouts NSW and the holistic program that they provide. The Camden community has a number of highly active Scouting Groups and I would like to recognise the 1st Cobbitty Scout Group, the 1st Camden Scout Group, the 1st Camden South Scout Group, the Razorback Rover Crew and Razorback Scout Group (both of whom operate in Elderslie), the 1st Narellan Scout Group, the Oran Park Scout Group, the 1st Hoxton Park Scout Group and the Camden Aerodrome Air Activity Centre for the impact they have on so many of Camden's young residents.

### **MCHAPPY DAY AND RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE RANDWICK**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, the whole family feels the impact. For generations, Ronald McDonald House Randwick and their wonderful staff have been providing much needed accommodation and support services to families facing the serious illness of a child, allowing them to stay together throughout the toughest of times. Ronald McDonald House Randwick has 27 rooms, 5 units and provides accommodation to 746 families every year. The ability to keep these families together whilst their children are undergoing serious medical treatment at the Sydney Children's Hospital is vital for the wellbeing of the patient as well as their parents and siblings. Saturday, November 14th was McHappy Day, hosted by McDonald's restaurants. This annual fundraising drive assists Ronald McDonald House Charities to support more families and seriously ill children. Thank you to everyone at Ronald McDonald House Randwick for the amazing work that you do and to the all of the wonderful sporting clubs, community groups and individuals from the Coogee electorate and across NSW who support this wonderful charity right throughout the year and thanks to all who supported the fundraising effort last Saturday.

### **CLOVELLY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—It was my pleasure to recently attend the Clovelly Surf Life Saving Club in my capacity as the Member of Coogee, rather than one of their Surf Life Savers, for their Long Service

and Sponsors Day on Sunday 15 November. I know first-hand how resourceful, dedicated, and passionate the fantastic members of this Club are, and how vital their work is in order to keep both locals and visitors safe when they are visiting one of the Eastern Suburbs' most beautiful and popular beaches. This coming summer presents a number of new challenges for Clovelly Surf Life Saving Club, and other surf lifesaving clubs across the Eastern Suburbs, as they continue to serve the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, but I know that Clovelly SLSC are up to the task. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the life members, the club veterans, and the sponsors for all of your efforts and contributions. The club would not run without you and your support, and the people of the Eastern Suburbs and everyone that visits Clovelly Beach are grateful for everything that you do.

#### **CELEBRATION OF MERCY DINNER 2020**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Celebration of Mercy Dinner hosted by the Rahma (Mercy) Association of Australia Inc. in Parliament House. The dinner is an annual event held to celebrate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. At this year's COVID-safe event, I was joined by my parliamentary colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition Ms Jodi McKay MP, Parliamentary Host the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, MLC, the Hon. Lou Amato MLC, Mr Jihad Dib MP, Ms Julia Finn MP and Ms Tania Mihailuk MP. Other distinguished guests included His Eminence Sheikh Azzam Mesto and Sheikh Youssef Elrich. I would like to thank Rahma Association President Mr Shady Elriche and Vice President Mr Ali Bahnassawi for bringing us all together to celebrate such an important occasion. This year has been a hard year for many communities in NSW with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting each and every one of us. I am thankful we could all unite at this event and celebrate together once more. I look forward to many more such events in the future.

#### **CHURCH HALL OPENING – CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—Recently I had the great pleasure of cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new church hall at the Church of Christ, Fairfield. After extensive renovations, carried out with funds granted as part of the Community Building Partnership fund, the hall is now ready to host the many activities which will be held under its roof for parishioners. I was extremely humbled to see the community come together for this important event and I would like to thank the Reverend Edward Royal and his parishioners for their hospitality on the day. The Church of Christ is an institution in Fairfield and has not only been a vessel of faith for the local community but has also acted as an outreach service for the community. In recent times, the Reverend Edward Royal and the Church of Christ have been instrumental in assisting refugees to settle into their new life in Australia as part of their ministry. I thank him for this essential service and I am sure the new church hall will assist even more with the provision of this service for our local parishioners.

#### **BRONTE TAYLOR**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—Today I would like to acknowledge 14 year old Bronte Taylor who has pledged to raise \$2,000 for the Starlight Foundation. Bronte spent some time in Westmead Children's Hospital and found her visits to the Starlight Room and watching Captain Starlight really lifted her spirits. This made her determined to give back and ensure the Starlight Foundation can continue to help sick kids when they need it most. With a focus on sustainability, Bronte has been selling plants and seeds she has grown herself. As well as collecting bottles and cans for Return and Earn. She also recently wrote to a number of Australian companies and was able to put together a raffle which has brought her closer to reaching her fundraising target. Bronte, you are a determined and amazing 14 year old. Thank you for your commitment to our community and for giving back to this amazing organisation.

#### **SHOALHAVEN ANIMAL SHELTER**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)**—The Jetpets Companion Animal Rescue Awards have recognised the amazing work done at Shoalhaven Animal Shelter, who received the Outstanding Council Animal Shelter Award last month. The Shelter has proudly rehomed over 1600 animals since reopening and adopting a no kill policy 2 years ago, which is an extraordinary effort by everyone who contributes their time to help local stray and surrendered pets and livestock. I want to give special mention to Shoalhaven Animal Shelter Team Leader Jodie Parnell, who works tirelessly to help animals in need alongside Sharon Johnson, Courtney White, Kathryn Edwards, Rene Magill, Karen DeBanke, Katie Jansch, and Jackie Evison. It is wonderful to note an unprecedented demand for rehomed animals across the Shoalhaven recently, one of the silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of locals also volunteer at the shelter and I want to also thank them for their contribution to our community.

#### **PERFECT MATCH - MARRICKVILLE GOLF AND COMMUNITY CLUB**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)**—The Marrickville Golf Course Pro-Shop has recently had a facelift with the new "Kingfisher" mural commissioned by Inner West Council's Perfect Match program. The mural by

local artist Thomas Jackson features a local Kingfisher, who often can be spotted along the banks of the Cooks River. 'Kingfisher' hyper-realistic style, pays homage to the tireless work of the Mudcrabs who in partnership with the club dedicate their spare time to cleaning up the waterway and protecting the rich biodiversity of the Course and Cooks River. I recently joined Mayor Darcy Byrne and local elders for the unveiling of the piece as part of the Club's NAIDOC Week celebrations and Indigenous golf round. The clubhouse's new mural further highlights what a wonderful community institution Marrickville Golf Course is, serving as the most affordable, accessible, and inclusive golf course in Sydney. To date, the Perfect Match program has commissioned 100 public artworks since its establishment in 2015, making the "Kingfisher" number 99. Thank you to Thomas Jackson for this beautiful addition to the Marrickville Golf Course landscape and congratulations to Andrew Tighe and Marrickville Golf Club on their transformed clubhouse.

#### **RADIO SKID ROW**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)**—Radio Skid Row has been broadcasting for 37 years, providing an important media platform for marginalised communities including the indigenous community, migrant workers, incarcerated and young people. Radio Skid Row is in dire financial straits following the decision by the Community Broadcasting Foundation to cease funding the station's operating costs. Following this disappointing news, the station is now bringing forward its plan to become financially independent within 5 years and has crowd-funded almost \$50,000 to keep the station on air. With only two weeks to go, the station needs to raise another \$20,000 to secure its future. According to Media Diversity Australia, only 6% of presenters, commentators, and reporters in the Australian media come from either an Indigenous or non-European background. Ethnic programming makes up more than 70% of Radio Skid Row's schedule, with over 47 hours of programming each week in over 17 different languages. Racial justice is central to the station's work, with new projects including Blak Fridays, the Survival Guide podcast and a BIPOC media collective.

#### **LIVERPOOL NSW AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—I praise Liverpool-based NSW Ambulance paramedics for their heroic actions that resulted in the saving of a local man's life. A local Prestons man suffered a heart attack and his heart stopped beating for three minutes in October. Paramedics, Adam Blanning and Siobhan Crowther, were first on the scene. They performed CPR and shocked Mr Jensen's heart with a defibrillator. The quick and professional actions of these paramedics saved the Prestons resident's life, and I would like to commend them for their dedication and proficiency. I would also like to acknowledge Liverpool Hospital Intensive Care paramedics, Emille Devlin and Aaron Thompson, who also assisted in saving this life. The actions of these health care professionals are remarkable, as they work tirelessly to help people across the local community. Mr Speaker once again, I would like to pass on my gratitude to all the paramedics for their commitment and dedication to helping our local community. Thank you.

#### **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 50 YEARS' SERVICE**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—I acknowledge the outstanding effort of Justices of the Peace from the Miranda electorate being honoured for 50 years' service to the New South Wales community. Over the last half a century, Barbara Polouktsis, Colin Shanahan, David Miller, Geoffrey Henning, George Jones, Glen Robinson, Roger Hewitt and Murray McPherson have played an important part in the legal system by helping hundreds of people at key moments in their lives. They provide their services on a voluntary basis, witnessing affidavits and statutory declarations, and certifying original documents so that members of the community may buy a property, access superannuation or apply for a passport. Whilst ceremonies typically held in NSW Parliament to celebrate these Justices of the Peace have been postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19, it would be remiss of me not to recognise their efforts and celebrate their Golden Jubilee of service in this Place. All of these individuals' commitment to provide this invaluable service embodies the spirit of volunteering which has always been at the heart of our Shire. I congratulate and thank all eight recipients for their dedication to our community and extend my best wishes for the future.

#### **THARAWAL PUBLIC SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)**—I am pleased to inform the House that safety for students at Tharawal Public School will soon be boosted with the appointment of a new school crossing supervisor. Principal Gerry O'Brien's ongoing efforts in advocating for this safety improvement have paid off, with Tharawal being one of 96 schools across the state benefitting from the NSW Government's \$18.5 million commitment to improve student safety. With recruitment for the position currently underway, parents, teachers and the entire school community can be confident that students will be even safer at the commencement of the next school term. I was delighted to visit Tharawal Public School earlier this month to announce that a new school crossing supervisor would be appointed, and meet with some of the wonderful students set to benefit from the safety improvement. I recognise these students, being School Captains Dylan Chapman and Sophie Maddock, Alyssa Goodwin, Blake Goodwin,

Leila Gruggen and Will Gruggen. I extend my best wishes to all at Tharawal Public School and join with them in welcoming their new school crossing supervisor.

#### **MOLLY HARTCHER**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)**—South Coast resident and veteran Molly Hartcher was recently recognised for her service to our nation, having served in the Women's Australian Airforce from 1942 to 1946 after just turning 18. Mrs Hartcher first trained in Robertson at Ranelagh House, then transferred to Allied Headquarters in Brisbane. Following the death of her father she transferred to Rathmines Airforce Base in NSW, before returning home after the war where she met her future husband, who she later had two children with. As part of Remembrance Day events this year, Mrs Hartcher received a medal for the 75th anniversary of World War II. Thank you Molly for your service to our nation, and the contribution you made to our local community.

#### **LIGHT FESTIVALS**

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)**—Today I acknowledge the wonderful celebrations of light festivals including Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas which occurred across the Balmain Electorate this weekend. On Saturday the 14th of November, homes in our community lit up in celebration of the light festivals occurring across Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities. These festivals celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and celebrate new beginnings. I hope everyone had wonderful day shared with family, friends and loved ones. On behalf of everyone in our community I wish everyone a very happy Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas!

#### **ORDER OF LIVERPOOL AWARDS 2020 – ATISH JAIN**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)**—I acknowledge Mr Atish Jain, one of this year's recipients of the Order of Liverpool Awards, held in November. Mr Jain was awarded an Officer of the Order of Liverpool Award. He was recognised for his many years of service and volunteering with the Liverpool Lions Club, where he currently serves as their Vice President. Under Mr Jain's direction, the Club's activities have moved online and he has assisted the Club to develop a social media presence so that they can reach more people. Mr Jain is also a mentor to many high school students and encourages them to pursue a career in Information Technology. Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr Atish Jain for receiving this award and thank him for his continued commitment to supporting the local community. Thank you.

#### **HAZELHURST REGIONAL GALLERY AND ART CENTRE**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—I congratulate Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre at GyMEA on its 20th anniversary. Since opening, around 3.5 million people have visited, viewed the high quality art and chatted over a coffee at the Hazelhurst cafe. Hazelhurst has also hosted around 640 exhibitions across its two galleries. Hazelhurst is a multi-use complex, including art, education, parkland and food facilities. A common attraction is the local student showcase, ARTEXPRESS and Art Rules. This has engaged younger people with the world of art and has been a constant attraction and crowd pleaser. Hazelhurst chairman, Byron Hurst, is an incredibly hard working chairman, ensuring the gallery grows and remains a vibrant hub for art and culture. Byron was a key figure in the creation of the gallery, spearheading the campaign to have Hazelhurst established. The local community are the beneficiaries of his efforts.

#### **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE — 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)**—I congratulate John Stillone of Yowah Bay, Peter Rochaix of GyMEA Bay, Alan Moir of Cronulla, John Bartholomew of Cronulla, David Nary of Miranda, Barry Ledsam of Cronulla, Barry Krywulycz of Lilli Pilli and Gregory Swords of Caringbah South for reaching 50 years of service as justices of the peace. Recognised for their golden jubilee of service, they are dedicated volunteers who have been performing the important legal functions of a JP for the majority of their lives. These JPs have provided an honest and impartial service when performing their duties over the past 50 years. JPs are part of a proud history dating back to the time of Richard the Lionheart in 1195.

#### **EDEN BREWER**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—The Southern Highlands is famous for its growers and producers who provide the best food and drink that this wonderfully fertile region has to offer. One such example of local excellence is Eden Brewery at 19 Cavendish Street in Mittagong. Eden Brewery is an independent craft brewery "built on the foundation of doing good and being a positive influence on the community - both the local and the world at large". They donate 10 per cent of their profits to Oxfam so that those in need can be provided with clean drinking water. They also aim to be environmentally responsible in every way they can, choosing to

use 100 percent renewable energy sources in their production. Being a responsible business in no way prevents Eden from putting beer excellence and quality first. They strive to source the finest ingredients locally and use both traditional and cutting edge methods to brew the perfect pint. Well done to Jacob and Deb Newman and their amazing staff – and I look forward to enjoying another pint very soon.

#### **BARGO PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I congratulate Bargo Public School who have been chosen as one of just 100 schools around Australia to join a unique programme that will grow and observe wattle seeds that have spent time in space. The seed planting programme, a collaboration between the Australian Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), will see wattle seeds jet off into space next month and returning to Earth mid next year and in time for Science Week. The successful Grade 3 and 4 students responded to a call from the One Giant Leap Australia Foundation to grow the space seeds and record the data. Well done to the students and their teachers who created their successful video submission resulting in their selection. I look forward to seeing the fruits of your efforts in 2021 and will eagerly await "What Will Happen With The Wattle??!".

#### **CONSUL GENERAL ZHOU LIMIN**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield)**—I welcome the new Consul General of China in Sydney, Mr Zhou Limin, to his new posting. Mr Zhou commenced his posting in October and I look forward to working closely with him to support our Chinese Australian community. I am proud to represent my electorate of Strathfield where a quarter of my constituents are of Chinese heritage. As a strong supporter of the Chinese Australian community, I am always keen and pleased to engage and support their local organisations, businesses and events. I look forward to working closely with Mr Zhou and the Chinese Consulate in Sydney in supporting our Chinese Australian community in trade, economics, social and cultural exchanges, and people-to-people relations.

#### **THE ARCHIBALD PRIZE**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)**—Today I acknowledge local artists Charles Mouyat, Emily Crockford and Paul Newton who all made the finals of the 2020 The Archibald Prize. I would like to think I was able to help Charles who made the Archibald finals with a portrait of me. Charles admits he pushed the boundaries but it was a dream come true to be hanging in the NSW Art Gallery. Charles, your work is phenomenal and I am so proud to have been a part of your first finalist entry. I was thrilled to see the amazing Emily made the finals for the first time. Emily's painting is of her late father John who passed away in January. Emily painted most of the work in her home studio, which was originally her father's workshop. It is an amazing piece with a beautiful story, congratulations Emily. Paul's painting of Maggie Tabberero made the finals 21 years after his first painting of Maggie made the finals. No stranger to the finals Paul has also won the Packing Room Prize and People's Choice Award in 2001 and the Packing Room Prize in 1996 for his portrait of John Laws.

**The House adjourned pursuant to standing and sessional orders at 22:25 until  
Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 09:30.**